



Banner of the Blue and Gray

Newsletter of the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable Frederick, Maryland
Founded January 30, 1989

266th Meeting

February 2018

Volume 44, Issue 6

February 15, 2018, 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Travis Shaw

**Topic: "The Rebels is Running
Over our Parents":
Recruiting Virginia
Unionists into the
Potomac Home Brigade**

Travis Shaw is a native of Frederick County with a deep love of local history. Wanting to share this love with others he received a BA in History from St. Mary's College of Maryland and an MA in Public History from American University. His professional career includes well over a decade of experience in the fields of historic preservation, archaeology, and museum education, working with both private and public institutions. Travis has spent time at Historic St. Mary's City, George Washington's Mount Vernon, and Oatlands Historic House and Gardens and currently serves as the Public Programs Coordinator for the Mosby Heritage Area Association. In his free time, he enjoys visiting historic sites, blogging about the Civil War, and participating in 18th and 19th century living history events."



In Case You Missed It.....

Our January speaker, James J. Broomall, is the Director of the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War and an assistant professor of History at Shepherd University. In his talk, “The Materials of War: Confederate Cloth and Clothing from Home and Abroad, 1861-1865” Broomall reviewed the chronology and the influence of clothing on the Confederate soldier as uniforms transitioned from garments sewn at home to standard military-issued uniforms distributed by Richmond. Gradually, these uniforms set the men apart and helped to cement their new identities as soldiers more closely identified with their new military world than they were with their past civilian world. Broomall refers to this influence of clothing on identity as “material culture”. While home sewn uniforms were originally preferred – “we fight better in clothes from home” - gradually they were replaced by standardized shirts, pants, and shoes issued by the Confederate government. With each skirmish and battle, the men became more experienced and seasoned as soldiers. They closely bonded with their fellow comrades and relied on them for both comfort and survival. Their “material culture” instantly identified them not as civilians but as closely bonded soldiers with a shared ideology and commitment. (Meeting notes were provided by Lucy Tannozzini and picture by Kathi Donatucci.)



FCCWRT SNOW POLICY

The winter storm season is upon us. Due to foul weather conditions, we may need to cancel our monthly meeting. If Frederick County Schools and/or the National Museum of Civil War Medicine (meeting location) announce closures for the

afternoon/evening of the meeting our meeting will be cancelled. We will make every attempt to send an email and Facebook notification as soon as the cancellation decision is made. Please use your best judgment in making safety your top priority.

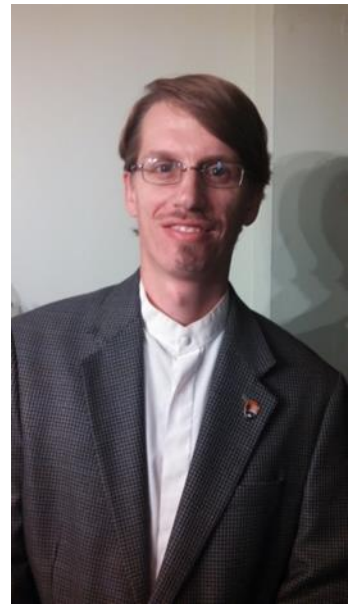
Prez Sez

With the winter now truly upon us it is a great time to break into that pile of books you've collected or may have got for the holidays. We've compiled a number of book reviews over the past several seasons to help you make some reading decisions as well, just check out the previous newsletters on the website. Beyond that there is always the raffle table to get you just one more Civil War book.

With all the reading comes deeper research as well. I'm very proud of the Frederick County Civil War Round Table for its continued support of historical research, be it genealogical, such as being led by our own Kathi Donatucci this coming February at the Frederick Library (please see the insert on the last page of this newsletter for tracking your WW1 ancestor), or preservation based for those of you who follow the developments around Frederick and try and help mitigate their impact on historic sites or landscapes. Of course there are also our students and writers who are constantly at the key boards, library stacks and beyond trying to make those connections of history that make for a compelling read or writing assignment.

All of these elements, as well as our own small part with our monthly meetings, provide a valuable resource for those reading history for their own edification or for the hardcore researcher. We hope you will take advantage of these colder months to continue your own reading projects and research, as well as join us for our monthly discussions.

