

1864 IN FREDERICK COUNTY

# HUZZA FOR LIBERTY!

AN EXHIBIT BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF FREDERICK COUNTY

*June 14, 2014 to December 31, 2015*



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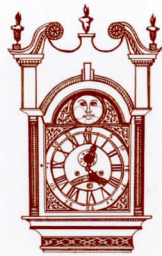
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The Historical Society of Frederick County is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization dedicated to preserving Frederick County's rich history and sharing that history with people of all ages and backgrounds.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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We are deeply grateful to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Delaplaine Foundation, Inc. and the Tourism Council of Frederick County for their generous support.

We thank the City of Frederick, Mayor Randy McClement, Rachel Depo and Deborah Brower for lending items for the exhibit, and to Thomas Kutz for his generous donations.

Purinton Preservation Services conserved the six original documents relating to the ransom of Frederick in 1864. These papers belong to the City of Frederick, and funding for the conservation was made possible by a generous donation from PNC Financial Services Group. Special thanks to Stacey Collins for overseeing the details of this partnership and project.

Joy Beasley, Chief of Cultural Resources at the National Park Service; Dr. Thomas G. Clemens, Professor Emeritus Hagerstown Community College, and Dana Shoaf, Editor of *Civil War Times* magazine, served on the 1864 Civil War Advisory Committee and advised on the project.

We are grateful to the authors of the essays that appear in this catalog: Gail Stephens, author, *Shadow of Shiloh*, a biography of Major General Lew Wallace; Brandon Bies, Cultural Resources Specialist for the National Park Service; and Dean Herrin, Chief Historian for the National Park Service.

Heidi Campbell-Shoaf, who served as executive director of the Historical Society of Frederick County at the time, was responsible for the concept, laying the groundwork and finding the initial funding. Carrie Blough, who was curator at the time, researched and organized the exhibit and the catalog. Special thanks are also due to Floyd and the late Gisele Blough for constructing the exhibit furniture.

Our sincere gratitude goes to the following for their advice on this catalog: Liz Shatto, Executive Director of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area; John Fieseler, Executive Director of the Tourism Council of Fredrick County; and Nancy and Jim Enright.

*Photography by Tim Jacobsen of Jacobsen Photography.*

*Catalog design by Think Baseline.*



*Civil War Cavalry Statue*

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## REMEMBRANCE

Scale, 2 Inches to One Mile.

# SKETCH of the Battle of MONOCACY, FREDERICK CO. MD.

Saturday July 9th.

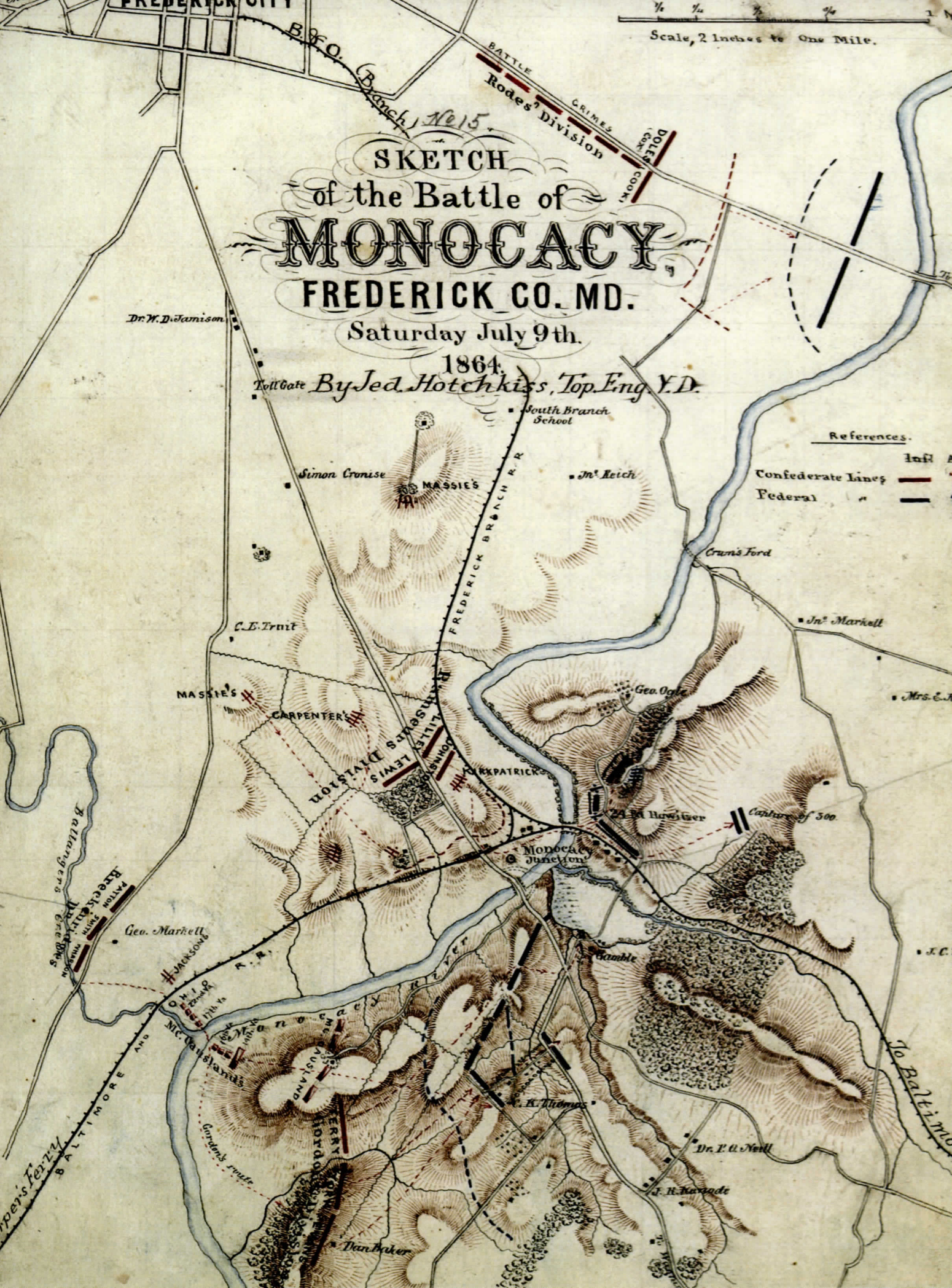
1864.

By *Jed Hotchkiss, Top Eng. U.S.A.*

*Dr. W. D. Jamison*

References.

Confederate Lines		Inf
Federal		





## “HUZZA FOR LIBERTY!”

by Mary Rose Boswell

*These are awful times. One day we are as usual the next in enemy hands; but whatever is the final issue, I say come weal or woe come life or death we go for the Union of the states forever one and inseparable.*

Jacob Engelbrecht, July 1864

Jacob Engelbrecht, a local tailor, politician, and future mayor of Frederick, entered these words in his diary at 11 o'clock A.M. on July 11, 1864, two days after the Battle of Monocacy occurred three miles south of the city. Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early had instructed a small force to collect a \$200,000 ransom, threatening to destroy the city if the funds were not raised. A similar ransom call had been made in Middletown and Hagerstown. The demands were finally met and the cities were saved, but on July 11 no one knew the outcome of the Civil War.

Not everyone in Frederick County shared Engelbrecht's loyalty to the Union. Citizens were divided on the issue for cultural and economic reasons. Prior to November 1, 1864, Maryland was a "slave state" but did not secede from the Union. Geographically, Maryland was a "border state," with the Potomac River dividing the North from the South. Local families, such as the Bakers of Frederick, had sons who fought on opposite sides. Decatur Dorsey, an African American born into slavery in Frederick County, was released in 1864 and enrolled in the 39th Regiment of the U.S. Colored Troops. Throughout the war, the county was strategically important due to its proximity to the U.S. Capital.

