



A Quarterly Newsletter of the Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation

the dispatch

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Lew Wallace at Shiloh: The Second Day By Gail Stephens

Grant's and Buell's combined Union armies would drive the Confederate army from the battleground at Shiloh, but only after another bloody day's work on April 7. This time Lew Wallace and the men of the Third Division, missing on April 6, were part of it.

There was no complex Union battle plan for April 7. General Buell's Army of the Ohio led by General Nelson's Division, had begun arriving on the battlefield late on April 6. They deployed on the left of the combined force at Pittsburg Landing with Grant's Army of the Tennessee on the right. The total Union force was about 40,000, nearly half of which were fresh units, including Lew Wallace's division of just over 5800 men and Buell's men.

The Confederate army, with no reinforcements available, was in worse shape than Grant's army. The man who had commanded that army on April 6, General Albert Sidney Johnston, was dead, and his replacement, General P.G.T. Beauregard, had only about 28,000 men that day. In addition, the Confederate army had gone to bed on April 6 expecting to finish off the job the next day, and were unaware of the arrival of Buell's units.

Wallace opened the battle at daybreak on April 7. He had received orders from a "calm and even cheerful" Grant to move directly to his front. That was it. There was no recrimination from Grant about his late arrival on April 6. Wallace rode out in front of the division turned his horse and faced his men. He presented an inspiring figure; one of his brigade commanders wrote "I shall never forget the picture the man and scene presented. The sun was barely rising of a cold, frosty morning. General Wallace was a princely figure, particularly in the saddle, and he rode a handsome blooded roan stallion, a single-stepper that was the pride of the division. As he came riding up, his military accoutrements flashing in the red light of the rising sun, and the charger moving as though to the sound of music, he presented a sight that is not seen more than once in a lifetime."

Wallace's men initially met little opposition as the enemy retreated in front of him and he soon found himself and his division at the northern end of an oblong field extending in a north-south direction, Jones Field. He also realized that the retreat had exposed the Confederate left flank, so he decided to commence a left half wheel of his division, changing his direction more to the southwest, then get on the Confederate flank, and force them out of position.

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Lew Wallace at Shiloh
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At this time, Wallace saw a heavy column of Confederates advancing through the woods on the other side of the field, which caused him to pause. Then, Sherman's men arrived and took position on his left. His support in place, Wallace began a steady forward movement which succeeded in forcing the Confederates to fall back.

It's important to note here that Grant had not told Wallace that Buell's army was on the field. About noon, Wallace spotted a unit on his left with an unfamiliar regimental flag. He sent an aide who learned they were from Buell's army. That arrival gave additional impetus to his division. Upon learning this news one soldier recalled, "we advanced yelling like we were wild, ..." It also gave Wallace impetus, "It was my game then to push everything I had, and with all energy, against the enemy..."

Wallace has always been criticized for a lack of aggressiveness on April 7. His comparatively light casualties, total 296, are cited as proof of this. However, critics have ignored Wallace's wise adaptation of Zouave tactics. He ordered his men to lie down when taking fire, which was not usual for the Union army at this point in the war. He had also taught his men to take advantage of the ground and to fire from a kneeling or prone position when possible. In fact, Confederate comments are proof of Wallace's aggressive behavior. General Beauregard's Aide, Colonel Jacob Thompson, wrote it was "apparent" that "the enemy's main attack was on our left, and our forces began to yield to the vigor of his attack."

General Beauregard ordered his field commanders to commence a retreat about 2 p.m. Wallace realigned his men and began pursuing the retreating Confederates. As night fell, Wallace's division was ordered back into the Union lines, The great battle of Shiloh was over.

Shiloh, initially viewed as a great victory, quickly became controversial. Public attitudes in the North changed as the long casualty lists were published. The Union's commanding general in the West, Major General Henry Halleck arrived at Pittsburg Landing on April 11 to take command, and he was highly displeased with Grant and his army.

Reports from newspaper correspondents on the scene charged that Grant's army had been surprised, Grant's generalship had been slipshod, and only the timely arrival of Buell's army had saved the day. On April 23, the Lincoln Administration reacted to the rising tide of criticism. Secretary of War Stanton sent Halleck a telegram stating that "The President desires to know... whether any neglect or misconduct of General Grant or any other officer contributed to the sad casualties that befell our forces on Sunday." Two days after that telegram, Grant sent Wallace's report of the battle to Halleck with the comment that he did not agree with Wallace's account of his April 6 march. Grant said that if Wallace had obeyed orders he would have been on the battlefield in early afternoon. Wallace stood officially accused by Grant of failing to obey orders. He would spend frustrating years trying to erase the charge.

