



Banner of the Blue and Gray

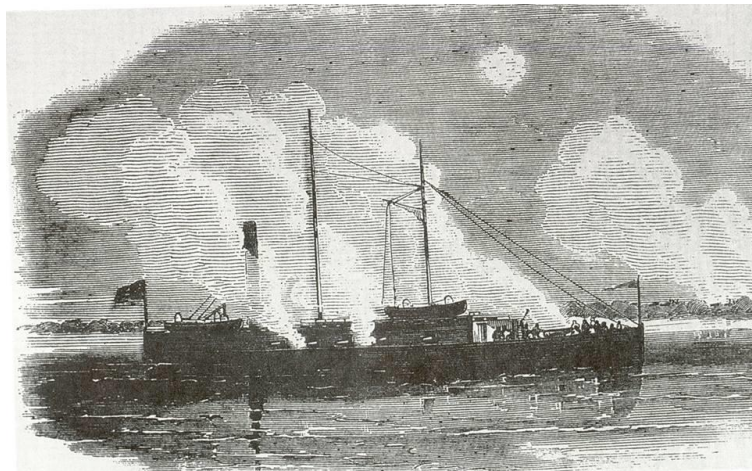
Newsletter of the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable Frederick, Maryland
Founded January 30, 1989

267th Meeting

March 2018

Volume 44, Issue 7

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



Speaker: Gary L. Dyson

Topic: "The Ambush of the *Isaac P. Smith*, Family Ties and The Battle on the Stono, January 30, 1863"

The USS *Isaac P. Smith* was a Union gunboat ambushed by Confederate shore batteries and captured on the Stono River near Charleston on January 30, 1863. Although the US Navy lost other ships due to battle and capture during the war, the *Smith* was the only one captured by Confederate field batteries and used against the Union. John Wyer Dicks (Executive Officer) and Frederic Calvin Hills (Paymaster) were officers on the *Smith*, meeting each other as shipmates, spending time as prisoners of war together, and immediately after the Civil War becoming related when Frederic married John's daughter Marianne. This presentation tells the history of the *Smith* leading up to its capture as well as provides an account of the crew's captivity and the lives of Dicks and Hills before and after the war. The book of the same title also includes some brief biographies of other combatants and civilians relevant to the battle, North and South. Official battle reports and eyewitness accounts were also used to describe the battle in detail. This book is published through Lulu.com and is available there as well as Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. Books will be available for purchase before and after the presentation.

Gary L. Dyson is a retired Environmental Specialist from the city of Gaithersburg, MD and a former Marine. He is a lifelong history enthusiast and has spent countless hours reading, researching and exploring battlefields – from the French and Indian War to World War II. Gary owns Dyson Genealogy and Historical Research and is the author of *“The Ambush of the Isaac P. Smith, Family Ties and the Battle on the Stono, January 30, 1863”* and *“A Civil War Correspondent in New Orleans, the Journals and Reports of Albert Gaius Hills of the Boston Journal.”* He has a BS in Natural Resources Management from Oregon State University. Gary lives in Mount Airy, MD with his wife Emily and has two children away at college. He is also a board member for the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable.



In Case You Missed It.....

At our February meeting, Travis Shaw presented “The Rebels is Running over Our Parents,” explaining how and why a number of Virginians fled across the Potomac River to enlist in the Potomac Home Brigade of the Union Army. Although Marylanders made up majorities of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Infantry Regiments and Cole’s famous Cavalry Battalion, their abilities and successes were greatly enhanced by Virginians with knowledge of northern Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley. Recruits were in good supply, there being many Unionists living in the northern Virginia counties and especially those western counties that eventually formed the new state of West Virginia in 1863. The Potomac Home Brigade guarded the Potomac River



WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, July 19th, 1861. }
Hon. Francis Thomas:—You are hereby authorized to provide for the organization of four regiments of the loyal citizens, residents on both sides of the Potomac river, from the Monocacy to the west boundary of Maryland for the protection of the Canal and property and persons of loyal citizens in the neighborhood, and to be stationed in the vicinity, whilst in the service. The men will be permitted to elect their own company officers; their field officers appointed by the President. Arms will be furnished as soon as practicable.
Respectfully, your obedient servant
(Signed) SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from the Monocacy River to Cumberland, but also participated in the Maryland Campaign of 1862, the Battle of Gettysburg, the Valley Campaigns of 1864, and the Battle of Monocacy in 1864. One company stationed west of Hancock consisting of many railroaders even constructed an armored railcar and engine to protect the rails. At least 600 men from south of the Potomac and the western Virginia mountains answered the call to defend the Union. Their motivations included loyalty to the Union, resistance to Confederate conscription, the ability to serve near home, and the need to protect family and property from reprisals.

Cumberland Weekly Civilian, August 1, 1861

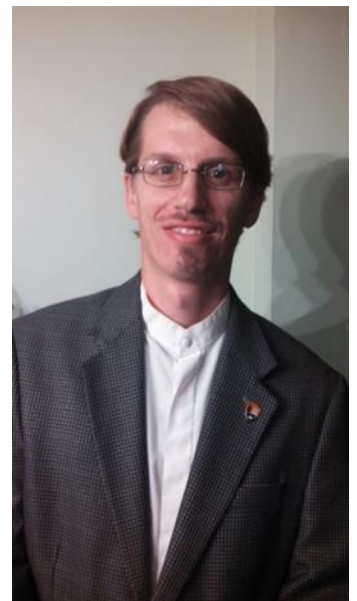
FCCWRT SNOW POLICY



The winter storm season is nearly over and thankfully has not yet affected our schedule. If there is a late season surprise 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

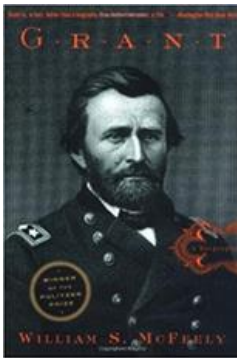
While the American Civil War remains a topic of interest to a large portion of our community and one of the main economic drivers to the region, it is important that we are always mindful of new opportunities to promote ourselves. The Frederick County Civil War Round Table has recently opened discussions with our sister round tables in Carroll and Washington County. Our three counties make up the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area here in Maryland. While each of our round table communities continues to be a success in their home counties, we are now looking at doing more joint programs, such as summer bus trips for our organizations. In addition we have also begun to share information on speakers, so that we have a better fix on who is available in our region and what topics they are prepared to speak on. On that note, I'm pleased to share with you the continued efforts of our members to educate the public on a wide variety of topics. This month we have two of our members, Bob Kozak and I, who will be speaking at the C. Burr Artz Public Library here in Frederick as part of their ongoing World War One series. In addition our speaker for this month is our own Gary Dyson, who is going to discuss the Ambush of the *Isaac P. Smith*, in early 1863. This little known action is tied to blockade of Charleston Harbor. See the opening article for more details! Finally don't forget that the date of our April meeting has changed to accommodate a scheduling issue that the National Museum of Civil War Medicine had. Jim Hessler's presentation on Dan Sickles will now be April 26th, the fourth Thursday of April, at the usual time of 7pm. Also please RSVP for our May meeting (see the last page of this newsletter) which will be a walking tour of downtown Frederick led by Joe Collins, a member of our board and longtime volunteer for the Frederick Historical Society. Hope to see you there!



~ Matt Borders



Welcome to our March book raffle page. We have some exciting choices this month and below are highlights of two of them:



Grant: A Biography by William S. McFeely. *McFeely earned his B.A. from Amherst and his PhD from Yale University.*

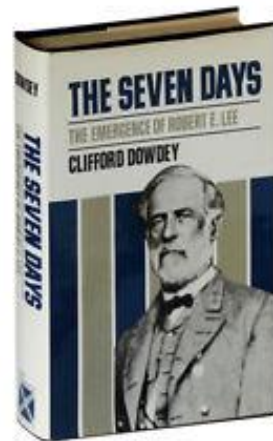
This biography which portrayed the general and president in a harsh light ear McFeely a Pulitzer Prize in 1982. The author concluded, that Grant "Did not above limited talents or inspire others to do so in ways that make his adminis a credit to American politics."