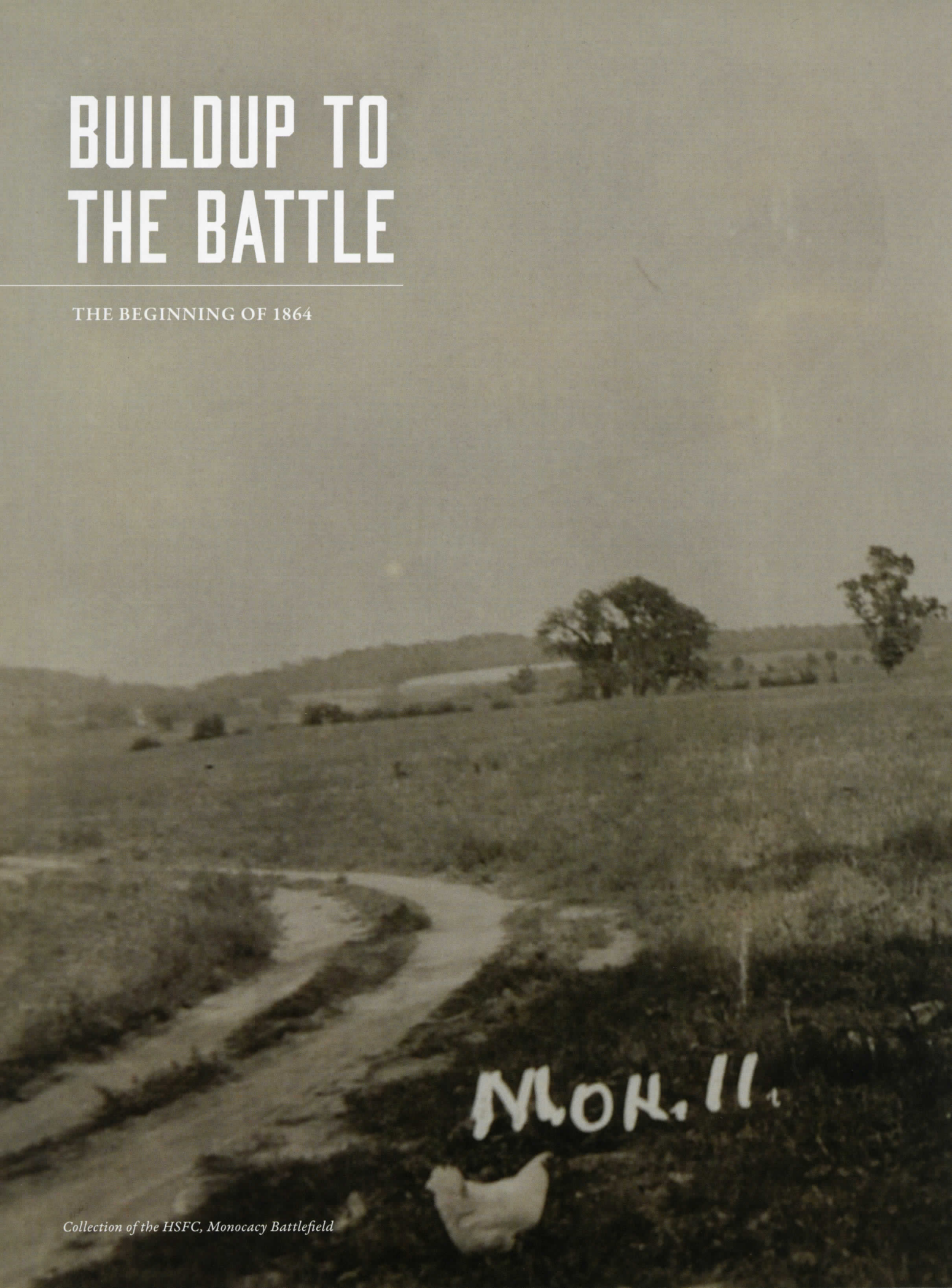
Our exhibit documents the impact of the Civil War on Frederick County in 1864 through artifacts and documents, many on view for the first time in decades. The project dates back to 2009 when Elizabeth Scott Shatto, Executive Director of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, organized a region-wide meeting to develop an interpretive framework for the Sesquicentennial commemorations of the American Civil War in Frederick, Carroll and Washington counties. The Historical Society participated in this endeavor and, as the project progressed, our closest partners were the City of Frederick, the Downtown Frederick Partnership and the Historic Sites Consortium.

In the months that followed, Heidi Campbell-Shoaf, who was then executive director of the Historical Society, applied for and was awarded a grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority to help fund an exhibit and accompanying catalog. Carrie Blough, who was then curator, researched and organized the exhibition. A main feature in our exhibit is the collection of the original ransom documents, on loan from the City of Frederick. The papers were conserved by Nancy Purinton, with funds from PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. In 2014, Delaplaine Foundation, Inc. awarded a grant to the Historical Society to provide matching funds for publishing the catalog.

In collaboration with many community partners, we held a festive Grand Opening of the exhibit at the Frederick Ransom Commemoration on July 5, 2014. Thanks to our generous benefactors and kind lenders, we are able to extend this exhibit through December 31, 2015.

# BUILDUP TO THE BATTLE

THE BEGINNING OF 1864





# JANIE WILLIAMS LETTER & TWO ENVELOPES

Janie Williams began a correspondence with two Confederate prisoners held at Point Lookout in Maryland in early 1864 with help from her cousin, who was also a prisoner. Janie's last letter to C.A. Natili or W.P. Pandelay was returned in the envelope she provided for her long distance friends to respond. The prisoners were exchanged before they could receive her letter.



RETURN of the Regimental Recruiting Party at Frederick City Md  
 under charge of Capt. David T. Bennett of the Seventh Regiment of  
Maryland Inf. Regt. for the month of March 1864.

RECRUITING PARTY AND RECRUITS.				ALTERATIONS SINCE LAST RETURN.			
PRESENT.		ABSENT.		PRESENT AND ABSENT.		DISCHARGED.	
NAME	REGIMENT	NAME	REGIMENT	NAME	REGIMENT	NAME	REGIMENT

NAMES of ENLISTED MEN, required in explanation of "ALTERATIONS SINCE LAST RETURN," &c.

NAMES (See Note 1.)	ENLISTED.			
	WHEN.	WHERE.	BY WHOM.	PERIOD.
James H. Byg	Mar 17 <sup>th</sup>	Frederick Md	Capt. D. T. Bennett	3 years
Patrick Chute	" 23 <sup>rd</sup>	" "	" "	" "
Frederick Hoffman	" 24 <sup>th</sup>	" "	" "	" "
John S. Barber	" 31 <sup>st</sup>	" "	" "	" "

[A. G. O. Nos. 70 and 71.]  
 Commanding the Recruiting Party.

# RECRUITING PARTY DOCUMENT

Recruiting returns for a Regimental Recruiting Party for the month of March 1864. The men who enlisted served under Captain David T. Bennett of Company E, 7th Regiment of the Maryland Infantry.

CORRESPONDENCE OF GEN. WALLACE AND GOV. BRADFORD.

INSTRUCTION TO JUDGES OF ELECTION.

"Rebels and Traitors have no Political Rights."

LETTER OF GEN WALLACE

Washington, March 31, 1864.
Dear Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th inst. in relation to the election of judges of election in the State of Maryland...

REPLY OF GOV BRADFORD

Dear Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th inst. in relation to the election of judges of election in the State of Maryland...

QUESTIONS FOR THE USE OF JUDGES OF ELECTION.

Extract from the Convention Law.

The Judge of Election shall, at each election, determine the vote of each elector in every precinct to which he shall be assigned...

QUESTIONS.

- 1. Service in the Rebel Army.
2. Aid to those in Armed Rebellion.
3. Comfort and Encouragement to the Rebellion.
4. Disloyalty.

WALLACE TO BRADFORD DOCUMENT & QUESTIONS

U.S. general Lew Wallace and Governor A.W. Bradford informed the public on March 31, 1864 that "Rebels and Traitors have no Political Rights." Individuals who could not successfully answer the questions provided were considered to be rebels and traitors and denied the right to vote in Maryland.

DRAFT NOTICE, EDWARD JAMES

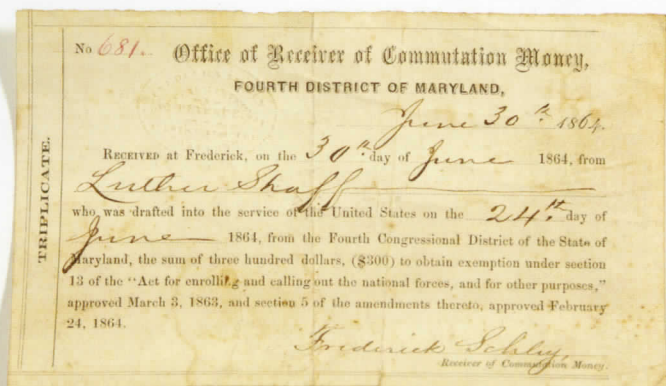
Edward James from the town of Jackson in Frederick County, was drafted into service on May 24, 1864 for a period of three years.

FORM 37.

Protest Marshal's Office,
St. District, State of Maryland,
Frederick May 24, 1864
To Edward James
Town of Jackson, County of Frederick

SIR:
You are hereby notified that you were, on the 24 day of May, 1864, legally drafted in the service of the United States for the period of three years...

James Smith
Protest Marshal,
St. Dist. of Maryland



## COMMUTATION, LUTHER SHAFF

Luther Shaff of Jefferson, was drafted into service on April 5, 1864. He paid the \$300 commutation fee and should have been relieved of service. However, he was drafted again on June 24th, and by June 1865 his failure to enlist was still being resolved by the US Army.

## CONFEDERATE SCRIPT

Confederate script for \$10 from February 1864.



## COLT PISTOL

Maryland and Frederick County were divided in their loyalties, as were many families. The Baker family from Frederick had sons who fought on both sides. The Colt pistol belonged to one of the brothers and was made in the North.



*14th New Jersey Volunteers  
Monument at Monocacy Battlefield*

# “GUARDING THE JUNCTION: THE 14TH NEW JERSEY INFANTRY AT MONOCACY”

by Brandon Bies

*Adapted from the following:*

2006 Guarding the Junction: The Encampment of the 14th New Jersey Infantry. In *Huts and History: The Historical Archaeology of Military Encampment during the American Civil War*. Edited by Clarence Geier, David Orr, and Matt Reeves. Gainesville, University Press of Florida: pp. 74-91.

Many visitors to (or commuters through) Monocacy National Battlefield would recognize the monument to the 14th New Jersey Infantry. The granite sentinel stands guard 150 years after the battle, just below the Rt. 355 railroad bridge (Fig. 1). However, few know the full story of that regiment, and why the monument was placed at Monocacy Junction, rather than on the Thomas Farm where the soldiers were heavily engaged during the battle. This is largely because of the role of the 14th New Jersey prior to the Battle of Monocacy, when they spent nearly a year guarding the junction. This article tells the story of the 14th New Jersey at Monocacy Junction, largely through the words of the men who served there.

The 14th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry was formed on July 8, 1862, on the old Monmouth Battlefield near Freehold, New Jersey. For the next two months, roughly one thousand men were mustered, armed, equipped, and trained at Camp Vredenburg.<sup>1</sup> The camp earned its name from a prominent local judge, Peter Vredenburg, Sr., whose son was killed two years later leading the regiment at the Battle of Third Winchester.<sup>2</sup> Like soldiers of both sides, many men of the 14th New Jersey were eager to face the enemy for the first time. With the Confederate advance into northern Virginia and then western Maryland in early September 1862, the regiment soon had its chance.

On Monday, September 1, 1862, orders were received to break camp and embark for Washington, D.C. The men boarded trains that took them to Philadelphia and then rode baggage cars to Baltimore. While the regiment was waiting for trains bound for Washington, D.C., the orders were changed, and the troops soon found themselves on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, on the way to Frederick Junction, 58 miles west of Baltimore.<sup>3</sup> The men camped near the junction overnight.

