



THE DRUM & BUGLE
Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table
Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table Newsletter
November 2019, Volume 16, Issue 11

Speaker: Dr. Bradley Gottfried
Topic: "Hell Comes to Southern Maryland: The Point Lookout POW Camp"
When: Monday, November 11, 2019
Location: Brock's Riverside Grill
Times: Social Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Bradley Gottfried: "Hell Comes to Southern Maryland: The Point Lookout POW Camp"

Dr. Bradley Gottfried has had a long and distinguished career in higher education after receiving his Ph.D. from Miami University. He has been a department head, dean, chief academic officer and college president. He

served as President/Chief Executive Officer of University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac, Sussex County Community College and College of Southern Maryland. As a historian, Dr. Gottfried has authored twelve books with more on the way. His recent works include exhaustive map studies of First Bull Run, Maryland Campaign, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Bristoe Station/Mine Run, and the Wilderness.

Dr. Gottfried's will speak about Point Lookout, Maryland, the largest prisoner-of-war camp for Confederates in the North. Approximately 20,000 young men were imprisoned there. He will describe how and why the camp was formed, what it was like to live there, and what happened to it after the war.

“Clara Barton in the Civil War” by Jenee Lindner

A Review of the October 2019 program by Greg Mertz

The death of Clara Barton on April 12, 1912 was also the anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. She died at the age of 91 in Glen Echo, Maryland at what is now Clara Barton National Historic Site. The American Red Cross, founded by Barton, stored supplies and had a dormitory at Glen Echo where workers stayed while waiting to respond to emergencies.

Clara Barton, born on Christmas day in 1821, was the youngest of five children in her family, with the next oldest sibling being ten years older than her. Her brother Stephen ran a mill in North Carolina. Her oldest sister, Dorothea, was very fond of Clara. Brother Captain David Barton was a soldier during the Civil War, but was never engaged in a battle. Clara was residing with her sister Sally Barton Vassall when the Civil War broke out and Sally was quite involved with Clara's efforts to aid the soldiers. Sally's home was also large enough to store the supplies Clara would gather.

Clara was raised in Worcester, Massachusetts, in a house which is now a camp for children with diabetes. The family ran mills, with her father being rather innovative. Their home included an indoor well, for example. Clara learned to ride horseback and gained several skills that were unusual for women to possess during that era, that would be put to use during the Civil War.

When Clara was living in Bordentown, New Jersey, she saw children playing instead of attending school, learning that the only schools in that area were private schools. She began teaching the poor children, taking an object and having the children analyze it. Eventually she was given a building to use for a school. The reputation of her school was so strong that some of the children who had gone to the private schools started attending Barton's school.

Barton went to Washington and obtained a job copying letters for the U.S. patent office. Early in the war, on April 19, 1861, some Massachusetts troops enroute to Washington, stopped in Baltimore. While marching six blocks through Baltimore to transfer from one train to another, the troops were fired upon. Many of the new soldiers panicked and dropped all of their gear, so by the time they reached Washington, they were without most of the essentials. The U.S. Capitol was incomplete at the time, and these troops were quartered on the floor of the Senate. Clara went there, recognized some of her former students and began gathering supplies for these men.

(Recent scholarship, done by former Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park Staff Historian Donald Pfanz, can be found in his book *Clara Barton's Civil War: Between Bullet and Hospital*. Pfanz became skeptical of the many instances where Barton had seemingly coincidental contact during the Civil War with people with whom she had some prior experience. Pfanz noted the lack of collaboration for many of Barton's more popular stories, and questions whether many of them ever took place. The story of the Massachusetts soldiers who were fired on in Baltimore and housed in the capitol, containing some of her former students is one such story that Barton often told that cannot be confirmed.)

From caring for troops who arrived in Washington without supplies, Clara eventually shifted her attention to the care of the wounded. The August 9, 1862 Battle of Cedar Mountain in Culpeper County, was the first battlefield upon which Barton assisted wounded soldiers. While she brought linen for bandages, most of the supplies she brought were for the standard comfort of the men, including food – particularly bread, jams and jellies -- candles, whiskey, cups, pots, utensils and hay.

Later that same month, Barton was at a field hospital at St. Mary's Catholic Church at Fairfax Station, treating casualties from the Second Battle of

Manassas. Linder pointed out that Clara wore a pin that her father told her to wear. It had the initials representing the words "Fear Not Daughter of Sion, Thy King Cometh" and "Myra" meaning "Mary." While at St. Mary's, Barton indicated that one of her former students, who had carried her satchel for her on the way to school, was in the hospital and recognized her.

While at the hospital, Barton was called upon to sit with an agitated mortally wounded soldier who was calling out for his mother, sitting with him all night. In the morning, he realized that Barton was not his mother. Because the wounds were fatal, the soldier was not among those who were to be evacuated, but the soldier wanted to go along with Barton. She was able to get him on the last train to depart Fairfax Station and was able to make sure that his family could retrieve his body and take it back to New York.

Barton went on to serve as a nurse on the battlefields of Antietam and Fredericksburg. At Fredericksburg she believed she had the best store of supplies she ever had upon any battlefield. Barton crossed the pontoon bridge across the Rappahannock River into the city of Fredericksburg to assist wounded soldiers. While crossing the bridge, Barton indicated that a particular soldier provided her with a great deal of help in getting across, and that she later recognized that same soldier's dead body. Fredericksburg ended up being the last Civil War battlefield upon which Barton served.