This book was well received when published and earned the author many accolades, including” Biography at its best.” (Cunliffe, NY Times Book Review) ar “Clear-sightedness, along with McFeely's unfailing intelligence and his exist sympathy” J. Kaplan, The New Republic.

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Another good book is The Seven Days: The Emergence of Robert E. Lee by Clifford Dowdey who attended Columbia University and has written over thirty-five books throughout his career. He died in Richmond in 1979. (Wikipedia)

The Seven Days Campaign was a series of battles fought near Richmond at the end of June 1862. General Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia routed General George B. McClellan’s Army of the Potomac and forced him out of Richmond. *The Seven Days* depicts a critical turning point in the Civil War that earned Robert E. Lee a place in history as one of the finest generals of all time.

An interesting aspect of this book is the author’s analysis of Jackson’s behavior during the campaign. His performance during this series of battles has been termed Ineffective and confused. Unclear orders? Exhaustion? Read on.



## NEARBY MARCH EVENTS

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

### **March 3 at 2:30 PM- Flowers to Pharmaceuticals – Civil War Medicinal Gardens**

Learn about nineteenth century medicinal gardening at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

**March 4, 1:30 pm. “Mark Mahosky: 30 Years of Drawing the Gettysburg Battlefield,”** at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. Free. [nps.gov/get](http://nps.gov/get)

**March 10- Historical Interpreters Workshop-** The National Museum of Civil War Medicine and the Blue and Gray Hospital Association are partnering to present the annual Historical Interpreters Workshop. Museum volunteers and living historians will present on a number of important topics related to the incredible history of Civil War medicine. Contact the museum or visit their website for more details.

**March 17, 9 am-5 pm. - Abraham Lincoln Institute Symposium** at Ford’s Theatre in Washington. Free. Registration info: [fords.org](http://fords.org)

**March 17, 1-3 pm. - Battlefield hike, “Irish Brigade at Antietam,”** at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. Free with park admission. [nps.gov/anti](http://nps.gov/anti)

**March 20-21, “Spring Muster,”** variety of programs sponsored by the Gettysburg Foundation at the Gettysburg NMP. Details: [gettysburgfoundation.org](http://gettysburgfoundation.org)

**March 24- Monocacy National Battlefield, "Painting the Past,"1-4pm,** is a free paint and take program where guests paint a toy soldier and learn about the uniforms and all the various colors that were used during the war. Call the battlefield at 301-662-3515 to reserve a slot.

**March 24, 1pm- “Gettysburg Rebels: Five Native Sons Who Came Home to Fight as Confederate Soldiers,”** at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. Free. [nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/events](http://nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/events)

**March 24, 9am-5pm- Walking tour, “The Fight on the Right: Candy’s Brigade on Culp’s Hill,”** at the Gettysburg NMP. \$110. [gettysburgfoundation.org](http://gettysburgfoundation.org)

## SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

**March 16-18, 2018. Civil War Weekend, Blacksburg, VA.** "Civil War Places" is the theme for the event. This event has been noted before and although it may be too late to register please contact the following website if you are still interested: <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](mailto:rbrown165@liberty.edu).

**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 154 "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, **April 26, 2018!**

### **2017-2018 Board of Directors**

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# Civil War Walking Tour of Frederick, May 17, 2018



Bond map of Frederick, 1858

We are excited to announce that in lieu of our May meeting we will be led on a walking tour of Frederick sites with Civil War history. Our guide will be Joe Collins, a member of our FCCWRT. We'll meet in front of the National Museum of Civil War

Museum at 48 East Patrick Street at 6:30 PM to begin. Our tour will end at Brewer's Alley on Market Street for dinner (on your own) and conversation. There is no cost for the walking tour. Spouses and friends are encouraged to attend. In the event of heavy rain we'll have a slide show of Frederick historic sites at the Museum. Please RSVP by May 10th. Please contact Matt Borders at [mborders@comcast.net](mailto:mborders@comcast.net) if you have any questions.