



# Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

271st Meeting

October 2018

Volume 45, Issue 2

## October 18, 2018, 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



**Speaker: Karen Whitehair**

**Topic: National Museum of Civil War Medicine  
Artifact Discussion**

Have you ever wondered what happens behind the door that has a sign that says, "Staff Only"? Well, here is your chance to discover what museum staff really do behind that door as it relates to collection stewardship. Come learn about the nature of the work, tools of the trade and view some historic objects up close and personal. You will also receive some resource material in case you want to explore the subject further. We look forward to seeing you there.

Karen has worked in the museum field for almost thirty years focusing on collections stewardship within organizations ranging from the National Park Service and the Smithsonian Institution to several history-based museums in the Greater Washington, DC area. Karen received her BA in History from the University of Colorado/Boulder, her MA in American History from Yale University and a certificate in Museum Studies from the George Washington University Museum Studies Program. She has been actively involved within the museum field throughout her career, serving as an American Alliance of Museums MAP Peer Reviewer, presenting at conferences and writing about the work she does for publications such as *American Spirit*, AASLH's *History News*, and *Collections: A*

*Journal for Museum and Archive Professionals.* One of Karen's favorite activities is to share what she has learned during her career with others.

## Frederick's "In the Street" Celebration



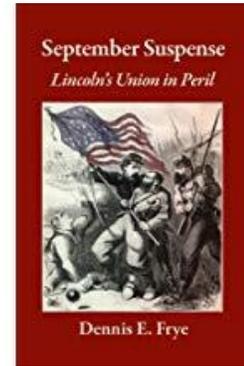
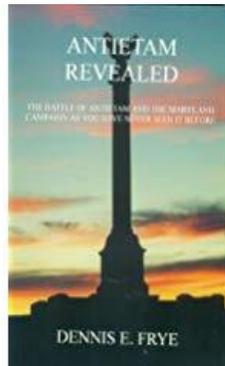
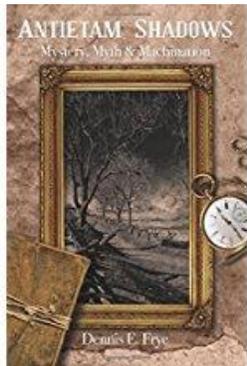
On Saturday, September 8 the FCCWRT participated in the "In the Street" event on Market Street along with scores of other businesses, vendors, and non-profit organizations. Members Lucy Tannozzini, Todd Morris, and Gary Dyson provided information about the FCCWRT to anyone who would listen despite the rain and cooler temperatures.



## In Case You Missed It.....

We had almost 30 in attendance at our September meeting. Our speaker Dennis Frye challenged us to think more deeply when we read and research history. Even the writings of well-known or revered historians can be suspect, even if sources are noted. Dennis Frye is known for challenging convention and sparking provocation. In his latest book, "Antietam Shadows: Mystery, Myth & Machination," Frye dispels some of the often repeated "facts" about Antietam and the first invasion of the North. He began his presentation by establishing his theme with the first line of his book: "What is history, but a fable agreed upon," a quote from Napoleon. As an example, he reexamines in his book the famous Antietam quote by Lee "we will make our stand on these hills" as the Confederate line (really an advanced line) at the Sunken Road was

driven back. The Lee quote appears in Douglas Southall Freeman's biography of Lee and was attributed to a soldier in the 11<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry named Morgan. Personnel records reveal that Morgan had been taken ill about the time of the Seven Days' battles near Richmond and didn't return to his unit until September 25, 1862 (you do the math). When some stories or accounts are repeated enough they sometimes become accepted as fact in the historical record. Many more such examples may be found in "Antietam Shadows." You can pick up a copy of Frye's books online or at a battlefield gift shop.



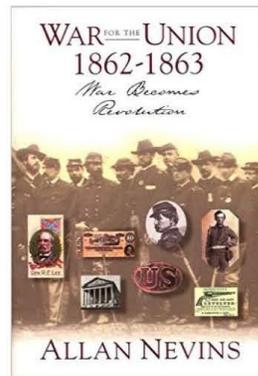
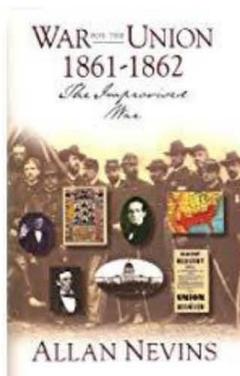
## Treasurer's Report for September

Treasurer Robert Kozak reports that our balance as of September 20 is \$679.32. Our annual membership drive is underway and we need renewals and new members to continue providing our current level of activities.





