



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

299th Meeting, 32th Season

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April 21, 2022, 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Harry Smeltzer

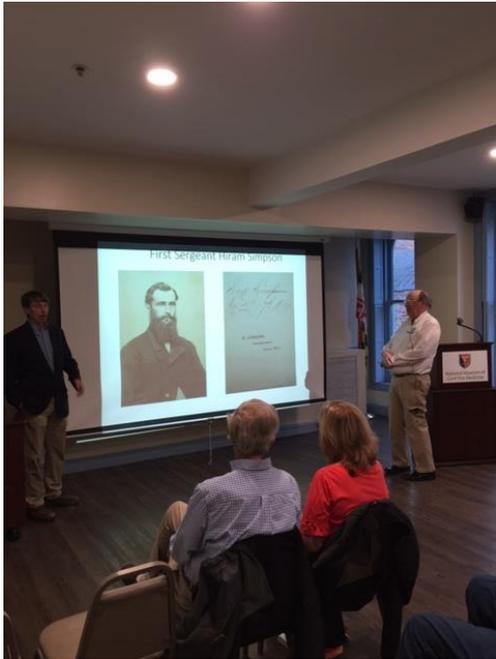
Presentation Overview: McDowell's Plan for First Bull Run

“McDowell’s Plan for First Bull Run” examines the expectations and intentions of Brigadier General Irvin McDowell for the campaign which culminated in the

battle of July 21, 1861. Through the use of existing and easily available primary documents and military theory of the day, the program argues that the traditional interpretation of McDowell’s “plan” and the reasons for its failure is at odds with the evidence and is based in large parts on facts not in evidence.

BIO: Harry Smeltzer is the host of *Bull Runnings* (bullrunnings.wordpress.com), a website dedicated to the digitization of primary resources and original content related to the First Battle of Bull Run. He lives just outside Pittsburgh, and was born and raised in Southwestern PA. He has earned degrees at *The Pennsylvania State University* and the *Katz School of the University of Pittsburgh*. He’s also been published in print media including in the journal *Civil War History*, *The Civil War Monitor*, *Civil War Times*, and *America’s Civil War*. He was a Contributing Writer for *America’s Civil War* and is a Digital History Advisor for *The Civil War Monitor*. He sits on the board of directors of the *Save Historic Antietam Foundation*. He has presented programs on Bull Run related topics to organizations in seven states and the District of Columbia and has organized and led tours of the battlefield of First Bull Run. Groups with which he’s worked include Civil War roundtables, libraries, historical societies, universities, and the United States Marine Corps. He’s been hosting Bull Runnings since November 2006.

In Case you Missed it



During the March meeting of the Frederick County Civil War Round Table, we hosted the event once again both live and streaming through our partners at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. Mr. Joe Stahl delighted the audience as he shared shares images and the colorful backstories of some of the 30 Union soldiers highlighted in his latest book, "***Faces of Union Soldiers at South Mountain & Harpers Ferry***". He co-wrote the work with fellow historian (our own FCCWRT President) Matthew Borders, his fellow National Park Service certified guide, together, they both published the work. The thorough research investigated 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. The audience was provided a sampling of these soldiers, who they were, what they did on these fields, what became of them after the war, what their final resting place was and what we can learn from their experiences. The stories were as detailed as they were fascinating, learning of the lives and the fates of these patriotic young men who served their country in perhaps our bloodiest conflict.





Prez Sez:

It seems only appropriate that our guest this month is speaking on the first Battle of Bull Run. Recently the Frederick County Civil War Round Table was contacted about a proposed change to the charter for lands near Manassas National Military Park in Prince William County, Virginia. Changes to the county charter would allow for a 2,100-acre data center to be built almost right to the edge of the preserved battlefield landscape. While this new construction would not infringe on the boundary of the National Park site, it would definitely be on unprotected battlefield land if it were allowed to be built.

The vote on these changes is happening in May, so reaching out about this issue now is strongly encouraged. Your Frederick County Civil War Round Table Board is crafting a letter to the acting chair of the Prince William County Board, if you would like to send your own message or email, consider reaching out to:

Acting Chair, Ann Wheeler
1 County Complex Court
Woodbridge, VA 22192
703-792-4640
awheeler@pwcgov.org

Development pressure aside, closer to home, preservation efforts around Burkittsville recently got a boost. In early March the Antietam Institute provided a \$2500 donation to the Burkittsville Historical Society's ongoing restoration efforts at the Shafer Farm. This farm was the headquarters of Major General William Franklin during the fighting at Crampton's Gap, part of the larger Battle of South Mountain. The restoration is still in its early phase, but it is hoped to eventually open the house back up to public tours and interpretation.

