



# Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

286<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 31<sup>th</sup> Season

Volume 44, Issue # 2

**October 15, 2020, 7:00 PM**  
**Facebook Live Hosted by NMCWM**  
**The link is: [facebook.com/civilwarmed/live](https://www.facebook.com/civilwarmed/live)**



**Speaker: Logan Metesh**

**Presentation Overview: presentation titled "The Most Influential Man in the (Gun) World: James Henry Burton"**

The Frederick County Civil War Roundtable will continue its virtual offerings, once again remaining with our FaceBook Live venue. Mr. Metesh presentation about the historic impactful life of Mr. James Henry Burton is appropriately named "*The Most Influential Man in the (Gun) World: James Henry Burton*" and it is about Mr. Burton's lifetime of arms development with multiple inventions, companies, and countries before, during, and after the Civil War.

Logan will recount Mr. Burton's exciting life story in and around the American Civil War including his employment with Enfield running the Enfield Factory, at its height producing 75,000 rifles per year.

## **BIO: Logan Metesh**

Mr. Logan Metesh is an historian with a focus on firearms history and development through his company, High Caliber History LLC. With 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!* Though possible a future Jeopardy champion, we are informed he is exceptionally bad at geometry.

## In Case You Missed it



On the 17<sup>th</sup> of September the FCCWRT charted new ground in the presentation we provide members and guests as we kicked off our 2020-2021 season. Hosted on the Facebook Live platform of our partner the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, we presented our first virtual speaker Mr. Scott Mingus. Scott delighted the in-person and virtual audience with his presentation, showcasing his work “Targeted Tracks: the Cumberland Valley Railroad in the Civil War”

Scott’s presentation centered on his book which tells the historic story of the Cumberland Valley Railroad which ran from Hagerstown, Maryland to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a route would come to become of tremendous strategic importance given the struggles of the eastern theatre. During this first COVID-19 Era round table meeting off the ground, the roundtable learned much, we hosted an audience both in person for those less at risk and virtually. Given the circumstances, the turnout was good. These will only get better and better as we do more of these. Sound quality will improve with the next one as well as the museum is getting a microphone specifically for these sorts of presentations. The museum also did a good job distancing their chairs, and everyone (besides the speaker) wore a mask. The round table, as advertised, provided both masks and hand sanitizer in order to ensure the health and safety of those who chose to attend in person.

We learned much from our first venture into the virtual world and will continue to increase the quality of our digital streaming venue presentations, still offering a safe environment for those who choose to attend in person.





## Prez Sez

We're off! The Frederick County Civil War Round Table has made it through our first meeting in this age of COVID and it went very well! For those of you who missed it, be sure to check out the In Case You Missed It, for a summary of Scott Mingus's talk on *Targeted Tracks: The Cumberland Valley Railroad in the Civil War*. These FaceBook Live presentations will only get better as we, and the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, get used to hosting them. For those of you who signed on or came out to the talk at the museum, thanks for your patience and support!

This month we are hosting Logan Metesh, who will be talking about the Civil War era firearms designer and entrepreneur, James Henry Burton. You might recall that Logan was supposed to join us last March, but we were forced to cancel due to the shutdowns. He has been very gracious to reschedule with us and we looking forward to his talk.

While we are not currently doing the book raffle, we are still taking donations of gently read Civil War era books for future raffles. We were fortunate to get a bag full this last meeting and are happy to keep taking them as they come in.

Speaking of transactions, the Frederick County Civil War Round Table still needs your help with membership. While we have been doing a great job rebuilding our numbers, this season of distanced participation will make it hard to collect dues. For those that were dues paying members last season, you are getting a five-dollar discount from your usual membership as a thank you for your patience last Spring during the meeting cancellations. If you are not comfortable coming in at a meeting to pay your dues, that's OK! Feel free to send your membership form, which can be found at the bottom of this newsletter, and a check to our post office box at: **FCCWRT - P.O. BOX 3232, FREDERICK, MD 21705-3232.**

**Thank you again for your support!**

~ Matt Borders

# October Book Report by Matt Borders

## REVIEW:

Emma Simpson, Dear America: When Will This Cruel War Be Over? 156 pp. Photos \$9.95 (hardback)

ISBN: 0590228625 Reviewed by Matthew A. D. Borders

We are fortunate to live and work with the variety of American Civil War sites in the region. Most of these sites, understandably, focus on the military aspects of the war, the battles cause and their results. This was one of the aspects that drew me to the study of the war. However, as I have grown older and have spent thousands of hours on these battlefield landscapes, there is often the question of what about the civilians? It is sometimes easy to forget that living through the horror and grand drama of the war were regular people trying to live their lives. This is something I now try keep in mind, as the civilians that were tied to these battlefields still had to live there after the armies marched away. They often found themselves dealing with the consequences of the conflict for weeks, months or even years afterward.

