



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

326th Meeting, 36th Season

Volume 50, Issue # 2

**October 7, 2025
National Museum of Civil War Medicine
48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland**

Speaker: Scott Mingus

Topic: Civil War Railroads in the Gettysburg Campaign

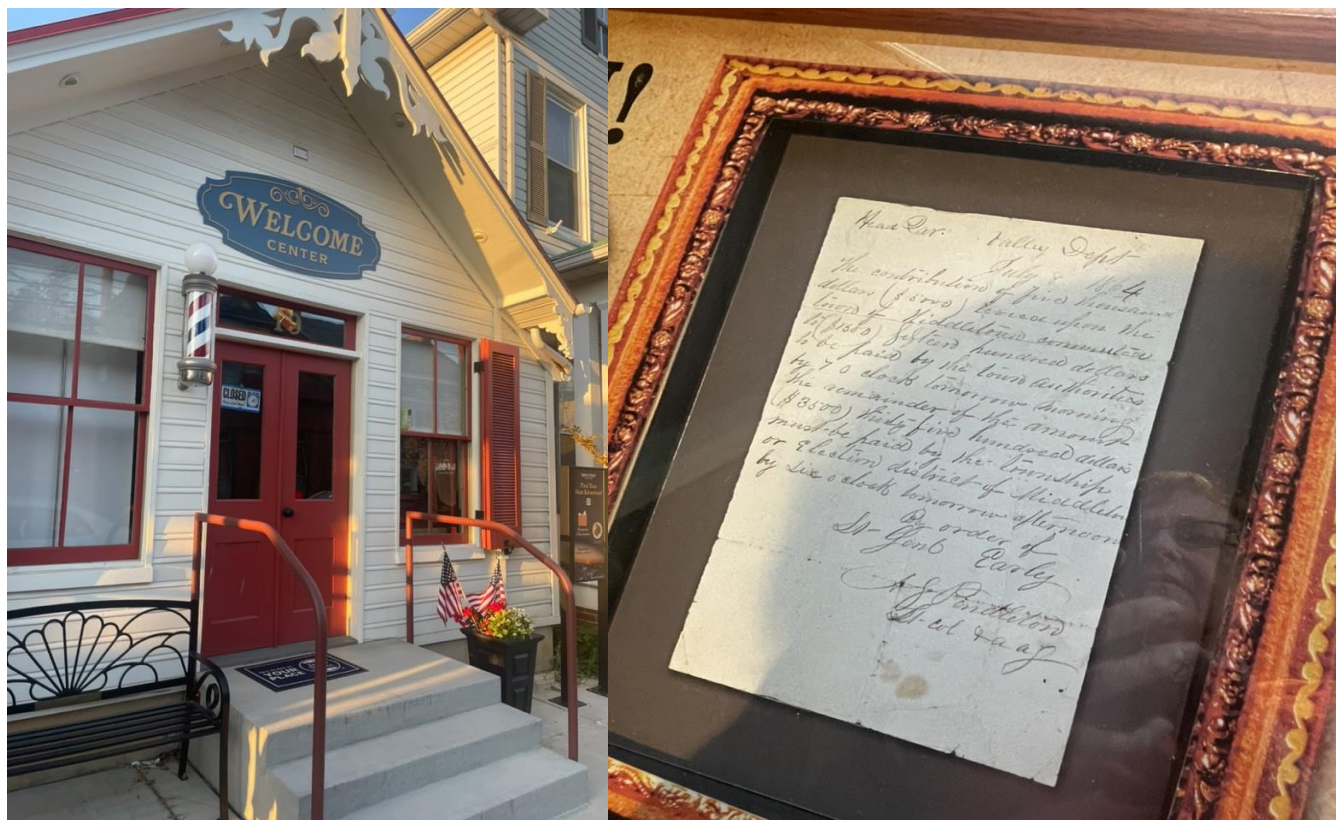
More than a dozen railroads in Virginia, Maryland and southern Pennsylvania played roles in the 1863 Gettysburg Campaign. These, of course, included the Gettysburg Railroad and its connecting partner, the Hanover Branch Railroad. Starting with the Battle of Brandy Station, discover how railroads influenced the Confederate strategy, Union defensive tactics and the impact on the civilian populace who relied on rail transportation.