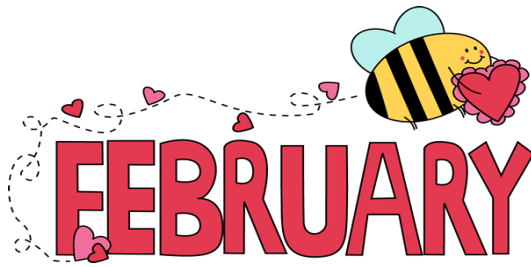
~ Matt Borders



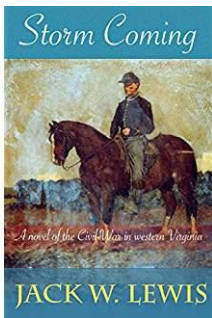
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Our membership drive for the 2017-18 season is essentially over, but have room for many more members. Please consider renewing your membership as well inviting friends to join. Your membership provides the space for our meetings, attracting well known speakers, and website and P.O. Box maintenance.

For those who remembered to renew your FCCWRT membership, thank you! Your dues make it possible for us to continue to fulfill our mission. We can't continue without your support! If we had more members we could do more to promote our Civil War history!



February Book Raffle



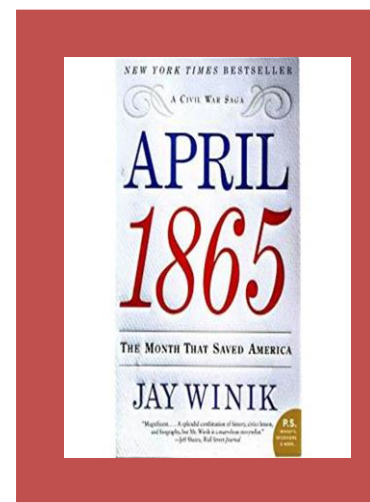
Don't miss the February book raffle and the Chance to win **Storm Coming: An Historic Novel of the Civil War**, which is hailed by critics as “well researched” and “delightfully perceptive” in its character development of the people living in this turbulent time. As an added bonus, this book is *signed* by the author, Jack W. Lewis!

This story was inspired by the true adventures of the author's great-grandfather and follows the life of Alexander Swaney, a young farmer living nearby southwestern Pennsylvania, as he struggles to find his role in these turbulent times. The contentious attempt of the nearby counties of Virginia to secede from the state as well as the newly escalating war forms the backdrop of this engaging story.

Another great book that will be auctioned off is **April 1865: The Month that Saved America** by Jay Winik.

April of 1865 witnessed the fall of Richmond, Lee's retreat, the surrender at Appomattox, and the assassination of Lincoln. Winik places the Civil War within an international setting showing how other countries were also emerging as modern nations during the same period. As with the US, they became new nation-states through war. Winik credits Abraham Lincoln's plea for compassion and forgiveness, Ulysses S. Grant's generous surrender terms, and Robert E. Lee's refusal to use guerilla warfare with ultimately leading to a lasting peace.

Many thanks to Matt Border for donating these books for the raffle.



NEARBY FEBRUARY EVENTS

(For any event listed please remember to confirm its happening before hitting the road.)

February 3 at 2:30 PM- The African-American Experience at Monocacy National Battlefield, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, 48 East Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701

February 4. Lecture, “Cogs in a Different Wheel: Non-combatant Life During the Civil War,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/get

February 10. Lecture, “Early at the Gates: The Battle of Fort Stevens,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/get

February 11. Lecture, “Before the fearful and dangerous leap is taken’: The Fateful Compromise of 1850,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/get

February 17. Lecture, “The Lincoln-Douglas Debates,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/get

February 18. Lecture, “Gettysburg and Vicksburg: ‘The Confederacy totters to its destruction’,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/get

February 24. Lecture, “‘The movement was south,’ General Grant and the Overland Campaign,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/get

February 25. Lecture, “‘God Knows My Conscious Is Clear:’ Constructing George Gordon Meade’s Legacy,” at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/get

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

March 16-18, 2018. Civil War Weekend, Blacksburg, VA. "Civil War Places" is the theme for the event. The war left its lasting mark not only on the people who fought it but also on the places where it happened: the battlefields, the towns, the homes, the rivers and forests and mountains. This year, we're asking each of our speakers to reflect on a Civil War site that they find particularly evocative, particularly significant—perhaps a place that they have a personal connection to. <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/cww/index.html>.

April 14, 2018. Liberty University Civil War Seminar. This year’s seminar is titled “Civil War Legacies.” The Liberty University Department of History will be hosting its annual Civil War Seminar on Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 9:00 am--4:30 pm in the Liberty University Visitors Center. This event is free and open to the public. Guest speakers R. David Cox, Paul Dakin, Doug Wicklund, Alan Farley, and Dr. Carey Roberts. For more information call Mrs. Rachel Allison at 434-592-4366 or contact her at rbrown165@liberty.edu.

