



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

302d Meeting, 33th Season

Volume 46, Issue # 2

October 20th, 2022, 7:00 PM National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Roger Schwarz

Presentation Overview: The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858

Though Lincoln lost, these debates catapulted Lincoln to the presidency in 1860. In this program, we'll explore the issue of slavery and the freedman throughout the debates held in 7 towns in Illinois. We'll delve into the public speaking characteristics of the debaters as well as characteristics of the towns sponsoring these debates for the position of U.S. Senator of Illinois. We'll explore the reasons Douglas won, retaining his senatorial seat; and how these debates led to

Lincoln's lecture at Cooper Union in New York City on February 27, 1860. This speech made him president.

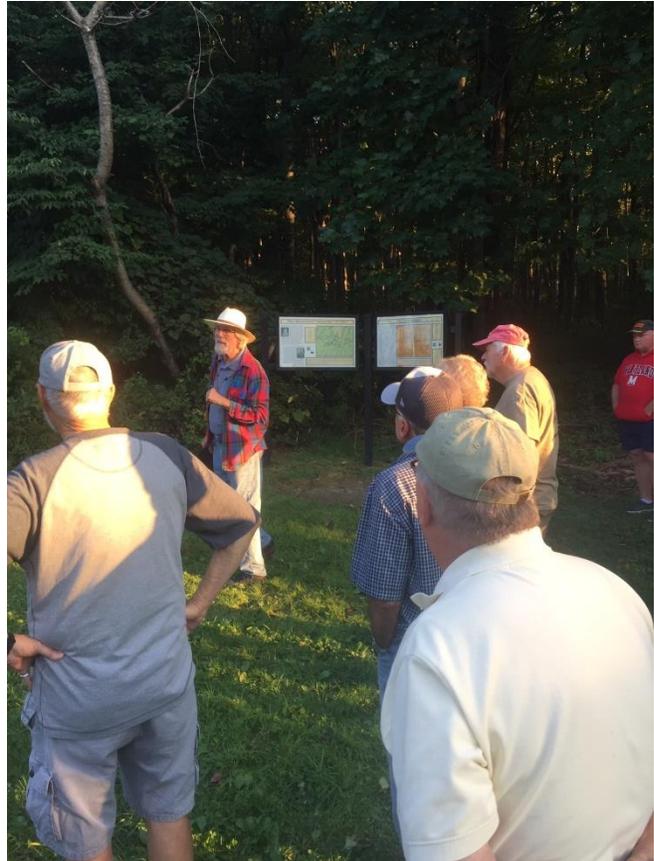
Bio: Roger Swartz is owner of R.G. Swartz & Associates, offering educational and consultancy services to historical organizations. He is author of two books dealing with Pennsylvania during the American Revolution. One of these is Frankstown: Anatomy of an Ambush (1995). Muzzleloader Magazine, in its Nov/Dec 1995 issue, called this "...a must for military historians and reenactors of 18th century frontier life." His program sponsors have included Smithsonian Associates, National Elderhostel, Mount Vernon Estate, and Historic Bartram's Garden (Philadelphia). At the latter, he served as Project Manager, "Frontier Explorations of John Bartram" during Philadelphia's "Bartram 300th Celebration" in 1999. He is currently affiliated with Continuing Education divisions of three Maryland community colleges: Hagerstown, Frederick, and Howard. Among his program offerings for these colleges are: "The Abolitionist Movement, 1776 – 1863", "John Brown, Puritanism, and the Secret Six: Harpers Ferry in Contest", "The Emergence of Lincoln and Sectional Crisis, 1848 – 1860", "Lincoln, Indians, and the West: Policy & Politics During the Civil War", and "Reconstruction, 1863 – 1876". In 2012, he was one of three speakers selected by Hagerstown Community College for its National Endowment for the Arts-sponsored lecture series, "Lincoln, Slavery, & the Constitution". He holds two Master degrees from Lehigh University: M.A.Ed. (1969) and M.P.A. (Master in Public Administration), 1981.

In Case you missed it



Steven Stotelmeyer began the 22-23 FCCWRT Season with a battlefield tour. He led the roundtable's visit to Fox's Gap and brought us back to those historic days in September of 1862. The Monument to Reno serves as the only reminder, to most, of what transpired in this

gap, where one union and one confederate general lost their lives in the small battle leading up to the Antietam battle only days later. He recounted in detail, each small event that later impacted what would unfold on the ground at Antietam. The soldiers wearing the Blue and Gray participated in a day-long engagement that was part of the first major battle in the state of Maryland. Steven meticulously described the landscape and actions by the regiments participating in the struggle, he gave a thorough account of the "Sunken Road" of Fox's Gap (perhaps bloodier



than its famous counterpart at Antietam), the circumstances surrounding the death of Jesse Lee Reno (and its significance upon the battle three days later), the death of Confederate General Samuel Garland, and what remains to this day the site of perhaps one of the most unusual mass graves of Civil War soldiers in Americas History. Leaving the question of cistern or well to linger in the minds of those in attendance.