Scott Mingus, a retired scientist and executive in the global pulp & paper industry, holds patents in self-adhesive postage stamps and bar code labels. He was part of the research team that developed the first commercially successful self-adhesive U.S. postage stamps. He has written 28 Civil War and Underground Railroad books. His biography of Confederate General William "Extra Billy" Smith was nominated for or won multiple awards, including the Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr. Literary Prize. He also wrote several articles for Gettysburg Magazine and other journals. Scott maintains a blog on the Civil War history of York County PA (www.yorkblog.com/cannonball) and received the Heritage Profile Award from the York County History Center for his many contributions to local Civil War history. He also has written six scenario books on miniature wargaming and was elected to the hobby's prestigious Legion of Honor. His great-great-grandfather was a 15-year-old drummer boy in the 51st Ohio Infantry, and other family members fought in the Army of the Potomac at Antietam and Gettysburg

In Case You Missed It... September 18, 2025

Our 1st meeting of the season was a field trip to the Middletown Welcome Center. The Welcome Center features a copy of the Middletown Ransom Note of July 8th 1864



Our host for the evening was Middletown Main Street Manager Becky Axibund who has been the Main Street Manager since 2011. She happily answered all our questions regarding the history of the Welcome Center building. In 2024 Middletown won the prestigious Preservation Maryland “Best of Maryland” award for saving and renovating the two 19th century buildings that now house the Welcome Center. One was a Barber shop!



The Welcome Center also features an informative and interesting video presentation of the importance of the Middletown Valley during the Civil War. The video is narrated by well know local Historian, Dennis Frye. We also had a very special map presentation by FCCWRT Vice President Bob Smart. His map was a copy of the terrain around Middletown and showed the location of both the Union and Confederate troops in the town and surrounding areas during the month of July of 186

Time for a Refresh of our FCCWRT Logo!

How do you like these new up to date designs?

Logo ideas submitted by Lucy Tannozzini FCCWRT Board Member

Logo Ideas...



More designs are welcome if anyone would like to submit their own.

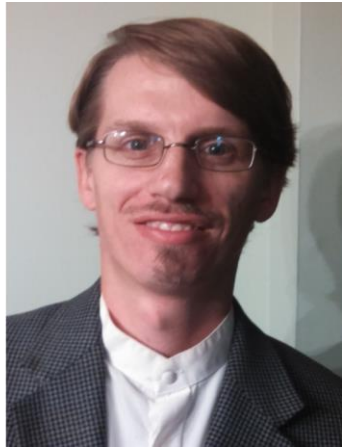
Membership Reminder

As it is the beginning of a new season, it is also time to re-up your membership.

That can be done by cash or check at our meetings, or you can utilize the PayPal link that can be found on the Frederick County Civil War Round Table website or by mail of the application attached below.

Dues and donations go directly to making our seasons possible, covering our speakers' honorariums, as well as our rent

Prez Sez:



Welcome back to our regular location for the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable! Thank you again to our host, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine for making our highly successful partnership possible.

Thank you also to board member, Bob Smart, and the Middletown Mainstreet Program for having us to their welcome center in Middletown last month. The trip was a great way to kick off our season and visit a local historic site that does so much to encourage Middletown and Frederick County history!

Speaking of the season, this month we have long time favorite Scott Mingus back with us to talk Civil War railroads in the Gettysburg Campaign! This will no doubt be an informative lecture and Scott will have his books as well!

Finally, it is that time of year, time to renew memberships! It is through your dues that the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable is able to provide an honorarium for our speakers, as well as keep our great meeting space. So please see the treasurer or the website about your renewal and invite your friends and family to join us! We look forward to seeing everyone at 7pm on October 16 at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine!