BOOK REVIEW by Matt Borders

Lance Herdegen, *The Iron Brigade in Civil War and Memory: The Black Hats from Bull Run to Appomattox and Thereafter*. 696 pp. photos, notes, maps, references. \$26.26 (Hardcover) ISBN: 978-1611211061

One of first aspects of researching the American Civil War that really drew me in was that there were men from my state who fought in it, in some cases from my own town. So it was little wonder that I found my way to one of the most famous brigades in the Army of the Potomac, the Black Hats, better known to history as the Iron Brigade. This brigade had the distinction of being the only all "western", what we would call mid-western now, brigade in the primary Union Army. Specifically it was made up of the 2nd, 6th, 7th Wisconsin Infantry and the 19th Indiana. Following the Maryland Campaign the new 24th Michigan was added to help beef up the depleted brigade.

The first real analysis of the brigade occurred with Alan Nolan's famous *The Iron Brigade: A Military History*. This master work was originally published back in the Sixties and follows the Iron Brigade up through Gettysburg where it was devastated during the first days fighting. Lance Herdegen, a colleague of Nolan's, has taken up the torch from that historian. *The Iron Brigade in Civil War and Memory* goes so much deeper into the story of these regiments, not just as a brigade, but as the individual parts of the brigade. Each regiment is analyzed as to how they were raised and then became a part of the famous whole. Herdegen has gone to painstaking efforts to tell the individual stories of the soldiers and officers in the ranks. The foot notes are full of sources that had been up to this point unknown or underutilized, as well as an extensive array of images from the regiments.

The Iron Brigade is considered to be one of, if not the hardest, fighting brigades in the Army of the Potomac, based on the casualty analysis done by William F. Fox in 1889, in his study *Regimental Losses In the American Civil War 1861-1865*. This reputation for valor under fire could easily lead the author astray into hero worship. That is not case for Herdegen. This history gives the whole story of the brigade, warts and all. It includes early war officers more interested in political advancement, the near resignation of the 6th Wisconsin's officers due to the removal of McClellan, as well as the usual deserters and trouble makers seen in every regiment of the war.

What's truly special about this history is that it tells the whole story, following the Iron Brigade long after Gettysburg. We see how the men and officers of the brigade struggle to deal with tremendous losses time and time again, and how this eventually led to a breaking point at the Wilderness in 1864. As each engagement is described, highly detailed regiment level maps are provided to help the reader better understand what is happening. These, along with vivid descriptions from the men themselves, give us a peek into the men that made up one of the great fighting brigades of the Army of the Potomac. Lance Herdegen has followed in the footsteps of his mentor Alan Nolan and surpassed him with this work, and he rightly considered the greatest living historian of the Iron Brigade currently out there. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to get a real feel for the fighting men in the Union Army.

That tradition continues as this book was developed, in part, as a way to help finance an eventual monument to Michigan soldiers at Antietam National Battlefield. The Michigan Civil War Association (MCWA) purchased a small parcel of the Wilson property near the West Woods shortly after the Sesquicentennial with the intention of placing a monument there. The Wilson

property has since passed into National Park Service hands, but the MCWA still owns their portion. This book offers a fascinating look into all the various challenges associated with monument development today, as well as the challenges that go into designing them. I highly recommend this book for those interested not only in Civil War history, but also mid-west history, soldiers' stories, historical memory and monumentation.

We are on Facebook! Please check out our page for timely updates, local events, or comments. Please read and share our posts!



<https://m.facebook.com/fccwrt>

Gary Dyson is our "face" for Facebook.

Help us spread the word about OUR FCCWRT!! We have 150 "likes" to date. This number fluctuates at times, sometimes for no apparent reason and sometimes when certain topics are mentioned.

Join Facebook. Share posts with friends! You'll get more timely notice of events when you check us out on Facebook. Post things you'd like to share!

Our MISSION

TO cultivate and preserve Frederick County's Civil War heritage and broaden the understanding of the Civil War Era and its impact on our nation.

TO explore the many facets of the Civil War from the battlefield to first-person narratives, including guest lectures by writers and historians.

TO support historical projects and activities aimed at increasing public interest and appreciation of our Civil War history, both locally and nationally.

Looking Ahead

While our speaker list for this season is set, please let us know of any topics or speakers that you'd like to hear about. We hope to see you at our next meeting, February 15, 2018!

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For questions, comments or dues, contact:
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What do these have
in common?



World War I: Researching the People of The Great War

Saturday, February 10, 2018

-

1:00pm to 2:15pm

C. Burr Artz Public Library

Three local researchers discuss their experiences and findings investigating the people personally involved in World War I.

Teri Bisceglia, Denise Coughlin, and Kathi Donatucci.

(Snow date 24 February 2018)