



# Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

285th Meeting

March 2020

Volume 46, Issue # 7

## March 19, 2020 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



**Speaker: Presentation by Mr. Logan Metesh**

**Title: The Most Influential Man in the (Gun) World: James Henry Burton**

**Short Summary:** *James Henry Burton: A "Most Unscrupulous Partisan" with "Untiring Skill & Diligence"* is a presentation about Mr. Burton's incredibly busy life, whose work was much more far-reaching than any of his contemporaries. Burton's influence in the arms industry involved multiple inventions and patents - including perfecting the design of the main small-arm projectile used during the Civil War, despite history knowing it as the Minie ball. Mr. Burton's path involved working for

multiple different arms companies - including helping to build machinery at one facility, then using it in a US armory before the Civil War and absconding with after Virginia seceded. Burton's work entailed lending his expertise to multiple countries, including the USA, the CSA, England, Russia, and others - before, during, and after the Civil War.

**Biography:** Mr. Logan Metesh is a historian with a focus on firearms history and development through his company, High Caliber History LLC. Logan has more than a decade of experience working for the Smithsonian Institution, the National Park Service, and the NRA Museums, his ability to present history and research in an engaging manner has made him a sought-after consultant, writer, and museum professional. The ease with which he can recall obscure historical facts and figures makes him very good at *Jeopardy!*

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

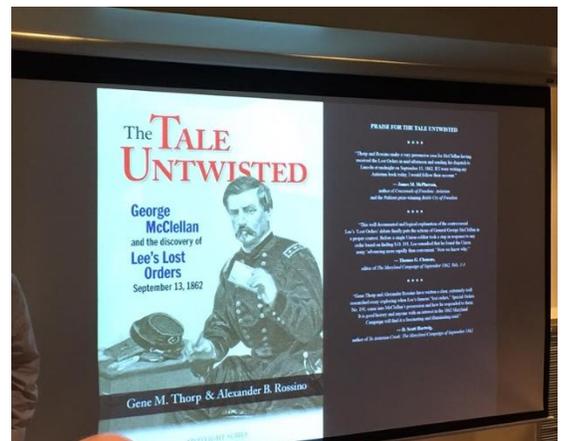


**Speaker: Mr. Gene Thorp and Mr. Alexander B. Rossi**

### **Presentation Overview: The Tale Untwisted: George McClellan and the Discovery of Lee's Lost Orders, September 13, 1862**

On February the 20<sup>th</sup>, our program offered a riveting presentation by Mr. Rossi and Mr. Thorp which meticulously walked members and guests in attendance thru the hour by hour chronology of the discovery of Robert E. Lee's Special Orders no. 191 outside of Frederick, Maryland on September 13, 1862. Mr. Rossi painted the picture and set the scene of the actions taking place in both Lee's and McClellan's Headquarters as the Union Army moved into Frederick prior to the historic battles of South Mountain and Antietam in the

days following. Mr. Thorp then took the stage to showcase the detailed research done by the team to dispel the notion in place for 150 years, that 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. Volumes of personal diaries, Unit histories, War Department and Smithsonian telegraph evidence were collated to allow members and guests to hear an accurate Hour by hour account, correspondence once thought to be send 12 hours earlier and personal accounts



“Untwisted the tale” verifying Gen McClellan acted quickly on September 13<sup>th</sup>, moving forces toward the enemy, verifying intelligence and informing superiors and stakeholders of events on the ground. The Union Army continued its movements and did not “enjoy a night of restful slumber” the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup> due to their leaders’ inaction as had been alleged for over a century.

Mr. Thorp made the chronology entertaining to the audience and backed up every assertion with multiple sources. The roundtable is thankful for both their work and their presentation to us, bringing to life the actual history of the watershed events in and around Frederick, Maryland in September of 1862.



## Prez Sez



What a great turnout we had last month for our discussion on Special Orders 191! It is always a pleasure to see the amount of interest there is in local topics. Coming up this month we are welcoming Logan Metesh, a nationally recognized firearms historian and researcher. He will be speaking on James Henry Burton, one of the most influential, if not well remembered, gunsmith's and inventors of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Burton's roots were in Virginia, but he had ties to Baltimore, Harpers Ferry, Springfield, Massachusetts and even the Royal Small Arms Manufactory in England. His work heavily influenced the firearms and ammunition of the American Civil War, both directly and indirectly. This should be a fascinating presentation and we hope you can make it out!

