



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

280th Meeting

October 2019

Volume 46, Issue # 2

October 17, 2019, 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Brad Gottfried, assisted by Linda Gottfried

Presentation Overview

The Point Lookout Civil War Prisoner of War Camp for Confederates was the largest facility in the North. Over 51,000 men lived and died in this spit of land between the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay in Southern Maryland. This presentation will provide a fresh perspective on the camp from its formation to its closing and its lasting legacy. It will include a discussion of the rise and fall of the parole/exchange system, how the prisoners were treated, what they did each day, and how illness and death were a daily occurrence. Those in attendance will get a vivid picture of what it was like to be incarcerated in the camp.



BIO's

Brad Gottfried

After receiving his doctorate in Zoology, Brad became an educator for 40 years before retiring in 2017. He rose from being a full-time faculty member, through the administrative ranks to become president of two colleges for a total of 17 years. He has written 13 Civil War books, mainly on Gettysburg and mapping the campaigns of the Eastern Theater of the Civil War. In addition to continuing his Civil War studies, Brad is a Gettysburg Licensed

Town Guide/Historian.

Linda Gottfried

After raising a family, Linda returned to college to complete her studies. She worked as a graphic designer and then became a successful fund-raiser/development officer at several non-profits,

including Sussex County Community College, the Alzheimer Association, Medstar, and a local hospice. She is now retired and is an accomplished artist/sculptor.

Linda and Brad have relocated to the Gettysburg area (Fairfield) and have a blended family with four children and six grandchildren.

The Gottfried's will have a number of books for sale following the presentation.



In Case You Missed It.....

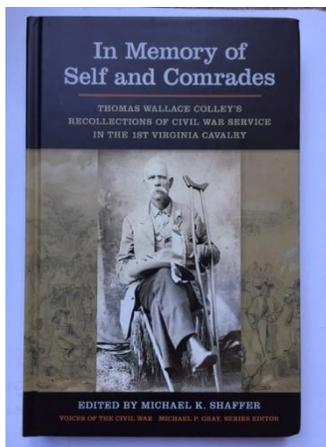
Kickoff Session of the season

The Thomas Wallace Colley Story as told by Michael K. Shaffer

On 25 September, an atypical Wednesday meeting for the roundtable, Mr. Shaffer recounted to members the Civil War and Post Civil War Talk of Corporal Thomas W. Colley of the 1st Virginia Cavalry, Army of Northern Virginia. Mr. Shafer began his telling of the Thomas Colley Story after being presented the seven volumes of Colley's personal diaries, passed down generation to generation in his family after giving a presentation at the church central to Colley's story, the Washington Chapel of the United Methodist Church. Colley's story during the war was as profound as his story after, during the war wounded three times at Waterloo Bridge, Kelly's Ford, and finally at Haw's Ford. The third wound, closely coinciding with his promotion to Corporal, resulted in the amputation of his foot and his discharge in 1864. He was known to comrades as hard fighting and always riding to the sound of the guns, which is exactly what he did during the Antietam Battle, joining the battle as an infantry man when unable to find his cavalry unit.

After the war Colley fell upon difficult times as an amputee confederate veteran, abusing alcohol, possibly as a result of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (still to be unknown as a disease for a hundred years). Colley finally changed his life after marriage; although remaining strong willed with a fiery temper, he gave up alcohol, began attending church, and pursued a college education in Baltimore, while raising a large family. His education in writing likely resulted in the diaries and the volumes of correspondence he engaged in for the rest of his life, remaining in touch with comrades via letters and taking the time to write obituaries for all those he knew.

The book which recounted Corporal Thomas W. Colley's life via the consolidation of his volumes of diaries is entitled "In Memory of Self and Comrades" and was offered for sale at the conclusion of Michael Shaffer's presentation. Mr. Shaffer truly brought Corporal Colley to life, and the challenges he and others endured both during and after the war, into sharp focus.



Board Member Elections

Nominations for the next Board Administration were brought forward in the September meeting; Gary Dyson continuing his service as Vice President and Todd Morris to become Secretary, both are listed as nominees in the back of this newsletter. The President intends to hold elections in October after the September notification.



Prez Sez

Though the weather has only just begun to show it, we are now into my favorite season, FALL! Fall brings out that wonderful time of year where one can enjoy the outdoors without melting and with fewer critters. Beyond that did you know that fall is an ideal time of year for hiking battlefields? As the leaves come down, sight lines open up, allowing us to get a better feel for landscapes that have reverted from farmland back to forests, this is especially true around here. Also, all that leaf litter helps to define the landscape itself, undulations or dips, are easier to see, as are the scars from road traces and other features. So, go take a hike, and enjoy the natural and historic beauty of the fall before it gets to cold.

As American's we also know that fall usually means politics. The Frederick County Civil War Round Table has a democratically elected board and it is time to elect our board members for the coming seasons.

