



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

318th Meeting, 36th Season

Volume 48, Issue # 4

December 19, 2024, 7:00 PM
National Museum of Civil War Medicine
48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland



Speaker: Judith Sumner

**Topic: Canebrakes to Cotton Fields:
Botanical History of the Civil War**

As the first comprehensive botanical history of the Civil War, Judith Sumner's recent book *Plants in the Civil War: A Botanical History* examines military and civilian uses of plants, from plantation landscapes and agriculture to slave medicine, prosthetic limbs, and military engineering. Plants provided both the cash crops at the heart of the conflict and the raw material used in waging war. This illustrated talk will emphasize the key topics of crops and enslavement, plantation life, Civil War medicine, and southern landscapes and war—all illuminated from a botanical perspective.

Judith Sumner is a botanist who specializes in ethnobotany, flowering plants, plant adaptations, and garden history. She has taught extensively both at the college level and at botanical gardens, including the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and Garden in the Woods. Judith graduated from Vassar College and completed graduate studies (M.S., Ph.D.) in botany at the University of Massachusetts (Amherst). She studied at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and at the British Museum (Natural History) and did extensive field work in the Pacific region on the genus *Pittosporum*.

Judith has published studies in the *American Journal of Botany*, *Pollen et Spores*, and *Allertonia*, as well as monographing two families for *Flora Vitiensis Nova*. Her other projects and areas of interest have included field studies in the Great Smoky Mountains, work with AID/Santo Domingo on developing petroleum-rich plants, and a commitment to science education. Judith served as a visiting scientist for several summers in the LEAP (Learning About Plants) program She has

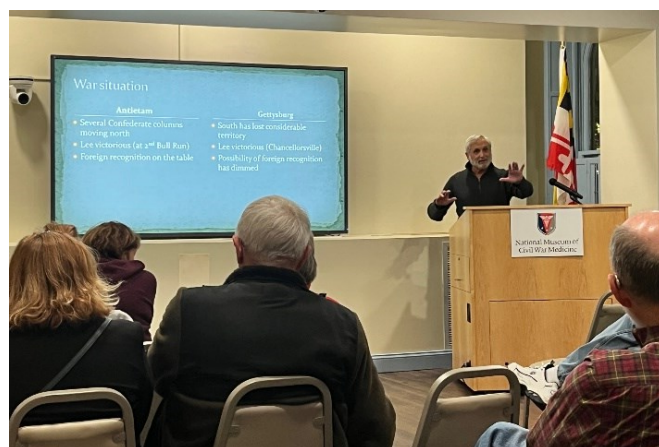
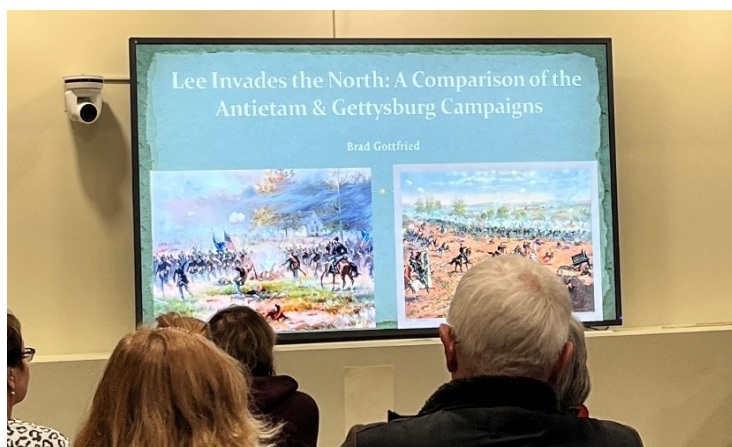
spent summers working with teachers the Museum Institutes for Teaching Science (MITS) program and conducting workshops on science writing.

Judith has been a guest on the Martha Stewart Living television show, the PBS program "Cultivating Life" with Sean Conway, the Annenberg Channel, and various other PBS and educational programs. Her recent Arnold Arboretum lecture on victory gardens is available for viewing online at the WGBH Forum website. Her column "The Gardener's Kitchen" (under the pseudonym Laura Craig) appeared in *Horticulture* magazine for several years. She also contributes online to the blog and *Herbarium* website of the Herbal Academy of New England. Judith is a frequent invited lecturer for botanical and horticultural organizations and symposia, including the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, the New York Botanical Garden, Mohonk Mountain Reserve, Cornell University, the FDR Library and National Archives, and Kykuit/The Rockefeller Estate.

In 2007 Judith was awarded the Gertrude B. Foster Award for Excellence in Herbal Literature by the Herb Society of America. Her book *American Household Botany* won the American Horticultural Society Book Award in 2005. She recently authored the first botanical history of World War II, *Plants Go to War: A Botanical History of World War II* (McFarland, 2019). Her newest book, *Plants in the Civil War: A Botanical History*, was published in late 2022 by McFarland and has been shortlisted for the Council of Botanical and Horticultural Libraries book award.