On April 7, Wallace had proved again, as he had at Fort Donelson, that he could skillfully manage a division in battle. He had not, however, skillfully managed his relationship with Grant, and his staff. They believed he was derelict in his duty on April 6; moving away from the battle on an unknown road. Much of this could have been avoided if Wallace had only explained his movements in person to his superior, but Wallace did not do that and thus, Grant did not understand Wallace's movement on April 6.

Wallace would now feel the sting of being an outsider in the Army of the Tennessee. Becoming restless and dissatisfied, he would make a decision to leave his division in late June 1862, what he later called his "very great mistake."

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

Thomas House Opened for Tours

By Anita Murphy

On June 11, 2022, the rangers and volunteers of Monocacy National Battlefield hosted a tour of the Thomas House. Visitors were greeted by volunteers stationed inside and outside the house to give brief presentations describing not only the history of the house, but the events that took place there on July 9, 1864.

There were four stations as parts of the tour. First, visitors were given a synopsis of the history of the occupants of the mansion from the 1700s to the present day. Once inside the first floor the visitors were treated to an discussion of the uses of the first floor as well as the architectural changes that were made by the various owners. In addition, damage done during the battle was described. A volunteer was stationed in the cellar and was able to provide a description of the scene as it unfolded while the battle swirled above the people and dogs huddled there. Finally, a military demonstration by a Pennsylvania infantry reenacting unit was supervised by Ranger Matt Borders.

The visitors seemed delighted by this rare opportunity to gain insight into the Thomas House and it's important role in the "Battle that Saved Washington".

A similar open house for the Best Farm is planned for September 10, 2022.

Anita Murphy is a Research Volunteer at Monocacy National Battlefield

Reflections on Juneteenth Celebration at the Battlefield

By Brenna Hadley

Every year on June 19th millions of people across the country celebrate the holiday known as Juneteenth or Freedom Day. On June 19th, 1865, General Gordon Granger and Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas with General Order No. 3. This order proclaimed the freedom of all enslaved people in the United States. For over a century and a half after this event, Americans, most of them being black, have commemorated and celebrated this day in a variety of ways including community events and outdoor gatherings, family cookouts, parades, learning about the day, and supporting black-owned businesses. This past Juneteenth (2022), Monocacy National Battlefield (MNB) hosted a Juneteenth interpretive program. This program shared information about local history related to Juneteenth and the emancipation of enslaved peoples, all of which took place on property now owned by MNB. Matt Borders, a park ranger at MNB, developed and ran this program.

Beginning at Best Farm, Ranger Matt started the program by talking about the history of the Best Farm itself. He explained how in the late 1700s and early to mid-1800s, the Vincendière family owned the Best Farm property, which was called L'Hermitage at the time. In Frederick County during these times, it was very uncommon to see large-scale plantation-style farms that were more typical on Maryland's Eastern shore or in Southern states. However, L'Hermitage was not like the typical farm in this area. According to the U. S. Census, L'Hermitage had 90 enslaved workers, the second highest amount in Frederick County. In addition to having an uncommonly large number of enslaved workers for the area, the Vincendière family was observed to have treated their slaves particularly harsh. It was documented that members of the Vincendière family taken to court several times over the treatment of their workers. They were accused of not only excessive beating and punishment, but with not providing their enslaved workers adequate food and clothing. It is believed that several enslaved workers at L'Hermitage either attempted to or were successful in escaping to freedom. When Ranger Matt discussed this, he passed around a paper that showed what was essentially a wanted poster with a description of a slave that escaped L'Hermitage. He also passed around a list of names and approximate ages of slaves believed to be owned by the Vincendière family. These handouts gave the participants of the program a better understanding of the information, as they could better connect with the actual individuals who suffered there.



During this part of the program, the participants, a group of 56, spanning a broad age range, had been gathered around Ranger Matt next to the Best Farm house. After starting with a solid introduction to the information, the group, led by Matt, began walking towards a railroad junction known as Monocacy Junction. However, before the group reached this, Matt stopped to talk about an area of the Best Farm property that is believed to have once held the quarters for enslaved workers. This assumption is based on multiple archaeological investigations that took place on the property. After sharing this information, Matt gave participants the time to walk around the area and reflect upon what they learned. Ranger Matt demonstrated that he understood the weight and the importance of the history he was teaching about, and he gave people as much time as they needed to take it in.