Lindner felt that Barton was affected by what we now understand as Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. She believes that this is the reason why Barton's activities toward the end of the war had diminished from what she had accomplished earlier in the conflict. Broken down in body and spirit, Barton went to Hilton Head where she taught in a school for the enslaved.

Barton also set up the Missing Soldier's Office prior to the end of the war. It is believed that she was the first woman to ever head a department or office in the federal government. From 1865 to 1868 she was able to help families determine the fate of some 22,000 Union soldiers. The most significant contribution Barton was able to make was with the assistance of Dorence Atwater, a former captive at Andersonville Prison, who kept meticulous records of those who died there. Together they were able to help thousands of families to learn the unfortunate fate of their loved one who died at Andersonville. Barton was also instrumental in having their graves marked.

In 1881 Barton founded the American Red Cross, responding to floods, fires and other disasters. In 1904, when Barton was in her late 80's, the organization told her to step down as its head.

Ongoing Reminder

Please contact Bob Jones to order your dinner in advance or to confirm your dinner reservation. Please call Bob Jones @ 540-399-1702 or send him your e-mail at cwrtedinner@yahoo.com

The Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg By Bob Jones

As a courtesy, the RVCWRT provides as a regular feature each month, the ongoing scheduled speakers for the CWRTF's 2018 Program Year. The Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg normally meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Dinner Meetings are held at the UMW's Jepson Center located at [1119 Hanover Street, Fredericksburg, VA](http://1119HanoverStreet.com), dinner cost is \$32.00 per person. Advance reservations should be made by email: dinner@cwrtf.org or telephone: 540-361-2105.

CWRTF's Scheduled Speakers for the 2019 Program Year:

Nov. 20, 2019	William Freehling	"Becoming Lincoln"
Jan. 22, 2020	Ryan Longfellow	"Grant and the Battle of the Wilderness"
Feb. 26, 2020	Chris Kolakowski	"Perryville and the Kentucky Campaign"
Mar. 25, 2020	Dr. Caroline E. Janney	"Burying the Dead, But Not the Past. The Ladies"

		Memorial Association”
Apr. 22, 2020	Gordon Rhea	“The Generalship of Lee and Grant in the Overland Campaign”
May 27, 2020	John Biemeck	“Civil War Ordnance”
Jun. 17, 2020	Paul Kahan	“The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant: Preserving the Civil War’s Legacy”

AUCTION AT THE DECEMBER DINNER MEETING

The 2019 Mort Kunstler Holiday Ornament will be auctioned at the December dinner meeting with the proceeds going to the CVBT. The scene is entitled “*How Real Soldiers Lived*”. The ornament will be on display at the November dinner meeting. June Brown has again graciously donated the Kunstler ornament for auction.

THANK YOU DAN AUGUSTINE

The RVCWRT’s founding webmaster is Dan Augustine, and he has faithfully served us for many years in that capacity. He later also added the duties of our newsletter editor. Prior to his senior citizen relocation to be nearer to children and other family members, Dan has turned over his duties to Sarah Fey. But the RT owes Dan a heartfelt *THANK YOU* for all he has contributed, and the excellent web site and monthly newsletter that he produced will continue to be enjoyed by our membership and guests.



From the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS)- Massachusetts Photograph Collection.

Stafford County in the Civil War

Stafford County played a major role in the Union Army's efforts in Virginia. A few bullets about Stafford County before and during the Civil War:

- Stafford County's White Oak area is the ancestral home of the Potowamac (or Potomac) Indians, many of whom still inhabit the White Oak area.
- George Washington was raised in Stafford County. This is where he supposedly chopped down the cherry tree (untrue) and where he tossed a coin across a river (not a silver dollar, which did not exist, and not the Potomac, which ranges up to two miles wide.)
- Some of the earliest shots of the Civil War were in Stafford County. In May, 1861, Union warships on the Potomac River fired on Confederate batteries set up on the shore in Stafford County. No casualties on either side.
- Stafford County contains the only building known to have been visited by both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln – Chatham Manor, which today is headquarters for the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. During the Civil War, it was known as the Lacey house, after Horace Lacey, who ran a plantation there with about 150 slaves.

- Lincoln visited Stafford County six times during 1862 and 1863. His visits were to the approximately 135,000 Union troops who were stationed there.
- Aquia Landing, at the confluence of Aquia Creek and the Potomac River was a major supply depot for the Union Army, and a major conduit for escaping slaves. North-bound slaves, once they crossed the Rappahannock River into Stafford County were safe. They could then stroll north a few miles to Aquia Landing, hop an empty supply ship, and be brought north. With 135,000 Union soldiers in the county, the slaves did not fear the slave patrols that were common south of the Rappahannock.

Who We Are

The Drum and Bugle Newsletter is published monthly, by the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 7632, Fredericksburg, VA 22404. Each month, The Drum and Bugle newsletter is also placed on our web-site, www.RVCWRT.org. Yearly membership dues are \$35.00 for an individual, \$45.00 for families, and only \$7.50 for students. Membership is open to anyone interested in the study of the Civil War and the ongoing preservation of Civil War sites.

The RVCWRT Executive Committee:

President/Dinner Meeting:	Bob Jones	Member at Large:	Robin Donato
Vice President:	John Sapanara	Member at Large:	John Griffiths
Secretary:	Melanie Jordan	Member at Large:	Barbara Stafford
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