However, the following morning they received word that Confederates under the command of General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson had crossed the Potomac into Maryland. Colonel William S. Truex knew that his “green” regiment would be no match for such a large contingent of the Confederate Army, so the 14th New Jersey quickly struck tents, boarded trains yet again, and traveled back toward Baltimore. By all accounts, the regiment had been gone no more than one hour when Confederate soldiers reached the junction. The Confederates destroyed the depot and burned the strategically important railroad bridge.<sup>4</sup> When he learned of the news, Major Vredenburg wrote: “The bridges over the Monocacy which we were sent to protect we have since learned from reliable authority have been blown up and we would have taken the same elevating tour if we had remained there.”<sup>5</sup>

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1. J. Newton Terrill, “Campaign of the Fourteenth Regiment New Jersey Volunteers,” In David G. Martin, ed., *The Monocacy Regiment: A Commemorative History of the Fourteenth New Jersey Infantry in the Civil War, 1862-1865*, (Hightstown, NJ: Longstreet House, 1987), 5-6.

2. David G. Martin, *The Monocacy Regiment: A Commemorative History of the Fourteenth New Jersey Infantry in the Civil War, 1862-1865*, (Hightstown, NJ: Longstreet House, 1987), 200-201.

3. Terrill, 7-8.

4. Terrill, 8-9.

5. Bernard A. Olsen, *Upon the Tented Field* (Red Bank, NJ: Historic Projects, Inc.: 1993), 32.

Approximately ten days later, on September 17, the regiment returned to find the place laid waste. Lieutenant Marcus Stults described the situation:

We are at Frederick Junction yet, but do not know how long we will stay here. The chances are we will stay some time, to guard the Monocacy Bridge on the B&O R.R. The bridge I spoke of, I told you in my former letter the rebels had burned, but a new one has been erected. The bridge is 400 feet long and 60 feet above the water. It was rebuilt in about four days—quick work. Frederick Junction has been a busy place since the bridge was burned for all army stores intended for Harpers Ferry have been transported by wagons from here. You can form no estimate and I but a poor estimate of the number of wagons employed. The road was filled with them and hundreds of ambulances were constantly employed in carrying the wounded off the battlefield bringing them here, to be sent home and to hospitals in different parts of the country... About 1000 rebel prisoners were also sent here. We kept them a day and night, and then they were sent to Fort Delaware—three companies of the 14th being sent with them as guards. They were a rough looking set of men, and as strong on the secession question as ever.<sup>6</sup>

As it turned out, the regiment remained at Monocacy Junction longer than anyone had imagined. They immediately named their encampment Camp Hooker, in honor of General Joseph Hooker. From then until the regiment's departure the following June, the men continuously fortified and improved their position until it became a small, self-sufficient city, complete with a hospital, store, theater and church, and jail.

When the 14th New Jersey arrived at Monocacy Junction in September, 1862, the majority of soldiers found it to be a rather agreeable spot. Major Vredenburg wrote home:

To refer to a more pleasant subject Mother, this country here is beautiful. Tell Henry, he would never get tired of scanning over the fields here, the country is so lovely and beautiful. The Monocacy reminds me a good deal of the Raritan as it appears between Uncle Van Dorn's & Sommerville. It is fordable in as many places and Bill [Vredenburg's servant] takes great pleasure in bathing and washing the horses in it every day. On each side of the river particularly on the westerly side, the fields are fertile and rise gradually till they are lost in the mountains which run between us and the Potomac...<sup>7</sup>

Private William Burroughs Ross expressed similar sentiments in a letter to his cousin: "We are encamped on a hill alongside of Monocacy Creek. We have a splendid view from where we lay and it is very healthy here so far."<sup>8</sup>

When the men realized that they would be remaining at Monocacy Junction for more than just a few days, they organized a more permanent camp set out according to strict military guidelines (Fig. 2).<sup>9</sup> The soldiers of the regiment gave many details of their temporary homes through their letters. Writing home on October 20, 1862, Major Peter Vredenburg stated, "It is storming violently and consequently we are all confined to our tents, which are as comfortable under our present arrangement as a house. Some of the officers having brick fireplaces and chimneys while others, I amongst the latter, have stoves. I have a neat little cast iron one and Bill always keeps on hand a bountiful supply of hickory wood, so that it is really quite cheerful and cozy."<sup>10</sup>

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6. Olsen, 42-43.

7. Olsen, 38.

8. Olsen, 45.

9. U.S. War Department, *Revised Regulations for the Army of the United States, 1861* (Philadelphia: J.G.L. Brown), 76.

10. Olsen, 58.



Sergeant Albert C. Harrison offered a detailed description of how he set about improving his tent:

We have worked all day long stockading our tents. We cut logs five feet in length, then dug a trench around our tents two feet deep, leaving three feet above ground. We then chucked up the cracks and dabbed it with mud, that is as far as we could get with it. So God willing we will commence again in the morning and take down our tent and set it on the stockade, so it will give us more room. But the worst of all, we will have to tear down our chimney as it will come too far in the center of our tent, but we can soon stick it up again and then we can live like folks if Uncle Sam lets us stay here long enough to pay us for our trouble.<sup>11</sup>

In a letter to his mother, Major Vredenburg stated, “I have fitted a board frame over my cot which keeps the straw and blankets on and prevents the cold wind from penetrating as it used to before I had it so fixed. About 11 or 12 at night Dash finds it too cold for him on the bricks by the stove and so he very quietly and gently gets upon my bed and immediately lies down on my feet and so we mutually warm each other.”<sup>12</sup> Lieutenant Marcus Stults described a similar style of bed that he devised: “We got the boys to put us up a ‘patent’ bed—my patent, but still it won’t sell in Jersey. It is made by driving crutches in the ground for posts and instead of bedcord, we use cross poles and then with a straw bedtick and four or five woolen blankets we sleep first rate.”<sup>13</sup> At its peak, Camp Hooker likely consisted of over two hundred structures housing nearly one thousand soldiers.

The regiment’s men were engaged, not only in improving their living quarters, but also in improving the camp as a whole. Private Wolcott wrote home, “I think it looks very much like we will be staying here this winter. Your humble servant J. R. W. assisted to build 2 bake ovens and sheds to cover them. Time I get home, I will be able to build houses, dig ditches, carrying brick-stone, etc. which I have had a hand in last week—building log houses and stables.”<sup>14</sup> Sergeant Harrison wrote his mother on November 9, 1862, “It is almost certain that we will stay here all winter. We will cart logs I think tomorrow for the purpose of building kitchens, also to finish our guard house. The colonel intends to have the church and guard house together. The building is forty feet by sixty. It will be a right smart building.”<sup>15</sup> Another description is offered by Private William B. Ross, who stated, “We are preparing winter quarters here expecting to sojourn in this vicinity during the winter months. All the companies have log kitchens put up at the end of their row of tents and now the men are engaged erecting a guard house, two stories high—upstairs will be all one room—will hold five hundred men, which will be used as a concert room for darkey performances, theatricals, etc. and I suppose on Sunday will be used for preaching.”<sup>16</sup>

Besides building and maintaining structures, the men were constantly engaged in other camp projects. Perhaps the first and most important improvements involved fortifying the camp by constructing defensive entrenchments throughout much of the surrounding area. Just ten days after establishing Camp Hooker, Private Jacob Wolcott finished a letter to his friend by stating, “I must close this—the order is to dig trenches. I am going to sneak out of it if I can. Good many of our boys are taken suddenly sick—but the Colonel is a little too sharp for them—his advice—a lead pill.”<sup>17</sup> A number of these trenches are still evident along the ridge overlooking the Monocacy River on National Park Service property.

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11. Olsen, 67-68.

12. Olsen, 73.

13. Olsen, 49-50.

14. Olsen, 64.

15. Olsen, 62.

16. Olsen, 63.

17. Olsen, 47.

While the 14th New Jersey was frequently engaged in constructing fortifications and making other camp improvements, they also guarded and patrolled the surrounding countryside. Some guard details began immediately after settling at Monocacy Junction, when thousands of wounded men and prisoners flooded the area. At that time, letters home reflect pity for the maimed and suffering men of both sides, many of whom passed through the junction on their way to various hospitals and prisons. Lieutenant Marcus Stults wrote his parents about one such train: "It was an awful sight—thousands, shot & maimed in every possible manner. Some of them shot so badly one would think they could not live an hour. One man was shot between the eye and ear—the ball passing through the head and coming out in the same place on the opposite side."<sup>18</sup> Major Peter Vredenburg described a similar scene to his mother, "The 800 rebel prisoners are still shivering on the bare ground within 100 yards of my tent. The wounded Union men are still moaning at the railroad not ¼ of a mile off, and yet all this misery & suffering must be endured."<sup>19</sup> It is likely that these sights and sounds left a lasting impression on the newly enlisted soldiers of the 14th New Jersey.

The relative peacefulness of following the Battle of Antietam was suddenly interrupted on October 12, when news of a large body of Confederate cavalry was reported at Urbana, just four miles to the south. All but two companies were immediately dispatched toward Urbana, along with a section of Battery L, Fifth U.S. Artillery, which was also stationed at the junction. Estimates of enemy troop strength varied wildly, from 250 to 5,000. Upon arriving in town, the men learned that the Confederates had escaped, and that the force most likely numbered approximately 250 men. This experience raised the anxiety levels of many troops, who appear to have preferred to fight it out with the small band of Confederates.<sup>20 21</sup>

In early December, there were additional run-ins with Confederate or guerilla forces, none of which involved a shot being fired. Except for these occasional scares and false alarms, the men appear to have become increasingly bored and depressed after months of relatively easy camp duty. Recently promoted Sergeant William Burroughs Ross wrote his mother of one such false alarm: "Capt. Conover's company went up to Urbana...with the expectation of seeing some Rebs and I only went along to see the fun, but we came back without seeing a Reb. It was the only time I have been out and only went there for a little excitement. For it nearly gives one the blues to stay here doing nothing."<sup>22</sup> Sergeant Albert C. Harrison wrote his mother just five days later on December 18, 1862, and described the departure of another regiment stationed at the junction: "The 29th Regt. has been taken to the front. But we still hang around old Camp Hooker and to tell the truth I don't think we will leave here this winter. But come what will we are prepared for the worst."<sup>23</sup>

Shortly into the new year, companies of the regiment were sent on detached service away from Camp Hooker. On January 7, 1863, Company K was sent to Monrovia along the railroad where they established a small camp. On April 28, Companies A, C, D, H, F, and I were dispatched to Harpers Ferry, and returned to Camp Hooker in late May.<sup>24</sup> There was little activity at Camp Hooker, and the remaining men continued their daily routine of guard duty and camp details.

