



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

287th Meeting, 31th Season

Volume 44, Issue # 3

November 19, 2020, 7:00 PM
Facebook Live Hosted by NMCWM
The link is: [facebook.com/civilwarmed/live](https://www.facebook.com/civilwarmed/live)



Speaker: Bill Hallett

Presentation Overview: presentation “The Pratt Street Riot of 1861”

This month’s FB Live/ZOOM FCCWRT presentation tells the story of the 6th Massachusetts Militia, the first to leave the Bay State and answer their President’s call to war. It was their journey to Washington that would place them in history as the route required passing through Baltimore, a place not welcoming to Union troops. To pass through the city, the men would have to traverse the gauntlet between Presidents Street Station on the east side of the harbor, and Camden Station on the west side, a distance of just over a mile.

On April 19, 1861, that journey across town would produce the first blood in the four-year war. Blood not on a battlefield, but on Pratt Street in Baltimore left by dead and wounded on both sides of the melee.

This program will detail the events leading to the conflict in the streets and the immediate aftermath including Ben Butler’s instalment of a fort on Federal Hill overlooking the city, and the new battle between Lincoln and Chief Justice Roger B. Taney over the arrest of Maryland citizens.

BIO: Mr. Bill Hallett; He’s a past president of the Civil War Roundtable of New Hampshire and current board member of the Civil War Roundtable of the Merrimack in Salisbury, Massachusetts. In 2010, Bill and his wife Liz, began, “Footsteps of Heroes: Civil War Walking Tour of Newburyport.” The 90 min walking tour was a test for some of the stories for his book *Newburyport and the Civil War* (History Press 2012). Bill’s radio career has included Baltimore, MD; York/Harrisburg, PA; Portsmouth, NH; and Boston, MA; along with places in between. But while in York, PA, a co-worker introduced Bill in 1994 to the world of reenacting. In recent years, Bill’s been appearing as a war correspondent for living histories and doing less soldiering. He has spoken to audiences on various Civil War topics including a number of Civil War Roundtables throughout New England, the John Greenleaf Whittier Home, Newburyport Literary Festival, Gettysburg 153th Reenactment, and various historical societies, museums and organizations.

Newburyport, Massachusetts is Bill’s home, along with his wife Elizabeth, who is equally as passionate about history and the Civil War. The couple often use free time to research history and family genealogy or travel to historic locations. They each have two grandsons and enjoy grandparent time, stressing stories about history.

In Case You Missed it



Last month Mr. Logan Metesh addressed the roundtable, hosted by our strategic partner, the National Museum for Civil War Medicine on FB Live/ZOOM. Logan delighted over 20 ZOOM participants with the life story of Mr. James Henry Burton "*The Most Influential Man in the (Gun) World: James Henry Burton*". He recounted the storied career of this famous Civil War Era gun manufacturer, from his time at Harpers Ferry, to later travels and

employment in England producing an astonishing 75,000 rifles per year at the Enfield Factory. The precision with which he was able to manufacture weapons and parts was to an astonishing .0003 of an inch, bringing him significant notoriety. An early career invention was for a munition intended to increase accuracy by virtue of a concave bottom which would seal to rifling, were it not for politics what would later be called the Minie Ball would be the Burton Ball. His work for the south during the Civil War after his return home to Virginia was significant, culminating in the standup of a factory in Georgia target to produce at the famed 75,000 rifle rate. Circumstances with importing from overseas near the end of the war prevented this industrial capability from ever coming to pass.

A screenshot of a Facebook Live video player. The video title is "Early Life 1823 - 1854". Below the title is a historical illustration of a factory complex with multiple buildings and chimneys emitting smoke, situated near a river. To the right of the video is a list of bullet points detailing Logan Metesh's early life and career. The Zoom logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the video player.

- Born 1823
- West Chester Academi...
 - PA prep school
- Baltimore & Ohio Railroad
 - 5 yr apprenticeship
- Harpers Ferry
 - Hall's, Foreman, Assistant Inspector, Acting Master Armorer
- Politics
 - demoted





Prez Sez

First off, I hope everyone had as happy a Halloween as currently possible and that you are staying healthy for the upcoming Veterans Day and Thanksgiving holidays. For those of you who missed it, last month we had our first completely on-line presentation to help accommodate our speaker and his schedule. It went very smoothly and we had a great talk about firearms designer and entrepreneur, James Henry Burton.

This month we are going to be hosting Mr. Bill Hallett who will be speaking on the Pratt Street Riot of 1861! The riot was one of the early events in the American Civil War, pitting a portion of the Baltimore population against Federal troops moving through the city on their way to reinforce the national capital. Mr. Hallett will be joining us live at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, so come on out or join us on-line as we continue to run our programs through the National Museum of Civil War Medicine livestream.

As with any live presentation we will have extra masks available and have our seating spaced appropriately. We will also be abstaining from the book raffle again, just to be on the safe side.

