



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

284th Meeting

February 2020

Volume 46, Issue # 6

February 20, 2020 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Presentation by Mr. Gene Thorp and Mr. Alexander B. Rossi

Title: The Tale Untwisted: George McClellan and the Discovery of Lee's Lost Orders, September 13, 1862

Short Summary: The discovery of Robert E. Lee's Special Orders no. 191 outside of Frederick, Maryland on September 13, 1862 is one of the most important and hotly disputed events of the American Civil War. For more than 150 years historians have debated if George McClellan, commander of the Union Army of the Potomac, dawdled upon receiving a copy of the orders before warily advancing to challenge Lee's forces at the Battle of South Mountain. In this new digital essay, the first in the Spotlight Series to be published by Savas Beatie, authors Gene Thorp and Alexander Rossino document exhaustively how 'Little Mac' moved with uncharacteristic energy to counter the Confederate threat and take advantage of Lee's divided forces, striking a blow in the process that wrecked Lee's plans and sent his army reeling back toward Virginia. The essay provides detailed primary research that proposes to put a final word on the debate over the fate and impact of the Lost Orders on the history of the 1862 Maryland Campaign.

Biographies: Gene Thorp (pictured left) is a Baltimore-born senior cartographer at the U.S. Department of State Office of the Geographer. He spent 15 years as an award-winning graphics editor at *The Washington Post* covering daily stories from the 2000 Bush-Gore election to the rise and fall of the Islamic State. His custom maps can be found in numerous non-fiction books on the *New York Times* Best-Seller list and throughout museums and parks across America. He is also a long-time researcher of the Army of the Potomac and George McClellan.

Alexander B. Rossino is an award-winning historian and the author of two deeply-researched historical novels on the 1862 Maryland Campaign - *Six Days in September*, chronicling Lee's army and *The Guns of September*, which takes a detailed look at McClellan's army. Alex is also the editor of Savas Beatie's new Civil War Spotlight digital essay series.

In Case You Missed It.....



Speaker: Mr. Craig Swain

Presentation Overview: "The Siege and Reduction of Fort Sumter"

Mr. Swain spent well over an hour with our group walking us through the assertion that the Battle of Fort Sumter and its reduction began and could have been the closing chapter of our American Civil War. His detailed account of Confederate resistance to the Forts reduction until the final days and the incredible Union expenditure of large Artillery resources in taking and holding adjacent coastal artillery positions and the ensuring attempts at breaking the resistance at Fort Sumter was thorough and engaging. The Union engaged throughout most of the siege in a joint Naval and Army operation. This very long campaign to control the Fort and gain access to Charleston, played out from the opening weeks of the war right through the final days of the conflict.

This grueling, sustained effort is often forgotten in our studies today, yet was at the fore of newspaper accounts of the war. Over the course of forty-six months, Federals sought to regain control of the fort, or failing that to reduce it. Meanwhile the Confederates worked just as hard to maintain their presence at the mouth of Charleston harbor. The battle featured three major bombardments, seven minor bombardments, and countless "skirmishes" involving the heaviest artillery used during the war. The ceremonial raising of the American Flag days after the conclusion of hostilities there, scheduled to have our President in attendance could have been the famous closing chapter, were it not for the events at Ford's Theater when President Lincoln was convinced to stay in Washington to see the final conflicts through.





Prez Sez

I am very excited about this month's speakers as they are tackling one of the great stories of the Maryland Campaign. This month Alexander Rossino and Gene Thorp will be speaking on the loss and recovery of Special Orders 191! Written and lost right out near our own Monocacy National Battlefield, 191 was the marching order (not a battle plan) of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. How the order was lost, how it was found and how the Union used the information is a fascinating story within the overarching theme of the Maryland Campaign.

Last month I asked you to think about what sort of speakers you were interested in and to let us know so that the board and myself could look into them for scheduling. I'm very pleased to say that the board and I had a very successful scheduling meeting late last month. We were able to put together a very diverse group of topics and we are now waiting to hear back about the availability of the speakers. Our 2020-21 speaker list should be out very soon!

Finally, there has been a lot of buzz about Civil War icon and master historian Ed Bearss as of late. At almost 97 Ed has had some health problems these last couple years, but at this point he is still with us. At the end of the newsletter is an update we and a number of other Civil War organizations received about Ed last week. We encourage you to take a look and consider sending him a note, the contact information has been provided. This is a great opportunity to reach out to someone who has done so much for not only the Civil War community, but also our country and history as a whole.

