



MONOCACY NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD  
**FOUNDATION**  
PRESERVE • PROTECT • ENHANCE

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# *The Dispatch*



A Quarterly Newsletter of the Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation

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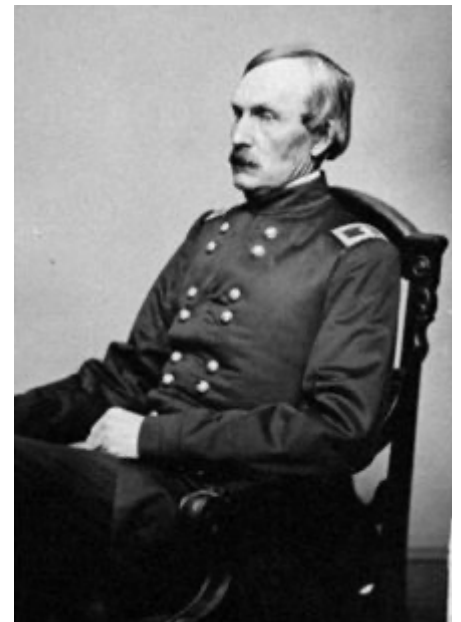
## *The Funeral of Brigadier General James Cooper*

*By Alan E. Duke*

"The Funeral Ceremonies were conducted with great pomp, he was buried with Military honors." Lt. Marcus Stults of the 14<sup>th</sup> New Jersey describes the ceremony. "The Escort comprised the 3<sup>rd</sup> Delaware, Purnell Legion Md & the 14<sup>th</sup> New Jersey, the parade with white gloves [on] every man, and had drilled two or three days before hand in funeral movement[.] Three volleys were fired at the Grave. Brigadier General Briggs had command."<sup>i</sup>

Brigadier General James Cooper was born on 8 May 1810, in Frederick County, Maryland. He studied at St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg and at Washington College in Washington, Pennsylvania, from which he graduated in 1832. He studied law in Gettysburg under Thaddeus Stevens and in 1834 was admitted to the bar.

He served in several elective offices: as a Representative in Congress from 1839 to 1843, as a member of the Pennsylvania



*Brigadier General James Cooper –  
Wikipedia Image*

### ***Submit...***

*We welcome your photos and  
articles about people, places,  
history, and natural resources  
of Monocacy National  
Battlefield and Frederick  
County.*

*Please send them to  
[monocacynbf@outlook.com](mailto:monocacynbf@outlook.com)*

*Mary Turner, Editor*

legislature and as state Attorney General from 1843 to 1848, and as a U. S. Senator from 1849 to 1855.

Judging him to be a loyal Marylander, President Abraham Lincoln appointed him Brigadier General of volunteers as of 17 May 1861. He served in West Virginia and in the Shenandoah campaign in 1862. Due to his ill health, he was transferred to command Camp Chase, a prisoner of war camp near Columbus, Ohio. There he died on 28 March 1863.

On Wednesday, 1 April 1863, a full military funeral was held for him in Frederick at Mount Olivet Cemetery. James Bullman, of the 14<sup>th</sup> New Jersey, writing to his brother George, said that the weather was “cold and blustering and rather muddy under foot on account of the snow and rain of the day before”.<sup>ii</sup>

In preparation for the funeral, the commanding officer of the 14<sup>th</sup> New Jersey, Colonel William S. Truex, sent the sutler to Baltimore to obtain white gloves for the entire regiment. As Bullman notes, this “added greatly to their good looks”.

Regulations stated that the escort for the funeral of a Brigadier General should include a regiment of infantry, a company of cavalry, and two pieces of

artillery. Since there was neither cavalry nor infantry at this point, the 14<sup>th</sup> New Jersey, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Delaware, and the Purnell Legion (Maryland infantry) regiments formed up for the procession about noon. They marched into Frederick to Cooper’s residence and escorted his body to Mount Olivet.