Finally, with all our programs on-line recently it is easy to forget about yearly dues. 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.**

~ Matt Borders

November Book Report by Matt Borders

REVIEW:

Joseph Harsh, *Sounding the Shallows: A Confederate Companion for the Maryland Campaign of 1862*. 280 pp. Notes, Charts, \$18.00 (paperback-currently out of print)
ISBN: 0-87338-641-8 Reviewed by Matthew A. D. Borders

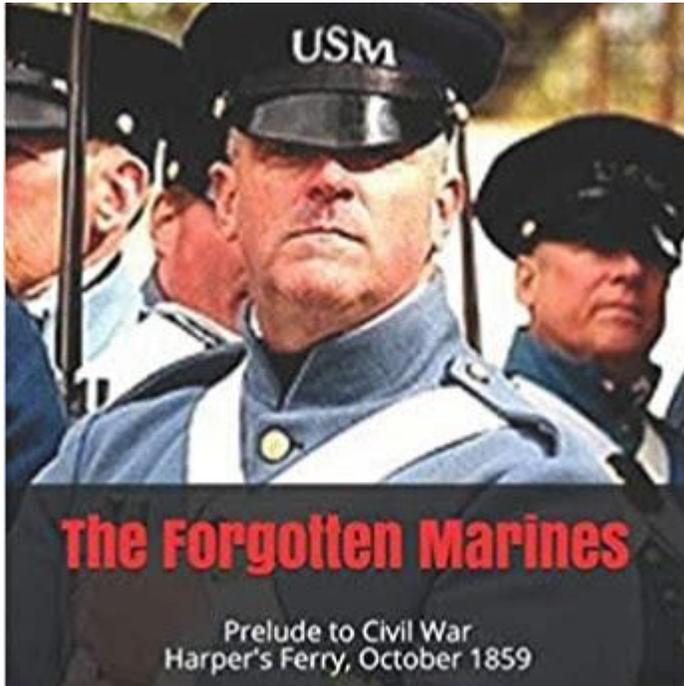
I was recently involved in a writing project with some of the Antietam Battlefield Guides and utilized one of the great lesser known resources for researching the 1862 Maryland Campaign. Dr. Joseph Harsh's *Sounding the Shallows*. For those of you who read up on the Maryland Campaign, Dr. Harsh's name will ring a few bells. He was the author of the seminal work, *Taken at the Flood: Robert E. Lee and Confederate Strategy in the Maryland Campaign of 1862*. A brilliant work that not only challenged some of the traditional interpretations of the campaign and battle of Antietam, but gave a very fair view of McClellan and the Federal response to the First Confederate Invasion of the North. That book was a massive effort, and is often the case, there was a lot of information, especially technical data, that was left out to accommodate publisher concerns such as page and word counts.

That is where *Sounding the Shallows* comes in. Published a year after *Taken at the Flood*, this companion work takes on a lot of the data information that had to be left out of the main volume. Want to know the combat experience of a regiment or other command in the Army of Northern Virginia going into the Maryland Campaign? This is for you. How about an analysis of the troop strength of the various regiments involved in the campaign? That's here too. How about the all-important question of combat strength of the Confederate army both before and after the campaign? Also addressed, along with many, many more topics you may not have even thought to ask about.

One of my favorite aspects of *Sounding the Shallows*, is the weather data. Come to find out there is very good weather data for the entire campaign from two very good sources. The regional almanac and the Frederick weather station. The weather station in particular took temperature, precipitation, wind direction and strength, as well as barometer readings several times a day. The data on each of these days is then backed up with first person accounts from the men involved in the campaign. This was a brilliant way to present what could honestly be very dry material to write about.



A reading recommendation from the FCCWRT BOD



Looking toward the winter holiday season, we would like to propose, for your shopping consideration, a historical novel titled **The Forgotten Marines**: "Prelude to Civil War – Harper's Ferry, October 1859."

This novel is available in three formats:

Kindle Edition (Digital),

Standard Edition (Printed) softcover with 472 pages,

and as an...

Annotated Edition (Printed) softcover with 520 pages encompassing 220 informational/background annotations, designed to provide each reader with an appreciable knowledge about the Marines of the era, their history, and their general military lifestyle. The

Annotations also enhance featured information about the B&O Railroad, the town of Harper's Ferry, the U.S. Armory/Arsenal, and John Brown's raid.

The complementing 46-page Appendix provides enlightening material that will increase every reader's enjoyment beyond the storyline and, hopefully, entice everyone to seek more information about the historical facts presented.

Sales information about all of the Editions is available at the website: www.sumdalus.com/tfm

Please, click the link and check it out! Thank you.

Upcoming Virtual Events

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

The upcoming Speaker Series sponsored by the Civil War Roundtable Congress (CWRT), to register for one of these events, follow the link at the bottom

- November 11 at 7pm - On this Veterans Day, Chris Kolakowski tells about Civil War veterans and the [Grand Army of the Republic](#).
- November 18 at 7pm - Lisa Samia tells the story she entitles [So Runs the World Away](#) about the life and times of brother and sister Asia and John Wilkes Booth.

- December 2 at 7pm - David Keller details [The Story of Camp Douglas](#) and why it was sited, designed and operated just outside the Chicago city limits.
- December 9 at 7pm - Robert May brings a Yuletide story to the program with [Slavery, Christmas and the Downfall of the Confederacy](#).

Be sure to click the links to download the program fliers. And, be sure to subscribe to our [YouTube channel - CWRT Congress!](#)

To Register follow this link: <https://www.cwrtcongress.org/speaker.html>

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/>

CWI Conference 2021 Registration is Now OPEN

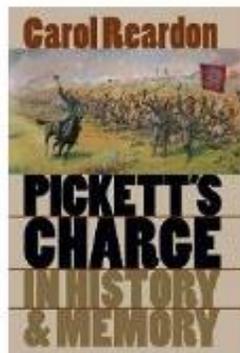


2021 Conference Registration is Now OPEN

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.



300 North Washington Street
Campus Box 435
Gettysburg, PA 17325
717.337.6590
civilwar@gettysburg.edu



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!! 547 followers and 512 “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

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, llucyzzini@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

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