*We have some excellent books for our October book raffle. Many thanks for your generous donations of books for our raffles. Keep 'em coming! Proceeds from the raffle help us to fulfill our mission.*



Dr. Allan Nevins, historian, journalist, and Pulitzer Prize winner has written more than 50 books on business history as well as biographies and books on the civil war. His four-volume in depth series on The War for the Union is considered a meticulously researched treasure. The last two volumes won the National Book Award.

In addition to his many newspaper and academic articles, his books involve extensive, in-depth research and a vigorous, almost journalistic writing style. Subjects of his biographies include: Grover Cleveland, Abram Hewitt, Hamilton Fish, Henry Ford, John C. Frémont, Herbert Lehman, and John D. Rockefeller. For our October meeting, we are fortunate to have both Volumes I and II of Nevins work ready to raffle.

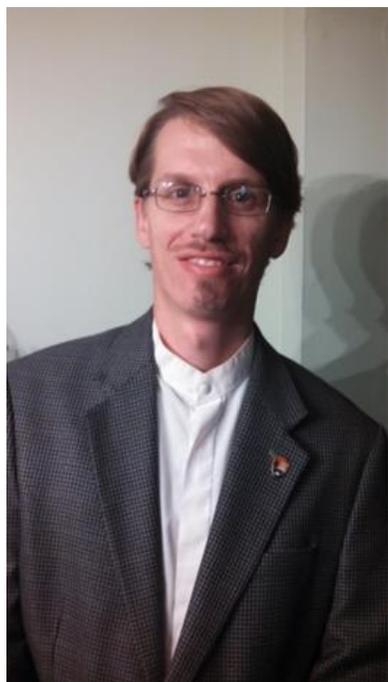
The first volume, The Improvised War 1861-1862, opens with Lincoln's inauguration and the chaos he faced and ends with Secretary of War Cameron's departure amidst accusations of corruption and the arrival of Secretary Stanton.

The second volume, War Becomes Revolution 1862-1863, begins with Lincoln's growing admiration for Grant's abilities and ends with the shake-up of Union officers and new challenges brought on by the war to feed, clothes, transport, and arm the soldiers.

## Prez Sez

Happy Fall! Now that we are well into October, we are in my favorite season of the year. This period of change brings with it beautiful colors, cool nights, and great hiking opportunities on our local and regional historic sites. I hope you can get out and enjoy it!

Unlike the seasons, our speaker this month, Karen Whitehair, tries to resist changes to the artifacts in the collection of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. Being the Collections Manager, it is her responsibility to care for the medical artifacts of the museum and we are fortunate to be able to see them up close and gain her incites as to the care of these items.



Change however is often unavoidable and the Frederick Civil War Round Table Board is undergoing a change of its own. Sadly, we are losing my Vice President, Kathi Donatucci. Kathi and her husband are moving back to their home state of Ohio to be close to family and she will be greatly missed on the board. The Frederick County Civil War Round Table was the first organization Kathi joined when she moved to Frederick in 2007. She later went on to be an active volunteer with Antietam National Battlefield as well.

Always willing to help out the round table, Kathi is probably best remembered for running the raffle for many years and helping us get control of our donated materials. Her baking, which made an appearance at many of our meetings over the years, will also be greatly missed! Kathi will be leaving us this month and did not know if she would make the October meeting. I hope you all joining me in wishing her and her husband safe travels and a happy life. Kathi, you will be greatly missed, and we hope you can visit your friends here at the Frederick County Civil War Round Table soon.

~Matt Borders

## Nearby October Events

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

**October 6 at 3 PM, Death and Destruction in Downtown Frederick – First Saturday Walking Tour, National Museum of Civil War Medicine-** Join the National Museum of Civil War Medicine's historians for the latest Downtown Frederick walking tour on Saturday, October 6 at 3 PM. The program will focus on the worst aspects of the city's experience during the course of the American Civil War. This is a pay as you go program.