As such the writings of the young Emma Simpson were an aspect of the war, I was interested in exploring. Emma was the daughter of Colonel Robert Stiles Simpson, a wealthy land owner near Gordonsville, Virginia. A slave owning family, the Simpson's had a large three-story home that for the first few years of the war remained relatively untouched. That begins to change in late 1863 when Emma's diary picks up. The opening two sentences of the diary set the tone for the entire work, which focuses primarily on the year 1864.

“Brother Cole returned home today. I cannot fully convey the pain that pierced my heart as Nelson and Amos carried his coffin from the cart” - Wednesday, December 23, 1863

At that time Emma noted that 1863 was the most dismal year of her life. The year she documents however are filled with its own horrors and private tragedies. Emma Simpson was 15 by the time her narrative ends, but she wrote with not only clarity, but in a way that implies that she is mulling over many of the topics of the day. The war is ever present, but so are the goings on of family and the household. She pines for a return to the happier times before the war, but recognizes that the war and its events have forever changed her.

Slavery and abolition are privately debated by this young woman as she sees the effect of the war on her family's enslaved individuals. She compares her family's treatment to the enslaved favorably to the treatment utilized by a neighbor, later speculating that the death of said neighbor was a direct result of his harsh treatments. Emma makes note of the self-emancipation of many of the enslaved in the region, but remarks proudly on several occasions of the loyalty of her family's slaves. This of course only deepens the shock when late in 1864, most of them also escape.

What was particularly interesting about Emma's narrative was looking at the very private writings of a young woman who is herself a variety of feelings about loves her family dearly, but her young man she met just before his would not approve. She is scared



desperately trying to square within what is going on around her. She cousin is a chore. She pines for an enlistment, but fears her mother by the presence of Federal troops,

but later is comforted by them, feeling that her homes use as a headquarters likely saved it from destruction.

## Upcoming Virtual Events

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

**14 October @ 7 PM** - Join the Civil War Roundtable Congress for a live interview with Len Riedel of the Blue and Gray Education Society, the Society focuses on public awareness and education with a mission to save our Civil War History. To register: [www.cwrtcongress.org/lectures.html](http://www.cwrtcongress.org/lectures.html)

**21 October @ 1 PM** - Almost everyone knows about the *Monitor* and *Merrimac* (more correctly, USS *Monitor* and CSS *Virginia*), but many people know little of the 100 or more other ironclad vessels which served on both sides in the American Civil War. This presentation explores the fascinating and sometimes bizarre story of these largely forgotten ironclads, along with "tinclads," "timberclads," and other improvised armored craft. Presented by Dan Wood, docent at The Mariners' Museum The link for more details and to attend the lecture is here: [www.MarinersMuseum.org/LIVE](http://www.MarinersMuseum.org/LIVE)

**23 October @ 12 PM** - When Major General John Bankhead Magruder assumed command of the District of Texas, he immediately sought to regain the glory he had attained on the Virginia Peninsula through the recapture of Galveston, Texas. Magruder planned to use two cottonclads against six federal gunboats while his troops pressed the Union soldiers back onto Kurtz's Wharf. Somehow, CSS *Bayou City* was able to capture USS *Harriet Lane* and USS *Westfield* was destroyed by its own crew. The rest of the Union forces either escaped or surrendered. Galveston was liberated on January 1, 1863, and Magruder became once again "the hero of our time." The port city would remain under Confederate control for the rest of the war. The link for more details and to attend the lecture is here: [www.MarinersMuseum.org/LIVE](http://www.MarinersMuseum.org/LIVE)

## Other Virtual Offerings for casual viewing

(tip of the cap to the CWRT Congress for providing many)

American Civil War Game Club Virtual Offerings

<http://www.wargame.ch/wc/acw/>

Woodman Museum in Dover, NH has a YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i85KAlvJbxM&t=500s>

History Channel's documentary on U. S. Grant

<https://meaww.com/history-leonardo-di-caprio-documentary-ron-chernow-grant>

Loudon County CWRT – The Battle of Island #10

<https://www.facebook.com/SoundOfTheGuns/posts/10157017701015913>

Gettysburg CWRT – The Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War

<https://www.facebook.com/CivilWarRoundTableOfGettysburg/live/>

American Battlefield Trust's distance learning classroom

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn>

[Visit Gettysburg with War Photographer Louie Palu](#)

