



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

275th Meeting

February 2019

Volume 45, Issue 6

February 21, 2019, 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Jake Wynn

Topic: "Civil War Medicine in the Overland Campaign"

Discover how the Army of the Potomac's Medical Department performed without the great innovator – Major Jonathan Letterman - during one of the Civil War's bloodiest campaigns.

After Major Jonathan Letterman's departure from the Army of the Potomac in early 1864, its medical department faced arguably its greatest test. With the arrival of General Ulysses S. Grant in the Eastern Theater, the war in Virginia escalated. The Union Army's Overland Campaign led to several of the bloodiest, most savage engagements of the Civil War: The Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and Cold Harbor. Wynn will examine the unique challenges this campaign created for the Army of the Potomac's Medical Department and how the lessons learned by

Major Letterman and his subordinates in earlier battles were utilized to quickly and efficiently evacuate soldiers from the bloody battlefields of May-June 1864.

Jake Wynn is the Director of Interpretation at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. He also writes independently at the Wynning History blog.

In Case You Missed It.....

At our January 17th meeting held at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, there were about 40 in attendance to hear Dr. Audrey Scanlan-Teller and Tracy McIntire present "Women Soldiers in the Civil War." Nearly 40 members and guests attended, our second meeting in a row with higher than average numbers. We learned that although there were about 250 women documented to have served, the actual number may have been over 1,000. Societal norms strongly discouraged women from assuming the roles of men, but for the some their sense of patriotism, a desire to escape traditional roles, and even the lure for higher wages proved too strong to



ignore. The means these women took to keep their identities hidden rarely attracted notice, often only becoming known as the result of battle wounds, illness, or childbirth! Others moved from regiment to regiment when outed. The enlistment of underage men helped in the deception as women could get mustered in by resembling young boys who had high voices and

no facial hair. Some women even maintained their male personas after the war and a few successfully applied for pensions. Many of these women served with distinction and their fellow soldiers attested to their service and bravery at the women's trials and in their pension requests. We'll try to let you know when this airs on C-Span.



Treasurer's Report for February

The February report was unavailable at press time. With more members we could consider inviting more well-known historians and authors versus just getting by. At present, only 25 memberships are keeping us going. If you are happy to have us continue, please consider a membership!

Volunteer Opportunities

Interested in volunteering to keep the FCCWRT running and growing? Let us know at a meeting or send an email to our President Matt Borders. Areas of need are listed below. We will have board elections at the end of the season for members interested in leadership positions.

Areas in which to assist the Round Table:

Programs (help with acquiring possible speakers, field trips, etc.)

Providing refreshments at the meeting

Website (maintain and update group's website)

Outreach

Marketing

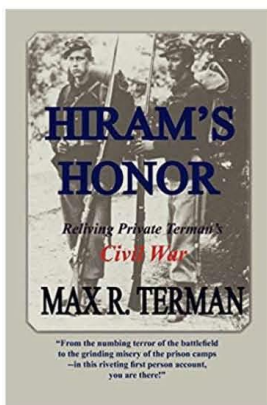
Newsletter

Other

FCCWRT SNOW POLICY

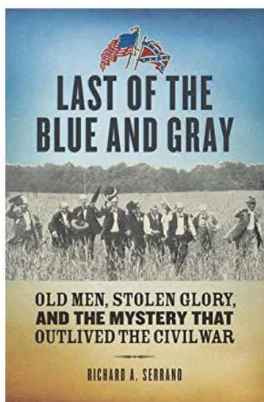


The winter storm season is upon us. Due to foul weather conditions, we may need to cancel our monthly meeting. If Frederick County Schools and/or the National Museum of Civil War Medicine (meeting location) announce closures for the afternoon/evening of the meeting our meeting will be cancelled. We will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



Hiram's Honor by Max R. Terman

Dr. Terman, professor emeritus at Tabor College, spent ten years researching the civil war story of his descendant, Private Hiram Terman. Hiram fought with the 82nd Ohio and was captured and survived his confinement in the prison camp at Andersonville. Dr. Terman writes Hiram's story in the first person describing his journey from combat to confinement creating a riveting account that draws the reader into the terror of the battlefield experience and the grinding misery of the prison camp.



Last of the Blue and Gray: Old Men, Stolen Glory, and the Mystery that Outlived the Civil War by Richard A. Serrano

In the late 1950's, the planning began for the centennial of the Civil War. Historians sought to find the remaining veterans of the conflict, although most would be over 100 years old. Would their memories be sharp and their stories clear? Attention focused on two men: a Union veteran Albert Woolson and Confederate veteran Walter Williams. But, while one of them served honorably, the other one is an imposter! Serrano skillfully examines both men's claims as well as claims by other survivors. Pulitzer Prize winning Serrano keeps the suspense going until the final reveal of the imposter at the end of the book.

