FREDERICK COUNTY MARYLAND
CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE
CROSSROADS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Banner of the Blue and Gray

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

330th Meeting, 37h Season Volume 52Issue # 1

Frederick County Civil War RoundTable Meeting

October 15, 2026
7:00pm

In Person Meeting
At the:

Frederick County Civil War Medical Museum
48 East Patrick St
Frederick MD, 21701

Speaker: Kevin Pawlak

Topic: A Seared Soul: The Fall of Fitz John Porter



Presentation Summary:

A Seared Soul: The Fall of Fitz John Porter

Fitz John Porter was a rising star in the United States Army at the beginning of the Civil War. By the end of the war, he was no longer a general in that army. This talk will examine Porter's role in the Civil War and the court martial that expelled him from it.

Author BIO:

Kevin Pawlak is a Historic Site Manager for the Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation. He is also a Certified Battlefield Guide at Antietam National Battlefield, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and South Mountain State Battlefield. Kevin serves on the Board of Directors of the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and the Antietam Institute, where he serves as the editor of *The Antietam Journal*.
Previously, Kevin has worked or completed internships at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, The Papers of Abraham Lincoln at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, and the Mosby Heritage Area Association. Kevin is the author of eight books on the American Civil War, including three books in the Emerging Civil War Series.

Here's what you Missed in September….

Field Trip to Rose Hill Manor:

We were guided through the historic Mansion and the newly opened Carriage house by Docent Amanda. She provided us with an insightful journey thru the early history of one of Fredericks first families.





Newsletter 5


Wicker Phaeton
ca. 1890-1900
On loan from the Julian P. Delphey
Phaeton refers to a carriage type with a sporty, open and lighty sprung body with four large wheels. This type of carriage has also been called a Chaise or a Cabriolet. This wicker model allowed for pulling by smaller, more refined horses such as thoroughbreds, as wicker is a lighter material than wood. The wicker also provided a warm decorative look which was appealing to women. This carriage would have been used by ladies wishing to enjoy a country drive or an outing to a park. The long runners over the wheels were designed to protect the driver and passengers from the mud and dust of travel.
Fine Carriages and Driving Traps.
VAN TASSELL & KEARNEY, 130 and 132 East 13th Street.
This Wicker Ph
Tassell & Kearn
building was bu
house". Opened
used as a horse
four floors to sho

Prez Sez:.



Welcome back to our regularly scheduled and located meetings of the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable! As many of you may know, our hosts, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, is undergoing a major update to its exhibit galleries, but so far that is not affecting us. We are being flexible though, so keep an eye out for announcements about potential location changes in the event the museum needs the space during their renovations.

How do you keep an eye out? Well, Roberta Legdon, of our board, does a great job sending out email reminders, but if you have yet to join the new Frederick County Civil War Roundtable Facebook page, now it the time to do so! If you are having any trouble, please see board members Bob Smart or Elizabeth Anthony about our social media.

Finally, as we are now back in secession and back at the Medical Museum, it's time to take care of yearly dues! For individual member's dues are $30.00 for the year, and families of up to four are $50.00. Please see the Frederick County Civil War Roundtable Treasurer, Bob Kozak, to take care of your dues. Your dues help pay for our use of the conference room and provide our speakers with an honorarium.

Looking forward to seeing you all at 7pm on October 18, at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine!

Most Respectfully,

Matt Borders,

President, FCCWRT

April Book Review
By Matt Borders

"The Federal Signal Service at Antietam: Stations, Officers, and Battlefield Intelligence on America's Bloodiest Day" by Cory M. Pfarr, 274pgs., notes, index, pictures, $39.95 (softcover), ISBN:978-1-4766-8988-3. Review by Matthew Borders

Over the past twenty or more years the Maryland Campaign has received the attention that it has so very much deserved. There have been numerous studies published, from multi volume works and individual analysis of portions of the battlefield, to the publication of original sources and atlases. While many have touched on the topic of this work, none have dived into a full study of the intelligence / communication arm of the Army of the Potomac, the Signal Service! Author Cory Pfarr has done just that. This brilliant work took one of the least understood elements of the army and breaks it out into its various stations during the campaign, how those stations were used and what officers ran those stations.

The author lays out the birth of the Signal Service in the years leading up to the American Civil War and how it was established within the military structure. That in and of itself is fascinating and the drive of one-man, Major Albert J. Myer, to develop and establish the Signal Service is inspiring. Myer developed the wig-wag system and then refined it and refined it some more. The use of this system became such a hallmark of ranged communication in the Civil War that it is easy to forget that it was essentially brand new, less than ten years old. One of the aspects of the development of the Signal Service that I found most fascinating was that the Signal Service was just that, a service, not the Singal Corps. That did not happen until 1863, however, with formalization of its officers after extensive testing and analysis.

Beyond an in-depth analysis of the eight signal stations on and around the Antietam battlefield landscape, Cory Pfarr also provided us biographies of the officers that ran those stations. Each of the signal stations had two officers and several enlisted flagmen. The biographies of these officers are extensive and are one of the great strengths of the work. Beyond the detailed accounts of their service throughout the Civil War, we are introduced to the lives and families of these men. The author has humanized a group of relatively unknown, but highly motivated and impressive officers that until now have only had passing references in official communications or glimpsed in battlefield photos. *The Federal Signal Service at Antietam* is a phenomenal addition to the growing body of work on the Maryland Campaign and eminently readable.

FCCWRT 26/27 Season Schedule

November 19 - **Katie Migneault:** Feeding the Army - Civil War Logistics

December 17 - **Brad Stone:** Civil War Mascots

January 21, 2027 - **Tim Snyder:** Jackson's Winter Campaign

February 18, 2027 - **Fergus Bordewich:** Klan War

March 18, 2027 - **Jake Wynn:** A Lynching in Chambersburg - A Civil War Murder and It's Forgotten Legacy

April 15, 2027 - **Kelly White:** The Quaker Abolitionists of Loundon County, VA

May 20 - **Cory Pfarr:** The United States Signal Service in the Maryland Campaign

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?

Events at the NMCWM

Check out their website for a complete schedule list

October 20th @ 10am – 2pm Greg the Gardener at the Pry House – Pry House Field Hospital Museum 18906 Shepherdstown Pike, Keedysville, MD

October 24th @ 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Haunted History at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine 48 East Patrick St. Frederick, Md

October 25th @ 2pm Frederick in the Civil War: A Double Decker Bus Tour

Antietam Institute Events

Check out their Facebook page or website at www.antietaminstitute.org for additional dates, updates and any changes to the schedule.

***November 7th – Bill Sagle – *Hood's Mississippians: a Confederate Counterattack into the Cornfield* -**

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 Elizabeth Anthony 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.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 26-27 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/.

2025-2026 Board of Directors

Matt Borders, President /Webmaster

Bob Smart, Vice President

Bob Kozak, Treasurer

Roberta Legdon, Secretary

Elizabeth Anthony, Facebook

Lucy Tannozzini, 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.frederickcountycivilwarrt.org