Three rounds were fired over his grave, each regiment firing one round. Bullman states that “The Delawares fired first and made an exact representation of a pack of Firecrackers under a barrel.” Maryland fired next, and “done better, only they fired at the command Aim and not exactly together.” Then it was the 14<sup>th</sup>’s turn, and after they fired, Bullman says “an old military man with straps on his shoulders who was there, said, that’s more like it.” The regiment’s Sergeant Major said that “the 14<sup>th</sup> know how to do it”, with great pride.<sup>iii</sup>

Bullman closed his letter to his brother, writing on April 5, with a complaint, “Today is Easter, but I haven’t any Eggs”.<sup>iv</sup>

*Alan E. Duke was a Research Volunteer at Monocacy National Battlefield*

## *What’s New in the Park?*

### *From the Superintendent’s Desk...*

When we reach the end of the year, I always reflect back on accomplishments, events, successes, challenges, and things we can learn from as we start a new year. At the end of this year, however, I can’t help but look back at the incredible loss the park and its staff suffered with the passing of longtime volunteer, and Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation founding member, Al Duke.

Al came to the park as a volunteer in September 2007 and ultimately donated over 6000 hours of his time to serving the park and its visitors - and that number is probably a drastic underestimate. A Navy veteran who retired from working at the NSA, Al’s experience in research has been a tremendous boon to our understanding of the battle and he was instrumental in curating a list of its casualties and dead. He also spearheaded the



*Photo courtesy of Lynn Bristol*

organization of the park's library to the Library of Congress system and assisted with many community events (he seemed to know everyone in Frederick), and his institutional memory was tremendous! He was an incredible mentor to park staff, offering so much of his varied experience, knowledge, and wisdom, and impacted those around him. His leadership in the early stages of the Foundation's growth was vital to providing stability and guidance on how the organization would run and how it would help the park. Most of all, though, I found Al to be one of the kindest people I've met. He never had a negative word to say about anyone, always had a smile on his face, and could joke around with the best of them. We all miss him.

As I listened to the priest talk about Al at his funeral and met multiple people there who had interacted with him in different activities and committees, I was struck by the recurring theme from all of them - that Al lived a long life of service to others. Service to park visitors, service to park employees, service to his church, service to the public, service to our Nation, and service to his local community. Al exemplified the ideal of a kind and selfless servant to others. We all have plenty to learn from someone like him in our day-to-day lives. How can we serve others and make our community and the people in it better because of what we do? Because of him, I know I'll continue to ask myself that question.

*Andrew Banasik, Site Superintendent, Monocacy National Battlefield*

## *A Soldier's Execution at Monocacy Haunts a Future President*

*By Ken Plantz*



**Bvt. Maj.-Gen. Rutherford B. Hayes  
President, 1877-81.**

*Photo Credit: Iron Brigadier: Civil War Info and Resources,  
<https://ironbrigadier.com/category/featured>*

On 5 August 1864, General Grant arrived at Monocacy Junction to meet with General David Hunter and General Philip Sheridan in order to convey his strategy for dealing with the menacing General Jubal Early in the Shenandoah Valley. Sheridan was given command of all active forces in the Valley and Hunter was assigned an administrative role. While all these major changes were taking place, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Infantry under General George Crook's command, was at the Junction, and was carrying out the execution of one of their own, Private Isaac B. Whitlock. Stories of the execution would later become a thorn in the side of Rutherford B. Hayes during his 1876 campaign for President of the United States.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Infantry had arrived at the Junction after chasing the Confederate Armies back and forth in the Valley. They were to join Sheridan's new command and play a major role in the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes was in command of the First Brigade of the Kanawah Division which included the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ohio. On August 5<sup>th</sup> General Crook ordered the execution of Private Isaac B.

