

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts  
91 Key Street, City Park  
P. O. Box 423  
Hagerstown, MD 21741  
301.739.5727  
[www.wcmfa.org](http://www.wcmfa.org)

For Immediate Release

January 17, 2010, 2:30 p.m., Bowman Memorial Gallery  
“The Civil War and Historical Memory—or Memories,” an illustrated lecture by Hagerstown native, John M. McCardell, Jr., who is President Emeritus and College Professor, Middlebury College, Vermont.

John M. McCardell, Jr., has been a member of the Middlebury College, faculty since 1976. He served as president of the College from 1991–2004. Throughout that period, and ever since, he has taught a seminar on the Civil War and American Historical Memory. He is the author of the prize-winning book, *The Idea of a Southern Nation*, and has published numerous articles and reviews. He serves on the board of the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar in Richmond, Virginia, and has been involved in the planning of Civil War sesquicentennial events.

Dr. McCardell was born in Frederick, Maryland, moved to Hagerstown with his family and is a member of the 1967 class of North Hagerstown High School. He went on to receive his B.A. from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA, and his PhD in History from Harvard University.

In conjunction with the exhibitions, “*The Unwritten War*” and “*Circuit of the Summer Hills: Mourning the Losses of the Civil War*” Dr. McCardell will discuss how historical memory — individual and collective — will shape the approaching sesquicentennial commemoration of the Civil War.

As president of Middlebury College, McCardell led a strategic planning effort and associated capital campaigns that produced a 10-year plan for Middlebury and provided over \$250 million in funding to educational initiatives, new and renovated facilities, increased enrollment, a larger faculty and a residential commons system. In honor of his service as president, the board of trustees named Bicentennial Hall, the College’s science center, “John M. McCardell Jr. Bicentennial Hall,” created an endowed professorship that will bear his name upon his retirement, and established an endowed fund, the “John and Bonnie McCardell Scholarship,” which will support a student or students from the South who attend the College.

McCardell currently serves as a director of the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar in Richmond, Virginia; as a trustee of Vermont Public Radio; as a trustee of Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia; and, as a trustee of Washington and Lee University. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa and has been honored with grants and fellowships from the American Philosophical Society, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Southern Studies.

John and his wife Bonnie live in Cornwall, Vermont. They have two sons, John, aged 26, and James, aged 22. His mother resides in Hagerstown.

