



Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

327th Meeting, 36^h Season

Volume 51 Issue # 3

**November 20, 2025
National Museum of Civil War Medicine
48 E. Patrick St, Frederick, Maryland**

Speaker: Carleton Young

Topic: Vermont Brigade in the 6th Corps of the Army of the Potomac - *Voices From the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War*

Imagine clearing out your family attic and discovering an enormous collection of letters written by two soldiers during the Civil War, but not knowing why the letters were there. Faced with that situation, Carleton Young spent more than a decade visiting battlefields and researching the two soldiers as well as other people who appear in the letters. The two brothers were members of the celebrated Vermont Brigade in the 6th Corps of the Army of the Potomac. In *Voices From the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War*, he tells the story of these two brothers who witnessed and made history by fighting in the Peninsula Campaign, then at South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Mine Run, the Bristoe Campaign, the Wilderness, Petersburg, and Cedar Creek. They then preserved that history through their surprisingly detailed and insightful letters..

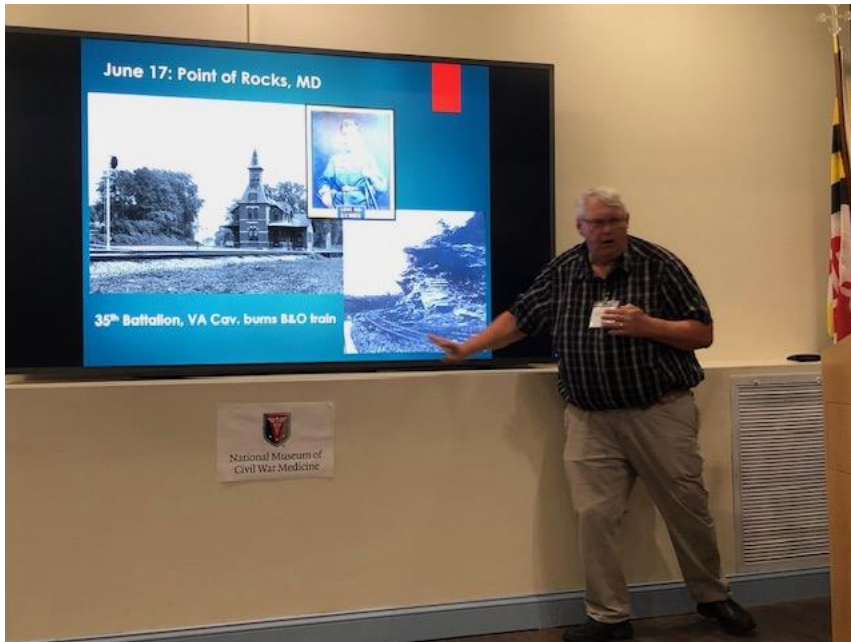


Carleton Young has undergraduate degrees in economics from Westminster College and in English from Point Park University, an MA in history from Ohio University, and his PhD in the history of education from the University of Pittsburgh. For 37 years he taught AP American history at Thomas Jefferson High School in Pittsburgh. He has also taught classes as an adjunct professor at the Community College of Allegheny County, the University of Pittsburgh, Eastern Gateway Community College, and in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Carnegie Mellon University

In Case You Missed It...

October 16th, 2025

Scott Mangus spoke on October 16th to the FCCWRT on the topic of railroads (RR) during the war. Scott has written 28 Civil War books on commercial and the underground railroads. 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.



Gettysburg was one of the last places to get their own RR line in 1858 and their train made two daily trips to Hanover Junction. Mangus noted that an element of Robert E. Lee's plan for the PA invasion was to disrupt railroads. Although William T. Sherman is given the credit for "Sherman neckties" – disrupting rail lines by removing the metal rails and twisting them around nearby trees – the technique was actually used earlier by Confederate Albert Jenkins who used this method when destroying the Martinsburg B&O RR.

Regular service on that RR did not resume until 1864. Jenkins is said to have dropped into a bar in Mechanicsburg, ordered ice water, and leisurely read the Harrisburg News which informed him of all local bridges and who was guarding them. George Pickett's men tore up the RR tracks at Cumberland Valley and the task wore them out. Perhaps this fatigue contributed to their defeat during the famous Pickett's charge.



Time for a Refresh of our FCCWRT Logo!

Vote for our new Logo

The top three winners from the vote in October appear below.

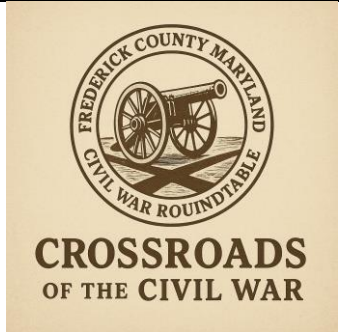
We will be Voting for your favorite one at our November 20 Meeting.

Only one vote per person.

