

IN THIS ISSUE

- Superintendent Departing Monocacy
- Tell Our Stories
- Seasons of Monocacy
- Monocacy Regiment
- News from Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation (MNBF)
- An Englishman at Monocacy
- Commanders Corner

A Fare Thee Well and Many Thanks to Monocacy Superintendent Chris Stubbs

In October, Monocacy National Battlefield Superintendent Chris Stubbs joins the National Forest Service as Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Los Padres National Forest in California. Since arriving at the battlefield in November of 2016, Chris has provided strong leadership and advocacy for the park and its fledgling foundation. His support of the Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation has been constant and unwavering.



While at Monocacy, Chris focused on efforts to improve the public's access to the park's historic and commemorative features and ability to experience the Monocacy River. He also furthered the critical work to address the park's many challenges—disconnected sites bisected by a river, a busy highway, and a railroad and increased urbanization as the area becomes part of the larger DC, Maryland, and Virginia metropolitan area. Most importantly, he was passionate about Monocacy telling all of its stories—from the Native Americans who lived here 10,000 years ago, the enslaved of its farms, its historic buildings, its role in the Civil War, and its natural resources.

Our loss is Los Padres gain. While we will miss his guidance, we wish Chris much success personally and professionally.

Tell Our Stories

Warner Ryan, the 54th Mass, USCT, Mercersburg, and Monocacy

By Susan Claffey



In 1863, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton authorized the establishment of recruiting stations for U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) and one of those recruitment stations was located at Monocacy Junction. At least four USCT Maryland regiments, composed of both enslaved and free African American men, volunteered at Monocacy. And so did at least one member of the renowned 54th Massachusetts Regiment, commanded by Col. Robert Gould Shaw.

That man was Warner (Warren) Ryan. He volunteered on March 19, 1863 for Company D of the 54th Massachusetts. He survived the battle at Fort Wagner in South Carolina and the Civil War. He mustered out on August 20, 1865 but how he spent his life after the war is unknown. We know he is buried just over the Maryland border in Zion Union Cemetery, Mercersburg PA.

Zion Union Cemetery is the largest private burial site of soldiers from the 54th Massachusetts. Of 38 USCT Civil War veterans buried there, 13 served in that unit. The 54th was the first African-American regiment formed in the north and its performance and courage in battle increased respect for Black soldiers and helped spur USCT recruitment. More than 20 percent of the troops with that acclaimed unit were from Pennsylvania.

The African-American population of the Mercersburg area numbered 420 in the 1860 census. This community had already demonstrated a commitment to African-American freedom before the Civil War when it established itself as a stop on the Underground Railroad. When given the chance, the community embraced the opportunity to fight for the abolition of slavery and their country. Eighty-eight men from the Mercersburg area served in the Civil War and Mercersburg was second only to Philadelphia in mustering USCT volunteers from Pennsylvania.

How many of the brave soldiers from Mercersburg signed up at Monocacy?

Susan Claffey is an MNBF board member.

The Seasons of Monocacy Battlefield

Fall is on the doorstep. Enjoy the foliage at Monocacy Battlefield!



September's warmth is predicted to delay fall foliage colors in 2019 with peak color forecasted for mid-October. The best place for leaf peeping at Monocacy is a hike of the Ford and Brooks Hill Loops at the Worthington Farm. The trails take you through floodplains, field edges, fencerows, and you get a sweeping view of Baker Valley from the top of Brooks Hill.

If an auto tour is more appealing, autumn is perfect to take in the historic covered bridges of Frederick County. Northern Frederick County claims three historic covered bridges listed on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places.

The Utica, Loy's Station, and Roddy Road covered bridges cross streams and are within twelve miles of each other. Beautiful and historical, they are also architecturally interesting because each is an example of different types of bridge truss designs. A truss is the support that keeps a bridge standing. For more information and driving tour instructions, visit

<https://www.visitfrederick.org/things-to-do/tours/historic-covered-bridges-driving-tour/>.