The final days of the 14th New Jersey at Camp Hooker were marked by two special occasions. On May 26, the entire regiment turned out to present a sword to Colonel Truex from the company officers. Two weeks later,

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18. Olsen, 43.

19. Olsen, 38.

20. Olsen, 53-59.

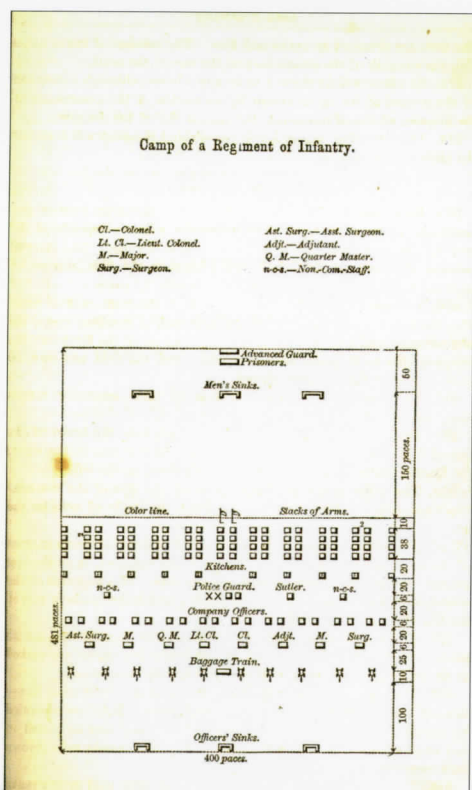
21. Terrill, 11-12.

22. Olsen, 74.

23. Olsen, 75.

24. Record Group 94. Compiled Military Service Records. Regimental Records. Modern Military Records Division, Records of the 14th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, 1863 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration).





on June 11, the regiment again turned out when a set of regimental and national colors was presented to the unit.<sup>25</sup> This was perhaps in anticipation of a shift in the duties of the 14th New Jersey. Four days later, the regiment left Camp Hooker to join the Army of the Potomac in its pursuit of advancing Confederate forces.<sup>26</sup> Regiment historian J. Newton Terrill perhaps summed up the impressions of many men on this day: “Monocacy to us was a home, and with a sigh of regret we left, although anxious to move.”<sup>27</sup>

After nine months of relatively dull and monotonous guard duty in and around Frederick, the 14th New Jersey rushed to Harpers Ferry in mid-June 1863 to join the Army of the Potomac. They would not return to Monocacy Junction until the evening of July 8, 1864. Now with the First Brigade, Third Division, Sixth Corps, the 14th New Jersey was among the handful of veteran regiments hurried north to Maryland to meet invading Confederates under General Jubal Early. In early July 1864, the Confederate raiders were wreaking havoc across much of western Maryland. Union forces commanded by General Lew Wallace were primarily of untested home guard troops and “100 days” volunteers with little experience. Two brigades from the veteran Sixth Corps were rushed to Wallace’s aid, arriving at Monocacy Junction on the evening of July 8.<sup>28</sup>

The following day, the 14th New Jersey engaged the invading Confederates in the Battle of Monocacy, later known as “The Battle that Saved Washington.”<sup>29</sup> Greatly outnumbered and outgunned, the 14th New Jersey withstood three separate charges by Confederate forces and eventually retreated in good order. In this battle, the regiment suffered 140 casualties out of approximately 350 men engaged (40% casualties). Only one officer in the 14th New Jersey was unscathed. For its crucial role in this battle, as well as the nine months spent at Camp Hooker, the regiment would be known as “The Monocacy Regiment.”<sup>30 31 32</sup> By the time they mustered out on June 19, 1865, over 1,300 men had served with the regiment, and 257 were either killed in battle or died of disease.<sup>33 34</sup>

Over 40 years after the Battle of Monocacy, the State of New Jersey erected a monument to honor the 14th New Jersey. The monument, while located adjacent to the Georgetown Pike (MD Route 355), is some distance from where the regiment fought during the battle. Instead, it is closer to Monocacy Junction, which had been guarded by the regiment for such an extended period. The dedication of this monument demonstrated the impact that the months at Camp Hooker had on surviving members of the 14th New Jersey.

25. Olsen, 116-118.

26. Olsen, 118-119.

27. Terrill, 14.

28. Joseph Bilby, “9 July 1864: The 14th New Jersey Infantry at the Battle of Monocacy,” In David G. Martin, ed., *The Monocacy Regiment: A Commemorative History of the Fourteenth New Jersey Infantry in the Civil War, 1862-1865*, (Hightstown, NJ: Longstreet House, 1987), 169-173.

29. B. Franklin Cooling, *Monocacy: The Battle that Saved Washington*, (Shippensburg, PA: White Mane Publishing Company, 1997).

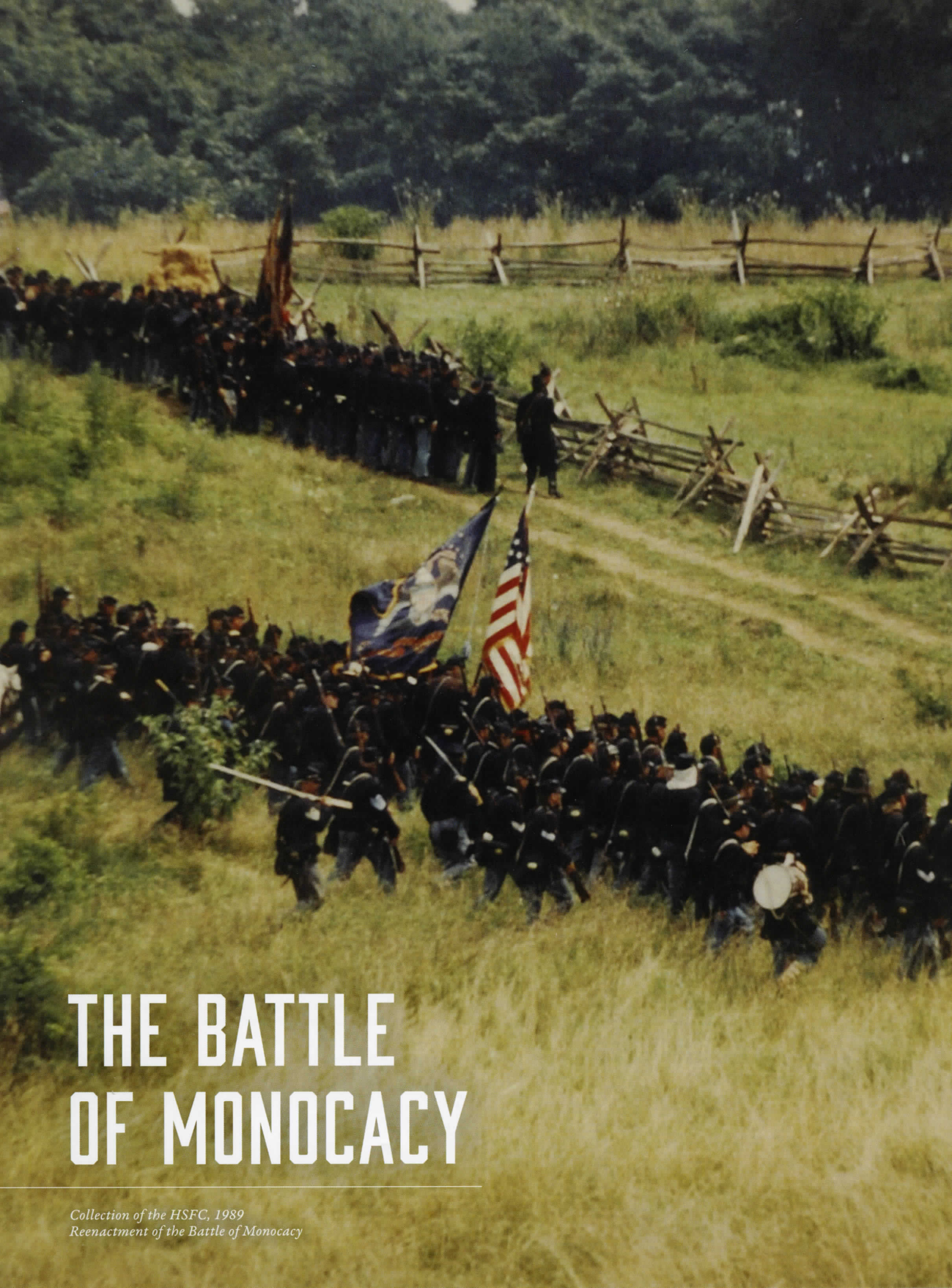
30. Cooling.

