



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

298th Meeting, 32th Season

Volume 45, Issue # 7

March 17, 2022, 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Joseph W. Stahl

Presentation Overview: Faces of Union Soldiers at South Mountain and Harpers Ferry

Join Joe Stahl as he shares images and stories of some of the 30 Union soldiers highlighted in his latest book, "***Faces of Union Soldiers at South Mountain & Harpers Ferry***". Written and published with his fellow National Park Service certified guide Matt Borders, this work investigates 30

individual soldiers that fought in the opening battles of the Maryland Campaign, South Mountain and Harpers Ferry on September 14 & 15, 1862. These images are previously unpublished and are of the men in the ranks, not the generals that commanded them. Joe will discuss a sampling of these soldiers, who they were, what they did on these fields, and what can be gleaned from their images.

BIO: Joseph W. Stahl retired from the Institute for Defense Analyses where he authored or co-authored more than 50 reports on defense issues. Since his retirement he has become a volunteer and NPS Licensed Battlefield Guide at Antietam and Harpers Ferry. He grew up in St. Louis. He received BS and MS degrees from Missouri University of Science and Technology and an MBA from Washington University in St. Louis. He is a member of the Company of Military Historians, Save Historic Antietam Foundation (SHAF), Hagerstown Civil War Round Table. He has spoken to various Civil War groups including the Northern Virginia Relic Hunters, South Mountain Coin and Relic Club, Rappahannock, York, Chambersburg, and Hagerstown Round Tables, Chambersburg Civil War Tours, SHAF and the NPS Antietam. Joe has also authored more than two dozen articles about items in his collections for the *Gettysburg Magazine*, the *Washington Times* Civil War Page, *Manuscripts*, *America's Civil War*, *Military Collector & Historian* the Journal of the Company of Military Historians, the *Civil War Historian* and the *Skirmish Line* of the North-South Skirmish Association. Displays of items from of his collection have won awards at several Civil War shows. He has been a member of the North-South Skirmish Association for more than 25 years and has shot civil war type muskets, carbines and revolvers in both individual and team competitions.

In Case you Missed it



During our February presentation back at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine Mr. Dennis Duerbeck fascinated the very active on-line audience along with in person attendees, friends and members of the Civil War Round

Table. He walked us thru his extensive collection focused on the Artillery of both sides, blue and gray. Dennis was also able to review his extensive collection of Ordnance Manuals, showing gunners step by step how to bring pieces into action, maintain stocks of horses and mules, and order ammunition and spare parts for their guns.

Dennis also presented original documents from the Civil War and before including photographs, Battery manning rosters and firsthand accounts of various artillery actions. His presentation was a unique change from the usual fare of the FCCWRT but had the entire audience engaged and fascinated with the various tools of the trade; fuze setters, fuzes, ammunition, and personally worn items by cannoneers of all ranks, from Battery Commander to Number One Gunner. Mr. Duerbeck and his wife Nadine, both in period costume, truly delighted the crowd.





Prez Sez: Well February was a different presentation, with a close look at the Civil War artillery relics in Dennis Duerbeck's collection. We have been trying to get Dennis in for a couple seasons at this point and it was great to make it happen. We were also very fortunate to have the camera assistance of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine for this presentation. This allowed us to get some good close-ups and detail shots for all the membership that was watching the live stream. Thank you as always to the museum for this assistance!

Now, as for this month, we have a bit of a schedule change. Our scheduled speaker, Anthony Trusso, has been called away for a National Park Service training and we look forward to having him back next season for his talk. Filling in for us is Antietam Battlefield Guide Joseph Stahl. Joe will be presenting on our recent book, *Faces of Union Soldiers at South Mountain and Harpers Ferry*. That's right, I am one of the authors as well and will be adding information regarding the *carte-de-viste* or CDV images that are in the book. This will be a great discussion about the fighting men in the Army of the Potomac, as well as what we can tell about the images from the clues, such as uniforms, back marks, stamps, etc.

