

The Dispatch

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Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation

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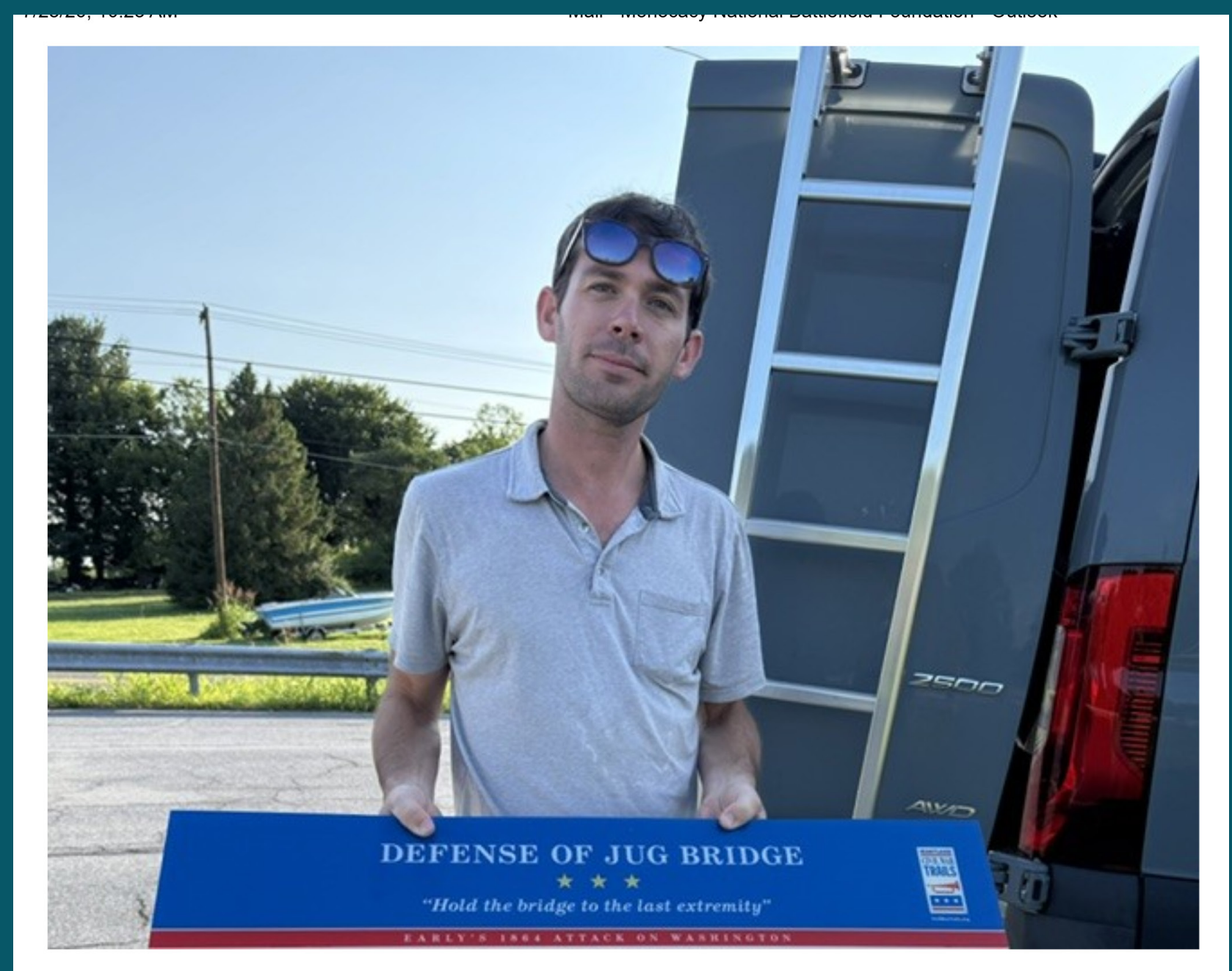
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meeting that mission.



Chris Brown of the Civil War Trails (CWT) just prior to the installation of the Battle of Jug Bridge wayside at 8400A East Patrick St. of Rt 144 in Frederick, MD. The fruition of a collaboration between CWT, MNBF and MDOT-SHA.



