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## President Lincoln Pays a Visit to Frederick

By Walt Albro

Shortly after the battle of Antietam, Abraham Lincoln made a trip to Frederick on Oct. 4, 1862. Lincoln had visited the town of Sharpsburg earlier for his famous post-battle meeting with Union Gen. George McClellan. On his way back to Washington, he passed through Frederick, with his party riding in two large ambulances. His arrival attracted a crowd of residents.

While in town, Lincoln stopped at a house at 119 Record St. to visit Gen. George Hartsuff, who was recuperating from a serious wound received at Antietam. The house was the residence of Mrs. Ellen Ramsey. Lincoln stopped at the Ramsey house only long enough to greet the general and eat a quick mid-day meal. Next, he visited another house where several wounded Confederate soldiers were convalescing. He told the soldiers that he bore no malice toward them, and gave them an opportunity to shake his hand. Finally, he traveled to the B&O railroad station near South Market and East All Saints streets to take a train back to the capital. A group of residents also gathered there, urging Lincoln to make a speech.

At first, Lincoln declined the offer, but later spoke briefly from the platform of the train's rear carriage. The New York Tribune published his remarks in its Oct. 6 issue. In his talk, Lincoln praised the actions and dedication of the Union soldiers. Then, he added, "I also return thanks, not only to the soldiers, but to the good citizens of Frederick, and to all the good men, woman and children throughout this land for their devotion to our glorious cause." Then the train departed, ending Lincoln's one and only visit to Frederick.



*Walt Albro is a volunteer at Monocacy National Battlefield and Secretary of MNBFF.*

## Tell Our Stories

### Who is the Mystery Woman of the Battle of Monocacy?

By Al Duke

A rumor made the rounds of the winter camps of 1864-1865 that a woman had been found in the ranks of the 9<sup>th</sup> New York Heavy Artillery.

In a letter home in the spring of 1865, a member of the 14<sup>th</sup> New Jersey recounted the rumor. The letter said the woman's true gender was exposed when a soldier on picket duty fainted. His comrades sprung to revive the soldier, pouring water on his head but when they opened the soldier's shirt to pour some water on his chest, they discovered he was a woman! This soldier had been with the regiment since the fall of 1863, and the 9<sup>th</sup> New York had been in several battles since that time, including Monocacy. The soldier had gone undiscovered all that time.



Conservative estimates of female soldiers in the Civil War put their numbers between 400 and 750. The chance of being discovered was lower than one might guess. Victorian sentiments dictated that soldiers sleep clothed, bathe separately, and avoid latrines. The soldier's uniform was ill-fitting and concealed body shape. If a soldier couldn't grow a beard, it was chalked up

to youth. Women in uniform were often found out after being wounded in battle and sent to a field hospital. The reaction to learning there was a woman in the ranks generally brought welcome diversion and surprise to camp life. The discovered woman was generally sent home without punishment but an unlucky few were imprisoned or institutionalized.

But who was this woman? All efforts to verify the rumor and identify her have so far gone for naught. If you know who this person might be, we'd love to hear from you!

*Al Duke is the President of the Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation and a long-time volunteer at Monocacy National Battlefield.*

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## The Seasons of Monocacy Battlefield

### Spring Is Coming, Don't Miss the Virginia Bluebells!

Virginia bluebells and many other wildflowers are seen in Monocacy National Battlefield Park. The best place for flower spotting is the Ford Loop and Brooks Hill Loop at the Worthington Farm. The trails take you through floodplains, field edges, fencerows, and hillsides and provide you with a great opportunity to enjoy the diversity of wildflowers that grow on the battlefield.



You will see different wildflowers with the different seasons, so be sure to visit the park and its trails as each new season arrives. Below is a list of the common spring and early summer wildflowers and the months in which they bloom.

- March-April: Bloodroot, Blue Cohosh, Common Blue Violet, Cut Leaved Toothwort, Dutchman's Breeches, Dwarf Larkspur, Early Saxifrage, Fleabane, Great Chickweed, Harbinger-of-Spring, Hepatica, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Mayapple, Pale Violet, Periwinkle, Short's Rockcress, Rue-Anemone, Solomon's Seal, Spring Beauty, Spring Cress, Squirrel Corn, Showy Orchis, Virginia Bluebell, Wild Ginger, Yellow Corydalis, Yellow Trout Lily, Yellow Violet
  - May-June: Clayton's Bedstraw, Common Buttercup, Common Nightshade, Golden Ragwort, Kidney-leaf Buttercup, Puttyroot Orchid, Ramps, Speedwell, St. John's-wort, Sweet Cicely, Virginia Waterleaf
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## They Fought with the Monocacy Regiment



### James Chafey

By Wayne Coblentz

The 14<sup>th</sup> New Jersey is known as the Monocacy Regiment. James Chafey was a member of that regiment, serving in Company F, 14<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Infantry. He served with distinction at the Battle of Monocacy and throughout his service with his regiment.

James Chafey was a 31 year old blacksmith, husband, and father from Hornerstown, NJ at the time of his enlistment as a private on August 15, 1862. At the Battle of Monocacy, his regiment and the 87<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry were assigned to the Thomas Farm, where Evans' Georgian brigade advanced across the fields toward the Thomas House with plans to flank the left line of the Union forces. During the engagement, Sergeant Cottrell, the color bearer for the 14<sup>th</sup> NJ, went forward of the line with the regimental colors and was shot down. Corporal Bryan retrieved the flag but was shot down as well.