Prez Sez

We are now truly into the winter with several deep chills and snow squalls having already hit us. Thanks to everyone that made it out last month, even with the snow scare, we had a great turnout! For those of you that didn't make it we had C-Span taping the talk, a first for us, and we will let you know as soon as we know when that will be on air.

Even with the winter chill there is always plenty of Civil War history to discuss. This month we are having the National Museum of Civil War Medicine's own Jake Wynn speak to us about the medical issues during the bloodiest campaign of the war, the Overland Campaign of 1864. Many of you are probably already familiar with Jake, as he was been the program coordinator for the Medical Museum for years and now runs the Clara Barton Missing Soldier's Office down in DC, a partnership site between the National Museum of Civil War Medicine and the GSA. In addition to his ties to the museum and the frequent talks he gives, Jake also has a successful blog, <https://wynninghistory.com/>, covering the history of his home region of Coal Country, Pennsylvania.



This will be another exciting talk, so come on out, bring your friends and dive into the life-saving struggles and techniques of Civil War Medicine in the Overland Campaign. Looking forward to seeing you on February 21st at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

Matt Borders

~

Passing of Former Member Peter Charles Eisen

We've just learned of the passing of former FCCWRT member Peter Charles Eisen on July 25, 2018, after a long illness. During his membership Pete produced the monthly newsletter. He also served as a captain in the United States Army and is buried at the Culpeper National Cemetery in Virginia.

Nearby February Events

(For any event listed please remember to confirm it's happening before hitting the road, especially if the US Government shutdown continues.)

2019 Winter Lecture Series at Gettysburg NMP

January 5 - March 31, Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 pm. Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center

National Park Service rangers and leading historians from across the country offer free hour-long talks exploring important aspects of the American Civil War and the Battle of Gettysburg. All programs are free of charge and open to the public. Schedule is subject to change. Limited seating is available on a first come - first serve basis.

February 2- The War for the Common Soldier, Dr. Peter Carmichael, Gettysburg College

February 3- "On the Tenuous Edge of Freedom: Gettysburg's African-American Community Before, During, and After the Battle." John Hoptak

February 9- Scapegoat or Scandal?- JEB Stuart during the Gettysburg Campaign, Matt Atkinson

February 10- Twilight at Gettysburg: The 1938 Reunion of the Blue and the Gray, Christopher Gwinn

February 16- Eisenhower and the American Civil War, Daniel Vermilya (Eisenhower National Historic Site)

February 17- From Albuquerque to Richmond: Longstreet's Long Journey from New Mexico to the Seat of War, Karlton Smith

February 23- Unprecedented Discovery at Manassas National Battlefield, Brandon Bies, Manassas National Battlefield Park

February 24- Lincoln Mythed: Memorial Biographies and the Damage Done to History – A Discussion, Bert Barnett

At the National Museum of Civil War Medicine at 48 East Patrick Street, Frederick, MD:

February 2 at 2:30 PM, New Orleans and the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1853.

Yellow fever struck New Orleans in 1853. The National Museum of Civil War Medicine's Katie Reichard will present on the epidemic and the humanitarian association that arose from the crisis.

February 23 at 2:30 PM, Reading Civil War Letters: A Conversation with Historian Peter Carmichael. Gettysburg College historian Peter Carmichael will lead an interactive discussion of his latest book – The War for the Common Soldier.

March 2 at 2:30 PM, Civil War Medicine Origins – Dr. Benjamin Rush.

Learn about Dr. Benjamin Rush, a Revolutionary war-era physician who changed medicine and politics forever.

February 21 at 7 PM, History and Hops- The Longest Battle of the Civil War, Purcellville, VA.
(please see flyer at the end of this newsletter.)

Seminars and Conferences

March 22-24, Civil War Weekend, “Civil War Leadership,” The Inn at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. www.cpe.vt/cww

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. Noyolas, Scott C. Patchan, Ralph Peters, Nick Picerno, and Jeffry Wert.

June 14-19, 2019, Civil War Institute Summer Conference, Gettysburg College- The 2019 CWI Conference will feature a wide range of topics, including the 1864 Atlanta campaign, the political crisis of the 1850s, Civil War artifacts, Nat Turner’s Rebellion, the combat experience of Civil War soldiers, and more. Join us for a blockbuster year of CWI speakers! We are thrilled to feature eminent Civil War scholars, **Gary W. Gallagher, Ed Ayers, Carol Reardon and Peter S. Carmichael** within a line-up of over 35 distinguished speakers and tour guides. www.gettysburg.edu/cwi/conference

BOOK REVIEW by Matt Borders

Edward L. Ayers, *What Caused the Civil War? Reflections On The South And Southern History*. 224pp. notes, bibliography, index. \$18.95 (softcover), ISBN: 978-0393328530 Reviewed by Matthew A. D. Borders

Always out for more insight and discussion on the causes of the American Civil War, I readily snatched this book up by premier southern historian Edward Ayers. I hoped that Professor Ayers would be able to give more Southern perspective on the usual contending causes of the war, particularly the driving issue, slavery. In this desire I was only partially satisfied.