They Fought with the Monocacy Regiment

Corporal Bullman's Letters Home

By Joe Brooks

The 14th New Jersey is known as the Monocacy Regiment. It camped at and protected the Monocacy River crossings near Frederick, Maryland in 1862, 1863, and 1864.

What was it like for soldiers living there on those assignments? Corporal James Bullman, Company C, wrote several letters home to his brother, George, describing life at Camp Hooker near the Monocacy River that give us an impression. On a cold day in November 1862, after standing in three inches of snow for an arms and apparel inspection, Cpl Bullman wrote his brother, "I wish you could just take a peep into our tent just about now and see how we spend our Sunday. Some are writing home[,] cleaning their muskets[,] others mending clothes &c. At three o'clock (sic), in the afternoon the Chaplain gives us a sermon and at half past four we have to turn out in dress Parade." Although his health is good, he wrote that it was not the same for many, telling his brother that three men lay dead in the hospital, and about a third, excused from duty, lay sick in their tents.

As Thanksgiving approached, the men were ordered to stockade their tents. Bullman describes the process he undertook in a drizzling rain. "We cut small trees from eight to ten inches in diameter[,] logged them of five feet long[,] split them in half[,] then dug a trench around the tent two feet deep[,] set in the posts and pitched the tents on top of them[,] then plastered up the cracks with mud and the work was done." And, he had no appreciation for the local mud writing that "I never saw any mud in Jersey that would compare with Maryland mud in stickiness[,] nastiness or anything else. The soil here is of the stickiest kind of clay and when it gets on a fellow once it is next to impossible to get it of with water and a scrub brush."



Family in New Jersey sent him packages which he appreciated but sometimes cautioned about the expense. "When I spoke about that barrel of Apples I did not wish them to be sent here for that would cost at least \$2.00 (which is more than they are worth) but just merely to let you know how nice they would go, therefore I wish you would request the Bishop not to send them." As the New Year arrived in 1863, Cpl Bullman received turkey, mince pies, doughnuts, nuts, apples, and honey preserves. As he writes, they "make a soldiers fare taste better." "Elizabeth City sent an 8 cwt. of food for the company's New Year's dinner, consisting of —17 Turkeys, 5 or 6 chickins (sic), a dozen boxes of Wine, a lot of Apples and Apple butter, Pies, Cake of several kinds, pickles, Onions and a box of Cigars..."

The camp sutler was a sore point. If soldiers at Camp Hooker were unable to pick up their packages at the station, they had to pay the sutler to receive them. A letter from Bullman described how the sutler "must make from .25 to 100 per cent on everything...the Sutler as big an extortionist as ever walked unharmed. It would serve him right if the regiment would tear down his canvass and pitch his goods in the mud."

The war was never far from his mind. In early 1863, he wrote his brother, "War news is somewhat discouraging of late...The end of the war looks to be farther off now than it did a month ago but it is an old saying and pretty true one that it is always darkest before dawn. We will have to do considerable before the nine months men time is out or we might as well give up doing anything at all."

He letters from Monocacy also indicate that pay was a continual problem. Money became very scarce. Families sent letters telling soldiers of their inability to buy necessities and how they were being forced out of their homes because they were unable to pay rent. Bullman wrote "Desertion is of frequent occurrence[.]t goes on at the rate of five or six a week and is likely to increase unless the paymaster makes his appearance soon with greenbacks enough to square up accounts with the 14th N. J. V. Some of the deserters will come back. I suppose others never of their own will."

Sadly, Corporal James Bullman was one of more than 7,000 Union soldiers killed in action at Cold Harbor, June 1, 1864. His body was returned to New Jersey and he is interred in the Brook Avenue Presbyterian Cemetery in North Plainfield. He was but 20 or 21 years old.



Joe Brooks is a volunteer at Monocacy National Battlefield.

What's New at the MNBF

By Susan Claffey

Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation (MNBF) and Monocacy National Battlefield just completed strategic planning to develop goals for the next three years. Although separate processes, MNBF worked closely with park leadership to align the plans. MNBF has set the following goals for the next three years—financial growth and sustainability, creation of a membership program, increased public outreach and awareness, board development, and advocacy for Monocacy National Battlefield.