**October 6 & 7, Confederate Living History Weekend, Antietam National Battlefield.** Volunteers will provide combined infantry and artillery firing demonstration programs at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. on Saturday and at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday.

**October 13-14, 11 AM, Reacting to the Raid: Local Militia and the US Marines, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.** Volunteers of the USMC Historical Company will relive the scene and the all-important reactions to the raid. Entrance fees apply

**October 13, Infantry Day, Monocacy National Battlefield Visitors Center.** Infantry firing demonstration will take place at 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, and 3:00 pm.

**October 20 & 21, Twilight's Last Gleaming, Gathland State Park.** Discover the significance of Crampton's Gap and Brownsville Pass during the Battle of South Mountain and the important role artillery played during the battle. Cannon firing demonstrations are presented both days at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m

**October 26 at 7 and 8 PM, Ghoulish and Ghastly: Civil War After Dark, National Museum of Civil War Medicine.** On this lantern-led tour of Frederick's most haunted building, visitors will hear ghastly true tales from the Civil War – stories of dissection, experimental facial reconstructive surgery, parasites, and more. Tickets are \$15 per person.

## Seminars and Conferences

**October 20, 2018 at 9am. Blue Water Navy – Brown Water Navy – Civil War Navy Symposium, Waterfront, Camden, New Jersey.** Symposium to be held on board the Battleship New Jersey. Expert Civil War Naval Speakers. Sponsored by the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia. For information and updates: <http://www.oldbaldycwrt.org>.

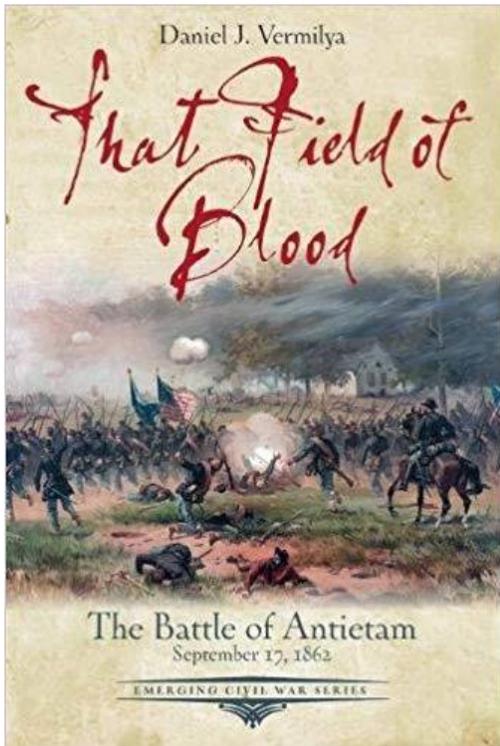
**April 10-13, 2019- "Give the Enemy No Rest" – Sheridan's 1864 Shenandoah Campaign Front Royal, Virginia.** The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation's 4th Annual National Civil War Conference will focus on Sheridan's 1864 Shenandoah Campaign. The conference will include talks, programs, special events, and tours of Third Winchester, Fisher's Hill, and Cedar Creek. Guides and speakers will include Gary Ecelbarger, Caroline E. Janney, Robert K. Krick,

William Miller, Jonathan A. Noyalas, Scott C. Patchan, Ralph Peters, Nick Picerno, and Jeffry Wert.

## BOOK REVIEW by MATT BORDERS

Daniel J. Vermilya, *That Field of Blood: The Battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862*. 192 pp. photos, maps, appendices. \$14.95 (Paperback) ASIN: B07DHPDJXH

One of the Frederick Civil War Round Table's favorite speakers, Dan Vermilya, has another book out! His third book, *That Field of Blood: The Battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862*, is a guide



book to Antietam National Battlefield. Antietam was Dan's first posting in the National Park Service and he knows the battlefield intimately. This work gives readers an in- depth overview of the first Confederate invasion of the north in 1862, covering the movements of both armies during the campaign, as well as the fighting itself. This is not an exhaustive campaign study, instead this is a great back book to take with you while tromping the battlefield landscape.