It soon became clear that for *What Caused the Civil War? Reflections On The South And Southern History*, Ayers's publicist likely had go at the title and was looking to make it more provocative so as to drive sales. Well played, W.W. Norton & Company, you got me.

This book is actually a very interesting collection of essays by Edward Ayers and could have quite easily been called, *Reflections On The South And Southern History*. That is exactly what this book is about. Professor Ayers is looking back on his career as a historian specializing in Southern History, and discussing not only his development as a historian, but also the ebb and flow of the study of history, particularly Southern History, in the United States. Beginning with his time as a student and working up through the modern day and the development of digital historians, this book also looks closely at Ayers's own academic work, specifically the development of the *Valley of the Shadow* project out of the University of Virginia. A digital archive detailing two very similar counties in the Great Valley, Franklin County, PA and Augusta County, VA, and how the years leading up to, during and after the Civil War affected them.

Ayers also writes about several personal experiences he has had over the years in teaching American History, specifically Southern History. His essay, *Exporting Reconstruction*, was a fascinating look into how the United States has reconstructed numerous countries since the Civil War, with varying degrees of success, but how the Reconstruction of the South has never been replicated. Be it Spanish Cuba and the Philipppians, Germany, Japan or our more modern countries, the government has never attempted the same form of reconstruction that was experimented with here. Specifically, the attempts to raise up a portion of a population through political and economic benefits, only to subsequently return to power the original ruling class and allow them to attend to their own affairs.

In addition, while involved in a visiting professor program, teaching United States and Southern History in the Netherlands, Ayers discusses how sectional bias is a world-wide issue. This essay, *Where the North is South*, looked at how the far northern city of Groningen characterized itself and was in turn characterized by the more urban and eclectic cities of the south, such as Amsterdam. The opinions and bias of the people in these cities in many ways mirrors our own country's thoughts about different sections, particularly the South.

Finally, Ayers does have one-chapter essay called *What caused the Civil War*. This essay, which begins on page 131. Starts off in a very clever way, quoting an episode of the Simpson's. Ayers explains that this quote, dealing with the cause of the war, while overly simplistic, is exactly how the complicated socioeconomic issues leading up to the war have been distilled down to, "just say slavery". I was pleased to read that Ayers does not deny slavery's key role in bringing on the war, and that he does say that if you do have to give a one-word answer than slavery would be the best. He does lament however that this simplicity takes away the context of the era. How slavery became entwined with economics, politics, religion and even the questions of westward expansion. This essay warns of the dangers of oversimplification, while at the same time acknowledging that there still can be a straightforward answer.

In the end, *What Caused the Civil War? Reflections On The South And Southern History*, was only partially what I thought it would be. I am glad I read it and would recommend it for anyone interested in how the study of Southern History has evolved over the years. It is an easy book to pick up, read an essay and put it down again to mull over the topic. Do not however pick this one up if you are looking for a definitive discussion on the causes of the war, you will be frustrated in that endeavor.

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 now have 307 “likes” to date.

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 Thursday, March 21st at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine on East Patrick Street. Alann Schmidt will be presenting “The Dunker Church at Antietam.”

2018-2019 Board of Directors

Matt Borders, President /Webmaster
mborders@comcast.net

Vacant, Vice President

Bob Kozak, Treasurer
301-644-1396 kzakr@aol.com

Gary Dyson, Secretary, Facebook, Newsletter
garyldyson@gmail.com

Lucy Tannozzini, Book Raffle.
llucyzzini@yahoo.com

Jack Sheriff, At Large
301-371-4148 jbsheriff1@comcast.net

Joe Collins, At Large, froggyjoe@aol.com

Tom Dumm, At Large thomas.dumm@obg.com

Todd Morris, At Large, Todd.b.morris@gmail.com

For questions, comments or dues, contact:
FCCWRT

P.O. Box 3232, Frederick MD 21705-3232
www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org

21+

HISTORY AND HOPS

THE CIVIL WAR'S LONGEST BATTLE

Fort Sumter is known for its famous battle at the start of the Civil War. But the grueling, sustained campaign to control it — and thus Charleston — until the war's closing days is often forgotten. Historian Craig Swain, author of the blog *To the Sound of Guns*, will detail the efforts to hold the crucial military objective.

THURSDAY, FEB. 21, 7 p.m.

Dragon Hops Brewing

130 E. Main St., Purcellville, VA 20132



LOUDOUN COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

library.loudoun.gov

To request a reasonable accommodation for a disability, call
703-777-0368. Three days' notice is requested.