National Museum of Civil War Medicine Facebook Page, offering Facebook live opportunities weekly: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/CivilWarMed/videos/>

National Museum of Civil War Medicine now offering its own YouTube Channel, tons of content available: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdGkf5-Y7aEZsXEBhRhEKjg?>

SWCW member Lavonda Kay Broadnax, Digital Reference Specialist at the Library of Congress, has compiled a web guide to the historic full text of works, now available in digital format with free and open access, written by and about African American women who lived during the U.S. Civil War. Access the guide here: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/aacivilwarwomen/>

The Andrew Johnson Papers at the Library of Congress are now available online at the following link: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000091>

## **Seminars, Conferences and Upcoming Tours**

**17-18 October - Cedar Creek Battlefield 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Re-enactment**. The CCBF, sponsors of this reenactment, the largest and most prominent in the country, has announced that early registration is extended through **June 30, 2020**. This maintains the early registration fee at \$20.00 for adults and teenagers 13 and above; \$10.00 for children 8-12; and no fee for children 7 and under. Registration fees will increase on July 1, 2020 and again on August 1, 2020. Those wishing to register should go to the CCBF's website, [www.ccbf.us](http://www.ccbf.us), and print out the registration form. Send the completed form and a check for funds in the appropriate amount to CCBF at PO Box 229, Middletown VA 22645. In the event that pandemic conditions force cancellation of the event, all registration fees will be refunded upon request.

# CWI Conference 2021 Registration is Now OPEN

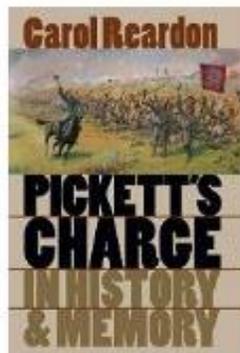


## 2021 Conference Registration is Now OPEN

**Register for CWI 2021 Today!**

Focusing primarily on the Gettysburg Campaign, [the 2021 conference](#) will feature lectures and battlefield tours exploring the battle from a variety of angles, including military leadership, civilian experiences, Lincoln's visit to Gettysburg, the commemorative landscape, and battlefield artifacts. The conference will also include special sessions on political disputes within the Army of the Potomac, drug addiction in the Civil War, race and Civil War memory in the literature of William Faulkner, the future of interpreting Confederate monuments, slave kidnappings, and more.

Speakers will include Gary W. Gallagher and Kent Masterson Brown, with battlefield tours led by Garry Adelman, Jennifer Murray, and an impressive lineup of expert National Park Service rangers and Licensed Battlefield Guides! This year's tours will take a new direction and follow individual regiments from battlefield to field hospital, with special visits to some of the lesser-known historic farms in Gettysburg which housed scores of wounded soldiers in the wake of the battle and which still stand today.



We are excited to feature Carol Reardon's classic [Pickett's Charge in History and Memory](#) as this year's book of the conference! All registered attendees will receive a 40% discount from UNC Press on copies of Dr. Reardon's book in preparation for a panel discussion of her work with several distinguished historians, including Dr. Reardon herself. If you're interested in purchasing the book from UNC Press, please contact the CWI for the discount code.

Due to the pandemic, some scheduling specifics and conference details, including availability of full on-campus amenities, are still in flux. We will continue to update [the website](#) as soon as we can confirm further details, so please check back frequently! All deposits and payments will be fully refundable.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we move through the conference planning process and continue to navigate the uncertain waters of the global health crisis.

Questions? Check out our [FAQ page](#). Still have questions? Please contact the CWI office.



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Gettysburg, PA 17325  
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# Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteerism and the ability to volunteer has been interrupted by the COVID-19 circumstances we find ourselves in. We will keep members and friends informed about future 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, 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!! 485 followers and 456 “likes”!

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.

### **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 is active now for the 20-21 season. 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 (\$25.00 for current dues paying members.)
- \$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](mailto:mborders@comcast.net)

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

**Bob Kozak**, Treasurer, 301-644-1396 [kzagr@aol.com](mailto:kzagr@aol.com)

**Todd Morris**, Secretary, Newsletter, [todd.b.morris@gmail.com](mailto:todd.b.morris@gmail.com)

**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)

**Joe Collins**, At Large, [froggyjoe@aol.com](mailto:froggyjoe@aol.com)

**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)

**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)**