

The Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Monocacy National Battlefield
Foundation

Special Edition
**The Jug Bridge Wayside
Project
2025**



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experience, your donation
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online through our
website, contributes to our
meeting that mission.



We have met 25% of our goal to raise \$4,000
in our fundraiser for the Jug Bridge Wayside
Project. Consider making a donation.



JUG BRIDGE CIVIL WAR TRAILS® PROJECT by Joseph Collins[1]

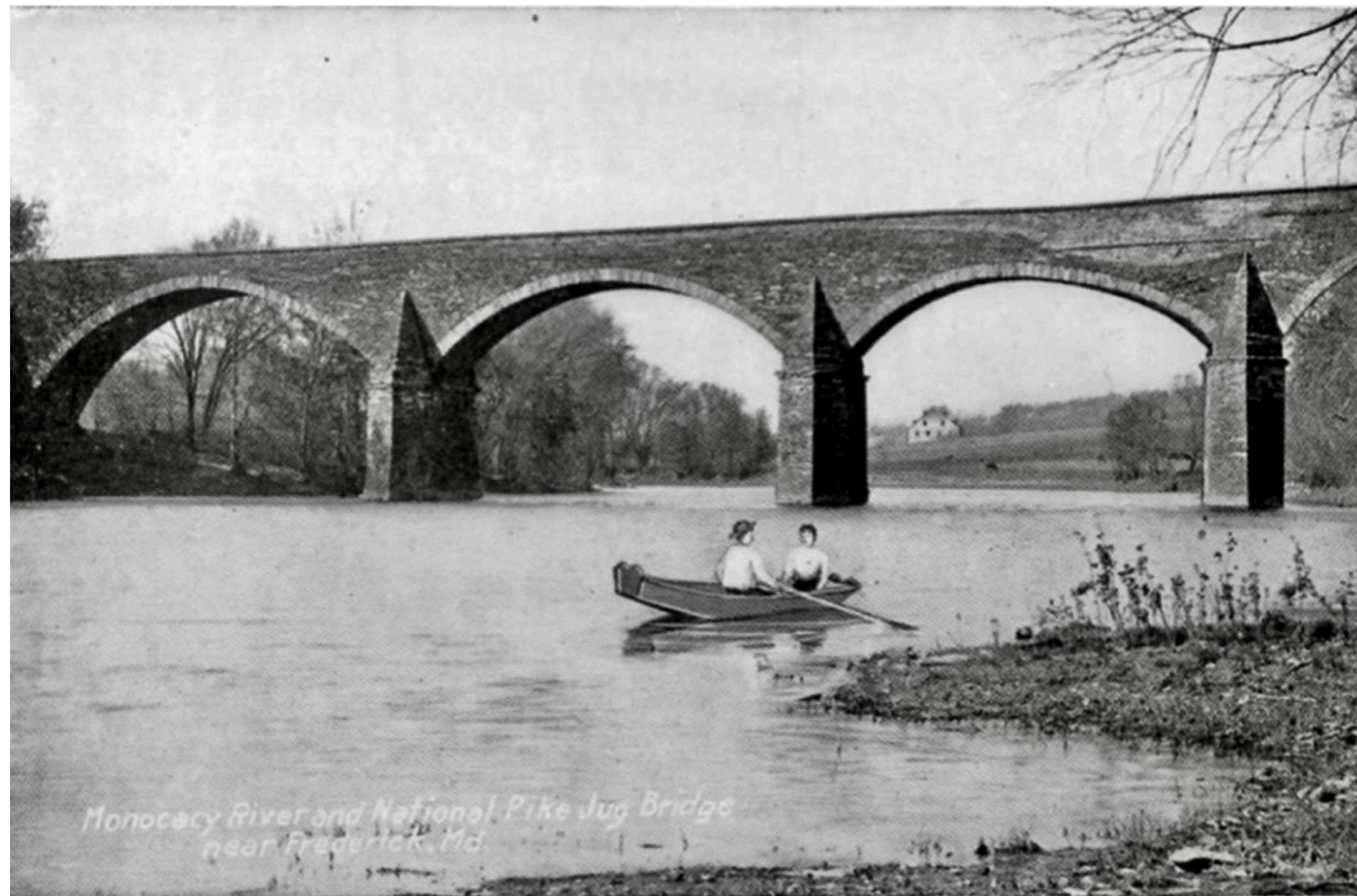
The Jug Bridge was a majestic four arch stone bridge built in 1808-1809 that spanned the Monocacy River, a mile east of Frederick, Maryland. It was part of the young America's National Road and played a vital role in the expansion of the country westward. During the Civil War it played a major part in the movement of goods and troops with Frederick becoming a virtual crossroads for both the Union and Confederate armies.