See you on February 20!

~ Matt Borders

Book Review

REVIEW:

Kevin Pawlak, *Images of America: Antietam National Battlefield*. 128pp. Images, bibliography. \$21.99 (paperback), ISBN:1467103489 Reviewed by Matthew A. D. Borders

The *Images of America* series by Arcadia Press is well known for looking into big cities and small towns across America. Getting into the minutia of communities, delving into their history primarily through an impressive array of images from said communities. More recently this series has begun

taking on iconic American sites, such as amusement parks, roadside attractions, and the site of the National Park Service. For their work on Antietam National Battlefield, Arcadia utilized the skills of author and historian Kevin Pawlak. Kevin is a former National Park Service Ranger, a current Certified Antietam Battlefield Guide and a Historic Site Manager for the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division.

This book is not a rehash of either William Frassanito's famous, *Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day*, nor the more recent, *Rare Images of Antietam*, by Stephen Recker. Both those works have their place documenting the battlefield and its immediate aftermath. What *Images of America* does is show how Antietam National Battlefield the historical site developed and the many preservation trials it has gone through since the time of the battle. As this work is primarily a visual medium the author has gone above and beyond to pull together images of the battlefield from the past 155 years. These include well known images from the Library of Congress, as well as sketches by war correspondence, rare photos from presidential libraries, and the archives of the National Park Service.

One of the aspects I found most enjoyable about this work was all the information provided on Antietam's 101 monuments. To date there have only been two books that discuss the monuments at Antietam National Battlefield. Rev. John Schildt's, *Monuments of Antietam*, which has recently been updated and re-released, as well as *So you think you know Antietam*, by James and Suzanne Gindlesperger. This book provides additional stories and information about many of the monuments on the field, including several that were moved over the years as more preserved land became available.

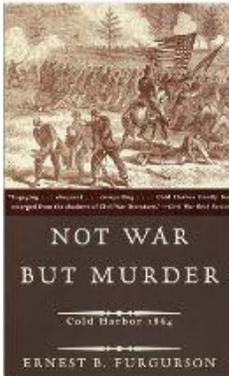
What becomes abundantly clear in *Images of America: Antietam National Battlefield*, is that this landscape is not Gettysburg. Though the two national military parks were being developed during the same period, the preservation of these sites went in very different directions. The fields and farms around Sharpsburg remained quiet for many decades and there was little fear of development pressures initially, thus, only narrow strips of land were purchased by the War Department in the 1890's and early 20th century, keeping most of the landscape in private hands. By the mid-20th century this limited approach to landscape preservation was failing as commercial entities began to build on the edges and even in the middle of the battlefield. How about an ice-cream and souvenir shop right at Bloody Lane, or a sandwich shop on the foundation of the Dunker Church? Believe it or not there was!

By documenting these preservation failures and the significant, ongoing efforts to reestablish the historic landscape as it was in 1862, Kevin is not only touting the work of the National Park Service and its preservation partners. He is also reminding us as visitors to these sites just how precious these historic landscapes are and how easily they can be lost. I recommend taking *Images of America: Antietam National Battlefield* with you next time you visit Antietam National Battlefield and compare the archival photos with the landscape today. You will be very impressed with what this fun, easy to read work of history has to offer.

Book Raffle for February

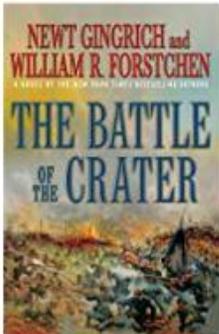
Book Raffle, February 2020

February



Not War But Murder by Ernest Furgurson, covers the battle of Cold Harbor in 1864. On the foggy morning of June 3rd, the Army of the Potomac began their attack on the Southern defenses of the capital city, Richmond. As they charged, the Yankees ran towards the entrenched rifle pits of thousands of waiting rebels. As Southern guns poured volleys into the hapless federals, they died in rows; as many as 7,000 Union soldiers fell in that terrible hour, most in the first 10 minutes.

Furgurson takes the reader step by step to understand the decisions that shaped the outcome of this battle. The huge Federal toll in Grant's worst defeat gave rise to his nickname "the Butcher" and caused Lincoln to say that the "heavens are hung in black".