While we didn't have much of a winter this year, March usually begins the early season for our local and regional Civil War sites. Currently, Harpers Ferry National Historic Site, as well as Antietam and Monocacy National Battlefields and South Mountain State Battlefield, have put out their interpretive program schedules for 2020. Gettysburg National

Military Park and the Civil War Defenses of Washington have done the same and both have their ongoing Winter lecture or hike programs happening. Be sure to check out the upcoming events listed at the end of the newsletter.

Finally, we had hoped to have the 2020-2021 schedule out to you by this month's newsletter, but we are still waiting on a few responses from speakers. Once we have confirmations from everyone, we will let you know.

Hope to see you on March 19<sup>th</sup>!

~ Matt Borders

## Book Review

REVIEW: Nicholas Lemann, Redemption: The Last Battle of the Civil War. 272pp. Notes, bibliography. \$24.00 (hardcover), ISBN: 0374248559 Reviewed by Matthew A. D. Borders

This year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment. This amendment, the last of what are known as the "Reconstruction Amendments", enfranchised African-American males by denying the Federal government or the states the ability to prevent someone from voting based on their, "race, color, or previous condition of servitude."<sup>1</sup> As such I thought it appropriate to do some further reading on the Reconstruction Era, a period that is poorly understood even to this day.

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1 Constitution of the United States, Amendment XV, Section 1.

Reconstruction was the period following the Civil War where the Federal presence in South was used to help establish and protect newly freed African-Americans, as well as support Republican political efforts in the former Confederate states. This period is generally considered to have been from 1868 to 1877 and has traditionally been taught as having been not only a failure, but bad for the country, particularly the southern states. This is certainly how I first learned about Reconstruction, that the Union had won the war, but then allowed political corruption and intrigue to dominate the immediate post war years in the south leading to the eventually taking back of power by southern politicians, many of them former Confederate soldiers and officers.

It was those waning years of the Reconstruction period that Nicholas Lemann, Dean of the School of Journalism at Columbia University, chose to focus on for his work *Redemption: The Last Battle of the Civil War*. To be honest when I first picked this book up I thought the title was referring to the 1874 Battle of Liberty Place in New Orleans. While this book does make mention of that street fight, it spends most its time looking at the rise of the White League and other paramilitary organizations in both Mississippi and Louisiana, as well as other southern states. The provocative title is actually a reference to what these organizations claimed to be doing for their states, "redeeming them" from Republican (Yankee) and black rule.

As Lemann focuses on Mississippi, he also spends much of the book looking into one of the great characters of the period, former Union general Adelbert Ames. Ames is best remembered today as the original colonel of the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine Infantry prior to his promotion to Brigadier, but he was also a Medal of Honor recipient for his actions at 1<sup>st</sup> Bull Run. However, his post war exploits as first the military governor of Mississippi in 1868, a Senator from that state from 1870-1874 and finally Mississippi's much abused elected governor from 1874 to 1876 are much less known. Lemann does a fine job describing Ames's early foray into politics and how he met and was charmed by the lovely, and very politically astute Blanche Butler, the daughter of former general Benjamin Butler. Married in 1870, they were a 19<sup>th</sup> century power couple, with Adelbert the public face both in Washington and Mississippi, while Blanche was the political mind and power broker. Neither of them initially carried strong sentiments for the newly freed population of the south beyond what duty as a public servant and a member of the Republican party required.