From the Desk of the Superintendent – Spring at Monocacy National Battlefield

by Derek Carter

As spring transitions into summer, Monocacy National Battlefield continues to experience an active and productive season. Across the park, staff, interns, volunteers, and partners have been hard at work welcoming visitors, preserving resources, improving facilities, and preparing for another busy summer of programming and stewardship.

A highlight this spring is the ongoing success of the park's renovated museum. Since opening earlier this year, the museum quickly became a destination for those seeking deeper understanding of the Battle of Monocacy and the broader landscape history. Visitor feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Many guests now visit specifically to see the new exhibits. The museum's innovative map program and rotating "Artifact of the Month" display have been especially popular. Recent additions include a Native American pitting stone dating back thousands of years and the display of original Gambrill Mill stones, artifacts that had previously remained in storage for many years.



Students practicing signal-flag communications

The Interpretive Division has also been busy delivering spring educational programs. One major partnership involved the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, hosting a large student field trip. Hundreds of students participated in hands-on learning: military drill demonstrations, artillery interpretation, signal-flag communications, and field-hospital presentations. As the school year ends, park staff prepare for summer programs and special events.

This summer, the park welcomes two interpretive interns: Elizabeth Gomez-Rood and William Faith. They will help with visitor services and programming while gaining valuable public history and interpretation experience. Staff are also readying for the 162nd Commemoration of the Battle of Monocacy. This event will feature programming across the battlefield and expanded partnerships with local organizations.

Resource stewardship remains central across the park. We are proud to recognize Park Biologist Allison Radin, who recently received Hood College's 2026 Outstanding Student in Environmental Biology Award. Allison's achievement reflects her academic excellence and her commitment to conservation and resource management at Monocacy.

The park is hosting several interns this field season to support natural resource research and stewardship. These emerging professionals work on projects ranging from grassland restoration and ecological monitoring to the study of Beech Leaf Disease and Beech Bark Disease. Both diseases threaten native American beech trees. Interns conduct field surveys, mapping, monitoring, and develop management recommendations to protect resources in the future.



Visitors may notice more activity in parts of the park. Resource Management staff, regional specialists, and conservation partners are progressing with a major meadow restoration initiative. At Worthington Farm and the Gambrill Tract, efforts focus on enhancing native grassland habitats, improving conditions for pollinators and wildlife, and strengthening ecological health. These projects support the National Park Service's Eastern Grasslands Initiative. They represent an important investment in the park's long-term natural resources.

Behind the scenes, the Facilities Management Division continues to make important improvements to park infrastructure. Planning and coordination efforts are underway to replace the visitor center's aging HVAC system, a significant project that will improve visitor comfort and operational efficiency for years to come.

The park has also strengthened its partnership with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), whose volunteers are assisting park staff with maintaining portions of Monocacy's trail system. This collaboration expands the park's ability to provide safe and enjoyable trail experiences while engaging community volunteers in stewardship of battlefield resources.

Another exciting initiative currently underway is the planning and development of a new trail connection at Thomas Farm. The proposed trail will improve visitor access to the Vermont and Pennsylvania monuments, helping visitors better experience and understand this important area of the battlefield. The project represents another step toward enhancing visitor access while preserving the historic landscape.

As always, these accomplishments are only possible through the dedication of our employees, volunteers, partners, and supporters. Whether preserving natural resources, maintaining historic landscapes, welcoming visitors, or interpreting the stories that make Monocacy significant, each contributes to ensuring that future generations can continue to learn from and enjoy this special place.

On behalf of the entire staff, thank you to the Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to seeing many of you at the park throughout the summer season.

Derek Carter

Superintendent

Monocacy National Battlefield

**A Commitment to Service
by Phil Bennett, VIP-MNB**

Many volunteer veterans at Monocacy National Battlefield wear this pin proudly. Of the 31 people that the National Park Service recognizes as consistent volunteers, 7 of them are veterans, most of whom work at the front desk helping to orient our visitors. In the U.S. population, slightly less than 3% of people are veterans today, much less than what is found here at Monocacy. Why is that? For starters, when most of our veterans served, the percentage of veterans in the population was much higher because of two world wars and Korea. Most of us had fathers, grandfathers and uncles that served.



