



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

294th Meeting, 32th Season

Volume 45, Issue # 2

October 21, 2021, 7:00 PM
National Museum of Civil War Medicine,
48 E. Patrick Street, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Charles Poland

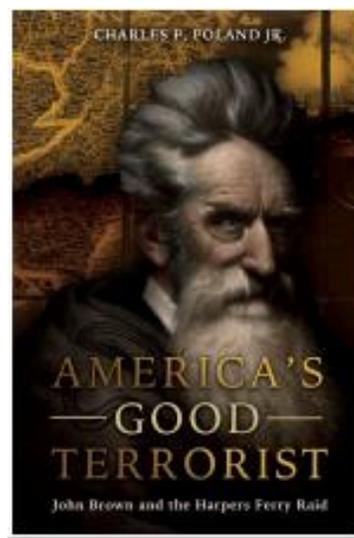
**Presentation Overview: America's Good Terrorist:
John Brown and the Harpers Ferry Raid**

Our 2021-2022 season continues with Charles Poland speaking on his remarkable work, the first full biography of John Brown, examining his background, why and how he carried out the raid on Harper's Ferry, the aftermath, and the effect his actions had on

America.

Charles addresses how the opinions of the historical raid have changed over time and was he a martyr or hero? How John Brown was and what he did fit the profile of a terrorist which we are familiar with today. Charles will tell us about the ongoing debate between scholars of then and now. Primarily informed by one's perspective.

BIO Charles Poland has a PhD in History and more than forty years of college teaching as a Professor of History. Among the courses he has taught were college credit field trip courses on John Brown's raid.



In Case you Missed it



The FCCWRT opened its 32d Season in a hybrid venue, many of our members attended in person and with our partners the National Museum of Civil War Medicine live streamed the event.

The members and guests witnessed a marvelous presentation by an award-winning couple, Jim and Suzanne Ginglesperger, presenting their co-authored work “So you think you know Antietam: The stories behind America’s Bloodiest Day”. Primarily Jim, but joined by Suzanne for a story, presented our members, friends, and friends on-line an in-depth look at the Battlefield monuments and the little-known accounts of the soldiers who participated in this great conflict on Maryland soil, either the Battle of Antietam or the Battle of Sharpsburg in their eyes.

Jim presented historical locations (including the cemetery), historical figures, and detailed accounts of the human nature stories in and around the battlefield, using monuments to tie the story together.

Their work honors those who took part in this darkest of days in our nation’s history thru the telling of the stories behind the monuments, their design, and symbols. Portraying also anecdotal accounts of the Antietam Cemetery along with the battle’s connection to well-known and little-known historic figures.





Prez Sez

Thank you to everyone that was able to join us for our first meeting in September. The discussion with James Gindlesperger about he and his wife's book *So You Think You Know Antietam*, went very well and was streamed out to over 100 watchers on the National Museum of Civil War Medicine's YouTube Channel. We hope to keep these hybrids, in person and streamed programs going for as long as possible. We also hope that if you are not yet comfortable joining us at the museum, then you join us on the livestream.

With it now being October, it seems only appropriate that we are having Dr. Charles Poland, author of *America's Good Terrorist*, a new biography of John Brown, to the museum for a discussion. John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry occurred on October 16-18, 1859 and was a significant catalyst for the American Civil War. Seen as a violent extremist by most at the time, Brown did however have his supporters then, and underwent a massive popularity shift during the Civil War, from maniac to martyr. So, join us, or tune in, for what is sure to be a fascinating talk about one of the most controversial men of the 19th century.

Also, now that we are into a new season, don't forget to renew your membership! Individual membership dues are our most direct financial support and allows the Frederick County Civil War Round Table to bring in great speakers each season for your education and enjoyment. Our partnership with the National Museum of Civil War Medicine is mutually beneficial, but we are using their facilities and time, so your dues go towards the use of their space as well. Information about membership, as well as a pdf of the membership form can be found here: frederickcountycivilwarrt.org/join.html

Hope to see you in person or on-line this October 21st!

Most Sincerely,

*Matt Borders
President, FCCWRT*

October Book Review by Matt Borders

REVIEW: Ryan Quint, *Determined to Stand and Fight*. 192 pp. Maps, Pictures, Appendix, \$14.95 (paperback) ISBN: 978-1611213461 Reviewed by Matthew A. D. Borders.

Being always on the lookout for new Monocacy content, I picked up, *Determined to Stand and Fight*. This is the most recent work on the Battle of Monocacy and covers not only the fighting specific to the July 9th battle, but also the Monocacy Campaign as a whole. Ryan Quint has done a fine job laying out the often confusing early days of the campaign, as Federal authorities were scrambling to understand what was happening in the northern Shenandoah and western Maryland, in a manner that is easy for the reader to understand. How the campaign came to be, as an offshoot of the defeat of Major General David Hunter's Federal forces in the Shenandoah Valley, and how it over reached itself by not only making a run at Washington DC, but also an attempt at Point Lookout, is explained using the words of the men themselves. The text is heavy in quotes and gives a sense of the extensive research Mr. Quint did for the work.

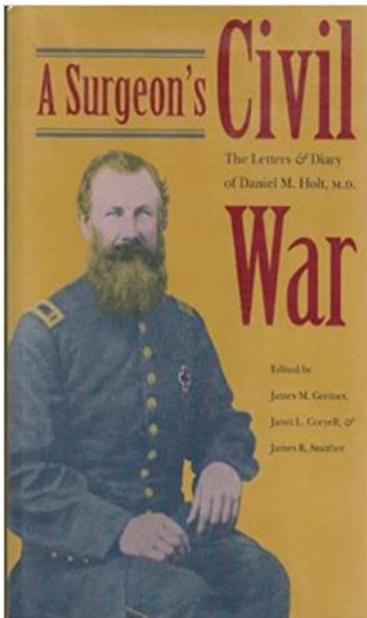
The movements of the contending sides are laid out and it is easy to visualize the two antagonists closing on each other. This is also aided by the numerous images used throughout the book, of both the landscapes that are discussed and the historical figures of the day. While the campaign movements and opening skirmishes on July 7th and 8th have only limited mapping, the fighting on July 9th, is generously mapped, showing the various division and brigade movements of both Early and Wallace's commands.