In Case You Missed It...

At the November 21 meeting, 27 members and guests were treated to author Brad Gottfried's presentation of "Lee Invades the North, a Comparison of the Antietam and Gettysburg Campaigns." Brad described the differences in the paths of the armies, number of troops engaged, morale, experience of troops and leadership, and political implications during the aftermaths of the battles. If you didn't pick up one of Brad's books at the meeting, please visit the Savas Beatie, Amazon, and other websites where his books are sold. Local battlefields and some bookstores also carry his books.





Prez Sez:

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving with friends and family! The Frederick County Civil War Round Table Board is very thankful to you for your continued support of this organization and for participating in last month's elections. Due to the elections, we have some new members on the board, including a new VP and Secretary. Thank you to Bob Smart and Roberta Legdon for stepping up and taking on those roles. I also want to thank our social media head, and former VP, Gary Dyson, as well as our long-time Treasurer, Bob Kozak, for continuing in their roles. Our board has also retained Lucy Tannozzini, Tom Dumm and Joe Collins as members at large. At the same time, we are losing Todd Morris, Ken Derrenbacher, and former president Jack Sherriff, all of whom are retiring

from the board. We thank them for their service and hope to see them at the meetings.

With the board announcements taken care of, I also wanted to talk about this month's meeting. On Thursday, December 19, we are having our final meeting of 2024 over Zoom. Our speaker will be Judith Sumner speaking on plants and their use during the Civil War. This will be a very informative talk, while also being mindful of the changing December weather. We hope you can join us at 7pm on the National Museum of Civil War Medicine YouTube channel, found here: <https://www.youtube.com/@nmcwm>. Barring any weather shenanigans, we will be back at the Museum for our January meeting and hope to see you there!

Most Sincerely,
Matt Borders,
(Still) President, FCCWRT

FCCWRT 24/25 Season Schedule

2025:

January 16 – Drew Gruber, *Siege of Yorktown* (schedule change)

February 20 - Bernie Siler, *Parallel Lives - Washington DC in the 19th & 20th Century*

March 20 - Betty Shideler, *Death, and Mourning* in the Civil War

April 17 - Brian Baracz, *True Grit, General George S. Green at Antietam*

May 15 - Garry Adelman, *Civil War in the West Photo Extravaganza*

Late December and January Events

Candlelight Tours of Historic Houses of Worship, Wednesday, December 26 at 3:00 PM-

This annual event returns this holiday season in Downtown Frederick. This special open house celebrates Frederick's stunning architecture, local history, and the holiday season on Thursday, December 26, 2024 from 3PM-8PM. This is Frederick's most popular church tour and is a great opportunity to step inside some of its most beautiful buildings. As the sun begins to set, visitors can tour many of Frederick's famous clustered spires and other historic houses of worship by candlelight. Guests will be welcomed with special programs, angelic choirs, and nativity scenes. Stop by the Information Center at 19 E Church Street to pick up a printed map of participating sites and other information about Frederick including dining, shopping, and lodging guides. This event is free!

January events are sparse in the area. It's still a great time to visit local museums such as the National Museum of Civil War Medicine at 48 East Patrick Street in Frederick. Yes, we meet there for our monthly meetings, but have you ever taken the time for a real tour? There is also the Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office Museum at 437 7th Street NW in DC.

Local battlefields such as Monocacy, Antietam, Gettysburg, and Harper's Ferry will be less crowded as well, and a trip to the South Mountain gaps will provide greater lines of sight!

FCCWRT SNOW POLICY

The winter storm season is upon us. Due to foul weather conditions, we may need to cancel our monthly meeting. If Frederick County Schools and/or the National Museum of Civil War Medicine (meeting location) announce closures for the afternoon/evening of the meeting our meeting will be cancelled. We will make every attempt to send an email and Facebook notification as soon as the cancellation decision is made. Please use your best judgment in making safety your top priority.



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>

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

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. Board elections were held in November, but there is always room for those who will help with our mission.

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

Members are encouraged to submit items for our newsletter. I'm always looking for events to add period themed events that may not be part of a battlefield schedule.

Book Raffle

Since we're having our meeting via Zoom in December, there will be no book raffle. Please consider purchasing a book from our speaker at online sites, our previous and scheduled speakers as well!

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!! 2.7K likes and 2.8K follows !

.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 24-25 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/>.

2024-2025 Board of Directors

Matt Borders, President /Webmaster

Bob Smart, Vice President

Bob Kozak, Treasurer

Roberta Legdon, Secretary

Gary Dyson, Newsletter, Facebook

Lucy Tannozzini, At Large

Joe Collins, At Large

Tom Dumm, At Large

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