



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

281st Meeting

November 2019

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November 14, 2019, 7:00 PM
C. Burr Artz Library
110 E. Patrick St., Frederick, Maryland

Speaker: Dr. Peter Carmichael

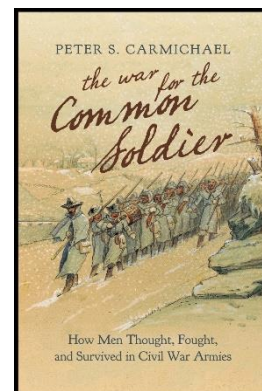


Presentation Overview: “War for the Common Soldier”

The Frederick County Civil War Roundtable is once again partnering with the C. Burr Artz Library to present a roundtable program. Famous Author and Historian Dr. Peter Carmichael will offer us his presentation of “**Persevering in Grant’s Overland Campaign: How Union Soldiers Coped with Battlefield Trauma**”. His work is based on firsthand accounts, records and personal letters of soldiers of both the blue and gray, recounting their individual day to day experiences from the monotony of marching and waiting, to the physical exertion, to the patriotism on both sides, and the challenges

of being away from home and loved ones. The talk draws from his book, touches on many of the key ideas, but is something that they won’t find between the covers of *The War for the Common Soldier*. The story recounts every conceivable aspect of what drove them on, what challenged them most, and how they viewed life during this historic undertaking. In the words of Dr. Carmichael, insights into how “well established notions of duty or disobedience, morality or immorality, loyalty or disloyalty, and bravery or cowardice were blurred by war”.

BIO: Dr. Carmichael is the Fluhrer Professor of History and the Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College. After completing his doctorate at Penn State University under Dr. Gary W. Gallagher. He is the Author and editor of four books, including *The Last Generation: Young Virginians in Peace, War and Reunion*, which was published in 2005. His book will be available to attendees at the discount price of \$25 (\$35 retail).



In Case You Missed It.....

"The Toughest presentation he gives"

"Hell Comes to Southern Maryland-The Point Lookout POW Camp." by Brad Gottfried



The Point Lookout Civil War Prisoner of War Camp for Confederates was the largest facility for Prisoners of War 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. The piece of ground was deemed by the Union Army to be an ideal location for a Hospital facility (the Hammond General Hospital), and later in 1863, a Prisoner of War Camp. The location provided easy access from the Virginia shores for evacuation of the wounded, and later on, Confederate prisoners, by riverboat. The Prisoner of War Camp was the focus of the presentation, recounting life in the Camp and the hardships endured by the Confederate prisoners incarcerated there. At the camp there were two "pens" constructed, one smaller pen for Officers and a much

larger pen for Enlisted soldiers. During the course of the war populations grew well beyond the capacity of the pens, from an initial population of 136 in July of 1863, to 14,747 in July of 1864, and the maximum of 20,110 in April of 1865. The prison facilities, available space, and tentage was built to accommodate 10,000 prisoners. The assumption of temperate climates year-round on the peninsula caused the War Department to select tents as both prisoner and guard permanent housing.

The presentation provided a fresh perspective on the camp from its formation to its closing and its lasting legacy. It included 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.

The event was well attended by 33 viewers from the roundtable and guests.

Brad's wife Linda (pictured right) kept a watchful eye on Brad's presentation from the back, ensuring an engaging speaker and a thoughtful dialog. Several of the Gottfried's books were available for sale in the back of the room at the conclusion of the presentation.

On the 24th of October the Board of Directors will hold the Fall Meeting in order to discuss the remainder of the 2019/2020 program and next year.





Board Member Elections

Mr. Gary Dyson was nominated and elected as the 2019-2020 Vice President and Mr. Todd Morris was nominated and elected as the Recording Secretary. Mr. Robert Smart volunteered to become an “At Large” board member, his nomination was approved at the October Board of Directors meeting.

Prez Sez

With the year turning to November, many of us begin to think about the holidays and what we might be doing with our family and friends. This was no different for the soldiers North and South in the American Civil War. As such it seemed only appropriate to have Dr. Peter Carmichael speak about his new book, *War for the Common Soldier*, and stories related to the struggles, both physical and psychological that affected the men in the ranks. While pining for home and loved ones these men also had to contend with the daily stresses of service, as well as surviving combat. Much like our service men and women of today.

As yet another reminder, Dr. Carmichael's talk will be held in the community room of the C. Burr Artz Library. We are very fortunate to partner with the library for this talk and look forward to having their patrons join us for the discussion and book signing to follow. Books will be available from the author, so come on out and get some holiday shopping done early!

With the great turnout we had last month, for Dr. Gottfried's talk on Point Lookout, we were able to take care of some housekeeping as well, elections. I'm very pleased to say that the Vice President seat has been officially filled by Gary Dyson, who has been acting since my VP moved away last year. In addition, all the other board members decided to stay in their current positions besides Todd Morris, who has graciously stepped up into the Recording Secretary / Newsletter Coordinator slot. We are also getting a new at large board member to help fill out the ranks, Bob Smart. Thank you to all the members of the board for your continued support as well as the membership in general for your participation in our slice of democracy.

So once again I will see you all on Thursday, November 14th in the Community Room of the C. Burr Artz Library at 7pm. We will be back in the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in December, but the meeting will be on the Second Thursday, December 12th at our usual 7pm time.

~ *Matt Borders*

Nearby November 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

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.

2 November - "155 Years of Emancipation in Maryland" at the Monocacy National Battlefield and the Burr Artz Library in Frederick. Schedule: [nps.gov/mono](https://www.nps.gov/mono) programs 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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

7 December - Annual Memorial Illumination at the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg. Driving tour featuring 23,000 candles. Begins 6 pm. Expect delays, long lines. Visitor center closes 3 pm. Free. [nps.gov/anti](https://www.nps.gov/anti)

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

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 358 “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.

Looking Ahead

Please join us for our next session, on December 12, “Leadership Lessons from the Civil War” by Dr. Joe Thomas. 6:45 PM at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine on East Patrick Street.

2019-2020 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

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.frederickcountycivilwart.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