31. Bilby, 176-189.

32. Terrill, xxi.

33. Terrill, 130.

34. Martin, xii, xxi, xxii



# THE BATTLE OF MONOCACY

*Collection of the HSFC, 1989  
Reenactment of the Battle of Monocacy*



## RANSOM BASKET

*According to family history, when the City of Frederick was ransomed, the Shankles, from Buckeystown, were shopping in the city with their market basket. When they learned that there was a need for baskets to transport the \$200,000 in ransom money to the General Early, they offered their basket. A list was kept of who contributed baskets, and they were returned. The basket descended through the family and was donated to The Historical Society of Frederick County.*

## CAMP CHAIR

*Left at the Schley House on West Patrick Street when the Confederates departed Frederick after the Battle of Monocacy, this chair may have been used by General Early or one of his officers. It folded for easy traveling, and made for a more comfortable place to sit than to what most soldiers were accustomed.*



**US BUCKLE**

*Uniform belt buckle that belonged to a Union soldier.*



**CSA BUCKLE**

*Buckle that belonged to a soldier of the Confederate States of America.*



### HALF PENNY TOKEN FROM NOVA SCOTIA

*Found in a field near Gas House Pike, this coin was likely dropped during the Union Army's retreat following the Battle of Monocacy. The 10th Regular Infantry of Vermont was at the battle and retreated following this route.*

### CLEANER BULLET

*Williams cleaner bullet found on the Monocacy battlefield.*



### SWORD

*This sword and scabbard was used at the Battle of Monocacy. It is likely to have been used by a Confederate, since it is not a regulation Union weapon.*



Lew. Wallace,  
Maj. Gen.



Major General Lew Wallace

## “LEW WALLACE: SOLDIER AND MARYLAND COMMANDER”

*by Gail Stephens*

Major General Lew Wallace was officially assigned to command the Middle Department of Maryland and Delaware on March 12, 1864. Wallace, who was from Indiana, was not familiar with his new post; his Civil War service had been in the west. In spite of this, his tenure would significantly impact Maryland and the course of the Civil War in the east.

On arriving in Washington, Wallace called first on President Lincoln. The brief meeting ended with Lincoln calling out to Wallace, “Wallace, I came near forgetting that there is an election nearly due over in Maryland, but don’t you forget it.” Wallace next called on Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, his chief superior. Stanton, who told Wallace that the Middle Department was “a post of first importance,” also said he had two overriding jobs. The first was to ensure slavery was ended in Maryland. Stanton said Lincoln had his heart set on emancipation in Maryland but without obvious military intervention in the ongoing political process. Wallace’s other job, Stanton told him, was to exert control over secessionists in Maryland who were “becoming very rampant again” and “required a strong hand.”

As department commander, Wallace was the Lincoln Administration’s “man in Maryland,” there to interpret and apply the policies of the President, and he had a military force to back him up. Wallace might not have known much about Maryland, but he had military experience and had been a lawyer before the war, both important skills for a department commander.

Maryland had not seceded in 1861 but its citizens were bitterly divided. Maryland had been a tobacco state since its founding and tobacco cultivation used slaves. Slavery was thus concentrated in the old counties of southern Maryland. In 1860, Maryland was home to 87,000 enslaved blacks. However, a majority of Marylanders decided that the state’s destiny lay with the Union and in 1862 elected a Unionist governor and a Unionist majority to the state legislature. Augustus Bradford, Maryland’s new governor, realistically told Marylanders adherence to the Union was a necessity.

The Emancipation Proclamation, which Lincoln had signed fifteen months earlier, freed slaves in the ten states of the Confederacy, but not in the slave states which remained in the Union, including Maryland. In late 1863 elections, Unionists committed to emancipation won control of the Maryland legislature and proceeded to pass legislation calling for a constitutional convention to consider emancipation. The 96 delegates to the convention would be selected in a special election in April 1864. The Secretary of War had made it clear to Wallace that he was to ensure pro-emancipation candidates were elected in April but without a Union military presence at the polls. Wallace would demonstrate that he understood the system, and exert a decisive influence on Maryland emancipation.

Wallace himself was an “unconditional” who favored freeing Maryland slaves without compensation to their owners, writing his wife, “My policy is to make it free without compensation. The probability is I shall succeed.”

On March 28, Wallace took an important first step by becoming the first Union commander to make the trip to Annapolis to confer with Governor Bradford. Wallace’s chief concern was to learn whether Bradford would prevent those with Southern sympathies from voting. Bradford assured him Maryland law required local judges of election to administer an oath of loyalty to potential voters and it would be enforced. Wallace allayed the governor’s concern about the presence of soldiers at the polls by promising to send them only to those districts where the judges of election requested them, and then ordering them to camp at least a mile away from the polls and to come forward only when called out by the judges of election. Emancipation carried in the April election. Sixty-one of the 96 seats at issue went to those who favored emancipation. One opposition paper said that the election resembled those held before the war.

The Convention met in Annapolis, and on June 24, immediate emancipation without compensation passed. Maryland voters would still have to approve the new constitution in October.

Then, in July, Lt. General Jubal Early and an army of 14,000 Confederate veterans invaded Maryland, and ironically, sealed the fate of slavery in Maryland. The convention delegates, angered by Confederate pillaging and destruction, met and passed a strengthened loyalty oath, which prevented most of those who sympathized with slavery from voting. The new constitution was adopted by Maryland voters, and on November 1, 1864, Maryland became the first border state to free its slaves. In celebration, General Wallace ordered the firing of a one hundred gun salute from Ft. McHenry.

Slave owners were not ready to give up and made one last attempt to maintain slavery of a kind. Maryland law enabled judges of orphans' courts to apprentice the children of any free black person to a white person if he found the parents of the child were unable to support them. Males could be held as apprentices until the age of 21 and females until the age of 18. Owners began hauling the children of their newly-freed slaves before sympathetic judges, who in spite of the protests of the parents, apprenticed the children to their former owners. This also forced the parents to stay near their former masters and often to labor for them. Wallace took action, issuing an order which put all former slaves under military protection until the Maryland legislature could take action.

The other key part of Wallace's job, like Middle Department commanders before him, was to suppress signs of Confederate sentiment in Maryland, stop blockade runners and root out spies. In 1862, President Lincoln had suspended the writ of habeas corpus and authorized trial by military commission of anyone believed to be aiding the rebellion. The enforcement of these orders caused immense controversy and hostility in Maryland, where thousands of husbands and sons were serving in the Confederate military.

Wallace had definite ideas about how to run his new command and he was intolerant of those with Southern sympathies; he blamed the Confederacy and Southerners for forcing war on the Union and wondered "What penance can they do to purchase the forgiveness of our generation!"

An August, 1864 letter Wallace wrote to the postmaster in the small Maryland town of Dublin probably best expressed his sentiments about secession sympathizers. The U.S. flag had been torn down twice from a pole erected by the postmaster and his Unionist friends. The postmaster wanted troops. Wallace had none to give and thought it was unnecessary. "They are bold in cutting down your flag; be bold on your part and shoot them down," he wrote. "Powder and lead are cheap; organization is cheaper... Shoot down the unwashed dogs who desecrate your flag. When next you write me, tell all the particulars of the fight, and give me a list of the rebels killed."

General Schenck, Wallace's predecessor, warned him that one of his problems would be the Southern sympathizers among the women of Baltimore, who smuggled supplies to the Confederacy, and were "cunning beyond belief, and bold on account of their sex." Wallace, to his dismay, found out Schenck was right. From well-to-do families, many of the women were smart, well-educated for the time, and celebrated for their accomplishments. Wallace characterized the intercepted letters they wrote to their sons, husbands and lovers in the Confederate army as "remarkable for their intense and malignant hate of the Govt, and...disposition to suffer everything and anything for their treasonable cause." One celebrated case was that of socialite Sarah Hutchins, who purchased an elaborate, engraved sword for Confederate Major Harry Gilmor, a Marylander who commanded cavalry in Lee's army. The man carrying the sword into the South was captured and Sarah Hutchins arrested, charged with aiding the enemies of the United States, in violation of the laws of war. Her defense counsel called no witnesses and simply asked for the court's mercy, citing the "honor, virtue and the sanctity of womanhood," while she apologized to the court for her "impudence and folly." Sarah Hutchins clearly counted on her connections, but at first, they failed her. A military tribunal sentenced her to five years in a women's



prison in Fitchburg, Massachusetts and a \$5000 fine, and Wallace sustained it. Lincoln thought the sentence too harsh and commuted it, but Wallace believed her fate served as an example to similar women in Baltimore, and his trouble with them decreased.

Wallace is probably remembered positively for his leadership because he was highly respectful of the prerogatives of the state authorities, who had been shunted aside by his predecessors. He toured Baltimore's harbor with the oversight committee from the Maryland state legislature and allowed them to thoroughly inspect the Forts McHenry and Carroll. When Governor Bradford thanked Wallace for respecting the civil authority, Wallace replied that respect for the civil authorities "has been with me a controlling influence throughout my administration and I assure you it shall continue to be."

Wallace and Susan, his wife, did have time to socialize and Wallace enjoyed the sophisticated life of Baltimore. By September 1864, he was writing friends that Baltimore was beginning to seem like home; his friendships there were "rapidly obliterating the idea of Crawfordsville, (his Indiana home). The idea of returning to live in it is becoming positively distasteful." His 11-year old son, Henry, also visited when he was out of school, and Wallace was very proud of Henry's horsemanship as the two rode through the streets of Baltimore. Susan was happy enough in Baltimore but missed home. She wrote a friend that Crawfordsville was "a still life that suits me and I wish it suited Lew as well," but she added her husband had very different priorities, "He has beyond all I have known, a certain fierce enthusiasm that burns as brightly today and it did when he was a soldier scarce nineteen, full of wild dreams in the army on the Rio Grande." She knew her husband, the restless adventurer.

On July 9, 1864, Wallace engaged his "fierce enthusiasm" in the battle of Monocacy on the southern outskirts of Frederick. It was his great feat of generalship and his pride was in evidence when he wrote, "The incident now reached will be conceded, I think to have been the most trying, and in point of service rendered, the most important of my life." The battle of Monocacy was entirely Wallace's; he received no orders or encouragement from his superiors. He was hugely outnumbered by the Confederates, and defeat was inevitable, but it was a strategic victory, for Wallace's stubborn defense gave the Union time to reinforce Washington, the seizure of which was the goal of the Confederate commander, Lt. General Jubal Early, one of the Confederacy's foremost fighting generals. Early's campaign bore all the hallmarks of his commander, General Robert E. Lee, who sent Early from the lines around Richmond with about 14,000 men and 36 pieces of artillery to move down the Shenandoah Valley, across the Potomac and capture the Union capital. Lee had given up a part of his army because he believed the body blow to Northern morale which would result from the seizure of Washington might end the war.