*Most Respectfully,
Matt Borders,
President,
FCCWRT*

October Book Review

By Matt Borders

The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War by Erik Larson, Crown, 592 pgs., maps, images, notes, \$35.00 (hardcover), ISBN 978-0385348744. Review by Matthew Borders

The story of the American Civil War is so big and so lethal it is easy to forget that it's start, on April 12, 1861, was at a small fort and nearly bloodless. Fortunately, this epic tale has been taken on by one of the nation's premiere narrative history writers, Erik Larson. Larson's use of first person and primary sources to piece together not only the era, but in some cases, the very conversations of the men and women involved is once again masterfully done with his latest work, *The Demon of Unrest*.

As with his previous works, Larson has chosen to look at his subject through the eyes of those who lived the events surrounding the subject. For the United States the perspectives he has gathered include, President Abraham Lincoln, Secretary of State William Seward, Major Robert Anderson and many others both in and out of the military and administration. The fledgling Confederacy is represented by Jefferson Davis, General Pierre G. T. Beauregard, James Chestnut and his wife Mary, as well as many others. These accounts, Federal and Confederate, civilian and military, give the work a well rounded and fair approach when it comes to perspectives.

That does not mean that Larson is downplaying or attempting to sugarcoat the coming conflict and its cause. While giving nearly equal points to each side of the coming war, he does not hesitate to point out the hypocrisies in the enslaving south and its people, particularly the planter class. The inherent evil of the institution of slavery is on full display in many parts of this work, as is its important ties to the economy of the nation at the time. The myth of "King Cotton" had already become entrenched in southern society by the time of the secession crisis and most of the southern aristocracy believed that it held the key to their future.

According to those same aristocrats and firebrands, that future was theirs for the taking! Their cotton and their ambition propelled them to take the step that had been denied John C. Calhoun in 1832 and had seceded from the Union of States. Their honor, wrapped up in the *Code Duello* is utilized by Larson to not only explain that ambition, but to emphasize that the very culture of the aristocracy did not let them back down nor see a different option to tearing the country apart. The depth of detail regarding the build up to and finally the bombardment of Fort Sumter is extraordinary. From tactics and strategy, down to how the men in the ranks feel about all of this is explored. Many of the historic figures in this work also make an appearance in the postscript, allowing Larson to masterfully close his work by describing their lives following the war.

I highly recommend this work for anyone interested in the turmoil of the Secession Crisis, the opening of the Civil War, and the people who lived it.

FCCWRT 25/26 Season Schedule

2025:

October 16, 2025: Scott Mingus – Civil War Railroads in the Gettysburg Campaign

November 20, 2025: Carleton Young - The Vermont Brigade

December 18, 2025: Stephen Romaine - The 1864 American Insurrection That Wasn't (ZOOM Meeting)

2026:

January 15, 2026: Bob Crickenberger - Point Lookout

February 19, 2026: John Muller - Frederick Douglas in Western Maryland

March 19, 2026: Jim Rada - Battlefield Angels: The Daughters of Charity

April 16, 2026: Paige Palmer - John Wilkes Booth

May 21, 2026: Dr. Brian Jordan - Marching Home

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 Events

Battle of Falling Waters 1863 Preservation Pathway Engraved Brick Campaign

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to order your engraved brick today!

<https://www.fundraisingbrick.com/online-orders/bofw/>

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-Y7aEZsXEBhRhEKig?>

October Events at the NMCWM

There are many tours and programs throughout the Fall and Winter at the Museum. You can check these out at the NMCWM or Heart of the Civil War websites for details and times.

Saturday October 11th @ 5pm to 6:30pm

Haunted History at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine

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

Please arrive a little early for our meeting and participate in our 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 2.9K followers!

Also visit our website at: <http://www.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.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 25-26 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.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.org/>.

2025-2026 Board of Directors

Matt Borders, President /Webmaster

Bob Smart, Vice President

Bob Kozak, Treasurer

Roberta Legdon, Secretary

Gary Dyson, 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.frederickcountycivilwarrrt.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