Dan has included extensive images spread throughout *That Field of Blood*, both historic, of officers and soldiers, as well as modern views of the battlefield. The modern images are very helpful as it aids the reader in identifying what area of the field is being described. In just the last two years Antietam National Battlefield, with the help of its preservation partners, has obtained several pieces of the historic landscape that had been in private hands. These lands are now under the protection of the National Park Service and Dan was able to document them and discuss the movements across them in his work. Also aiding the reader are the maps. Drawn by Hal Jaspersen, a cartographer who is well known

in the Civil War community, these maps show the various attacks and counter attacks across the bloody fields of Antietam. These give the reader a sense of structure to an otherwise chaotic engagement.

Beyond the battles and bloodletting are the stories of the civilians caught up in the tragedy of the Maryland Campaign. The Poffenberger's, Piper's, Mumma's and Roulette's are all mentioned, as are the citizens of Sharpsburg and Shepherdstown. This work does a good reminding the reader and battlefield visitor that this one terrible day in American history had a profound effect on the people who lived there, both in the immediate aftermath of September 17th and for years to come.

My one issue with *That Field of Blood* has to do with the series this book is a part of. I have had serious reservations about the Emerging Civil War Series since it began. This is not due to the authors' or the subject matter, as I know several very good historians who have written for the

series and the topics of the series are excellent. However, it is the policy of this series to NOT include footnotes, end notes or a bibliography in the book. This is due to the series editor's belief that most readers of history do not care about such things. Even if that is the case I do not think it does the author any credit for his or her work to not include these staples of a well -researched and documented history. Perhaps I am overly critical or out of touch with the reader who is reading a work of history purely for enjoyment. To the series credit, while the actual citations are not in the book, a link is included in the table of contents for the notes and bibliography. In Dan's case he wrote a lengthy essay explaining his corresponding documents and why he chose them, as well as providing a lengthy bibliography at the end of the essay.

In the end *That Field of Blood* does a great job providing the reader with a well written, concise and easy to follow tour of Antietam National Battlefield. Dan has used extensive quotes from the personal writings and official reports of the participants, as well as interweaving the story of his own great-great-great grandfather, who was killed in the battle, into the narrative. He has also used his own contacts in the Civil War community to strengthen this piece, noted Rangers John Hoptak and Brian Baracz both add to the work with the forward and an appendix respectfully. My own reservations about the format of the series aside, I highly recommend this book as an excellent starting point for an overview of the Maryland Campaign and the Battle of Antietam.

## Next Month's FCCWRT Meeting

No doubt you've seen this iconic image of Confederate soldiers marching through Frederick, Maryland, but where and when was it taken? Join us on Tuesday, November 27 at the C. Burr Artz Library on East Patrick Street (practically next door to the National Museum of Civil War Medicine) for a presentation by the Center for Civil War Photography.



**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 267 “likes” to date. This number has jumped by more than 20% since May, so more people are noticing us!

**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**

Please join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, November 27 at the C. Burr Artz Library on East Patrick Street. We are cosponsoring with the library to present the Center for Civil War Photography presentation on the famous CW images of Frederick.

### **2018-2019 Board of Directors**

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For questions, comments or dues, contact:  
FCCWRT

**P.O. Box 3232, Frederick MD 21705-3232**  
[www.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org](http://www.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org)

**Our membership drive for the 2018-19 season has begun. 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!

As a member of our group, you'll enjoy these benefits:

- receive the current newsletter
- receive email updates of local events related to Civil War history
- always have a place to be on the third Thursday of the month

Our yearly dues are:

- \$30.00 for an individual
- \$50.00 for a family up to four
- \$5.00 for out of state members and members under 16 years of age

You can renew your membership at our meeting or by mail. The membership form is attached and may also be downloaded from our website at <http://www.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org/>.

# NEW *or* RENEW ANNUAL FCCWRT MEMBERSHIP



NAME (If family membership, please list all names and email addresses)

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STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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EMAIL ADDRESS/ADDRESSES \_\_\_\_\_

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BEST PHONE NUMBER TO REACH ME \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** *We will protect your privacy. None of the above information will be shared.*

ANNUAL DUES: Individual - \$30; Family - \$50 (Please make check payable to FCCWRT)

AMOUNT PAID \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to volunteer to assist with registration and other tasks at our monthly meetings
- I am interested in helping with outreach activities

MAIL TO:  
FCCWRT  
Box 3232  
Frederick, MD 21701

For additional information about the FCCWRT and to see meeting dates and times  
and our roster of speakers for the season, check our website:

**[www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org](http://www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org)**