Wallace's feat was all the more admirable because in the spring of 1864 his department had been stripped of veteran soldiers. The veterans were needed by Union General-in-Chief Lt. General U.S. Grant to replace his 53,000 casualties in the massive assault on the Army of Northern Virginia in May-June 1864 known as the Overland Campaign. He found those replacements in the troops remaining in the North, including Wallace's department and the veterans assigned to the thirty-seven miles of defenses encircling Washington, DC. Those veterans were replaced by untrained, untested militia. The details of this troop movement were in Northern newspapers and it was this information that led Lee to believe the Union capital was vulnerable.

As Early moved north, the Union command team of Grant and Major General Halleck, the commander in Washington, underestimated the threat in spite of many warnings. On July 7, a confident Early wrote Lee from Sharpsburg, Maryland, that he would "cross by Boonsboro to Frederick City. I then move on Washington. I think there is no suspicion of a move against Washington but my movement is thought to be a raid on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad..."

Grant was slightly alarmed by the rumors and sent one division of veterans from his army north on July 5, believing they could hold Early. The veteran division commanded by Brigadier General James Ricketts steamed up the Chesapeake to Baltimore, and arrived via rail at Monocacy Junction in time to join Wallace in the fight of their military careers.

On July 3 Baltimore and Ohio Railroad President John W. Garrett, told Wallace that his railroad agents were reporting a formidable Confederate force in northern Shenandoah Valley.

Wallace went to Monocacy Junction on July 4, after telling Susan he was hunting Confederate guerrillas, so she would not worry. Why fight? Wallace knew there was a large Confederate force out there, but he did not know its exact size or its objective, Washington or Baltimore. Finding that information out presumed a fight near the road hub of Frederick.

On July 6, Wallace's cavalry began battling with Early's advance near Middletown, Maryland, and on July 8, Ricketts' veterans began arriving. They would add about 3300 men to the 3200 militia Wallace had at the Junction, giving him a force of about 6500 with one 6-gun battery of artillery. On the night of July 8, Wallace was informed the entire Confederate force was moving toward the Frederick area. From the directions of their approach, Wallace judged their target was Washington. Lew Wallace had demonstrated throughout the war that he did not run away from a fight and he knew what he must do. He wrote in August 1864, "I claim no credit for understanding my duty in such a situation; it was self-apparent," though he later wrote that he experienced self-doubt about subjecting his men "to the perils of battle so doubtful, if not so hopeless..." He had to warn Washington and delay the Confederates, giving reinforcements time to get to the city.

His first act was to warn Washington. At 8 P.M. on July 8, he told General Halleck the Confederates were moving down the road to Washington, and he would put himself in position to defend it. Halleck promptly wired Grant, "Send troops from James River here... If the enemy's strength is as reported, it is doubtful if militia can hold defenses." Grant reacted immediately and ordered about 11,000 veterans on steamboats to Washington. Yet Early was within two days' march of the city. It was up to Lew Wallace and his forlorn hope.

On the morning of July 9, Wallace communicated his objectives to his commanders; hold the road to Washington for as long as possible, and keep a line of retreat open. He placed his most experienced men where he expected the most severe fighting. He gave his commanders simple instructions to fight until he ordered them to retreat. Then, he waited.

The battle began about 8 A.M. and lasted until 5 P.M. At one point, Wallace said that "sympathy for the brave men under the iron rain racked me like a sharp pain; but,...the conditions were beyond help. The furrow had been begun; it was fast reddening under the plough; not for that, however, could I then cry stop." In the end, his "brave men" delayed the Confederate army for a day. His warning on the night of July 8 had been in time. Early and his army and Grant's reinforcements reached Washington about the same time, and Early failed to take Washington. In his official report of the battle of Monocacy, Wallace wrote simply "These men died to save the National Capital and they did save it."

He did not forget Susan. Soon after the battle, he sent her a message that he was "very well" and would be back in Baltimore that night. Upon receiving this news, a relieved Susan felt "A load was off my heart—there was no need of further fortitude so I gave way and cried heartily, which was a great relief."

Immediately after the battle, Wallace was relieved of military command because Halleck believed he had misused Ricketts' men, and only the arrival of Grant's reinforcements had saved the day. Halleck conveniently forgot that Wallace's information had caused him to send for those reinforcements. Others soon realized what Wallace had done. One newspaper commented the President should "do justice to a trusty and sagacious



soldier, faithfully discharging his duty at the right time and in the right place to render the great enterprise of the enemy a complete failure.” Full vindication came on July 23 when Wallace met with the Secretary of War in Washington. Stanton restored Wallace to command, and told him the battle was “timely, well-delivered, well-managed, and saved Washington City.” A few days later, Wallace wrote his sister-in-law, “I am now really getting more credit than I deserve—so it always is with our people—the dog they kicked yesterday becomes the hero today—vice versa.” It was Wallace’s last great service in the Middle Department, which he left in July 1865.

Who was Lew Wallace? He was first and foremost an adventurous and intelligent man, who proved to be active, determined, resourceful, courageous and self-confident in command. As Middle Department commander, Wallace demonstrated a certain tough realism. Wallace at Monocacy did what was necessary in spite of the potential consequences for himself and his men, and Wallace the department commander, urged the men of Dublin, Maryland, to “Shoot down the unwashed dogs who desecrate your flag.” He was also the man who threw himself into the job of ending slavery in Maryland and when slave owners attempted to subvert emancipation, placed the newly freed slaves under military protection. Wallace did what he had to do in order to assure the continuance of what he believed in—the Union. In his annual Presidential message to Congress in December 1864, Lincoln wrote “Maryland presents the example of complete success. Maryland is secure to Liberty and Union for all the future. The genius of rebellion will no more claim Maryland.” Lew Wallace had a large part in that success.

# AFTERMATH

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*Cannon at Monocacy National Battlefield*



## BENTLY KUTZ'S RIFLE AND INITIALS

*Bridesburg rifle with bayonet that belonged to Bently Kutz. He carved his initials, "BK" into the stock. (On loan to the HSFC by Thomas Kutz)*



## TINTYPE OF BENTLY KUTZ

*Following the Battle of Monocacy, Federal reinforcements arrived in Frederick to help keep the area secure. Bently Kutz came with the 195th Pennsylvania Volunteers on July 30, 1864 and stayed until the beginning of November. Kutz came from near Reading, Pennsylvania. (On loan to the HSFC by Thomas Kutz)*

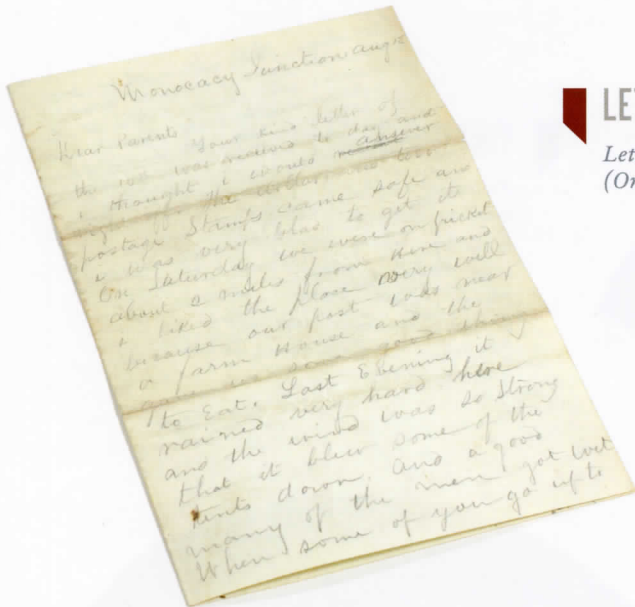
## BENTLY KUTZ'S CANTEEN

*Belonged to Bently Kutz. (On loan to the HSFC by Thomas Kutz)*





**BENTLY KUTZ'S  
DIARY & PAGE**  
Diary of Bently Kutz.  
(On loan to the HSFC by  
Thomas Kutz)

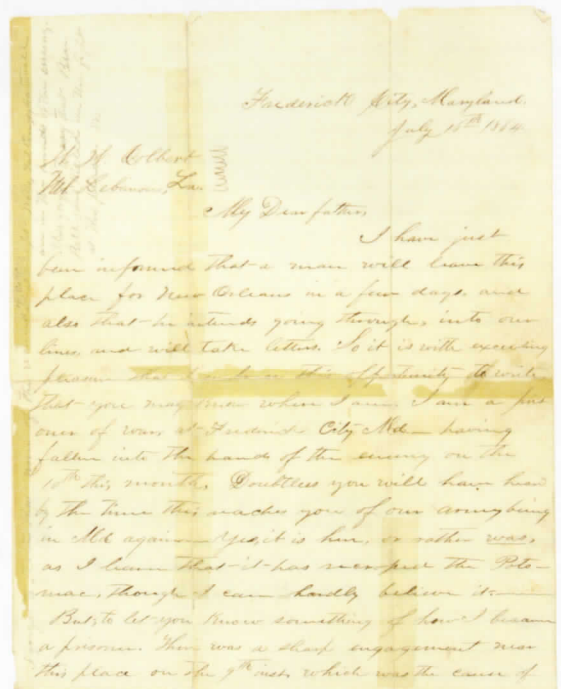


**LETTER, BENTLY KUTZ**

Letter written by Bently Kutz to his parents, August 15, 1864.  
(On loan to the HSFC by Thomas Kutz)