Whitlow of the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Whitlow deserted the 23<sup>rd</sup> in 1863. He then fought with a rebel unit and was captured only to escape and return to Ohio. Tempted by a \$500 bounty, he re-enlisted in the Union army and was assigned to his old regiment where he was immediately recognized and sentenced as a deserter. His execution was carried out on the evening of August 5.<sup>v</sup>

Leaders of the 23<sup>rd</sup> brought Colonel Hayes \$400 and a watch that were among Whitlow's personal effects. Rumors began shortly thereafter purporting that Hayes kept the \$400 dollars and the watch for himself. The story continued long enough that in 1869 the Chicago Times published Hayes's account concerning the "canard". He recounted that the \$400 dollars was used to enlist a replacement for Whitlock and the watch was given to Mr. W.W. Harper of Hartford City West Virginia who tried in vain to return it to Whitlow's mother.<sup>vi</sup>

The rumors were revived in 1876 when Hayes became the Republican Party Candidate for President. Newspapers across the country picked up on the controversy with articles appearing both pro and con. Men who had served under Hayes were aghast that anyone would make such accusations against their leader. One follower went back in the records to find the exact orders mandating the execution by Hayes's superior, General Crooke. Hayes would survive the accusations to become the second of five Presidents who were veterans of the Civil War – U.S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, and William McKinley.

*Ken Plantz is a Research Volunteer at Monocacy National Battlefield.*

## *SMALL MERCIES*

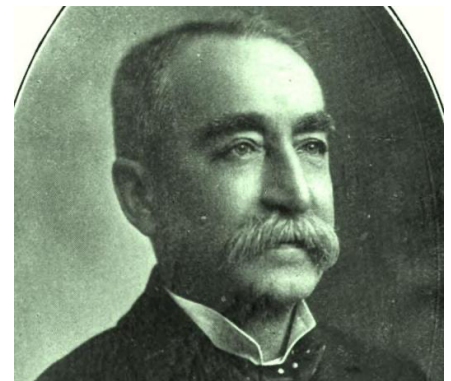
*By David M. Hall*

On 3 July 1864, Alexander's Baltimore Battery of Light Artillery received orders to go to Monocacy Junction in Frederick County to resist the advancing Confederate army of Jubal Early menacing Washington and Baltimore. Twenty-one year old Private Frederick W. Wild witnessed the ensuing fighting around Frederick. He recounted his experience in a unit history published in 1912.<sup>vii</sup>

Raised in the summer of 1862, the Battery was part of the Maryland Brigade defending the B&O Railroad and the Potomac River. In June 1863, the battery was defending Winchester in the lower Shenandoah Valley as part of Gen. Robert Milroy's delaying force against Lee's second northern invasion. Milroy's force resisted bravely for three days, was forced to retreat and was finally overwhelmed near Martinsburg where nearly a quarter of the battery was captured, including Private Wild. The remaining members of the battery fought through the Gettysburg campaign and were reunited with their paroled and exchanged comrades in August. They were then assigned to the

Baltimore defense garrison to refit and re-equip.<sup>viii</sup>

For Wild and his comrades, the orders to move to the Junction ended their comfortable stint as hometown garrison troops "where we could go three or four times a week, and get a square meal, have a good bath and change clothes, go the theatre and other amusements"<sup>ix</sup>. The young soldier recalled bidding farewell to his sister, who imparted the advice "Don't get shot in the back" – as an odd exhortation to bravery.



*Frederick W. Wild*  
*Photo from findagrave.com*  
*Posted by Dave Crouse*

The Baltimore battery rode the cars of the B&O Railroad and arrived at Monocacy Junction on July 6, where Wild remembered "we soon saw there was



something going on, vast clouds of dust over the woods in the distance gave token of an army moving..”

Alexander’s six gun battery was the only field artillery that Gen Lew Wallace had; it was continuously engaged through July 7 and 8 opposing the Confederate vanguard under Frederick native, CS Brig. Gen. Bradley T. Johnson, first at Middletown and then on the western outskirts of Frederick. On the night of July 8-9 the battery returned to the Junction by way of the Jug Bridge, wending their way down the east bank of the river along a rough narrow road with a “steep hill on the left and a ravine on the right”. Wild recalled:

*We had gone but a short distance on this road when one of the caissons with six horses and three riders, and a few sleepy men sitting on the chests, rolled down the hill...the chest had rolled over but once, the wheel horses lying on their backs with their feet in the air, but worst of all, the driver was under them; he was soon extricated making a narrow escape from being kicked in face by the struggling horses, fortunately, the ground being soft no bones were broken.*

Of the driver, Wild wrote:

*The comrade who was under the horses was in the fight which followed the next day...but the day after the battle his eyes were all bloodshot, and he was loosing his sight from the squeezing he received. He went to the hospital and in about two weeks, he was back with us as well as ever. He went through the war with us, and was honorably discharged, went to his home in Anne Arundle [sic.] County, Md., and a short time later, fell off a cherry tree and broke his neck.*

Wild mused: “It does seem strange, that after all the vicissitudes of war, the many narrow escapes from death, that he should meet such a fate.”

On July 9, returning to their campground, “the day was just dawning...the horses were fed standing in harnesses, we cooked coffee and had our regular soldier’s breakfast of boiled salt pork, hard tack and coffee, which tasted good after a night march”. The weary soldiers managed to sleep next to their guns for a few hours.

At 9 a.m., Wallace distributed his few guns along the bluffs on the east side of the river. Three of the guns were deployed near the railroad ridge and overlooking Crum’s Ford. Wild wrote:

*The gun I was with, was placed..on the right of the railroad, on knoll [that] defended the railroad as well as the turnpike bridge...two were placed on the left of the line, to cover the flank. It was 10 o’clock when the enemy came into our sight...we received notice of their presence by three shots flying over our heads, to which we promptly replied with our single gun...and for every shot we fired we received two in return.*

Not only did Alexander’s gunners come under counter-battery fire from as many as two dozen Confederate guns across the river, but soon came under small arms fire from rebel sharpshooters ensconced beneath the eaves of the Best barn, nearly a half-mile distant. Wild remembered some of their victims:

*one infantry soldier, not ten feet from where I was standing, was shot in the arm, another ran down the hill..and then dropped in a heap. I saw him later, with a small speck of blood on his forehead, and his nose bleeding.*

Almost fifty years later, the old school teacher was haunted by what happened to that man, and reflected: “Poor fellow. No, happy fellow! His death was instantaneous he did not know what struck him.”

Once the culprits’ rifle smoke was spotted, the blue clad gunners revenged their losses with four shots

into the structure, setting it aflame and expunging the sharpshooters.

Soon it was Wild who took a hit.

*By this time, the enemy was getting a better range on us, and were firing lower, one shell mowed a swath through the weeds close to us, one burst over us and here is where I received a shock! I was wounded...I felt a sting in my right hip. I had heard it said when you are wounded, you only feel a slight sting, at first I tried my leg, and it worked alright...there was no bone shattered, then I put my hand down my side and felt no hole or wound and then I began to think that I must have imagined [it]...when I did feel something, it proved to be a small splinter from the cannon wheel that had gone through my haversack and just scratched my skin. I then thought of the last words my sister said to me 'Don't get shot in the back'..Well, I was not shot in the back any way...*

Three days of engaging Early's army had nearly exhausted the battery's ammo. Also, it was clear that the enemy gunners were getting the range of their Yankee counterparts. Wild remembered that:

*The enemy's firing became so dangerously accurate, our officers deemed it advisable to cease firing and lead the enemy to believe that their last shot had knocked us out...Just then an order came from the commander not to waste a single shot...and only shoot when we had something definite to shoot at.*

Wild recalled that in the latter stages of conflict on July 9, their guns remained in place more as a deterrent to enemy infantry, than any real threat. Nevertheless, as the Confederates had concentrated their attacks on the left of the Union line, Alexander's battery redeployed most of its guns to the crest of the Thomas Hill Field, facing south, to

meet the successive attacks of Gordon's Division launched from the Worthington Farm.