Achieving our strategic plan is critical to our ability to support and protect the park. MNBF is called upon to fund preservation and educational activities at Monocacy Battlefield that federal dollars do not. And, as Maryland eyes widening I-270, MNBF must be a strong advocate to assure mitigation of its impact on the park.

Susan Claffey is an MNBF board member.



Some Corner of a Foreign Field

By Wayne Coblentz

In St. Paul's Churchyard, Withington, Lancashire, England, there is a memorial stone that reads, "Sacred to the memory of Thomas Hesketh Thorniley who was killed in action at Monocacy Maryland, July 9th 1864 in his 44th year. Also Frances, wife of Thomas Thorniley ..." Who was Thomas Thorniley?



Thomas Thorniley was an Englishman born in 1820 in Withington, Lancashire. His parents were Isaac, a farmer, and Mary. They had three sons, Thomas being the youngest. The 1841 census states his father as deceased and that he was living with his mother at Worthington Cottages, Withington. His mother's occupation was noted as "independent means". No occupation is given for Thomas. By the time of his marriage to Frances Mottram on January 27, 1847, his occupation is given as "publican," a person who owns or manages a pub. Unfortunately, Frances died very soon thereafter, on April 12, 1849.

Thomas immigrated to the U.S. sometime between his wife's death and September 30, 1857. Here he remarried Emaline Virginia Scott, in Mercer County, Virginia (now West Virginia). They had one son, William, who was 21 months old at the time of the 1860 census. Thomas is listed as a farmer in the census.

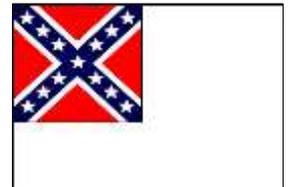
Thomas first enlisted in the 8th Virginia Cavalry in July 1861 and in 1863 transferred into the 17th Virginia Cavalry. The unit history lists a Thomas H. Thornby, a Private in Company A, as killed at Frederick City, July 9, 1864 (Battle of Monocacy). No one of either surname is buried at Mt. Olivet but perhaps he is one of the unknown Confederate soldiers buried there. After the war, Emaline remarried Davidson Ross, a former Confederate soldier in the 17th VA Cavalry.

Where is the grave of Thomas Thorniley and who erected the memorial to him in "some corner of a foreign field"?

Wayne Coblentz is a history teacher of 43 years and a former Vice President of the Frederick County Civil War Round Table.

Commanders Corner

Commanders Corner is a continuing feature for the newsletter featuring information on the two commanders at the battle of Monocacy--Union Major General Lew Wallace and Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Anderson Early.



Lew Wallace

By Gail Stephens



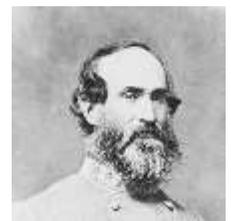
After the war with Mexico, Wallace returned to Indiana, resumed his study of the law and passed the bar in 1849. Though the law was his profession, he never liked it, referring to it later in life as the "most detestable of human occupations." Wallace always preferred adventure and the exotic to dry law texts and arguments. Nevertheless, he opened a practice in Covington in western Indiana and in 1851 was elected prosecuting attorney for Indiana's 8th Judicial District, which covered a large segment of western Indiana.

Like most practicing lawyers, he rode the circuit and one night in the eastern Illinois town of Danville, Wallace met another circuit-riding lawyer, Abraham Lincoln. Wallace was

Jubal Anderson Early

By Joseph McGraw

Like so many of his fellow officers in the American Civil War, both Union and Confederate, Jubal Early launched his military career at the United States Military Academy on the 150 foot high plain overlooking the Hudson River at West Point, New York. Early was accepted as a 16 year old cadet at West Point in 1833, the first resident of his home county (Franklin, Virginia) to attend the Academy. His fellow cadets included future Union commanders "Uncle John" Sedgwick and "Fighting Joe" Hooker and future Confederate officers Braxton Bragg, John Pemberton, and Lewis Armistead.



spellbound by Lincoln's ability to tell a story and amused by Lincoln's long legs, which he described as a "wonder, ... he kept crossing and uncrossing them; sometimes it actually seemed he was trying to tie them into a bow knot."