After this, the group continued walking and made it to their final spot, the Monocacy Junction. Matt shared that during the time of the Civil War, Monocacy Junction had a few buildings in the surrounding area. One of these buildings was a recruitment station run by the United States Bureau of Colored Troops. Matt shared how over 500 African American men enlisted in this station and were sent to a wide range of units, including the 54th and 55th Massachusetts Infantry. However, even before the recruitment station was opened, Union recruits from all over the area would ship out from this junction. Matt shared about two of these Union recruits, which he featured on two large posters. One poster depicted a young black Union soldier named Isaiah Spriggs. Spriggs enlisted in Frederick County and was

shipped out to be in 54th Massachusetts Infantry from Monocacy Junction. The other poster showed documents related to a man named William S. Adams. Adams, formerly enslaved, who enlisted into the Union army and, like Spriggs, shipped out at Monocacy Junction. One document showed how Adam's owner tried to claim a \$300 payment from the U.S. government for allowing his slave to enlist into the army. Adam's owner also claimed that his name originally was Samuel Adams, indicating that Adam's had changed his name before choosing to join the army. Sharing about these men was a powerful finish to the talk; Civil War soldiers had countless different reasons for enlisting, but these men were joining to fight for their own and their families' freedom.



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I am very glad I had the opportunity to attend this interpretive program and learn about local history relating to Juneteenth and emancipation. Though some of the history may be a tough subject to discuss, these are the things we must not shy away from because they offer us so much to learn. Overall, I think this program was handled responsibly and with respect to all the victims of slavery and those still being affected by it today. I think this is history that anyone can benefit from learning about, and I hope this is a program that runs for years to come.

Brenna Hadley is a Pohanka Intern from Gettysburg College currently working at Monocacy National Battlefield.

Photos by Bill Green of The Frederick News-Post.

For Frederick News-Post coverage of the event see: https://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/lifestyle/holiday/juneteenth-tour-highlights-history-of-slavery-at-monocacy/article_a1a681f3-3d97-591e-b64b-44cacdaf773c.html

The Quest for Medals of Honor

By Mary Turner

Two men from the 10th Vermont Infantry were awarded the Medal of Honor for valor shown at the Battle of Monocacy. When an exhibit for the visitors' center, *The Heroes of the 10th Vermont*, was in the planning stages, having those medals in the exhibit seemed important. So, the search was on.



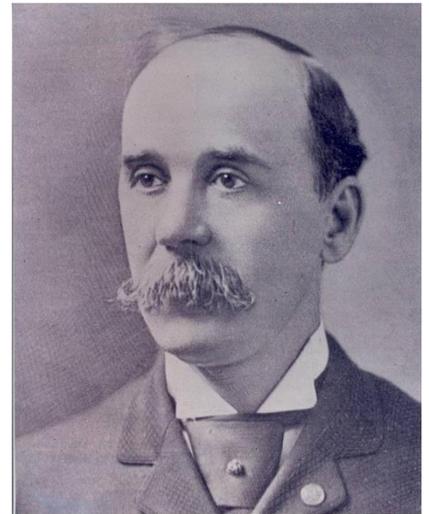
The first one was easy: the staff already knew that a descendent of Lt. George Davis (pictured at left) had donated his medal to the Vermont Historical Society, and it was on display in their museum in Montpelier. The whereabouts of the second one, awarded to Alexander Scott (pictured below) for rescuing the national flag at the end of the battle and carrying both it and the state colors throughout the retreat, was unknown. The task was to find it.

It seemed likely that it was still in Scott's family so a visit to Ancestry.com was the first step. There was a lot of information about the man available: he moved to Michigan after the war, then to Washington D.C. where he worked for the U.S. Patent Office for more than 40 years; he had two wives and five children; and four of those children died before reaching their teens. The oldest child, William, disappeared from the record after his listing in the 1880 census as an 11 year old living with Alexander and his second wife, Alice. Because she survived for two years after her husband's death, a search of her will yielded only a list of cash gifts to family and friends. Further research into Alice's family led to a genealogist in St. Louis who had found William's grave, which proved to be another dead end: he had married but had no children and died in 1916, seven years before his father. The genealogist had also found Alexander's will in which he had bequeathed "to my beloved daughter Mary Alice Scott, my cabinet of old coins and medals complete, and a father's undying love." The will is dated 1888 and Mary Alice died in 1891 when she was eleven. A second dead end.

At the genealogist's suggestion, the next avenue of research was into the family of Scott's older sister Margaret Fuller who married and had ten children, one of whom was even named Alexander. That Alexander died late in life, unmarried with no children. Of his nine siblings, only three had children, and two of those lines have since died out in various parts of the country. Only one branch of the family seems to still be around, but they have very common names and would be exceptionally difficult to trace, even in the modern internet age. However, there was one interesting fact to emerge from this line of research: three of Margaret's children retired to St. Cloud, Florida, and all three died there. Research into the town led to the information that it was established as a retirement community for Union Civil War Veterans and their children. Such a place would surely have an historical society full of Civil War memorabilia! They were very kind and helpful when contacted but had nothing in the collection relating to any of the Fullers or Alexander Scott. Dead end #3.