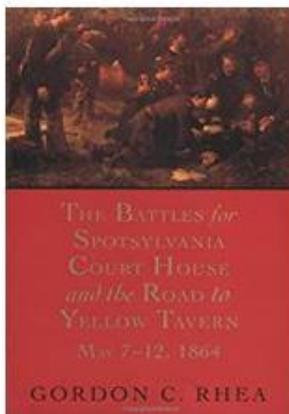
Anyone can put themselves up for this unpaid, voluntary position. Just let me know and we will include you during the election at the beginning of our next meeting.

Beyond our micro elections, I also wanted to let you know about a bill that was proposed last winter and is slowly making its way through Congress, H.R. 307. The Frederick County Civil War Round Table was contacted by the American Battlefield Trust to ask for support of this bill. This is a bi-partisan bill with 90 signers that is looking to continue to fund historic landscape preservation grants in the United States for American Revolution, War of 1812 and Civil War sites. Not only does this bill look to continue the funding of this grant program, which is administered by the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, whom I worked for from 2007-2013, but it would increase preservation funding for these landscapes to \$20 Million, much higher than it has ever been in the past. The Frederick County Civil War Round Table Board is looking into a letter of support, but if this bill sounds like something you would like to see move forward, we encourage you to reach out to your congressional representative and let them know.

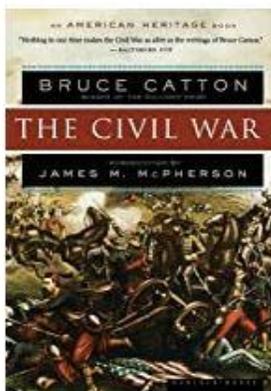
Sorry for all the business in this month's message, but it is a busy time of year. I look forward to seeing everyone this October 17th during our usual time of 7pm at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine!

~ Matt Borders

Book Raffle



Gordon C. Rhea, a lawyer and historian, has a thorough and engaging literary style that captures the many dimensions of the war. Using contemporary sources such as newspapers, diaries and letters, Rhea includes fresh interpretations and insights into these battles, particularly the role of the cavalry from Todd's Tavern through Philip Sheridan's Richmond raid and Jeb Stuart's mortal wounding at Yellow Tavern.



Bruce Catton, historian and journalist, and Pulitzer Prize winner, has been referred to as "a narrative" historian because of his engaging writing style. His well-researched work on the war creates a highly readable book of colorful characters and engaging vignettes. In addition to chapters on the battles and tactics, he includes other topics such as a comparison of the leadership styles contrast between Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln.

Nearby October Events

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

Historic Rocky Ridge Chapel Civil War Era Services, Historic Rocky Springs Chapel, 7817 Rocky Springs Road, Frederick, MD 21702- Services are held at 1:00 PM on the fourth Sunday of the month, from April through December, but please use the contact info for December. A history of the site is presented by Debby Moone, the contact person for the site at debbymoone@gmail.com.

Seminars, Conferences and Upcoming Tours

12 October, 9am – 4pm. See, Touch, and Feel Tour of Gettysburg. Join CEO Wayne E. Motts and the staff of The National Civil War Museum on a tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield. This tour will consist of stops on the Gettysburg Battlefield and will feature new artifacts of those who fought in the struggle, some that haven't been on the Gettysburg Battlefield since 1863. Tour participants will be able hold historical treasures used and/or associated with men of the Union and Confederate Army engaged at Gettysburg. Contact the National Civil War Museum at www.NationalCivilWarMuseum.org.

Frederick Community College Events

30 October- History Bites Lunch Time Series: Dred Scott to Secession and The Coming of the Civil War at Frederick Community College. 11:30 AM-1:00 PM. Join our own Matthew Borders, Park Ranger and Certified Battlefield Guide, for an engaging one-hour lunchtime presentation followed by opportunity for questions and discussions. Be sure to bring your lunch to enjoy during the presentation. Go to <https://ilratfcc.com/fall-2019/> for more information.

6 November- History Bites - Lunch Time History Series: The Maryland Campaign of 1862.
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

13 November - History Bites - Lunch Time History Series: The Spy Game in Maryland During the Civil War. 11:30 AM- 1:00 PM

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 (mattborders@comcast.net). 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.)

Website (maintain and update group's website)

Outreach, Marketing, Newsletter, Other

Book Reviews by Matt Borders

REVIEW:

Kent Gramm, Photographs by Chris Heisey, Gettysburg: The Living And The Dead. 224pp. Images, appendix. \$29.95 (hardcover), ISBN: 9780809337330 Reviewed by Matthew A. D. Borders

I knew that this work, Gettysburg: The Living And The Dead, would be a challenge from the beginning. An artistic work, the book looks at the largest battle ever fought in the western hemisphere through a myriad of lens, peoples, times and writings. This is not, nor did it purport to be another military history of the Battle of Gettysburg. That being said, it is set up in a manner that would familiar to anyone who has read military histories of the battle. Gettysburg has four distinct chapters, covering the first day of fighting, the second day and the third. It ends, as many histories of the battle do, with a chapter on the aftermath of the battle. This structure struck me not only as a familiar choice, but also possibly a deliberate one to help the reader. Most being already familiar with the three traumatic days of the battle and its tragic aftermath, this structure seems set up to place the reader into the right mind set of each day of the battle and its aftermath.