So, while it is easy to be discouraged by all the threats and challenges to preservation, savor the successes as well. We look forward to seeing you for our discussion of Manassas on April 21 at 7pm.

Sincerely,
Matt Borders,

April Book Review

REVIEW:

Jamie L.H. Goodall, [Pirates Of The Chesapeake Bay: From the Colonial Era to the Oyster Wars](#). 160 pp. Pictures, \$23.99 (paperback) ISBN: 978-1467141161 Reviewed by Matthew A. D. Borders

Something a bit different, but who doesn't love pirate history? Dr. Jamie Goodall has highlighted the long association of piracy and the Chesapeake Bay, a legacy that dates back more than a century before the American Revolution and continued into the mid-20th Century with the Oyster Wars. What drew me to this book, more than an enjoyment of pirate history as a whole, was the precarious position of the Chesapeake Bay on the border of the Union and the Confederacy during the American Civil War. This vast body of water saw significant action during the Civil War by Confederate privateers. Privateers, or government sanctioned pirates, were paid by what they could capture and were an American Naval tradition that was exploited by the Confederacy in large part due to not being able to develop its own effective large-scale navy.

The struggle between Confederate raiders and the Union Navy is highlighted in its own section of the book. Dr. Goodall profiles a number of Confederate naval heroes such as, John Taylor Wood, John Yates Beall and Thaddeus Fitzhugh. While none of these names are as well-known or remembered as their army counterparts, each proved to be a threat to civilian shipping and a thorn in the side of the Union Navy during the war.

As it turns out, only John Tayler Wood, the nephew of, as well as the naval aid-de-camp to Jefferson Davis, was a navy man. Wood, who was related to Jefferson Davis's first wife, had served in the United States Navy during the Mexican American War and during the years leading up to the Civil War. A staunch supporter of secession, he had attempted to resign in 1861, but this was denied, and he was removed for the service instead. He moved to Virginia and by August 1861 was offering these services to the Confederate Navy Department. Wood saw action at Hampton Roads in 1862 aboard the *CSS Virginia*, and later led a series of raids on the Chesapeake in 1863 that garnered him significant attention in the press. While that author mentions Wood going further south to the Carolinas in 1864, what she did not touch on was the connection John Taylor Wood has to the Third Confederate Invasion of the north in 1864. As it turns out, he was to have led the naval contingent of the raid on Point Lookout, Maryland and the prisoner of war camp that was there. Wood was to take two transports across the Chesapeake to Point Lookout, while the cavalry of Brigadier General Bradley Johnson attacked the facility from the north and west. Wood's ships would then transport the thousands of Confederate POW's back to Confederate lines. While a very dramatic plan, it never came to pass. This was due in large part to intelligence failures that alerted the Union Navy, which in turn increased the number of guard boats on the Chesapeake. This led to the plan being scrapped before it even began.

While the Civil War section sparked my interest, the whole book is fantastic and a lot of fun to read as it lays down the names and stories of dozens of pirates who worked in the Chesapeake over the centuries. This book gave me a far better appreciation for the Chesapeake Bay and its pirate legacy. A legacy that is as important and dynamic as any you find in the Caribbean or along the Atlantic Coast.

April Book Raffle Featured Titles

1. Bull Run to Bull Run; Memories of George Baylor- 12th VA Cavalry CSA- Copyright 1900, 1983
 - Hard back

2. Embattled Confederates, An illustrated History of Southerners at War; Bell Wiley, Hirst Milhollen
 - Hard back

3. Sword of Lincoln, Army of the Potomac; Jeffrey Wert; 2005
 - Paperback

4. Fighting for the Confederacy, Recollections of General Edward Porter Alexander, 1989
 - Hardback

5. Civil War Battlefields, Then and Now; James Campi, Jr., 2002
 - Hardback

6. Coffee Mugs
 - CSA
 - Frederick CW Medicine Museum
 - Appomattox

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



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!! 1,767 likes and 1,881 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/>

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?>

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

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