That began to change however just prior to Ames election in Governor in 1874. Less than a year earlier, just across the border in Colfax, Louisiana, there had been a terrible massacre of African-American men. Approximately 150 men were killed after they had tried to take refuge in the Grant Parish Court House following attacks by white militias. This had been brought on by a divided state government where both sides laid claim to control of the state and attempted to put their own people in various positions of authority in the Louisiana parishes. The Colfax Massacre, as it became known, was the catalyst for a wave of violence that rocked Mississippi and Louisiana for the next four years. While some of this violence was around resisting Republican taxes or office holders, it really came to a head whenever there was an election. The Republican electorate in Mississippi at that time was primarily African-American. Gatherings of African-Americans for political rallies or parades were regularly targeted by white militias claiming to be enforcing the peace and protecting the virtues of white women from the hordes that were also black and always seemingly just beyond the horizon. This played on an ancient and irrational southern fear of the slave, or now freedman's uprising, that would be bent on the slaughter of whites.

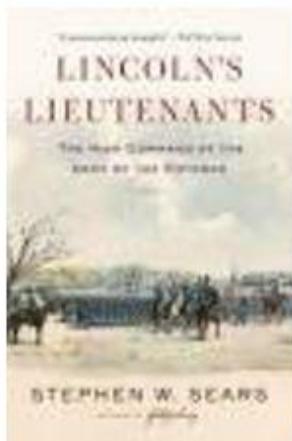
The author goes out of his way to describe time and again how these peaceful, political gatherings were broken up and then the indiscriminate killing would begin. How though was all this

allowed to happen? Governor Ames attempted to control the situation with militia, but no white man would serve in them, thus the militias were African-American, and seemed to play off the fears of those doing the killing. He repeatedly begged Washington and the Grant administration for aid, even bending his father-in-law's connections to get his point across, but it was to no avail. Federal troops were rarely deployed to protect polling places or run down these murderous bands for fear of being seen as interfering with state government, which Grant was blamed for on several occasions.

This technique of intimidation and outright murder became known as the "Mississippi Plan", by southern democrats. It was soon being enacted throughout the south to terrorize the black population into staying home or voting Democrat on election day. Few, if any individuals were prosecuted for these crimes. The success of these White Leagues, "Redemptionists", Bulldozers, MODOCH's and a variety of other named groups was complete by the presidential election of 1876, one of, if not the closest election in United States history. Rutherford B. Hayes was able to secure the presidency by promising the southern states that he would remove the last vestiges of the Federal Army, which he did in 1877, thus ending Reconstruction. This gave the now Democrat controlled southern states the opportunity to enact and enforce the Jim Crow legislation that would dominate southern politics for nearly a century.

The south had lost the war, but won the peace and by doing so they soon won the popular memory of both. Lemann, being a journalist by training, ends his work by discussing the development of the popular narrative of the war and its aftermath. The narrative dominated by the Lost Cause and the idea that Reconstruction was a mistake. He describes how a trilogy of novels was written and distributed to support this narrative. These novels were adapted to plays, and in 1915 they became the basis for the film *The Birth of a Nation*. He also touches on what is known today as the Dunning school, this pernicious mindset set forth by historian William Archibald Dunning in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, became the basis of how Reconstruction was not only viewed, through a very racist lens, but taught to other generations for almost a century.

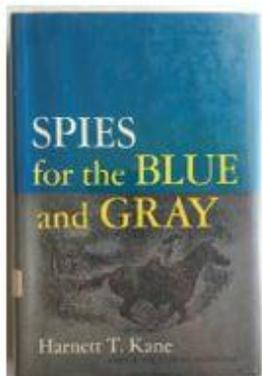
## Book Raffle for March



At our last roundtable meeting, we talked about Stephen W. Sears and his views on McClellan and the Lost Orders. Here is another book by Sears, Lincoln's Lieutenants, which focuses on the Union high command. The Union army was based out of Washington, D.C. and readers learn of the military dysfunction that Lincoln had to manage marred by political aspirations, egos, and infighting among the leaders.

Through the leadership lens, Sears examines the command of such notables as McDowell, Burnside, Hooker, McClellan, Pope, Meade, and Grant.

Sears is praised for bringing forth this leadership perspective on the war and for his meticulously researched material. Critics claim that there is no new material in this book that cannot be found in Sears' other books and fault him for his unclear maps.



Here's a topic we don't often see among our book raffle donations – Spies for the Blue and Gray. As an added bonus, this book is also signed by the author.