Wild's gun limbered and rushed from the east end of the railroad bridge, across the Bush Creek ford, and through the Gambrill property. The lowly private, on foot, was toting the sponge bucket, panting to keep up with the flying horse drawn limber towing the cannon. Half way to the new position, Wild recounted that General Wallace found him coming from the stream that fed the Gambrill mill trace where he had just filled the bucket with water, adding to his burden. The general told the private: "tell the Lieutenant in command to halt until his men came up, otherwise he would find himself with a gun on the field and no cannoneers to fire it."

Wallace ordered one of his orderlies to dismount and lend his horse to Wild to deliver that message. The General then commanded the orderly to grab the sponge bucket and follow after him on foot. In so doing, undoubtedly, Wallace rose in the esteem of Private Wild who remembered such a small mercy 50 years later.

Alexander's battery remained in place on the crest of the Hill Field until nearly the end and witnessed the third and final assault of Gordon's division, that finally broke the Union line. The gunners escaped just ahead of the onslaught and made their way home on the Baltimore Pike.

In an interesting anecdote on what passed for mercy on a battlefield, Wild recounted the following:

*A sergeant relates...when the Rebels were advancing for their third assault, he saw a Confederate soldier kneeling not thirty yards from his gun, deliberately loading his musket, with which he appeared to have some difficulty with which he was so absorbed that he did not notice what was going on: the sergeant yelled at him to get out of the way or he would be blown to atoms, but he did not seem to hear, so [the*

*sergeant] ran out and grabbed him by the arm, took his gun and marched him back as a prisoner, he appeared to be thoroughly*

*bewildered. The sergeant saved his life, he said 'it looked like murder to have shot him down'*

## ***Come Check Out the Foundation!***

### ***First Saturday Hike***



On 2 December 2023, the Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation sponsored its last First Saturday Hike of the year. Dr. Paula Reid was the guest leader of the hike around the Best Farm, and she shared her expertise on the history of the house and farm with us. **Watch for scheduled hikes in 2024.**

*Dr. Reid describes the characteristics of Caribbean architecture found in the Best House parlor.*



*Dr. Reid points out the changes in the roofline and two halves of the façade of the Best House.*

*And of course a train interrupted the proceedings!*





Volume 7, #1, Spring  
edition of *The Dispatch*  
will be published on  
15 March 2024

The deadline for submission of  
articles, stories, and/or  
photos will be  
15 February 2024

We look forward to hearing from you!

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### *End Notes*

#### ***The Funeral of Brigadier General James Cooper:***

<sup>i</sup> Marcus Stults, 14<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Volunteer Regiment. Undated letter in Monocacy National Battlefield files; location of original is unknown.

<sup>ii</sup> James Bullman, 14<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Volunteer Regiment. Letter in Monocacy National Battlefield files; location of original is unknown.

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid. Bullman identifies the Maryland regiment as the 6<sup>th</sup>, but the preponderance of the evidence shows that regiment was not at Frederick and that the Purnell Legion (Maryland infantry), as Stults identifies the regiment, was at Frederick.

<sup>iv</sup> Ibid.

#### ***A Soldier's Execution***

<sup>v</sup> Lincoln, William S. *Life with the Thirty-Fourth Massachusetts Infantry in the War of the Rebellion*. Worcester: Press of Noyes, Snow & Company, 1879, p. 342.

<sup>vi</sup> Trefousse, Hans L. *Rutherford B Hayes*. (New York: Henry Holt Company, 2002) p. 72.

#### ***Small Mercies***

<sup>vii</sup> Frederick W. Wild, *Memoirs and History of Capt. F. W. Alexander's Baltimore Battery of Light Artillery – U.S.V.*, Press of The Maryland School for Boys, Loch Raven, MD., 1912.

<sup>viii</sup> Wilmer, L. Allison, Jarrett, J. H., Vernon, Geo. W. F., State Commissioners: *History and Roster of Maryland Volunteers, War of 1861-5*, prepared under authority of The General Assembly of Maryland, Volume 1, Press of Guggenheimer. Weil & Co., Baltimore. MD., 1898. pp. 816-817.

<sup>ix</sup> All quotes from Frederick W. Wild, *Memoirs and History...*, pp. 118-133.