Still, why are so many veterans at the Park today? In my opinion, you don't lose the desire to serve your country when you take off your military uniform the last time. You serve your country, but more importantly you serve the people of your country. The people that walk into our visitor center every day. So that sense of service is not a switch you turn on or off. When you choose to join the military, you give up part of your life, sometimes your life, for a purpose beyond your own existence. Continuing to serve is just that, a commitment to service that was decided many years before.

I am always thankful that the Park Service provides this opportunity for us to do something meaningful. Two of the veterans that we lost in the last few years, Al Duke and Jim Miller, volunteered over 4000 hours of their time. That is meaningful service.

We don't ask for pay, honors or even recognition. The service really is enough. When you see this veteran pin, a simple thank you for your service is always appreciated.

Phil Bennett, who served for 6 years on the Board of Directors, was the motive force in achieving the first-ever wayside produced by the MNBF. The Monocacy Crossroads Wayside at Tour Stop 5 depicts the centrality of the Monocacy Valley as a physical and cultural crossroads for millennia. We are indebted to Phil for his stewardship of the park and appreciate his continued interest in the MNBF.



Position of Kirkpatrick's Confederate Battery looking east toward Union positions across the river on Thomas Hill Field. The historical trace of the Georgetown Turnpike is immediately right of the utility poles passing through the break in the trees. The Route 355 embankment on left is a relatively recent addition to the battlefield terrain.

“Those Poor Boys Must Be Buried” **2nd Lieutenant George W. Hobson** **by David M. Hall**

Lew Wallace left a vivid recollection of the Confederate artillery entering the Battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864, observing their advance from Frederick along the Georgetown Turnpike:

“...up the pike there tore forward through clouds of dust groups of laboring horses dragging bright brass guns and clumsy caissons. The riders plied their whips viciously... The groups divided, some going to the right of the road, some the left. I could see the drivers using their whips mercilessly, the horses plunging, the riders tossing in their seats like rag puppets...In a space incredibly brief they were all out of view, and widely apart behind barns and out-houses, under shelter of hay-stacks or hidden in clumps of bushes. I could see none of them, search as I might...two, three, five guns from as many positions across the river opened fire. A minute and still others joined in. By the white smoke clouds we could count them – eighteen in all.”¹

Among the battle depleted remnants of Lieutenant General Jubal Early's Confederate Army of the Valley, the artillery branch was formidable, having reorganized at Staunton, Virginia on June 22-24 before embarking upon the campaign that would be remembered as the “Washington Raid”. According to a post-war history of General Robert E. Lee's artillery arm:

“...Nelson's, Braxton's and McLaughlin's battalions were fully horsed, armed and equipped. The three battalions thus organized with forty pieces, were placed under the immediate command of Col. J. Floyd King, while Jackson's, Lurty's and McClannahan's horse batteries with ten guns were organized into another battalion to operate with McCausland's force of...cavalry.”²

Among Nelson's battalion was the Amherst Artillery – Captain Thomas J. Kirkpatrick's battery – which included 24-year old Private Henry Robinson ("Robin") Berkeley.³ He was born in the family home - "White House" – in eastern Hanover County, Virginia. Robin was the scion of a collateral branch of a "distinguished family that had served Virginia since the seventeenth century."⁴

He wrote of that time: *"When the Confederate War began in the spring of 1861, I was a pupil at the Hanover Academy, in my second year there, doing my very best to fit myself for the duties of life...It was a first-rate school and I had every reason to believe that my progress was satisfactory. My life there was happy and bright, when I was suddenly called away from books to take part in the trials, hardships, dangers and duties of a great and bloody civil war..."*⁵

To the great benefit of future generations, Berkeley decided to keep a diary of the "bloody scenes through which [he] passed, as a private of artillery."⁶

Despite the patriotic fervor of Berkeley and other young volunteers, the first few years of the war, were uneventful for company in terms of actual combat and otherwise frustrating. Nelson's company, was only occasionally under fire, sustaining little loss in men or horses; neither was there much opportunity to open fire. Besides the usual hardships of illness and privations of active campaigning, the Hanover Artillery also suffered from the incompetence of their popularly elected officers. Berkeley wrote in his July 8, 1862 diary entry:

*"Capt G. W. [Wash] Nelson and his officers...who were elected in the spring have proved themselves totally incompetent to command a battery. It requires a hard-working, industrious man of good executive ability; one who never tires, and is always on the lookout for his men and horses. All of these are wanting in him and his first and second lieutenants...My mess occupies itself during its leisure time in abusing Wash and his lieutenants for their laziness and want of energy..."*⁷

The company's unfitness for active service consigned them, along with other similarly unfitted units, to the reserve, a spare part depot for the front-line units; well to the rear of the shifting battle fronts during the Second Manassas/Antietam campaign of 1862. In the pause between that campaign and action at Fredericksburg in December, General Lee took the opportunity to reorganize the Confederate artillery corps and cull the ranks, issuing orders on October 4, 1862.⁸

Men of the disbanded Hanover Artillery opted for service with another Virginia unit, Kirkpatrick's Amherst Artillery. Berkeley's October 8, 1862 entry, recounts their first meeting with their new captain.

*"Captain Kirkpatrick was introduced to us this morning [and] said that he felt deeply sorry for us that it should have been found necessary to break up our company and to place us in a company in whose organization we had had no part or lot: but that he would try, with God's help, to make our lot a pleasant and agreeable one; and that he knew that his lieutenants would aid him in this endeavor...he wished every one of us to feel and know that in him we had a friend who stood ready to do all in his power for us...I then went to Major Nelson's headquarters to help him...make out the payroll of the men who had come from the Hanover Artillery who had not been paid since March."*⁹

Virginians of distinguished names, and ancient home places, tended to be clannish, so integration into the new unit went well, if not always smoothly. In his June 9, 1863 entry, Berkeley tells of his Hanoverian's encounters with two Amherst County officers of Kirkpatrick's original company.

*"Today Lt. Woodruff attempted to arrange the gun crews and messes in our company to suit his notions. He suited no one...Lieut. [George W] Hobson and Captain [Kirkpatrick] came to our rescue and we all soon got back in our places."*¹⁰

For such considerations, Lieutenant George Hobson, of Lynchburg, was a highly esteemed officer and man among the Hanover boys, including Lieutenant William Bayse who wrote of Hobson: *"He was kind and watchful for our well being, as he was brave in leading us in battle."*¹¹

Under more sustaining leadership, Berkeley and his comrades settled into a relatively comfortable '63-'64 winter camp near Mount Pisgah in Louisa County, Virginia, conveniently near their Hanover County homes. Frequent visits resulted and their camp life supplemented by enslaved servants sent with food and supply by kith and kin as well as to tend to their soldier boys' domestic needs. Berkeley's fondest recollection of this relatively peaceful respite from war was the relationship between messmates which grew into a brotherhood. Nevertheless, his April 1 entry, though reveling in a tender moment, foreboded what he knew was coming when the 1864 campaign erupted

*"My messmates at this time were: E. M. Anderson, J. H. Berkeley, Dabney Williamson, W. H. Hoge, F. A. Kinckle, R. B. Winston and myself. All these men were my friends; I loved them. They required honorably my regards; we served and fought; we smiled and wept in concert. We reveled or we sorrowed side by side. All quiet in camp, expecting the war storm to break upon us every day. Our anxiety is intense."*¹²

Even after joining Kirkpatrick's battery, the war had been relatively merciful to the boys from Hanover. At Fredericksburg, at the end of 1862, they stood in reserve near General Lee's Headquarters, mostly sheltered from occasional incoming fire. During the Chancellorsville/Gettysburg, Bristoe Station and Mine Run campaigns of 1863, they remained in reserve at the fringes of the heaviest fighting, seeming to be providentially protected. That all ended June 3, 1864, when at the Battle of Cold Harbor, the bloody red maw of battle began to devour Berkeley's beloved brothers.