**WILLIAM B. COLBERT LETTER**

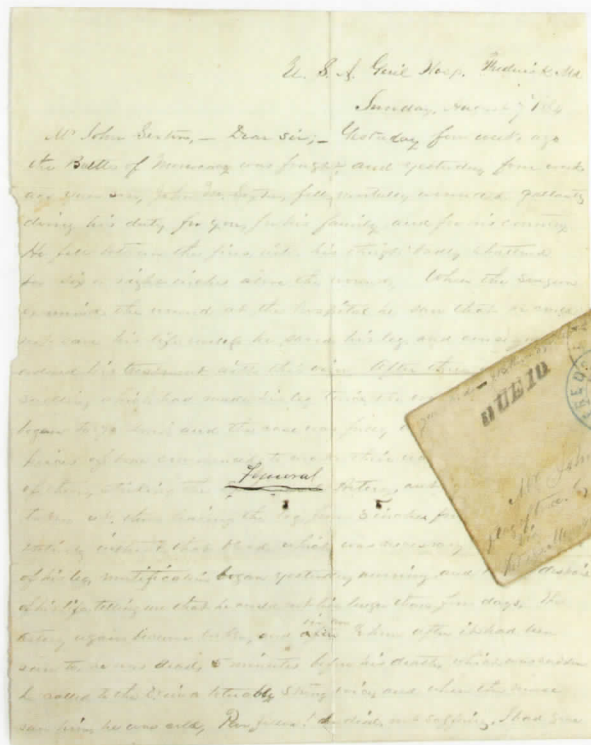
Letter written by William Bonaparte Colbert to his father in Louisiana on July 16, 1864. Colbert describes the Battle of Monocacy, during which he was captured. He met a local southern sympathizer, Mary Ellen Wilson, while in prison at the Frederick Barrack. They continued to correspond and were married in 1869.



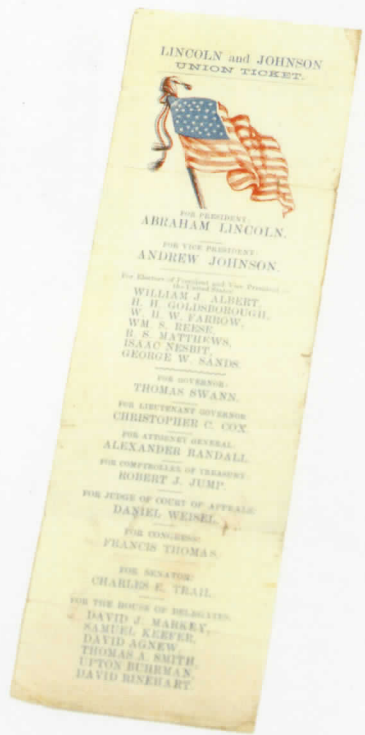


## GEORGE H. SHEFFIELD DIARY AND PAGE, JULY 31

George H. Sheffield, of the 2nd Brigade Band, 1st Division, 6th Army Corps from New York, kept a diary throughout 1864 and described his time stationed in Frederick. His unit arrived in Frederick on July 31, marched through Burkettsville and crossed the Monocacy River, then headed to Harper's Ferry. (On loan to the HSFC by Deborah Brower)



## LINCOLN/JOHNSON ELECTION TICKET



## JOHN SEXTON LETTER & ENVELOPE

On August 7, John Sexton of Virginia, received a letter from a Joseph B. Pence that informed him of the death of his son John M. Sexton. At the Battle of Monocacy, John M. Sexton, a Confederate, was shot in the thigh and died from the wound on August 6. Pence described the work of the surgeon and the nurse who cared for him. The soldier was buried in Frederick.



*Recruiting poster for African Americans*



# “FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM: FREDERICK COUNTY’S AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS”

by Dean Herrin

In early April of 1865, the American Civil War was finally coming to a close. In Virginia, Robert E. Lee’s Confederate Army of Northern Virginia was holding on by a thread against U.S. Grant’s Federal forces. Richmond and Petersburg were both on the verge of surrendering to the Union Army. General Lee summoned all available Confederate forces in the region to stave off defeat. One of the units responding to Lee’s call was a cavalry regiment from Maryland, the 1st Maryland Cavalry. Among the soldiers of the 1st Maryland were Jesse Downey and Ignatius Dorsey, who had been neighbors growing up near New Market in Frederick County.<sup>1</sup> The 1st Maryland reached Richmond on the night of April 2nd, 1865, just in time to witness the evacuation of the city by all Confederate forces, including Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

The causes and consequences of the Civil War have been debated ever since the first shot was fired at Fort Sumter, but for many, especially for the four million enslaved African Americans at the time, the war was about liberty. And that quest for liberty, that quest for freedom, forever changed many aspects of American society. On a national level, the defeat of the Confederacy and new amendments to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery and affirmed the rights of citizenship of African Americans. On a personal level, the war had profound consequences for African Americans, not the least of which was the changed relationship between former slaves and their former owners. Many have called the Civil War a war of brother against brother, but at times, it was also a war of the enslaved against the enslaver.

Our two Maryland cavalymen from New Market, Jesse Downey and Ignatius Dorsey, no doubt were unaware that on that night of April 2nd, 1865, on the outskirts of Richmond, they were closer to this dramatic aspect of the Civil War than they realized. For on the other side of Richmond that April night, helping to drive out the Confederates, were two of their families’ former slaves. Several regiments of the United States Colored Troops (the USCT), composed of both former slaves and free African Americans from Maryland, were part of the Union forces massed outside Richmond. One of the African American soldiers was Corporal Lewis Wineberry, of the 19th Regiment of the USCT, who only a little over a year previously had been enslaved by Jesse Downey’s family on their New Market farm. Another was John Williams, a fellow soldier of the 19th Regiment, who had been enslaved by Ignatius Dorsey’s family.<sup>2</sup> On the following morning, April 3rd, these two former slaves were among the first soldiers to march into Richmond, the Confederate capital, as part of the victorious Union Army.<sup>3</sup>

The world these men had left behind in New Market was no more; the relationships and patterns of life that had governed their daily routines had changed. What it all meant no one yet knew, but these Marylanders did not have to go home to know that New Market, and their world, was now a different place.

Since the beginning of the Civil War, African Americans had been eager to fight, but had been barred from joining the army. By 1863, however, after two years of war, the number of white men willing to join the Army began to decline, and in need of soldiers, Abraham Lincoln authorized the enlistment of African Americans.

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1. Daniel D. Hartzler, *Marylanders in the Confederacy* (Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1986), 132,134.

2. Records of the Adj. General’s Office, 1780-1971, Record Group 94, Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers who Served with the United States Colored Troops, M1822, National Archives, Washington, DC.

3. Noah Andre Trudeau, *Like Men of War: Black Troops in the Civil War, 1862-1865* (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1998), 422-423.

In May 1863, the U.S. War Department created the Bureau of Colored Troops to oversee the enrollment of African Americans into military service. African Americans flocked to join the Union Army, and by war's end, almost 200,000 had served their country.<sup>4</sup>

They fought not only for freedom, but as Frederick Douglass said, when a black man could "get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder, and bullets in his pocket," then no one could deny him the full rights of citizenship.<sup>5</sup> Even more optimistically, a black chaplain with a USCT regiment, after a victorious battle near Petersburg, Virginia in 1864, declared that the day was

...long to be remembered by the entire colored race on this continent. It is the day when prejudice died in the entire Army of the U.S. of America. It is the day when it was admitted that colored men were equal to the severest ordeal. It is the day in which was secured to us the rights of equality in the Army and service of the Government of the United States.<sup>6</sup>

For the final two years of the war, these men proved their valor. USCT units fought in all theaters of the war, and participated in almost 450 military engagements, thirty-nine of which were major battles.<sup>7</sup> Twenty-three African American soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor.

In Maryland, U.S. Army Colonel William Birney began recruitment of free African Americans in July 1863. Maryland was an obvious source for African American soldiers, since the 1860 state census had listed over 84,000 free blacks and 87,000 slaves living in the state. But the effort to recruit African American soldiers in Maryland angered pro-Southern citizens, and the emphasis on only free African Americans angered small non-slaveholding farmers who feared they would have to turn to slaveholders to obtain workers, at exorbitant prices. Although official War Department policy did not include the taking of slaves, some overzealous recruiters did in fact enlist slaves against their owners' consent. One of Birney's recruiting agents, John P. Creager, was arrested and jailed in Frederick in August 1863 for recruiting slaves.<sup>8</sup> While in jail, Creager wrote to Birney about the success he had been having: "Col we can raise a Brigade in Md. I am sure of it if we can have a chance... on Sunday night 38 started from here, so one of the colored men told me yesterday, and there is 30 more who want to go to day[.]" Creager mentioned in his letter that he was sharing the jail with eight slaves all of whom had been put there by their owners, "all traitors" according to Creager. Placing their slaves in the local jail was one strategy adopted by Maryland slaveholders who thought this would prevent Union authorities from enlisting them in the army. Creager told Birney that these eight slaves had written him a note, wrapped it in a handkerchief with a stone, and thrown it into his cell. The note read: "Col Creager, Sir, I have the honor to inform you that they a lot of Boys in hear that wants to enlist and go in the Army and they would make good soldiers and they all appear to want to go and fight, and be very glad to go, and if you will take them you will oblige the signers."<sup>9</sup>

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4. John W. Blassingame, "The Recruitment of Negro Troops in Maryland," *Maryland Historical Magazine* 58 (March 1963), 20; Michael Eggleston, *President Lincoln's Recruiter: General Lorenzo Thomas and the United States Colored Troops in the Civil War* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Co., 2013), 10.

5. Richard Reid, "USCT Veterans in Post-Civil War North Carolina," in John David Smith, ed., *Black Soldiers in Blue: African American Troops in the Civil War Era* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002), 391.

6. John David Smith, "Let Us All Be Grateful That We Have Colored Troops That Will Fight," in Smith, *Black Soldiers in Blue*, 58.

