



National
Museum of Civil
War Medicine



September 2020

Newsletter of the NMCWM

Frederick, MD

Reopening Our Doors

After being closed for 101 days, we were very excited to reopen our main Museum in downtown Frederick on June 26. It was almost like the first day back to school after a long summer vacation—we were both nervous and happy. Our first priority was to make our staff feel safe, and then it was imperative to make our visitors feel safe. Everyone who enters the building is required to wear a mask and we've

implemented new cleaning routines and social distancing protocols as directed by our Governor. All in all, it has been a great success. Our admissions are averaging about 60% of our normal numbers on the Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays that we are open. We hope to be open on additional days starting in the Spring of 2021.

We are contemplating reopening the Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office Museum by appointment only in the next few weeks. We are unsure about the tourist traffic in Washington, DC, and would have to operate on even stricter guidelines at that location. The Pry House Field Hospital Museum will not open in 2020. While we are confident that we could operate safely on the Pry property—since the barn area is virtually outdoors and open air—we are limited by the restrictive operating guidelines set forth by the Antietam National Battlefield administration.

Your membership and your participation in our virtual events are incredibly important. It is no exaggeration to say that by doing so you can help preserve the Museum itself. Please help us spread the word about our online programs and about our reopening. Word of mouth is the most powerful tool, even if it's your "virtual voice."



John Lustrea, NMCWM Educational Specialist, greets Museum visitors.

48 East Patrick Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701

301-695-1864

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www.civilwarmed.org

New Crowdsourcing Project

Our latest online project hopes to tap into a vast resource—our members and supporters—to help us compile a searchable database listing medical personnel by battle. Starting with the Battle of Antietam, we are collecting the names and information of every individual who was known to have assisted in a medical capacity. That includes surgeons, nurses, hospital stewards, volunteers from relief organizations, and anyone else who helped the wounded.

We have set up an easy-to-use form on our website for anyone who wishes to contribute information. The incoming data will be compiled into the database, with material on the same individual coming from different sources combined into one entry.

The searchable database is available on our website and will be updated monthly with new entries. For now, we are accepting listings for the Battle of Antietam only, and ask that you have at least a last name for the person in question. We also have fields for rank, regiment/association, hospital location, and dates of service. However, there is no need to fill in every field. There are fields for comments and for inserting links to online biographies or photographs. The entry form and database can be found at: <https://www.civilwarmed.org/civil-war-surgeons/>



In Memoriam Peter H. Plamondon, Sr.

It is with deep sadness that we share with you the passing of Pete Plamondon, Sr. Pete was a longtime supporter of the Museum who understood the importance of the story we tell and the tremendous economic impact the NMCWM has. His son Pete Plamondon, Jr., served on the NMCWM Board for many years and remains on our Finance Committee. The Plamondon family is an important part of the NMCWM family, and we would like to convey our deepest condolences to all those he touched with his smile and kindness. He will be missed.

2020 Digital Seminar

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the NMCWM will not be holding an in-person conference in 2020. Instead, we will be hosting a digital seminar on November 21. It will feature speakers, digital presentations, and conversations with Museum staff. While we are sad to miss you in person this year, we are excited that through the Museum's digital tools we can still bring you a special program with experts in the field and provide a space for conversation about the important topic of Civil War medicine. Further information on registration and schedules will be posted on our website, www.civilwarmed.org

Speakers

Codie Eash – Seminary Ridge Museum

“Pick up your guts & help finish this thing”: Macabre Recollections of Gettysburg’s Casualties

Many Civil War soldiers’ graphic letters, diary entries, and memoir excerpts described the grisly reality of dismembered bodies, particularly following costly battles like Gettysburg. Writers decided such scenes were important enough to record for posterity, and thus, subsequent generations must examine these uncomfortable realities.

Dr. Rick Shroeder and Fran Feyock – Licensed Battlefield Guides, GNMP

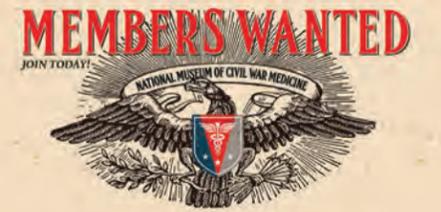
Holding back the deep, deadly, darkness with the light of a surgeon’s lamp

Modern surgical teams routinely review their most complex cases to learn from and improve surgical care. Join two modern-day surgical caregivers for a behind the scenes look at a how they would review surgical cases from the Civil War.

Ron Kirkwood – Author

“Too Much for Human Endurance”: The George Spangler Farm Hospitals and the Battle of Gettysburg

On the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg, Union medical officers took possession of the Spangler Farm for use as a hospital. Kirkwood will discuss the suffering and heroism of the doctors, nurses, wounded and dying at this hospital and reveal new information about a second hospital on the Spangler Farm.



Thank You!

Our members have always been the reason we succeed. Now, more than ever, you have helped us thrive.

Museums around the country have struggled through the pandemic. Closed doors and social distancing, while necessary for public health, have hit museums hard. This is especially true for private non-profits like ours. Our shift to digital content kept our story alive, and you showed your support when we needed it most.

From the time the shutdown began you have joined the ranks of our most vital supporters in amplifying our message. Our membership has more than doubled over the same period last year, with a huge boost in membership revenues that are key to keeping our institution running.

As a medical museum focused on what we can learn from the past, our story is more important than it has ever been. We couldn't do this without you.

If you haven't joined yet, or want to increase your annual giving, visit our website at CivilWarMed.org/support or give us a call at 301-695-1864, extension 1013.

National Museum of Civil War Medicine

48 E. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701
301-695-1864
www.civilwarmed.org

Open Friday and Saturday
10am -5pm
Sunday 11am – 5 pm
Other days by appointment only
Call to confirm hours



The National Museum of Civil War Medicine is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation.
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Pry House Field Hospital Museum

Antietam Natl. Battlefield
18906 Shepherdstown Pike
Keedysville, MD 21754
301-695-1864 Closed until 2021

Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office Museum

437 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004
202-824-0613
By appointment only

Go Green

Send your e-mail address to Kyle.Dalton@civilwarmed.org. You will receive your next newsletter electronically.



National Museum of Civil War Medicine

P.O. Box 470
Frederick, MD 21705-0470

Quest to Care: An Escape Room at the NMCWM

The NMCWM and Surelocked In Escape Games are partnering to create a 30-minute escape room experience. From September 1 through December 30, players will have the opportunity to help Clara Barton in her quest to care for as many wounded as possible at the Battle of Antietam. Players will compete for a Grand Prize (winners announced after the room closes) and gain access to an exclusive exhibit about Clara Barton—the Angel of the Battlefield.

Tickets are \$15 per person if you reserve a time in advance or \$17 at the door, each including admission to the Museum. Walk-ins accommodated based on availability. Kids 12 and under are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Museum members get a 10% discount, and Frederick County Public School students play for free.



The escape room is available to play by appointment seven days a week from 10 AM to 5 PM, (Sunday 11 AM to 5 PM), with last admission at 4 PM. The Museum is open for walk-ins Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only. Check www.civilwarmed.org for any updates and the latest information.

“It’s always a pleasure to work with Chris at Surelocked In,” said David Price, Executive Director. “This escape room is a unique and fun way to teach children of all ages about a true American heroine. Clara Barton’s compassion and efforts to care for those in need are inspirational.”

Join Today! www.civilwarmed.org