*"At 6 A.M. today we were ordered into position under a most tremendous artillery fire. Our company carried into the fight about 115 men and some 60 horses. The first gun and its crew were in front, and before the other guns...could get into position, the first gun's crew had been nearly all disabled, three men being killed and some eight or ten wounded, while every horse was either dead, or wounded...I am the only one of my six messmates left who went into the fight this morning who has not been wounded. Poor Edmund Anderson...I am told is mortally wounded. I trust God that it may be better with him than I hear. I have not seen any of them, except Bob Winston, whose place I took when he fell. His is a flesh wound and thought not to be dangerous. We had eight men killed on the field and some forty wounded, and thirty-five horses killed. Yet, notwithstanding this heavy loss, we held our position and are still ready to do good work."*¹³

Berkeley took note of one particular officer's performance, writing on June 4:

*"In that terrible battle yesterday...Lieut Hobson of our battery walked up and down on the top of our breastworks and gave..orders calmly and deliberately, while the death storm raged...The tears trickled down [his] cheeks as [he] saw one after another of his brave men go down before this terrible iron hale."*¹⁴

The battle ravaged Second Corps, was pulled out of the lines to recover and refit before being sent to Lynchburg to deal with union General David Hunter's army ravaging the Shenandoah Valley. Resting in camp at Gaines Mill, Virginia on June 5, Berkeley penned a sad requiem:

*"Frank Kinckle and I are all [that is] left of our mess. John Hill [Berkeley] still absent on sick leave. Edmund Anderson's remains were carried to Richmond and buried in Hollywood. The bodies of our other dead boys, who were killed on the 3rd of June have been taken home by the Lynchburg committee."*¹⁵

After having chased Hunter's army from Lynchburg into the hollows of West Virginia, Early, the Second Corps, and Major General John Breckinridge's small corps of valley troops, joined forces, reorganized at Staunton, and set off up the Valley, through Maryland, on its way to Washington, D.C., encountering the only serious opposition on the way by Wallace's hodgepodge force on the banks of the Monocacy.

"Robin" Berkeley, though only a private, had by battlefield attrition become a gunner, the soldier who sighted the cannon. It was a job usually done by a noncommissioned officer. He had seen his unit cut to pieces in a single day of combat and had to wonder what new challenges and dangers he would face in his new duties on his first day of combat since that fateful day in June.

Berkeley's fulsome account follows:¹⁶

July 9. Passed through Frederick City and took the Washington, D.C. Pike and came upon the Yanks in line of battle on Washington side of the Monocacy River... We first took a position on the left of the Washington Pike and afterwards crossed over to right and put our battery on a hill fronting a still higher hill held by the Yanks.¹⁷ We got here about 1 P.M. We were ordered to open on the Yankees, as soon as we heard Gen. Gordon's Division...flanking the Yanks on our right... About 3:45 P.M. we heard on our right, some heavy fighting...We immediately opened on the Yanks in our front...We were hotly engaged only for about twenty minutes..."

First Lieutenant Edward Y. Goldsborough, was Aide de Camp to Union Brigadier General Erastus Tyler on July 9; later recalled the deadly effectiveness of the rebel bombardment as Brigadier General James B. Ricketts' brigades turned to meet Major General John B. Gordon's onslaught, "done under a murderous fire of...artillery...coming obliquely from the front and rear, and an enfilading fire directly from the right from the batteries on the west side of the Monocacy River...It was impossible to hold this position under such fire..."¹⁸

It proved, however, to be another grim day of combat for the Amherst Battery:

"alas we had three splendid men killed: viz., Pvts.[Alexander S.] Gardner and [Joseph A.]Page were killed instantly by a shell and Lieut. George Hobson was killed by a sharpshooter after the enemy had been routed, and was retreating from the field... A cannon ball came very near taking my head off today. I think it was the same ball which killed Gardner and Page. I was leaning over aiming my cannon and it passed just over my head. If I had been standing up it would have struck me full in the face...Hobson had had a wheel on his gun knocked to pieces by a cannon shot and could not go with us as we moved rapidly down the pike after the Yanks. While his men were putting a new wheel on his gun, he and J. H. [Sgt. John Hill -Robin's older brother] Berkeley, being on their horses, rode to the brow of the hill in front of them (which hill overlooked the river), and halted their horses. Just at the moment they halted, two Minié balls whizzed over from beyond the river, one of which struck Lieut. Hobson on the right shoulder and, passing diagonally downward, stopped on his left hip."