The night he met Lincoln, Wallace was with Henry Smith Lane, one of Wallace's comrades from the 1st Indiana and a good friend. Lane was elected to the US Senate from Indiana in 1861 and became a power in the Republican Party. His support during the Civil War was crucial to Wallace's military success, and it was at Lane's home in 1848 that Wallace met the love of his life, Susan Elston. Susan returned the compliment but her father, wealthy banker Isaac Elston, was not impressed with Wallace's potential and so the young lovers had to wait - for four years. In 1852, Mr. Elston gave in and they were married. She was a good match for him. Intelligent and well-educated, she became his chief supporter and critic. The couple had one child, a son, Henry.

After his marriage to Susan, Wallace moved into private practice in Crawfordsville, Indiana, her home, and like many lawyers tried his hand at politics. He was elected to the Indiana Senate in 1858 on the Democratic ticket. At that point, the entire country was swept up in the issue of whether the territory of Kansas would be admitted to the Union as a slave or free state. Wallace was a dedicated follower of Stephen Douglas, a Democrat and U.S. Senator from Illinois. He energetically supported and promoted Douglas's plan for popular sovereignty, that is allowing voters in a territory to determine in a referendum whether their territory, and ultimately state, would be slave or free. Wallace was not pro-slavery but believed that slavery was legal because mentioned in the Constitution. He would change.

Kansas erupted into bloody fighting between pro and anti-slavery factions in 1854. In reaction, militia units sprang up throughout North and South. Convinced that a general war was in the offing and never one to resist the call of military action, Wallace formed the Montgomery Guards in 1856. They became one of the best militia units in the Midwest, thanks to Wallace's energy, charisma and the knowledge he acquired from West Point military texts. The Guards repaid his efforts many times over in the coming Civil War. Sixty-one Guards served in the Union army and nearly all of them became officers, ranging in rank from major general to lieutenant. Wallace also directly benefited from the Guards. The military reputation he gained commanding them impressed Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton, who would call Wallace into service the day Lincoln called for troops to serve the Union.

Gail Stephens is a historian and author of Shadow of Shiloh; Major General Lew Wallace in the Civil War and numerous other articles and monographs.

Even as a young West Point cadet, Early displayed what one of his biographers has called his "pugnacity and ill temper" which earned him more than his fair share of demerits. Early displayed these qualities in one incident related to the divisive issue of slavery. In one Academy debating society meeting, Joe Hooker (a Massachusetts native) asserted that slave owners killed their slaves when they were too old or sick to work. Early jumped to his feet and condemned Hooker's statement as an outrageous lie. Outside after the meeting, Early attacked Hooker, kicking him. "Fighting Joe" did not fight back.

But "Old Jube" did not confine his combative spirit at West Point only to encounters with future battlefield enemies. He showed signs of becoming Robert E. Lee's future "Bad Old Man" even with future Confederate heroes. On another occasion, Early made a witheringly scornful remark to Lewis Armistead (of Pickett's charge fame) on the West Point parade ground as the cadets marched to mess. The quarrel continued at the meal where Armistead ended the dispute by breaking a plate over Early's head and earning dismissal from the corps of cadets.

Early's academic experiences at West Point were rather unique for an American institution of higher education in the 1800s. Study of the classics, logic, and ethics was replaced by mathematics and the physical sciences. Engineering knowledge and skills were promoted. French was required so that cadets could read untranslated texts by European mathematicians and military experts. Throughout his time at the Academy, Early's academic standing was generally good, certainly much better than his conduct.

One note foreshadowing Early's later years occurred at West Point in connection with the Texan war for independence from Mexico. Early reflected deeply on issues of independence and Texas secession from Mexico in a letter home, and the details of that story will be in the next issue of The Dispatch!

Joseph McGraw is professor of public history at Stevenson University and Vice President of MNBF