Following the battle the book goes on to describe the final movements of Early's forces to the very outskirts of Washington DC, and his subsequent retreat. It spends more time on what happens to Wallace however following the battle, describing his initial removal from command following the Union defeat, but also his redemption and re-authorization to command when it became obvious just what had been done during the Battle of Monocacy.

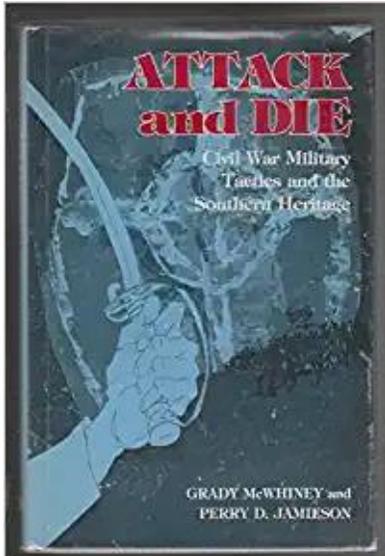
The book concludes with brief rundowns of what the major players of the campaign did for the rest of the war and the years to follow. It also has numerous appendices looking at everything from the raid on Point Lookout, the Burning of Chambersburg, the affects of the battle of the civilian population, Civil War medicine, a walking tour of downtown Frederick, Maryland and curiously a look at Wallace's literary legacy.

While *Determined to Stand and Fight*, lacks citations in book, a link is provided at the beginning of the book for those who want to check sources. Overall it is a fine introduction to the 3rd Confederate Invasion of the North, easy to read and well structured.

October Book Sales



This book contains the letters and diary of Daniel M. Holt, M.D. who became an assistant surgeon in the 121st New York Volunteers. His regiment saw action in nearly all the major battles of the eastern theater. His personal papers provide an insiders' view of how medicine was practiced at the time and the challenges of conducting treatment on the battlefield. Through his letters and diary, Dr. Holt notes his opinions on both Union and Confederate officers, the slavery issue, and other military and non-military matters.



This book researches the staggering number of Confederate soldiers killed during the war and attributes this loss to the army's continued use of outdated and risky *offensive* tactics. The authors study tactics once used during the Mexican War and declare them grossly ineffective during the civil war due to improved weaponry. They argue that the Southerners' consistent favoring of offensive warfare was attributable to their Celtic heritage – which included their use of the famous Rebel Yell. This fiery Celtic temperament and Southern social history emboldened them to make these courageous attacks that resulted in horrific numbers of Confederate dead.

2021 Board Positions for the Frederick County Civil War Round Table

For those interested in putting their hat in the ring for a board position for the FCCWRT the position descriptions below were taken from the current by-laws of the round table. Many of these positions have changed or developed with the times since originally written and the current duties of the positions are included here as well. If you are interested in running for a position on the board or volunteering your time to the round table please reach out to the current president, Matt Borders, at mborders@comcast.net.

The President shall: Preside at all meetings of the Roundtable and of the Board of Directors Appoint, with the approval of the Board, the chairperson and members of all committees. Appoint a committee to conduct an audit of the Roundtable's accounts and financial records on an annual basis. (The President currently also plays a big roll in developing and vetting speakers for each season.)

The Vice President shall: Perform the duties of President in his/her absence Perform any special duties assigned by the President.

The Secretary shall: Keep complete and correct minutes of the meetings of the Roundtable and of the Board of Directors. Notify the membership of all meetings and activities of the Roundtable. Prepare and be responsible for the distribution of the Banner of the Blue and Gray newsletter.

The Archivist shall: Safeguard all property and records of the Roundtable and provide an inventory of such property to the Board annually or as directed. (As much of the history of the FCCWRT is available on-line with the newsletter archive, the primary duty of the Archivist has been the safeguarding and distribution of books and items for the meeting raffle.)

FCCWRT Lectures Available

For those of you who may have missed any of the Virtual Presentations from the previous seasons of the FCCWRT, all presentations can be found on the National Museum of Civil War Medicine YouTube channel found here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/nmcwm/videos>

Other Virtual Offerings for casual viewing (tip of the cap to the CWRT Congress for providing many)

October 6, 7 PM, The Never Seen Before Letters of Asia Booth Clarke presented by Lisa G. Samia. A look into the recently discovered letters from the sister of John Wilkes Booth and the revelations they provide, historic work done by Ms. Samia. Register here: <https://www.cwrtcongress.org/speaker/100-samia.php>

October 8, 7 PM, Orlando Hurley Moore; an American Hero presented by Author and Historian John Urschel. John discusses the life and times, a long career with many ups and downs, truly an American Hero. Register here: https://www.aplos.com/aws/events/104_urschel_live

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>

Gettysburg CWRT – The Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War
<https://www.facebook.com/CivilWarRoundTableOfGettysburg/live/>

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/>

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://www.facebook.com/fccwrt> Gary Dyson is our "face" for Facebook, help us spread the word about OUR FCCWRT!! 1,115 likes and 1,219 follows !

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.

Also visit 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, cwf@monocacy.com

For questions, comments or dues, contact:

FCCWRT

P.O. Box 3232, Frederick MD 21705-3232

www.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org

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 year is on! Please consider supporting the Round Table during the 21-22 season, by 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/>.

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