"He sank from his horse and was caught by my brother and laid on the grass. He never spoke after being struck and breathed his last in about ten minutes. Just as he was shot, he was talking to my brother...of Gardner and Page, who had been killed a few moments before and whose bodies had been left unburied a short way behind us. And these were the last words on his lips. "Those poor boys must be buried and their graves marked, if I have to go back." As he reached the word "back," the fatal ball struck him and he sank from his horse."

"Our chaplain, Mr. [Thomas W.] Gilmer, carried his body and those of Gardner and Page back to Frederick City and had them all three put into coffins, neatly buried and their graves marked."



David Hall is an independent writer on the Civil War and a frequent contributor to *The Dispatch*.

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- 4 Runge, William H., Ed., FOUR YEARS IN THE CONFEDERATE ARTILLERY, The Diary of Private Henry Robinson Berkeley, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1961, introduction, p. xv.
- 5 *Ibid*, Runge, p. 4
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- 9 *Ibid*, Runge, p. 23.
- 10 *Ibid*, Runge, p. 46.
- 11 Bayse, Lt. Wm., "Tribute of Respect" dated July 12, 1864, reprinted by courtesy of Jeffery Burden on Find a Grave®.
- 12 *Ibid*, Runge, p. 71.
- 13 *Ibid*, Runge, p. 79. It is unclear which gun Berkeley was with, but the phrasing suggests his was the second gun in as part of the same two gun section.
- 14 *Ibid*, Runge.
- 15 *Ibid*, Runge, p 81.
- 16 *Ibid*, Runge, Berkeley's account of Monocacy appears on pages 86 & 87. See for subsequent quotes.
- 17 See Official Records Atlas Plate LXXXIII.
- 18 Goldsborough, Edward Y., 1st Lt and A.D.C., "Early's Great Raid. Battle of Monocacy-Wallace Retreats", copyright, 1898, The Library of Congress Americana Collection.

Company G of the Third Regiment of the Maryland Potomac Home Brigade by Rob Griesbach

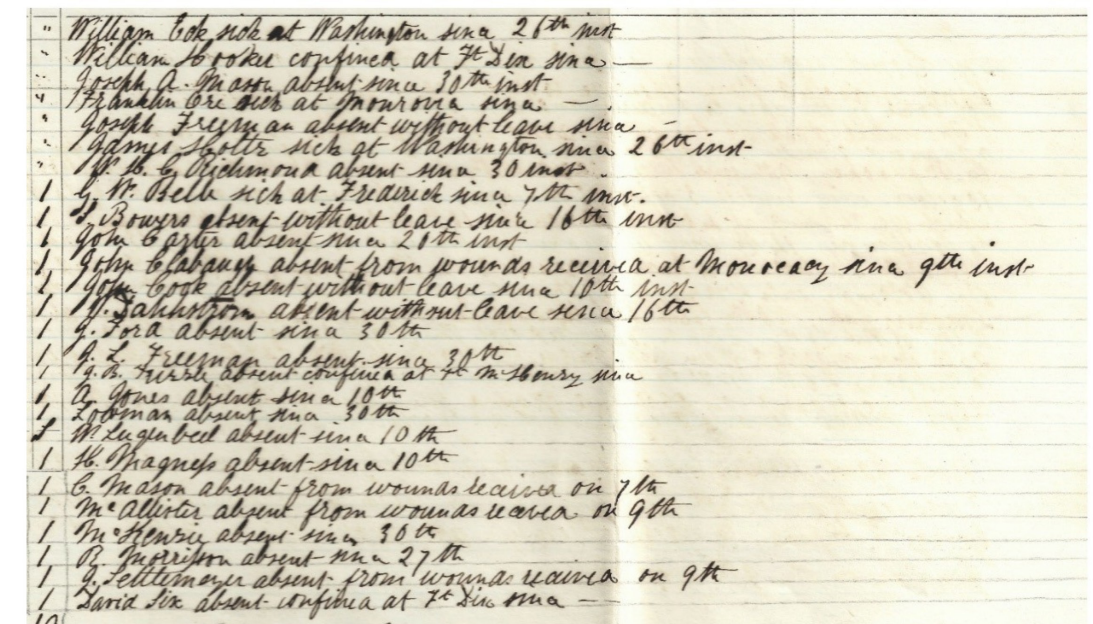
The Maryland Potomac Home Brigade was created on July 19, 1861, when Secretary of War Simon Cameron authorized Maryland's ex-Governor Francis Thomas to organize four regiments "for the protection of the canal and of the property and persons of loyal citizens of the neighborhood, and to be stationed in the vicinity whilst in service. This authorization is endorsed by President Lincoln." ¹