The Library of Congress was equally helpful but had nothing in their collection, and a request for information from the Grand Army of the Republic Museum went unanswered. Naturally, we have also considered the possibility that Alexander Scott was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with his Medal of Honor pinned to his suit coat. Hopefully, someone at some time will come forward with information to the contrary.

Mary Turner is a Research Volunteer at Monocacy National Battlefield.



New Members of Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation Board of Directors

Harold Blackstone

Harold Blackstone retired in 2007 from the Hillsborough Board of Education after 39 years serving in various positions in the Rockaway, NJ, and Hillsborough, NJ, education systems. These included District Supervisor of Social Studies, Vice Principal, and Principal of schools in several school districts. He also taught in elementary schools in Elkton, MD, and Plainfield, NJ. He is a volunteer at Monocacy National Battlefield.

John Farrell

John Farrell is a graduate of Boston College. He taught in schools in the Howard County Public School system and in schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore school system. He was the Assistant Principal and Principal of St. Elizabeth School in Rockville, MD, and Principal of Woodmont Academy in Cooksville, MD. Currently he is President of the Highland Pointe Condominium Owners Association, Chairperson of the Mother of God School Board of Directors, a Board Member of the New Market Historical District Commission, and is a volunteer at Monocacy National Battlefield.

Mary Turner

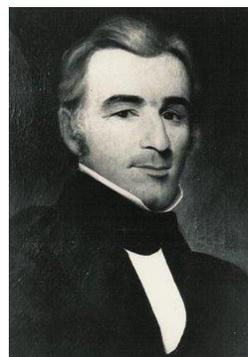
Mary Turner is a graduate of Milliken University in Decatur, IL. She taught high school in Illinois for 7 years. After receiving her MS degree in Education in Library Science from Eastern Illinois University, she worked part time as a reference librarian at Milliken University and as Director/Curator for Birks Museum of Ceramics and Glass. She then worked for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency as its Local History Services Representative, and was later loaned to the Illinois Association of Museums to serve as Executive Director. She served member museums with workshops, conferences, advocacy at state and national levels and was also the representative on executive boards of the Midwest Museums Association and the National Alliance of State Museum Associations, and worked on the Advisory Board of the Illinois State Archives. She continues to be a peer reviewer for the Museum Assessment Program of the American Alliance of Museums. She moved to Maryland in 2016 and she has volunteered as a researcher at Monocacy National Battlefield for the last four years.

The editor of The Dispatch is Mary Turner. She can be contacted at monocacynbf@outlook.com.

Family Ties To L'Hermitage

By Ken Plantz

In an earlier newsletter (Summer 2019) we told the story of Victoire Vincendière and the establishment of L'Hermitage known today as the Best Farm. She was a very accomplished lady for the day and so was one of her sisters. Pauline was the oldest Vincendière daughter, and she married Louis Rene Adrien Dugas de Vallon whom she met in France. They were married in August of 1790 in Paris. M. de Vallon owned a plantation in the French colony of St. Domingue (now Haiti). As the revolutionary unrest in France increased he took his family to St Domingue in 1791 to live on the plantation. After a short time there, the family was driven out by the slave revolt and, with their young daughter, they escaped to Charleston, South Carolina. After living in Rhode Island and Frederick Maryland for a short time, they eventually moved to Washington Georgia where in 1804 they had twin sons, Louis Alexander and Louis Charles Dugas. Washington and Augusta Georgia were home to a large French population of Haitian Refugees. In 1810, three years after her husband's death Marie moved the family to Augusta. Regarded as a very accomplished lady she educated her sons herself until they were fifteen years old and also established a seminary for girls. The school was attended by many of the daughters of Georgia's most prominent early settlers.



Dr. Louis Alexander Dugas

At the age of fifteen, her son Louis Alexander studied medicine in the office of Dr. Charles Lambert de Beauregard, and then in 1822 he studied with Dr. John Dent for two years. He later traveled north to further his studies in Baltimore and Philadelphia. In 1827 he graduated from the highly regarded University of Maryland Medical School. He then decided to advance his education in European schools of medicine where he spent three years. Upon his return to Augusta he – along with Doctors Milton Anthony, Lewis D. Ford, John Dent, Paul F. Eve, and Joseph E. Eve – founded the Medical Academy of Georgia (now the Medical College of Georgia). He served as President of both the Medical Society of Augusta and the Medical Association of Georgia. In 1861, with the start of the Civil War, classes were suspended and Dr. Dugas consulted with Confederate hospitals on surgical techniques. He was also a volunteer as a private in Company A of the 1st Georgia Infantry (Local).

Louis Alexander Dugas died in 1898. His mother, Pauline, died in 1854 at the age of 73, leaving behind not only her own legacy in Georgia, but also that of her son Dr. Dugas.

Kem Plantz is a Research Volunteer at Monocacy National Battlefield.