With this in mind we are going to continue to stream these presentations and have the images blown up on a power point to make them easier to see. However, for those of you who plan to join us at the museum, Joe will likely have some of his original CDV's present for you to take a look as well. So please join us on March 17, we look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,
Matt Borders

March Book Review

REVIEW:

Christopher R. Mortenson, *Politician in Uniform: General Lew Wallace and the Civil War*. 298 pp. Pictures, \$21.95 (paperback) ISBN: 978-0806167367 Reviewed by Matthew A. D. Borders

As the spring tourism season approaches, I am gearing up on my reading in preparation for another season at Monocacy National Battlefield. As such, I read through the most recent biography of Major General Lew Wallace, *Politician in Uniform: General Lew Wallace in the Civil War*. This biography came out in 2019 and takes a hard look at the development of Wallace through the lens of masculinity and his political ambition. Mortenson makes the argument that 19th century men were pulled in two ways regarding masculinity. There was the physical aspect of the frontier, labor, etc., or the self-controlled, restrained masculinity of gentlemen. Wallace was drawn to the physical aspects of masculinity and had some early political success due to this. During the Civil War however, this actually put him at odds with many of the officers, particularly the West Point officers of the army, who had been taught to be gentleman and adhere to codes of conduct and the chain of command.

Mortenson also addresses the issue of "Political Generals" in this work. Generals of this designation are usually seen as something lesser than those generals that were brought up through West Point or one of the other military academies. While many of them, including Lew Wallace, had some sort of military experience, they were not traditional military men and their elevation to command usually gave some political advantage to the Union war effort. For example, Benjamin Butler was a powerful Massachusetts Democrat before the war, as well as the commander of the state militia. He was made one of the earliest Volunteer Major Generals to help cement democrat support. Franz Sigel is another example, though he had experience as a commander in Europe before the war, it was his connection to the German immigrant population of the country that made his elevation of command expedient for the purposes of recruiting. Lew Wallace himself was only a very recent convert to the Republican Party when the war broke out and would have hated being referred to as a Politician in Uniform or political general, but it was his connections through his brother-in-law, as well as being acquainted with Indiana's governor that helped secure his initial command, as well as his elevation to general.

Fortunately for the Union, and unlike some of his other politically advanced comrades, Wallace could and did fight. This work goes into great detail on Lew Wallace's military career and his near constant desire to achieve military success and glory. This is well documented from his early experience as a lieutenant during the war with Mexico, to a militia commander and finally the Colonel of the 11th Indiana Infantry, the "Wallace Zouaves". The constant desire to see action helped establish Wallace as a fighting commander early on, but there was also an apparent disregard for senior officers he did not agree with that proved to be an issue. While his early successes help provide his benefactors in Indiana the tools they needed to promote him to brigadier general, it was Wallace's skills as a commander that saw him promoted to major general shortly after the fall of Fort Donelson in early 1862. Though he held this rank for the rest of the war, Wallace ran afoul of his brother officers in part due to being outside the clique of West Point officers, as is often pointed out, but also due to his own stubbornness. The bloody Battle of Shiloh in April 1862 in particular saw to removal of Wallace from active field command. Though put on the back burner for almost two years, Wallace found redemption at Monocacy in 1864 and even earn the respect of officers who had once disparaged him, including Ulysses S. Grant.

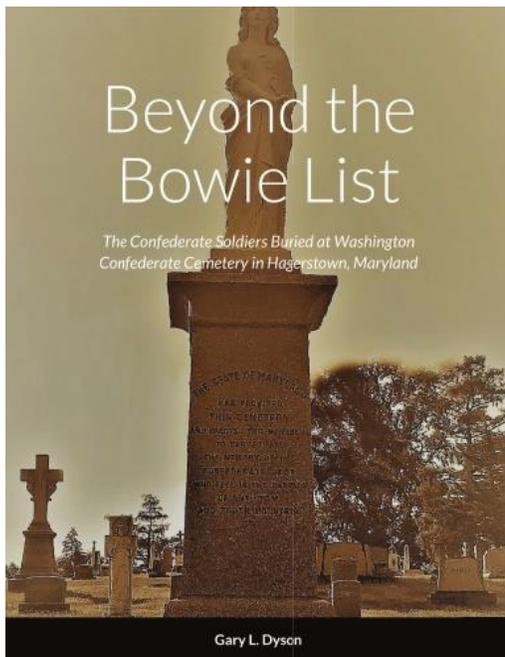
Following the Civil War Wallace's ambition did not let up and after high profile positions on Federal tribunals in the summer of 1865 Wallace had military offers to stay in the service, as well as another from Mexico. He continued to climb the later politically however as a territorial governor and later as the United States consul to the Ottoman Empire. All the while he also cultivated a career as a writer. In the end Lew Wallace proved to be something of a renaissance man who never lost his ambition, nor backed down from a fight, which proved both good and bad over the course of his life. I highly recommend this work to anyone interested in the life of Lew Wallace, his varied career or the dichotomy between the officer and politician and how they had to co-exist.