The Third Regiment of Maryland Potomac Home Brigade began recruiting on October 31, 1861 and was mustered into service on May 20, 1862. Nearly half of the men who fought at Monocacy did not enlist until February and March of 1864.² On February 1, 1864, President Lincoln called for a draft on March 10 for 500,000 men.³ If one volunteered before March 1, they were entitled to a three-hundred-dollar Federal bounty. On February 8, Maryland Governor Augustus Bradford signed a bill that added an additional State bounty of three hundred dollars to those who volunteered before March 1.⁴ The six-hundred-dollar sum is equivalent to more than \$12,000 today. During February, twenty-five men took advantage of the bounties and enlisted in Company G. On March 15, President Lincoln called for a draft of an addition 200,000 men to report on April 15.⁵ The Federal government and State of Maryland extended their bounties to April 1.⁶ During March, five men took advantage of the bounties and enlisted in Company G.²

From January to March, 1862, the Brigade was assigned to the Railroad District in the Department of Western Virginia. On March 11, 1862, the Department of Western Virginia was merged into the Mountain Department. In July, 1862, the Brigade was transferred to the Middle Department of the VIII Corps. During the Antietam campaign, the men were concentrated at Harper's Ferry and surrendered with the garrison to Confederate General Stonewall Jackson's army. After they were paroled and exchanged, they were assigned to the 3rd Separate Brigade of the VIII Corps. They were stationed at Annapolis to guard the Washington Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. In June, 1863, the Brigade was transferred to the 1st Separate Brigade of the VIII Corps. In October 1863, they were assigned to guard the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between Elysville, Maryland to Monocacy Junction. Company C was stationed at Elysville; Company F at Hood's Mill; Companies A and G at Mount Airy; Companies H, I, and K at Monrovia; Companies B and E, at Monocacy Junction; and Company D was mounted and detached as mounted infantry.²

In 1864, Companies B and E received artillery training. On May 5, 1864, Sargeant Peter Tower and six privates from Company F of the 8th New York Heavy Artillery were sent to Monocacy Junction with a 12-pound howitzer cannon. Their job was to train Companies B and E to fire the cannon. In June, the 12-pound howitzer was replaced with a 24-pound howitzer. During the Battle of Monocacy, the howitzer was mistakenly misloaded when the projectile was placed in the gun before the powder bag. This was likely done by a member of the Brigade.⁷

During the battle, the Brigade B was commanded by Colonel Charles Gilpin. They were part of the 1st Separate Brigade under Brigadier General Erastus Tyler. The Brigade was part of the VIII Corps under Major General Lewis Wallace. Company G of the Brigade had three commissioned officers (Captain Henry McCoy, 1st Lieutenant Samuel Eck, and 2nd Lieutenant Hanson Friend), five sergeants (James Holtz, Joseph Mason, Cornelius Nibergall, Franklin Ore, and John Stidman), eight corporals (Summerfield Bowers, Jacob Baker, Samuel Crouse, John Freeman, Charles Moring, John Troxell, Oscar Troxell, and William Waite), two musicians (Upton Lowdermilk and Hiram McKensie) and sixty one privates.² Captain McCoy's July 1864 report of activities provides additional information on the Battle of Monocacy (figures 1, 2 and 3).