Prez Sez:

Thank you to everyone that made it out to our opening meeting last month, a field trip meeting to Fox's Gap. This was our first time opening a season with a trip and it was a resounding success! We had a great turn out and we hope you all can join us for this October 20, back at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine at 7pm. Our speaker will be long time professor of history Roger Schwarz and he will be speaking on the Lincoln / Douglas Debates, a key event in the lead up to the Civil War.

Now for a little house keeping. The Frederick County Civil War Round Table hopes to continue to bring in some of the best speakers on the Civil War Era and your dues help us keep our honorariums competitive, as well as helping to make sure our host, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine is compensated for the use of their space, equipment, and staff. So if you haven't sent your dues in yet, you can mail them to:

FCCWRT
PO Box 3232
Frederick, MD 21705

Or bring it with you to the October meeting. Remember, individuals are \$30, and checks can be made out to the Frederick County Civil War Round Table or FCCWRT.

We look forward to seeing you Thursday, October 20 at 7pm!

*Very Respectfully,
Matt Borders,
President, FCCWRT*

Book Review - October

REVIEW: Brent Nosworthy, *Roll Call to Destiny: The Soldier's Eye View of Civil War Battles* New York: Basic Books, 2008, 342 pp. \$27.95 (paper), ISBN 978-0-7867-1747-7. Reviewed by Matthew A. D. Borders

Brent Nosworthy wrote *Roll Call to Destiny* after the success of his volume *The Bloody Crucible of Courage: Fighting Methods and Combat Experience of the Civil War* (2005). It was while writing that massive tome that the author realized the potential for looking in depth at small unit actions during the American Civil War. For this work, "small units" are defined as "a group that fights as a monolithic entity and thus undergoes similar experiences, rather than a formally defined level of military organization or size of the fighting force" (p. 3). This broad definition of a small unit allows Nosworthy to look at everything from a single section of artillery to a division of troops as a single experience-sharing entity.

Beyond this, however, Nosworthy has done something quite original; he not only examines individual units within a larger action, but also analyzes tactical situations facing men on the ground and how they were able or not able to adapt to those situations. Going back to our previously mentioned units for example, the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry was deployed as skirmishers during the Union assault on Missionary Ridge. After gaining its initial objective of the Confederate works at the base of the ridge, the regiment found itself under an intense bombardment from Confederate artillery above. "Artillery in the heights above now focused its attention on the rifle pits and rained canister on the Union soldiers below" (p. 247). Thus, it was decided by the men on the spot to push forward and up the ridge face. The regiment's skirmish formation greatly reduced the effectiveness of Confederate artillery and musket fire. This, on top of the increasingly difficult angle of fire being forced on the Confederate defenders, allowed the Second Minnesota to lead a successful penetration of the Confederate Army of Tennessee. This attack, along with the flanking movements elsewhere, led to the collapse of Confederate General Braxton Bragg's siege of Chattanooga.

In the case of the Seventh South Carolina Cavalry at the Battle of Darbytown Road, we see an interesting combination of mounted and dismounted cavalry tactics. Though in the end the Confederate counterattack at Darbytown Road failed, the actions taken by Seventh South Carolina Cavalry, including dismounted skirmishing and a mounted saber charge, did much to aid the initial Confederate success. The actions of the Seventh South Carolina were a reminder to the Union cavalry, who by this point in the war had developed prowess at least equal to their Southern counterparts, not to discount the abilities and daring of Confederate horsemen. These actions also spoke to the Confederacy's willingness to adapt, even if that meant the use of older shock tactics such as the saber charge. "They were to charge and rely exclusively on the saber, and he [Colonel Alexander C. Haskell] warned his men 'that a pistol fired before the enemy was routed was a death offense'" (p. 261).

It is while putting the units that are fighting into the overall context of the battle that the book hits somewhat of a snag. While the description of the action and the unit's position in regard to its compatriots as well as its opponents is excellent, it is the author's visual aids that are difficult to understand, specifically the maps that he chose to use. While the maps are very detailed, they are also, in many cases, quite small, making the already tiny specific notes and identifications on many of them very difficult to read without a magnifying glass.