You must be present to VOTE

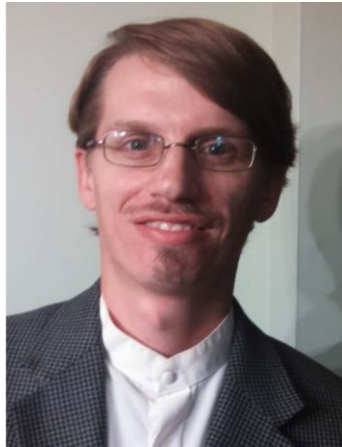
Here is our current logo:



1			
2			
3			

Logo ideas submitted by Lucy Tannozzini FCCWRT Board Member

Prez Sez:



As we move into the holiday season, the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable hopes everyone had a great Halloween and are gearing up for Thanksgiving! Last month we kicked off our in-person talks with roundtable favorite, Scott Mingus, who gave a wonderful presentation on railroads during the Gettysburg Campaign! This month we are diving into another great topic presented by Dr. Carlton Young, the Vermont Brigade! This brigade saw action at South Mountain at Crampton's Gap, as well as at Antietam three days later in 1862, as well as on many other battlefields of the war.

We had a good turnout last month, with several guests and potential new members, we hope to see that again! Thank you to everyone who caught up with our Treasurer to take care of your dues, that helps keep us in good standing with our gracious hosts, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, and helps us bring in the greater speakers we have each month.

Finally, thank you to everyone who participated in the new logo vote. This has been a long time coming and we appreciate your enthusiasm. We have the logo design down to three and you can place your final vote as you sign in to the meeting this month. We look forward to seeing you on November 20, at 7pm at the Medical Museum for the next meeting of the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable!

*Most Respectfully,
Matt Borders,
President,
FCCWRT*

November Book Review

By Matt Borders

Last Flag Down: The Epic Journey of the Last Confederate Warship by John Baldwin & Ron Powers, Crown, 354 pgs., notes, index, glossary, \$25.95 (hardcover), ISBN 978-0307236555. Review by Matthew Borders

While the Naval history of the American Civil War has been an under studied element of the war, the exploits of the Confederate Navy, particularly its ironclads, the *Hunley* and its commerce raiders are well documented. Though the Confederate Army did succeed, for a time, in keeping multiple armies in the field, it struggled continuously with a navy. Unable to compete with the expanding and modernizing Federal Navy in fleet actions, the Confederate Navy Department chose to lean into technologies. This allowed for some brief, but dramatic, means to combat the much larger and organized foe. The commerce raiders *CSS Alabama*, *CSS Florida* and others, became legends in their own time, while one vessel sailed further and caused more late war headache than any other for United States shipping, the *CSS Shenandoah*.

Though only active from October 1864 to November 1865, the exploits of the *Shenandoah* were seen by many in the increasingly desperate Confederacy as flashes of hope, or at least revenge, as the rebellion crumbled around them. Authors John Baldwin and Ron Powers have crafted a wonderful history of the famous raider, from its earliest days as the English built *Sea King*, to being literally the last belligerent flag of the Confederacy. The book, however, is not just about the vessel itself and instead focuses primarily on two members of the *Shenandoah's* crew. It's captain, James Waddel, an old seafarer with experience in the United States Navy before the war and its executive officer, Conway Whittle. Whittle was a much younger man and had prior service with the United States Navy. He had seen action with several Confederate raiders and warships prior to being posted to *Shenandoah*, and the personality clashes between the two officers proved to be significant, and at times disruptive to the operation of the vessel.

The first half of the book dwells upon these men, their crew and trials of literally sneaking the *Sea King* out of Liverpool, England, rechristening her the *Shenandoah*, as well as her earliest exploits. The *Shenandoah* initially was chronically undermanned and resourced, meaning that it had to take opposing ships just to stay provisioned and even went so far as to offer and sign up crew from captured vessels. The specifics of these captures, the nature of the plunder and the development of the *CSS Shenandoah's* crew were all extensively documented in the logs of executive officer Conway Whittle. This fantastic resource allowed the authors, and it should be noted that Baldwin is a relative of Whittle, to track the day-to-day life on board the commerce raider. This included everything from routine chores and drills to discipline and of course, captures. It also propels Whittle to being the main character of the history, and it is his thoughts and words that guide most of the narrative for Last Flag Down.

As such, some of his enthusiasm and bias do come out in the work and there are several points throughout the book that you get the feeling Baldwin and Powers are rooting for Whittle. This is apparent in the clashes between Whittle and Waddel, as well as his desire to strike out on his own, and as the book moves into its climactic raid against United States whalers, you can feel the authors have the same excitement as Whittle to do as much damage as possible to Federal shipping.

By the end of the work the *CSS Shenandoah* has returned to Liverpool, having been informed that the war is over and fearing that their exploits could be then seen as piracy. This fascinating chapter in Civil War naval history is well worth the read and I highly recommend it.

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

FCCWRT 25/26 Season Schedule

2025:

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-Y7aEZsXEBhRhEKjg?>

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.

Living History: Civil War medical care comes to life at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine

December 13 @ 11:00 am - 4:00 pm EST



Join us on Saturday, December 13th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for living history at the Museum. Members of the Blue and Gray Hospital Association will be in the Delaplaine Randall Conference Room describing the medical history of America's bloodiest conflict. Dressed as members of the Confederate medical department and armed with period medical equipment, the unit brings a unique perspective to understanding the conflict.

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