The Battle of the Crater, by bestselling authors Newt Gingrich and William R. Forstchen tells the story of the building of a shaft and placing of explosives right in the middle of the Confederate line, an idea posited by Pleasants, a mining engineer from PA. If successful, all the defenders in the area would be killed and a huge hole would be opened up in the Confederate defenses. The plan calls for the Union troops to fill that breach quickly and drive the Confederates to their rear.

General Ambrose Burnside is eager to use the newly recruited US Colored Troops to attack the Confederates once the explosion has occurred, but he runs into opposition with Meade and Grant. *The Battle of the Crater* is a compelling and well-constructed novel that helps the reader understand this very unorthodox military maneuver and its outcome.

Nearby February Events

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

11 January - 22 March Gettysburg Winter Lecture Series: 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. Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center, Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 pm (Free of charge). **Sat. January 11 – Ranger Matt Atkinson** ~ Freemasonry at Gettysburg: Fraternal Bonds Tested by Battle; **Sun. January 12 – Ranger Bert Barnett** ~ Gettysburg – Recovery, Memorialization, Preservation, & Commercialization; **Sat. January 18 – Historian Codie Eash** ~ Pray for Oblivion to His Memory: Frederick Douglass on the Legacy of Robert E. Lee; **Sun. January 19 – Prof. Kent Gramm** ~ Gettysburg: The Living and the Dead; **Sat. January 25 – Ranger Steve Phan** ~ The Defenses of Washington during the Gettysburg Campaign; **Sun. January 26 – Historian John Heiser** ~ Neglected Heroes of Gettysburg: The Army Mule.

Seminars, Conferences and Upcoming Tours

25 January - Lecture, “Private Confederacies: The Emotional Worlds of Southern Men as Citizens and Soldiers,” Held at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2:30 pm. Free with admission. civilwarmed.org/event/private-confederacies

8 February - Lecture, “One Vast Hospital — Downtown Frederick’s Civil War Hospital,” Held at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2:30 pm. Free with admission. civilwarmed.org/event/onevasthospital-talk

24-26 July - The Society for Women and the Civil War (www.SWCW.org) will hold its 21st annual conference at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia. This year’s theme will be “The Women of the Valley.” The keynote speaker will be distinguished author and consultant Jonathan A. Noyalas, Director of the McCormick Civil War Institute, Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia.

12-17 June - The Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College (CWI) would like to offer the members of Frederick County Civil War Roundtable a **15% discount** to attend the CWI Summer Conference from. You can find registration details about our conference on our [website](#) and the full schedule of [events](#). We believe in your mission, and we are making this special offer to recognize the efforts of your organization in promoting the study of Civil War history.



2020 Summer Conference

Join us **June 12-17, 2020**, for an exciting program of CWI speakers! We are thrilled to feature leading Civil War scholars **Harold Holzer, Catherine Clinton, Brian Wills, Jeffrey Wert, Carol Reardon, and Scott Hartwig** within our lineup of more than 35 distinguished speakers and tour guides.

Full-time and part-time packages available!

SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS	TOUR HIGHLIGHTS	ROUNDTABLE & DEBATE HIGHLIGHTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harold Holzer and Catherine Clinton, <i>Mary Todd Lincoln</i>• Brian Wills, <i>General George Thomas</i>• Megan Kate Nelson, <i>The Civil War in the West</i>• Nina Silber, <i>Northern Women at War</i>• David Goleman, <i>Unknown Lincoln Treasures from the National Archives</i>• Kevin Levin, <i>Black Confederates</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>First Manassas</i>• <i>2nd Fredericksburg and Salem Church</i>• <i>The Evolution of the Charge in the Civil War: Brice Station, Marye's Heights, and the Slide Show</i>• <i>Antietam! A Staff Ride</i>• <i>Special Saturday evening Gettysburg battlefield tour for youth attendees & their families with guides Ethan Refuse, Eric Mink, Keith Behanoun, Jennifer Murray, Carol Reardon, and Peter Carmichael</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The Civil War Letters of the North's Rank and File</i>• <i>Debating McClellan at Antietam</i>• <i>Debating the Generalship of General Nathan Bedford Forrest</i>• <i>Behind-the-Scenes of Licensed Battlefield Guiding at Gettysburg</i>• <i>Debating James Longstreet</i>

Register now at www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/

2020 CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE

Summer Conference
JUNE 12 - 17, 2020

For more than 35 years, the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College has hosted a **premiere annual summer conference** bringing leading historians and diverse public audiences from across the country and around the world together for **lectures, battlefield tours, small group discussions, and roundtable conversations** about the Civil War era. Sessions, lodging, and meals are held on the 200-acre college campus.

