

The Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Monocacy National Battlefield
Foundation

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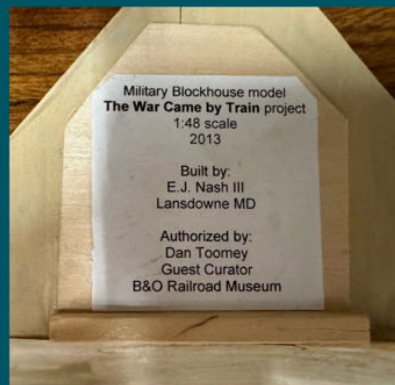
Foundation Business Report

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our meeting that mission.



By 1863, two Blockhouses
were constructed to
protect the Monocacy
River Bridge- one
near the N.E. angle
and the other S.W.
from the bridge between
the turnpike and
railroad bridges.



A scale model of a
B&O Blockhouse
commissioned for the
B&O Railroad Museum
illustrates the first use
of these structures as a
railroad bridge
fortification.

“Foundation Awards Architecture Student from U of Maryland”

by Lynn Bristol (1)

The Foundation met another goal in fiscal year 2024 in our first-ever education and outreach collaboration with the University of Maryland (UMD) and its School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation in College Park, MD. Marcus Cross (2), lecturer and faculty member, approached the Foundation with the idea of working with 4th year college students in the architecture program on the conceptualization of a visitor center for a non-profit.

The MNBF was the organization Cross envisioned as the fictitious client on which the design brief was based around. Cross explained “The Architecture 403 design module is the 4th and final required design studio for the Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies degree. The studio emphasizes the successful integration of sustainable strategies. Students were assigned to design a visitor center serving as an educational and administrative building for the Foundation. In addition, they were asked to redesign the physical site to accommodate several outdoor site elements.”

Selected by Cross, the semester’s project was at the Goodloe Byron Scenic Overlook (3) in Maryland, located northbound on I-270. The overlook is close to the Monocacy National Battlefield (MONO), the Monocacy River and downtown Frederick.

On September 9th, 77 students from the program met the author at the overlook for an overview of the material and cultural features that could influence the design of a visitor center, that would be reflective of the historical context on the Monocacy Junction as a crossroads. MONO Park Ranger Tracy Evans and the author hosted a subset of students on October 11th for a caravan tour of three historic properties on the battlefield the Best Farm, the Worthington House and the Thomas House.

The Architecture 403 design module was divided into six sections of 12 to 13 students each. From each of those sections, and after a final review by departmental faculty, the top two projects advanced to the blind super jury.

The Architecture Design jury members met on December 6th at the School of Architecture to deliberate for 2.5 hours over the selection of the award recipients. Jurors were Mark McInturff (4) (left in photo), Julia Siple (5), David Cronrath (6) (right in photo), Brian Robinson (7) and the author.



(photo credit the author)

The Architecture Design 403 module concluded with students Alden Schutz, Marlee Berghaus, and Nicholas Swart winning the Jason Abramowitz Design Award. Abramowitz was a 2017 UMD graduate who completed the B.S. Architecture degree while afflicted with muscular dystrophy.

The jury awarded the Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation Award to Elizabeth Romero Andrade.

Congratulations to the awardees and we extend our warm gratitude to all the students of Architecture Design 403.

“We are excited for the enthusiasm that NPS-MONO has shown this semester and are looking forward to deepening this relationship next year. We are very grateful for the Foundation’s support of the students through their funding of the Foundation Prize” said Cross (shown with the Foundation Award winning model by Romero Andrade; photo credit the author).



Jason Abramowitz Design Award 1st Place: \$750
(photo credit Jelena Dakovic, University of Maryland)



Jason Abramowitz Design Award 2nd Place: \$500
(photo credit Jelena Dakovic, University of Maryland)



Jason Abramowitz Design Award 3rd Place: \$250
(photo credit Jelena Dakovic, University of Maryland)

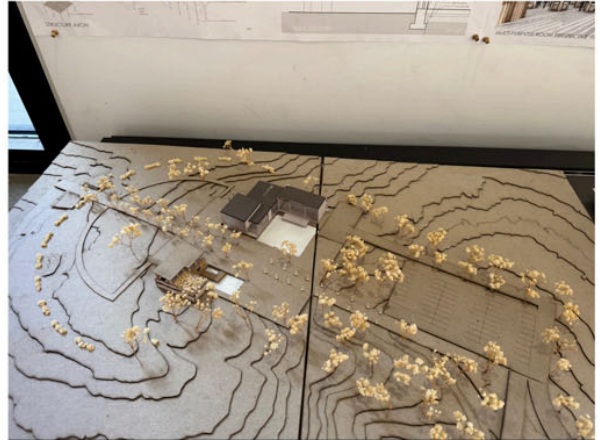


Monocacy NB Foundation Award: \$500
(photo credit Jelena Dakovic, University of Maryland)

Elizabeth Romero Andrade's model for the design of the Foundation visitor center "emphasized expansive areas that fostered a strong connection to the site."