On July 9, 1864, the Jug Bridge would play an important part in the Battle of Monocacy often referred to as "The Battle That Saved Washington". It would be the scene of heavy fighting between units of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry under Union General E.B. Tyler and veteran Confederate troops commanded by General Robert Rodes. The Confederate objective was to cross the Jug Bridge, then march south and outflank the Union troops defending the Monocacy Junction. This tactic would hasten the defeat of the Union troops under the command of General Lew Wallace and permit General Jubal Early and his Confederate Army to continue their march on Washington, D.C. and the potential capture of the Union Capital City.

This bold Confederate plan would run into a roadblock at the Jug Bridge as men of the 144th, 149th and 159th Ohio Volunteer Infantry (referred to as 100 days men because that was the length of their military service) would successfully thwart repeated Confederate attacks of the veteran, battle-hardened men of the Georgia and North Carolina regiments. Although outnumbered and enduring the hot summer sun the Ohio troops wouldn't yield control of Jug Bridge thereby enabling the besieged Union troops fighting at Monocacy Junction to make an orderly withdrawal from the battlefield and make it safely to the National Road. Only after those withdrawing troops were safely on the way east towards Baltimore would the Ohio troops finally withdraw from their defensive positions at the Jug Bridge and begin their march east. The victorious Confederate troops would follow the withdrawing Ohio troops a short way before turning south to join the rest of Early's Confederate Army and its delayed march on Washington.

Frederick welcomes tens of thousands of visitors every year interested in its rich history especially the Civil War years and the Battle of Monocacy. The area that saw the fighting at Jug Bridge is outside of the boundaries of the Monocacy National Battlefield and therefore overlooked by historians, locals and visitors. After discussions at several board meetings of the Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation (MNBF) it was decided we should contact Drew Gruber, Executive Director of Civil War Trails® (CWT®)[2] and explore getting an Interpretive Sign erected recognizing the Jug Bridge engagement. After securing the requirements required for a CWT® sign we began the search for an appropriate location. After several unsatisfactory locations we settled on the Frederick Old National Pike Park & Ride between Route 144 and East Patrick Street in District 7 of the Maryland State Highway Administration. The MNBF has entered into a Membership Agreement with CWT® that covers the \$3,500 cost of the CWT® Interpretive Sign and the annual \$300 maintenance fee. CWT® is responsible for design, construction of sign, installation, marketing, publicity and annual maintenance.

On February 15, 2025, an application with supporting documents was submitted to the District 7 Office of the Maryland Department of Transportation- State Highway Administration (SHA) for a permit to install the Jug Bridge CWT® Interpretative Sign and the CWT® Trailblazer Sign at the Frederick Old National Pike Park & Ride.



The image is from a vintage postcard from the 1910s entitled FREDERICK MD, MONOCACY RIVER, NATIONAL PIKE, JUG BRIDGE by Marken & Bielfeld.

At the present time the SHA is reviewing the information submitted with the Permit Application and we are hoping that the installation of the CWT® Interpretative Sign can be completed by early 2026.

The network of CWT® Interpretative Signs includes over 1,000 historical sites situated in Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, West Virginia and North Carolina. In Maryland there are five regional trails and Jug Bridge will become part of the Washington Trail. It will complement the existing CWT® Interpretative Sign located on U.S. Route 40 (National Road) and Baughman's Lane on the west side of Frederick that recognizes the Battle of West Frederick on July 7, 1864.

[1] Joseph Collins has written *The Battle for Jug Bridge; The Battle of West Frederick, July 7, 1864*; and *Farmers That Helped Shape America*. Mr. Collins has a BA from Juniata College and an MBA from Hood College. He serves on the Board of Directors of the MNBF.

[2] Upon the departure of Drew Gruber as Executive Director from the CWT®, Chris Brown assumed that position and is the current liaison.

Foundation Business Report

KEEPING PACE WITH THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORY

by Lynn Bristol

The MNBF recognizes the significance of the Battle of Jug Bridge fought on the day-long Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864.

Our objective is to contribute to the memorialization of that historical moment through our first-ever strategic partnership with the Civil War Trails® and the Maryland Department of Transportation- State Highway Administration in the culmination of the Jug Bridge Wayside Project. The installation of an interpretive wayside solidifies the MNBF as a representative in the public dialogue of Frederick's Civil War history.

MNBF recognizes the importance of collaboration and partnership to preserve and interpret the Civil War history in our backyard reasonably and affordably. To that end, we ask that you contribute to our fundraising for this specific project. Any donation made in excess of \$100.00, and by donor's consent, will be acknowledged in the upcoming issues of the newsletter.

As we progress through our newest endeavor, we will keep you apprised of our activities with updates and photos when available.

Reach out with any questions. We are happy to speak with you.

Kind regards,
Lynn Bristol, PhD, JD
Editor of the Dispatch
President, Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation

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Thank you for your generosity!