7. Eggleston, *President Lincoln's Recruiter*, 10.

8. Charles B. Clark, "Recruitment of Union Troops in Maryland, 1861-1865," *Maryland Historical Magazine* 53 (June 1958), 164; John W. Blassingame, "The Recruitment of Negro Troops in Maryland," *Maryland Historical Magazine* 58 (March 1963), 20-22.

9. Ira Berlin, ed., *Freedom, A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867; Series II, Book I, The Black Military Experience* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982), 204; *Frederick Examiner*, August 5, 1863; *The Herald of Freedom and Torch Light* (Hagerstown, MD), August 26, 1863 and December 9, 1863; and *Valley Register* (Middletown, MD), August 28, 1863. Creager spent over three months in the Frederick jail, because although he called himself a Colonel, technically he was a civilian recruiter, and the Army claimed Creager was acting on his own.

In October of 1863, the U.S. War Department established formal regulations for the recruitment of both free and enslaved blacks in Maryland and other slaveholding border states. Recruiting stations were set up around the state, including two in the mid-Maryland region—one in Hagerstown in Washington County and one at Monocacy Junction, two miles southeast of Frederick, in Frederick County. The regulations clarified whether slaves could be enlisted or not. They specified that if a county's quota for black troops was not filled in thirty days with free blacks and with slaves who had their owner's consent, then slaves could be enlisted without their owner's consent. Slaveowners were given compensation (usually \$300) for each of their slaves who enlisted, as long as the slaveowner was considered loyal to the Union, and the slaveowner filed a deed of manumission freeing his slave.<sup>10</sup>

Active recruitment of African Americans in Maryland was undertaken by local military officials. Rallies were held around the state to entice recruits, and armed recruiting parties of African American soldiers were sent throughout the state to encourage enlistment and to protect those who wished to join. By the war's end, over 8,700 African Americans from Maryland had enlisted for the Union.<sup>11</sup>

Even though the War Department's orders of October 1863 had established two recruiting stations in mid-Maryland for African Americans who wanted to join the Union army, the local Provost Marshal's office was slow in figuring out how to proceed in the enlistment of black soldiers. In January of 1864, Provost Marshal James Smith wrote to his superior in Baltimore, N.L. Jeffries, the Provost Marshal of Maryland, asking, "Shall I use my efforts to enlist negroes? Shall I swear and muster them in? Numbers of them might be got in this District."<sup>12</sup> Smith had been asked about black recruits several months before by his Deputy Provost Marshal in Washington County, F. Dorsey Herbert, who had written in a letter to Smith:

If a company of colored men should be raised will they be accepted and mustered into service? A gentleman by the name of Prather who resides in Clearspring informs me that he can enlist a company in that vicinity before the draft comes off—provided they will be accepted, and that he will take command of the company.<sup>13</sup>

Smith again asked his commanding officer for instructions in February 1864, as more and more African Americans desired to enlist.

I am interrogated every day in relation to the enlistment of negroes, by whom they are to be recruited? What bounty is to be given? And what pay promised them? Those people are going off every day to Pa. [Pennsylvania] and yet all is uncertainty and inaction here. My understanding of the matter is that I am not expected to recruit colored men at all, and I so inform persons who apply to me on that subject. It seems to me that the two classes, white and black, ought to be enlisted separately and by different officers. Be that as it may, no person here seems authorized to enlist them, and they go away and are lost to the State.<sup>14</sup>

Smith's fears of losing black recruits were further confirmed the day after writing Jeffries, in a letter he received from B.F. Kendall, the new Deputy Provost Marshal for Washington County. "It has been suggested to me this evening," wrote Kendall, "that some effort ought to be made to secure by enlistment as many of our free Negroes as possible for the army—it is believed secret agents are here offering them inducements to enter regiments from Northern States." Kendall added, "We are all very anxious to see recruiting commenced." Smith himself

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10. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series 3, Volume 3, Page 938.

11. Blasingame, "The Recruitment of Negro Troops in Maryland," 29.

12. Letter, January 9, 1864, James Smith to Col. N. L. Jeffries, Balt., MD, Record Group (RG) 110, Entry 3631, National Archives.

13. Letter, Aug. 11, 1863, F. Dorsey Herbert to James Smith, RG 110, Entry 3726, Box 5, National Archives.

14. Letter, Feb 8, 1864, James Smith to Col. N. L. Jeffries, RG 110, Entry 3631, National Archives.

had written to Jeffries a month earlier telling him that the irrepressible Colonel Creager, now out of jail, was in the area recruiting African American soldiers for northern states. Smith wrote that he had directed the arrest of anyone enlisting men at Hagerstown for northern states.<sup>15</sup>

Recruiting in mid-Maryland for African American soldiers finally began in earnest in the spring of 1864. An Army officer in Frederick, Lieutenant John Q. Adams, was sent on an “expedition” in March 1864 to find recruits.

The sole object of the expedition is to gather recruits for the U.S. Military service of the Colored population both free and slave between the ages of 18 and 45 inclusive.

Lt. Adams was cautioned to “give no unnecessary cause of complaint” to the local population, but “You will say to owners [of slaves] that the claims of the government to the services of their slaves is paramount to all others.”<sup>16</sup> Slaveholders notwithstanding, local communities in Frederick County supported African American recruitment because in part it helped fill the county’s quota for soldiers. In May 1864, “[a] great deal of enthusiasm manifested itself” at a meeting in Frederick in which citizens pledged to pay all the expenses of a firm offering to recruit African Americans.

...it is expected that the hundred and twenty-nine men required to fill up our quota will be forthcoming in a few days, which will relieve this District from the draft, at least for the present.<sup>17</sup>

Over 400 African Americans from Frederick County joined the Union army during the Civil War.<sup>18</sup> The majority fought on the battlefields of Virginia, around Richmond and Petersburg. Perhaps the most famous of these soldiers was Decatur Dorsey, who had been born into slavery around 1836 near New London in Frederick County. By 1864, Dorsey was still enslaved and living in Baltimore. In March of that year, Dorsey’s owner released him to enroll in the 39th Regiment of the USCT. Dorsey was soon promoted to Corporal and then by July, to Sergeant. He served as the color bearer, carrying the flag, for the regiment at the Battle of the Crater, at Petersburg, VA, July 30, 1864. The Battle of the Crater was a disaster for the Union Army. In an attempt to dislodge Confederates defending Petersburg, engineers dug a tunnel to the Confederate lines and detonated a mine. It blew up a lot of Confederates and created a big gap in the Confederate lines, but the Union soldiers who were rushed to the spot were poorly led. Unit after unit charged into and around the crater, and soldiers milled in confusion. The Confederates quickly recovered and launched several counterattacks. The break was sealed off, and the Federals were driven back with severe casualties. Units of the USCT, including Dorsey’s 39th Regiment, were the first to be sent into the crater, and these units suffered heavy casualties. Although the battle was a setback for the Union, many of the African American soldiers who had participated were praised for their bravery that day. Decatur Dorsey was later awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor for planting his colors on the Confederate works in advance of his regiment, and for rallying his fellow soldiers.<sup>19</sup>

After the war, while most white soldiers returned to their homes, most African American soldiers were still only part way through their three-year enlistment. These soldiers were deployed throughout the South to help patrol

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15. Letter, February 9, 1864, B.F. Kendall, Hagerstown, to James Smith, RG 110, Entry 3726; Letter, January 15, 1864, James Smith to Col. N.L. Jeffries, RG 110, Entry 3725, Vol. 2, entry “S4,” National Archives.

16. Letter, March 10, 1864, Henry H. Fowke to Lieut. J.Q. Adams, Frederick, in the research files of Monocacy National Battlefield, Frederick, MD.

17. “War Meeting,” *Frederick Examiner*, May 25, 1864.

18. Civil War Soldiers Database, “Crossroads of War: Maryland and the Border in the Civil War” website [[www.crossroadsofwar.org](http://www.crossroadsofwar.org)], Catoctin Center for Regional Studies, Frederick, MD.

19. “Honor and Sacrifice; Local Family Commemorates Civil War Hero,” *Frederick News-Post*, August 17, 2008; Margaret Dorsey Pagan, “Decatur Dorsey, Winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor,” *Flower of the Forest Black Genealogical Journal*, Vol. 1, No. 7 (1988), 1-8.



and keep the peace in the former Confederacy, and sent to Texas to help guard the border with Mexico. Most did not return to their homes until 1866 or 1867.<sup>20</sup>

Let's return to our soldiers from New Market. Jesse Downey and Ignatius Dorsey of the 1st Maryland Cavalry, and Lewis Wineberry and John Williams of the USCT, all survived the war and all returned to Frederick County. Downey and Dorsey were from relatively prosperous families, and both later rated entries in the *History of Frederick County, Maryland*. They both were active in the local Confederate veterans' organization, the Alexander Young Camp, and Dorsey was at one time the Commander of the Camp.<sup>21</sup> Lewis Wineberry and John Williams were both mustered out of the Army in Brownsville, Texas, in January 1867. They returned to Frederick County to begin new lives as free men. Unlike Downey and Dorsey, little other than census information can be found in the historical record about these returning African American soldiers. Lewis Wineberry was active in the local African American veterans' organization, the Kilpatrick Post, and like Ignatius Dorsey, was for a time Commander of the Post.<sup>22</sup> Did these men ever cross paths again, and perhaps discuss the war years? If so, they did so as equals, as free men and full citizens of the United States.

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20. Trudeau, *Like Men of War: Black Troops in the Civil War, 1862-1865*, 455-462.

21. *Frederick News*, January 20, 1908.

22. *Frederick News*, January 13, 1891.

# REMEMBRANCE



Collection of the HSFC, Monocacy Battlefield



## BATTLE BROCHURES

Remembrance and memorials began to take place almost immediately after battles of the Civil War. Many events were held by both former Confederate and United States' organizations to honor the dead and all those who fought.