Romero-Andrade explains "The site design incorporates overlapping spaces such as a memorial plaza and buildings that include an education center, a visitor center and an auditorium featuring a grand room with reflective space on the deck."

Integral to the design is "a central pathway with a north axis and intersected by cross-axes... that offer spaces for reflection and pause after visitation of the learning center and memorial walk, which touch on very deep subjects."



Romero-Andrade describes the buildings that "share a small material palette, including concrete for load-bearing walls, glass for most walls, mass timber for the structural system, and aluminum louvers with wood finishes. This design incorporated many sustainable features to help with water, sun and wind management."



Consider making a donation to the MNBF for us to continue and further our funding of programs like this.

- (1) Bristol, President, Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation. Alumna of the Carey School of Law at UMD.
- (2) Cross, Lecturer at the UMD School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. Principle of M. Cross Architecture.
- (3) See <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=159441> for information on the overlook. See <https://www.congress.gov/member/goodloe-byron/B001221> and <https://bioguide.congress.gov/search/bio/B001221> for information on Goodloe Byron.
- (4) McInturff, award winning founder of McInturff Architects. Former member of the faculty at Catholic University and UMD, and co-taught a design competition in the past.
- (5) Siple, Principal and Director of Sustainability at Quinn Evans.
- (6) Cronrath, Professor Emeritus and former Dean of the UMD School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. Cronrath served as chairperson of the jury.
- (7) Robinson, Resource Education Ranger with the National Park Service at MONO.

“Curious Quotes from Southern Newspapers”

by Ken Plantz

By 1864 citizens on both sides of the War were eager to hear any news from the battlefields and Monocacy was no exception. People wanted to hear anything that would signal that the end of the War was imminent. Southern newspapers were at a decided disadvantage over their Northern counterparts in that they often had to rely on reprints from Northern newspapers. This was especially true when the battles took place on Northern soil. Most reports on the Battle of Monocacy reached the South as reported in Northern papers. But this didn't stop editors from putting their own "spin" in their publications.

Wednesday 27 July 1864, Georgia Journal and Messenger

“They seem to have met with little or no resistance nowhere except at Monocacy Bridge, and there they routed the defenders in such a short time, and pursued them with so much vigor, that the like has not been seen since the race of Bladensburg in 1814.”

Wednesday 20th of July 1864, Richmond Whig

“Judged by The Confederate standard, the recent incursion into Maryland falls below the mark. ---The Confederate standard must not be lowered.”

Thursday 28 July 1864, The Macon Telegraph

“ we have fought and gained a great battle-Monocacy-in the enemy's country; ... have set the whole Yankee nation in amaze at the impudence and strength of a people whom they have been told were in the last ditch; have given the people of Europe to understand that Yankee reports of our almost subjugation, are of a piece with other Yankee falsehoods.”

Tuesday 26 July 1864, The Charlotte Democrat

“The apprehension that the “raid” will be repeated will doubtless keep the Yankees in a constant state of anxiety, and cause them to keep two or three corps of their “veterans” at Washington for the protection of their capital.”

Ken Plantz, a Volunteer-In-Park with the Monocacy National Battlefield since 2018, is a researcher at the Park's visitor center and a frequent contributor to the newsletter.

“Didn’t Realize We Were Whipped”

-6-

by David M. Hall

Between 3:30 p.m and 5 p.m. of the sweltering afternoon of July 9, 1864, the battle of Monocacy reached its climax – the most intense combat ever experienced by many of the veteran soldiers on both sides - and rapidly dissolved into chaotic retreat and pursuit. (1)

Confederate veteran Isaac Gordon Bradwell, then a private in Company I, 31st Georgia Volunteer Infantry, Brigadier General Nathan Evans’ Brigade, later recalled the desperate fight against the Union troops posted in Georgetown Pike [Araby Church Road] and along the axis of the Thomas Farm entrance lane:

“Before the fight closed...there were only four men still offering resistance to the enemy [who were] behind the banks of the road. When the last squad of these [U.S. troops] ran away, my three companions and I stood up in amazement and looked around. The fighting had come to a close so suddenly that we could not at first take in the situation.” (2)