Unique Item for sale

A 27-inch French Chassepot sword bayonet for \$125. Please see attached pictures for details. The seller lives in Rockville and personal delivery can be arranged. Please reach out to Matt Borders, mborders@comcast.net if interested, or touch base with him at the next meeting.



A “sneak preview” from our own Gary Dyson



Gary has researched every named Confederate soldier who died and was buried in Maryland now, somewhere around 700 total. Perhaps someone else will tell the stories of the unknown Confederate dead through more research, which could actually be done. After a break I'll take on the Frederick Rebels. All of this began from the Mount Olivet request for volunteers to research the veterans buried there just a couple years ago. Our Roundtable provided the forum for all of this.

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>

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table Symposium 29-30 April (early bird tickets available until 1 Apr)

Old Baldy Civil War Roundtable of greater Philadelphia. OBCWRT has been in existence for 45 years, and like the Frederick County CWRT, is dedicated to educating and preserving the history of the Civil War. Rich Jankowski, our President, suggested I reach out to you.

Every several years we put on a symposium where we assemble nationally known speakers. This year with the cooperation of Rutgers University, we will be hosting on April 29/30 a symposium focusing on the western theater and the coordination of the army and navy in opening up the Father of the Waters, the Mississippi. In the east, by proximity of geography, there is a focus and familiarity with the eastern theater. This symposium is designed to provide a foundation of understanding for what was occurring in the west, especially during 1863. Arguably, what was happening in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana, was as critical to the outcome of the war as the events in the east. Grant's ultimate success in the east follows his incredible campaign in the west, often considered one of the greatest military campaigns in world history.

The speakers assembled for this event are renowned authors:

Chuck Veit, President Navy & Marine Living History Association, Author: Natural Genius: Brutus de Villeroi and the U.S. Navy's First Submarine, Handbook for Civil War Naval Reenactors. Will provide in depth analyses of the Battle of New Orleans. The Land Campaign for Vicksburg...

Terry Winschell, Retired Chief Historian of Vicksburg National Military Park, Author: The Civil War Diary of the Common Soldier, Vicksburg: Will cover Land campaign for Vicksburg – Grand Gulf, Jackson, Raymond, Champion Hill, Vicksburg. Navy/Army Coordination

Dr. Tim Smith, Author: Grant Invades Tennessee: The 1862 Battles for Forts Henry and Donelson, Rethinking Shiloh: Myth and Memory, Mississippi in the Civil War: The Home Front. Will cover for battles Leading up to Vicksburg. The Sinking of the Ironclads:

John Quarstein, Director Emeritus of the Monitor Center at Mariner's Museum in Newport News, Award winning author and preservationist: *The Monitor Boys: The Crew of the Union's First Ironclad*, *Will cover the sinking of the Manassas*, *Cairo, Arkansas and Tecumseh. Red River Campaign ...*

Dr. Gary Joiner, Author: *The Red River Campaign*, *One Dam Blunder from Beginning to End*, in depth discussion of the events surrounding the campaign against Shreveport Louisiana, and gateway to Texas



Our NMCWM Partner links

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?>

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!! 1,425 likes and 1,535 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.frederickcountycivilwar.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.

Only Half-way through, our membership drive for the year is ongoing! 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/>.

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

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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