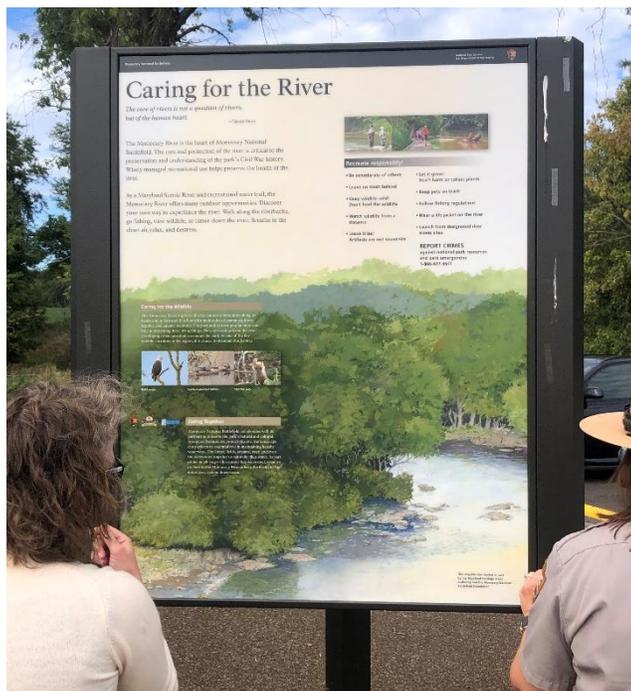
Roll Call to Destiny is without a doubt a much more layman friendly work than Nosworthy's *Bloody Crucible of Courage*, which goes into minute detail about mid-nineteenth-century warfare and black powder tactics. However, the author, having chosen to do a work looking at the use of tactics by individual groups of soldiers, is unable to completely remove some very technical information. This is especially true in the first chapter, "New Weapons, New Ways of Warfare," and in several tactical analyses specifically planted throughout the manuscript. These sections are quite technical at times and could be difficult to digest for a layman or one with just a passing interest in the American Civil War. Fortunately, the author appears to have foreseen such a problem and, as such, has isolated these tactical reviews and discussions to the first

chapter as a whole and to the end of chapters 3, 4, and 10. He even shades these areas to further separate the two parts of the work.

In conclusion, *Roll Call to Destiny* is a triumph of the military history field. Nosworthy gives his innovative subject and groundbreaking research a human edge, making for not only excellent history but also an interesting read that will keep the pages turning.

Monocacy Battlefield's new addition

A new tour stop was added to the Monocacy Battlefield on September 24. A kiosk was placed for tour stop 5 that interprets the history of the battle, region, and ecology of the river. The stop is located just south of the bridge over Rt. 355 and should be accessed by the northbound lane. Thanks to the Monocacy Foundation for providing the funds for this new site!



FCCWRT 22-23 Season Schedule

2022

November 17 - Speaker: Tom McMillan

Topic: Armistead and Hancock: Behind the Gettysburg Legend of Two Friends at the Turning Point of the Civil War

December 15 - Speaker: Alex Rossino

Topic: Their Maryland: The Army of Northern Virginia from the Potomac Crossing to Sharpsburg in September 1862

2023

January 19 - Speaker: Anthony Trusso

Topic: Francis Barlow & the 61st New York Infantry

February 16 - Speaker: Chris Bryan

Topic: Cedar Mountain to Antietam: A Civil War Campaign History of the Union XII Corps, July – September 1862

March 16 - Speaker: Ron Kirkwood

Topic: “Too Much for Human Endurance”: The George Spangler Farm Hospitals and the Battle of Gettysburg

April 20 - Speaker: Leon Reed

Topic: No Greater Calamity for the Country: North-South Conflict, Secession, and the Onset of the Civil War

May 19 - Speaker: Eric Wittenberg

Topic: Destined to Fail: The Johnson-Gilmor Cavalry Raid around Baltimore, July 10-13, 1864

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>

The Antietam Institute

The Antietam Institute is the leading member-based, educational, and philanthropic 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, dedicated to the education and scholarship of the Maryland Campaign. The Institute seeks to educate the public on the central role of the 1862 Maryland Campaign, and Battle of Antietam, as a major turning point of the Civil War that directly resulted in the issuance of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Each year the Institute makes donations to the battlefield parks, local preservation groups and other historic organizations that support the Institute's goals. As a member - based organization, the Antietam Institute needs the support of individuals interested in the 1862 Maryland Campaign. Membership levels begin as low as \$25 a year and rise to a lifetime membership of only \$1000.

Each level has increasing levels of membership incentives. If you are interested in joining or learning more about the Antietam Institute, check out our website at antietaminstitute.org or email us at info@antietaminstitute.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?>

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!! 2.2K likes and 2.3K 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 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.

As President Borders stated, our membership drive for the year is ongoing! Please consider supporting the Round Table during the 22-23 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/>.

2021-2022 Board of Directors

Matt Borders, President /Webmaster, mborders@comcast.net

Vacant, Vice President,

Bob Kozak, Treasurer, 301-644-1396 kzagr@aol.com

Todd Morris, Secretary, Newsletter, todd.b.morris@gmail.com

Gary Dyson, At Large, garyldyson@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