Private George Washington Nichols, Company D, of the 61st Georgia, wrote:

“We advanced to within thirty yards of the line of Yankees, but had to fall back, for our men were killed and wounded until we did have but a mere skirmish line. We could not see a Yankee on our part of the line during the whole advance. All that we could shoot at was the smoke of their guns, they were so well posted. It made our hearts ache to look over the battlefield and see so many of our dear friends, comrades and beloved officers, killed and wounded. Our loss was terrible, while the Yankees lost but few. I only saw three dead Yankee soldiers and I did not see one that was wounded.” (3)

On the extreme Union right along the Thomas’ Hill Field, Brigadier General Williams Terry’s Virginians had turned the flank. Among those bearing the brunt of the onslaught was Private John P. Bingham, Company F, 151st New York Volunteer Infantry, who afterwards wrote:

"... we held our ground nearly all day...till the right wing of our line... gave way and our forces were compelled to retreat...I was so engaged at the time my regiment retreated that I never knew it till I heard the rebels yell, and I found myself fighting the whole of Early's army singlehanded...not a blue-coat was in sight. I had said that I never would be taken a prisoner, so my legs made well my escape, with bullets whizzing all around me." (4)

Private Philip Cooke, also of Company F, recalled:

"Several of our company got together in the old road on one side of the pasture [Thomas Hill Field], the rebel line of battle had advanced to the other side of the pasture and took their stand in a shallow ditch. We fired upon one another until I had fired forty rounds. Bill Burk and Tom Green were wounded near me. As the men got wounded they drifted back toward the railroad and all the company had gone except Charley Furse and myself... I saw Col. Emerson on the pike several hundred yards away and he beckoned us to come back, That was the last time I ever saw Col. Emerson... "

"The rebels had worked along under the bank of the river, and were getting in our rear, they called upon us to surrender, but Charley Furse and I thought we would run them a race. We jumped up and ran at a right oblique down the hill toward the railroad the rebs yelling stop yanks, stop yanks! But we kept going. Charley was one of the best runners in the regiment and he soon out ran me, and by the time I reached the railroad the rebs were ahead of me, and it was surrender or be shot. I threw down my gun, the game was up." (5)

Among Terry's Virginians was Sergeant John H. Worsham, Company F, 21st Virginia Infantry, who recalled:

"...at the fence [of Thomas' Hill field]. A volley from our guns and that magnificent body of men who were taking their places in line [viz., U.S. reinforcements] were flying! The other men of our brigade came up as fast as they could run and delivered their fire at the fleeing enemy. Over the fence we went, the enemy running in all directions. Up went our old yell all along the line of our division, and it was answered by our comrades on the other side of the river...This was the most exciting time I witnessed during the war. The men were perfectly wild when they came in sight of the enemy's column." (6)

As the Virginians crested Thomas' Hill, the Sergeant's excitement in the decisive rebel triumph was extinguished as Worsham witnessed a singular combat casualty that haunted him more so than others he had witnessed in many desperate fights:

"A little way beyond the fence the hill falls abruptly to a small valley, and through this valley ran the road to Washington. Some of the enemy stopped at the road, turned and fired at us. It was just then that Porter Wren of F Company received his fatal wound. He turned and managed to walk back to the fence, tried to get over it but fell back - dead!" (7)

A hundred or so yards farther left – in the area between the sharp curve of the Pike at the foot of the slope of the Hill Field and on the northwest grounds of the Thomas house yard - the 9th New York Heavy Artillery Regiment [fighting as infantry], clashed with Brigadier General Zebulon York's Consolidated Louisiana Brigade that had come up in close support on the Georgians' left. However, the "Heavies" were soon caught up in the general retreat of the Union forces.

Private Alfred S. Roe, Company A, of the "Heavies", recalled what happened as the fighting ceased and the flight commenced:

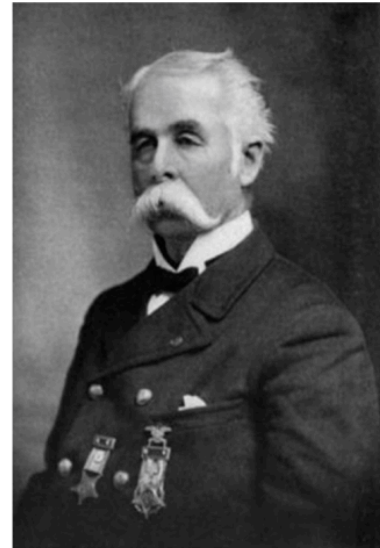
"Quite unskilled in the ethics of war, I had..long known that if I remained near the colors I couldn't be far amiss. 'Elevate your pieces, men' was the direction given by a field officer as we moved confusedly back. The rebels were advancing regularly, and having everything their own way. Then came a command, from what source I never knew, to look out for ourselves...The color sergeant was German, and in broken English, with now and then a 'damn' interpolated, he proclaimed the uselessness of staying there any longer....I stuck by the sergeant until we had reached a sort of waste water running from [Gambrill's] mill...Here I lost sight of him and the flag..."