The book is a collection of stories about spies from both sides who include famous names such as Rose Greenhow and Belle Boyd, but also has stories of lesser-known spies including a Washington hostess, an actress, a teacher, and two intriguing sisters, Miss Ginnie and Miss Lottie Moon. Ginnie Moon is alleged to have been engaged to sixteen boys at the same time and her sister, Lottie, is credited with jilting Ambrose Burnside at the wedding altar. Male spies and their stories are also included such as Big Tim Webster who had to be hung twice due to a rope malfunction on the first try.

*Thanks to all who have brought in books and magazines for the raffle.  
I can still use more so clean out your bookcases and bring your extras to the next meeting.  
Lucy T.*

# Nearby March 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).

**14 March - "He like a soldier fell" Irish Brigade Hike:** Follow the route of the Irish Brigade as they made their famous charge towards the Sunken Road at the Battle of Antietam. The program will begin at the New York State Monument at 1PM. Please prepare for possible cold weather and wear suitable footwear for wet and uneven ground.

**22 March - The Fight for Burnside Bridge:** Join a ranger to explore the action at the Burnside Bridge and the preparations made for the Final Attack. Meet at the temporary parking area near Tour Stop 9, Burnside Bridge at 1PM for this two-mile hike.

**28 March - Sunken Road:** Join a ranger for this battlefield hike that will follow in the footsteps of the Union 2nd Corps' assault on the Sunken Road. This program will start at the visitor center, 1PM.

**29 March - Witness Trees at Antietam:** Join a ranger to discover some lesser known witness trees on the north end of the field and learn what these trees witnessed on September 17th, 1862. This program will meet at the visitor center at 1PM.

## Seminars, Conferences and Upcoming Tours

**24-26 July - The Society for Women and the Civil War ( [www.SWCW.org](http://www.SWCW.org) ) will hold its 21<sup>st</sup> 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"><li>• Harold Holzer and Catherine Clinton, <i>Mary Todd Lincoln</i></li><li>• Brian Wills, <i>General George Thomas</i></li><li>• Megan Kate Nelson, <i>The Civil War in the West</i></li><li>• Nina Silber, <i>Northern Women at War</i></li><li>• David Goleman, <i>Unknown Lincoln Treasures from the National Archives</i></li><li>• Kevin Levin, <i>Black Confederates</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Fires, Minnans</i></li><li>• <i>2nd Fredericksburg and Salem Church</i></li><li>• <i>The Evolution of the Charge in the Civil War: Beirne Station, Marye's Heights, and the Mule Shoe</i></li><li>• <i>Antietam: A Staff Ride</i></li><li>• <i>Special Saturday evening Gettysburg battlefield tour for youth attendees &amp; their families with guides Ethan Reagon, Eric Alash, Kevin Johnson, Jennifer Murray, Carol Reardon, and Peter Carmichael</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The Civil War Letters of the North's Rank and File</i></li><li>• <i>Debating McClellan at Antietam</i></li><li>• <i>Debating the Generals</i></li><li>• <i>General Nathan Bedford Forrest</i></li><li>• <i>Behind-the-Scenes of Licensed Battlefield Guiding at Gettysburg</i></li><li>• <i>Debating James Longstreet</i></li></ul>

Register now at [www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/](http://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 **premier 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 imprisonment, 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.



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GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

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Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325-1400

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civilwar@gettysburg.edu  
[www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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



Like us on  
**Facebook**

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!! 383 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 16 April, 2020- "Introduction to War: the 35th Massachusetts at Antietam" by Joe Stahl. 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.

## 2019-2020 Board of Directors

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**Gary Dyson**, Vice President, [garyldyson@gmail.com](mailto:garyldyson@gmail.com)

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**Lucy Tannozzini**, At Large, [llucyzzini@yahoo.com](mailto:llucyzzini@yahoo.com)

**Jack Sheriff**, At Large, 301-371-4148 [jbsheriff1@comcast.net](mailto:jbsheriff1@comcast.net)

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**Tom Dumm**, At Large, [thomas.dumm@obg.com](mailto:thomas.dumm@obg.com)

**Bob Smart**, At Large, [cwfan@monocacy.com](mailto:cwfan@monocacy.com)

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 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/>.

# 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

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**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)**