That may be the reason why I found the first chapter so jarring. Set up as it is, even with a snippet of the famous 1889 Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain speech just before the table of contents to set the stage, the first chapter has little to do with the battle of Gettysburg, the opening poems being broad enough to be almost any field of conflict. This is not a bad thing, and in fact can bring the past and present closer together as it reveals shared passions, fears and sorrows. As the chapter continues however the writer also reveals much of himself. There are numerous references to the Viet Nam War in this chapter (entry 8, *Blood Trail*, pp.17-19, entry 9, '*Stang*, pp.21, entry 18, *Stayin' Alive*, pp. 43 and sprinkled throughout the book. The war is seen as a mistake and or something to be protested against by the author and he does so by weaving heroes of Gettysburg or the historic landscape itself into the narrative of these more modern stories. There are several very well written short stories in this chapter taken from the soldier perspective and even one apparently real letter from a migrant worker in 1927 that worked the orchards around Gettysburg. A very scattered chapter that seemed to be lacking focus.

Much like the second day of the battle of Gettysburg saw the longest amount of fighting, stretching well into the night on some parts of the field, the second chapter was the longest. It is also where I feel the book found its focus. Of the thirty-four entries in this chapter, again mostly poems and

short stories, the majority of these focused on the battle of Gettysburg or its participants. It is also where we start to see a large helping of one of the sub-themes of Gettysburg, the supernatural. This had been hinted at since the beginning of the book, but over a third of the entries of this chapter have to deal with ghosts or spirits tied to or trapped on the battlefield for any number of reasons. Some are trying to communicate to the living to dissuade us from repeating the follies of history, some still fighting the battle, others tied to their duties and others for love. This a theme that is hard to escape in Gettysburg, as the town itself is awash in ghost tours of dubious quality and historic accuracy.

The best aspect of Gettysburg: The Living And The Dead is the bravery of the author to tell his stories and poems through a very broad range of voices. Both Union and Confederate soldiers are portrayed, sometimes with sympathy towards their enemies, often with the passions and hatreds of the war on full display. The voices of women, those caring for the wounded, watching over the dead, pining for the lost or educating the current generation. Veterans, both old and new are written about, as are former rangers, battlefield guides, museum curators and even a reenactor in one story. I will admit I was surprised to see the author write out an African American dialect in two of his entries, a bold decision, and a valiant effort to include the whole story of the region. The story that spoke to me the most however, and in today's climate of intolerance struck me deeply was nearly at the end of the work, entry 85, *North And South*, pp. 207-209. Two fathers, one from Wisconsin, one from North Carolina tour the battlefield together, discussing fatherhood, loss and the war. Both are products of their regional bias, neither having really dealt with anyone from the other side of the Mason-Dixon Line. This story ends with two men having a better understanding of the other, and a promise. I sincerely hope that this book is the fulfillment of that promise and that this story was at least partially true

It would be a mistake to review Gettysburg: The Living And The Dead without touching on the beautiful photography of Chris Heisey. The images are as diverse as the stories and poems themselves, and sometimes suffer from the safe out of place feeling that some of the writings have. Every poem or story has at least one image attached to it. Most of these are dramatic shots of the battlefield landscape or the monuments on it. Entry 31, *War Means Fighting*, pp. 79, is one such example of an oddity as it has a praying mantis on page 78 to accompany the story. It was more than a little surprising that almost a quarter of the images are winter shots of the battlefield or monuments, not to mention the numerous fall landscape shots. Considering the sweltering July conditions the battle was fought in, the snow- and ice-covered images are a beautiful, if unexpected.

While I had my concerns reading this work, I am glad I did. Our cultural landscapes, even our most studied, such as Gettysburg National Military Park, have meant and continue to mean different things to different people. While I may not understand all of the author and the photographer's perspectives and choices for Gettysburg: The Living And The Dead, it is obvious that they care deeply for this historic landscape, the history that happened here and its visitors.

Who We Are, Where to Find Us



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 340 “likes” to date with even more “followers!”

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.

2019-2020 Board of Directors

Matt Borders, President /Webmaster
mborders@comcast.net

Gary Dyson, Vice President (nominee)
garyldyson@gmail.com

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

Todd Morris, Secretary, Newsletter (nominee)
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Lucy Tannozzini, At Large
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Jack Sheriff, At Large
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Joe Collins, At Large, froggyjoe@aol.com

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

For questions, comments or dues, contact:
FCCWRT

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

Looking Ahead

Please join us for our next session, November 14th at 6:45 PM at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine on East Patrick Street. Our speaker will be Dr. Peter Carmichael “War for the Common Soldier”.

Our membership drive for the 2019-20 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)

STREET ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS/ADDRESSES _____

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