"There were so many men all about me that the idea of running had not once entered my head. In fact, running from a field of battle did not comport with the dignified manner which I thought troops ought to withdraw from a situation where they had been whipped. Another time I should have known better; but one must have experience in war as in anything else." (8)

"To tell the truth, I didn't realize that we were whipped..."(9)



Sgt. John Worsham



Pvt. Alfred S. Rowe

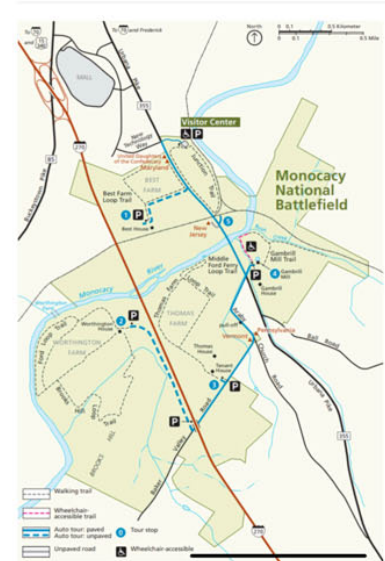
- (1) Wallace Lew, *Lew Wallace: An Autobiography in Two Volumes, Vol II*, Harper and Brothers Publishers, New York and London, 1905. pp. 759-801.
- (2) Bradwell, I. G., "Early's March to Washington I 1864", *Confederate Veteran Magazine*, Volume XXVII, No. 5, May 1920, pp 176-177.
- (3) Nichols, G. W., *Jesup, Georgia, A Soldier's Story of His Regiment (61 st Georgia) and Incidentally of the Lawton-Gordon-Evan Brigade, Army Northern Virginia*. Part of Digital Records of Cornell University. In Library of Congress 1898. p. 170 (frame #176) began writing in 1887.
- (4) Howell, Helena Adelaide, Compiler, *Chronicles of the One hundred fifty-first Regiment New York State Volunteer, Infantry 1862-1865 , Contributed by Its Surviving Members , A. M. Eddy, Printer, Albion, N.Y. 1911. p. 82.*
- (5) *Ibid.* Howell, pp. 87-88.
- (6) Worsham, John H., "One of Jackson's Foot Cavalry", *The Neale Publishing Company, New York, 1912, Reprinted 1982 by Time-Life Books, Inc., p. 239.*
- (7) *Ibid.* Worsham, p. 239
- (8) Roe, Alfred S., "Recollections of Monocacy", *Rhode Island Soldiers and Sailors Historical Society, Third Series, No. 10, Providence Rhode Island Press Company, 1885 p. 22.*
- (9) *Ibid.* Roe, p. 20

David M. Hall is an independent Civil War researcher and a frequent contributor to the newsletter.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 5, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Paula Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian and MNBF Advisor, presents a tour of the Worthington House. Join us and Civil War Trails at Tour Stop 2 on the Monocacy National Battlefield. Details to follow.

Saturday, April 26, 2025
Park Day, the American Battlefield Trust-sponsored park clean up at Monocacy National Battlefield. Join us, Civil War Trails and park staff at locations around the park to be determined. Details to follow.



MNBF YouTube Channel

Visit our new YouTube channel for more and different content on the history of the peoples, places and events associated with the Battle of Monocacy. Thanks to Board members, Brad Stone and Clinton Eppleman, for their contributions to our channel. <https://www.youtube.com/@MonocacyNBFoundation>

Departures

The Foundation announces the departure of Harold Blackstone as an Officer of the Board and the Treasurer of the Foundation. Harold held his position from January of 2022 through December of 2024. We will miss his blend of professionalism, charity and humor. Best regards to Harold as he begins his new role as a docent at the Library of Congress.

Submissions

We welcome your articles and photographs (pdf) about people, places, history and natural resources of Monocacy National Battlefield and Frederick County. Send them to monocacynbf@outlook.com.

Acknowledgements

This issue of The Dispatch is brought to you by Editor Lynn Bristol, Charley Mitchell and Clinton Eppleman.

Make a donation. You can pay by credit card on our website at monocacynbfoundation.org or by sending a check by mail to the address:
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