The 2020 CWI Conference will feature a wide range of topics, including **POW prison escapes, soldier impressment, the Civil War guerrilla experience**, and more. The 2020 program will also debut a **new conference element** featuring **debates** between leading scholars about Civil War generalship.

Participants will also have the opportunity to **visit a variety of other nearby battlefields** and historic sites on tours that will explore Spotsylvania, Cool Springs, and more. Those who may prefer a shorter, more physically active conference experience can choose to sign up for our new **“active track” package**, featuring a combination of Friday and Saturday morning lectures and a day and a half of walking-intensive tours of the Gettysburg battlefield on Saturday and Sunday with historian Timothy Orr.

CWI’s relaxed vibe and diverse programming ensures that the 2020 summer conference will offer something for everyone, from longtime students of the Civil War to those who are new to Civil War history.



CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

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Campus Box 435
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325-1400

717-337-6590
civilwar@gettysburg.edu
www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/

Discounts are available for K-12 teachers, students age 18+, public historians, veterans/active duty members of the US Armed Forces, and Gettysburg College alumni. All individuals under 18 years of age qualify for half-price tuition. (Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Please see registration page for more details about this package). This year, we are also pleased to offer discounts to members of numerous partnering institutions, including Civil War Round Tables, local museums, historical societies, and Civil War periodicals. If you think you may qualify for any of the above discounts, please contact the CWI office for the appropriate discount code.

Volunteer Opportunities

Mount Olivet Cemetery needs your help! Currently the dedicated team of researchers at the cemetery is trying to profile each of their Civil War burials. If you would like to help with this ongoing research project please join us at the Mount Olivet Mausoleum and Office on Thursday, March 12th at 1:30 pm. For questions, contact the research coordinator, Larry Moore at ltmfrmc1863y@verizon.net.

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, Others

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!! 387 followers !

Gary Dyson has done an amazing job with keeping up posting interesting Civil War facts and discussions. Help us spread the word about OUR FCCWRT

Looking Ahead

Please join us for our next session, on 19 March, 2020- "The Most Influential Man in the (Gun) World: James Henry Burton" by Logan Metesh. 6:45 PM at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine on East Patrick Street.

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.

Our membership drive for the 2019-20 season is in full swing. 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/>.

2019-2020 Board of Directors

Matt Borders, President /Webmaster, mborders@comcast.net

Gary Dyson, Vice President, garyldyson@gmail.com

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

Todd Morris, Secretary, Newsletter, todd.b.morris@gmail.com

Lucy Tannozzini, At Large, lucyzzini@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

Bob Smart, At Large, cwfan@monocacy.com

For questions, comments or dues, contact:
FCCWRT
P.O. Box 3232, Frederick MD 21705-3232
www.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org

A Special Tribute

Edwin Cole Bearss, Civil War historian extraordinaire, turns 97 this June. Unfortunately, Ed's health is starting to fail. Tom Broadfoot, of Broadfoot Publishing, released an email today stating, in part, the following:

"Ed Bearss, decorated Marine, wounded at Guadalcanal, author of many Civil War books, leader of thousands of Civil War battlefield tours, sought-after Civil War speaker, Chief Historian of the National Park Service. If your interest is the Civil War Ed has contributed greatly to your interest.

Ed is now 96, and confined to his apartment. He is quite hard of hearing so phone calls and visits are not beneficial.

He much enjoys and appreciates letters, as his wonderful caretaker daughter Jenny says 'letters make his day.'

On behalf of the CWRT Congress, please consider taking a few minutes to write to Ed. Ideas: talk about the books he authored, or recall a tour or speech he gave, thank him for his service as a Marine and a Parks historian; pen any stories you have of the Civil War. If you've purchased any books from the Congress' recent catalogue of Ed's books...tell him how pleased you are to have books from his collection...

Letters may be mailed to:
Ed Bearss
1126 17th St. S.
Arlington, VA 22202

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