Captain Patterson, wanting some revenge, "tapped the shoulder of Private James Chafey, of Company F, and pointed to the Confederate line in the ravine." "Do you see that Rebel color" yelled Patterson above the din, pointing at the Stars and Bars of a Georgia regiment." Chafey nodded. "Do you think you can lower it?" In response, Chafey rushed toward the Georgians, dropped to his knees, struck down the Confederate colors and successfully return to his lines.

Chafey was promoted several times for his gallantry during the Civil War. First, as a result of his success at the Battle of Monocacy, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal. He was wounded by shellfire at the Battle of Opequon, but rejoined his regiment within a few weeks. Demonstrating his bravery at the Battle of Fisher Hill and Cedar Creek, he was promoted to First Sergeant of Company F. Later in May 1865, he received promotion to the rank of First Lieutenant and was mustered out of service on June 18, 1865.

James Herbert Chafey was born on January 18, 1831 in Monmouth County, New Jersey. At the age of 20, James Chafey led a small expedition to the California gold fields through the isthmus of Nicaragua and returning via Panama. He married Emily Garrett in Trenton, New Jersey. He was a farmer, cattle dealer and carriage manufacturer. James Chafey passed away, at the age of 90, on June 18, 1921 at the home of his son, Walter A. Chafey, in Reading, Pennsylvania. At the time of his death, he was survived by four sons, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Another child preceded him in death in 1863. Chafey was buried at Harleigh Cemetery, Camden, Camden County, New Jersey.

A newspaper article published by the Reading Eagle at the time of his death, was titled “Fought in 20 Battles – Personally commended by Lincoln – Demise of James H. Chafey.” The article recounts his military service during the Civil War and notes that he was promoted three times, within six months, for his bravery during combat. “He was personally commended by President Lincoln who placed a medal on his breast, a medal conferred by Congress for gallantry displayed in Battle.” He was offered a commission in the regular army after the war, but declined the offer choosing to return to civilian life.

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

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## What’s New at the MNBF

Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation (MNBF), through its board, continues its efforts at capacity building. To be effective in our mission, we must obtain, improve, and retain the skills, knowledge, funds, and other resources we need to do our jobs competently--reach a larger audience, be a stronger partner to the National Park Service, and have a larger impact in Frederick County communities. Our next step is a strategic planning session to set our direction for the next three years. We’ll update you on our goals coming out of that effort in a future issue.

*Susan Claffey is an MNBF board member.*

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## Photo Submissions

**WE WELCOME YOUR PHOTOS AND ARTICLES ABOUT THE PEOPLE, PLACES, HISTORY, AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF FREDERICK COUNTY. Please send them to: [MonocacyNBF@outlook.com](mailto:MonocacyNBF@outlook.com)**

Our thanks for these photos (©2019) to Caroline Smith, public history major at Stevenson University in Baltimore County, MD.

Entrance to Thomas Farm House

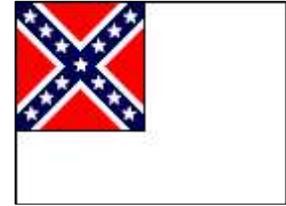


Architectural Detail & Rear of Thomas house





# 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.

## The Many Lives of Lew Wallace & Jubal Early

### Lew Wallace

By Gail Stephens



Who was Major General Lew Wallace? Obviously, he was the Union major general who lost the battle of Monocacy but saved Washington. In Wallace's own words, he was "fighting for time" at Monocacy, holding Jubal Early's larger army as long as possible, and giving U.S. Grant time to send

reinforcements to a woefully unprotected Washington in 1864. Beyond that event, however, who was Wallace and what did he do? Wallace lived a sometimes tumultuous life of adventure, achievement and failure until in mid-life, he wrote Ben-Hur, the novel that made him famous and very wealthy. In a series of short articles in The Dispatch, I'll provide a look at Wallace's life and times.

Lew, (named Lewis but he shortened it), Wallace was a life-long Hoosier, born in Brookville in southeastern Indiana in 1827 when the state was the frontier. His father, David, was an 1822 graduate of West Point who left the army and became a lawyer and politician, serving as governor of Indiana for one term, 1837-9. Wallace's mother, Esther, died of tuberculosis when he was six. His father, busy with his law practice and politics, left Wallace and his siblings in the hands of friends, which had the effect of setting the young adventurer loose. He was an intelligent boy but he hated the rigorously structured schools of the day and stayed away as much as he could, preferring life on his own. He learned to ride, to shoot and to fight with his fists. He was difficult, creative, intelligent and the despair of his father. When Wallace was sixteen, his father told him he would have to leave home and earn his own way, which he did for three years. By the age of nineteen, he realized he needed a profession, so he decided to study the law under his father's tutelage. He had just started when the U.S. declared war on Mexico. Wallace, who had been starstruck by the idea of the romance and glory of war since he was a boy, joined the 1st Indiana Regiment and left for Mexico in June 1846.

*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.*

### Jubal Anderson Early

By Joseph McGraw



Early (1816-1894) was the commander of the Confederate forces at the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864. "Old Jube," as his soldiers affectionately called him, is one of the most colorful and controversial figures of nineteenth century American history, especially

during the Civil War and post-war eras. While his role in the fighting at Monocacy is a vital part of his biography, his life experiences go far beyond July 9.

Early's story begins and ends in rural Virginia, but it also includes fascinating chapters on the US Military Academy at West Point, NY, action against the Seminole Nation in Florida, service in the Mexican-American War, varied command roles in the Civil War, and times of exile in Mexico, Cuba, and Canada in the post-war period. In addition to his importance to American military history, Early is a critical figure in the creation of the ideology of the Lost Cause which continues to impact thinking about the meaning of the Civil War even today. Soldier, politician, lawyer, historian, and more, "Old Jube" provides the student of American history with many topics to explore, topics that will be examined in future issues of *The Dispatch*.

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