On July 3, 1864, Wallace directed Tyler “to concentrate the Third Regiment Potomac Home Brigade at Monrovia, and if necessary push it and any other available troops forward to the Monocacy Junction.”⁸ Captain Henry McCoy of the Brigade's Company G reported that “The Company left Mt. Airy July 3rd and marched to Monrovia a distance of 8 miles. 5th inst. marched from Monrovia to Monocacy Junction distance of 12 miles.”⁹

Due to rumors of a Confederate advance over the Potomac River, Wallace ordered Lieutenant Colonel David Clendenin to take his cavalry and proceed west to discover the strength and position of the Confederate forces. Clendenin reported that

*"I left Frederick City at 5.30 a.m. July 7, and met the enemy's cavalry in equal force approaching from Middletown, and immediately engaged and drove them back, when they were heavily re-enforced and I retired slowly to Catoctin Mountain and placed the artillery in position from which it was able to shell the enemy's skirmish line with effect. The enemy had used two guns of longer range and heavier metal than those of Alexander's battery, but we had the advantage in position. After five hours' skirmishing, the enemy being heavily re-enforced and flanking me, I was compelled to fall back on Frederick. For three hours I had been fighting at least 1,000 men and I could see additional re-enforcements moving up from Middletown, The enemy pressed me closely as I retired on Frederick, where I found an additional gun and ammunition. Placing the guns rapidly in position I cleared the road of cavalry and opened on the head of the approaching column, which fell back and deployed to our left bringing up artillery, which was posted south of the Hagerstown Pike in a commanding position. At this time Colonel Gilpin with the Third Maryland Regiment, Potomac Home Brigade, came up, and being senior officer, took command of all the forces."*¹⁰

Gilpin was ordered to reenforce Clendenin and advanced from Monocacy Junction with all but Companies B and E, who continued to guard the junction. Gilpin reported to Tyler that "the enemy have opened fire, and we are replying. We have sent all the horses we can obtain. Can you send all my regiment to me? We have taken position on the hill west of town; the enemy in full view, and have plenty to do." ¹¹ Henry McCoy of Company G reported that "[On the] 7th were taken on the cars to Frederick and were skirmishing with the enemy from 3 o'clock p.m. until dark." ⁹

The Union forces west of Frederick under Colonel Charles Gilpin included the 8th Illinois Cavalry, 159th Ohio Infantry mounted detachment, the Loudoun Virginia Rangers, The Brigade, and the Baltimore Light Artillery. The Confederate forces under Brigadier General Bradley Johnson included 1st Maryland Cavalry, 2nd Maryland Cavalry, 8th Virginia Cavalry, 21st Virginia Cavalry, 22nd Virginia Cavalry, 34th Virginia Cavalry, 36th Virginia Cavalry, 37th Virginia Cavalry and the 2nd Maryland Artillery.

The skirmish that ensued included an artillery duel between the Union Baltimore Light Artillery under Captain Frederick Alexander and the Confederate 2nd Maryland Artillery under Captain William Griffin. Major Harry Gilmor of the Confederate 2nd Maryland Cavalry described the skirmish:

*"I dismounted two squadrons of the 1st Maryland, who were nearly all armed with the Spencer rifle, and were most of them old infantry soldiers. We waited some time for an attack, but as they showed no disposition to make one, I advanced and opened on their skirmishers, with my mounted men well up, but did not bring them in sight, for they had with them two pieces of artillery in point-blank range. They shelled us until the dismounted men were obliged to lie down, when one of their squadrons ventured to try a charge, which, however, was very cautiously managed. As they came in range, one of my dismounted squadrons opened on them, and at the same time I ordered Captain Burke to bring up my own battalion, with which we made a countercharge, and ran them back to within eight hundred yards of their guns."*¹¹

Johnson proposed to flank the union troops by sending one regiment down the Georgetown Pike, while the rest of his command was to press Union front from the west side of Hagerstown Road. However, Major General Robert Ransom, Jr. rejected the plan and told Johnson to withdraw at night to the top of Catoctin Mountain and wait until the main infantry column arrived.

Wallace reported on the skirmish that "About 4 p.m. the enemy opened the fight with three pieces of artillery. The lines engaged shortly after. At 6 o'clock Captain Alexander personally in charge of his pieces, dismounted one of Johnson's guns. A little before dark Gilpin charged and drove the rebels, who, under cover of night, finally withdrew to the mountain...The forces opposed, it is worthy remark, were about equal in number, yet Johnson had the advantage: his men were veterans, while Gilpin's, with the exception of Clendenin's squadron, had not before been under fire, a circumstance much enhancing the credit gained, by them."¹⁰

That night the Brigade marched to Monocacy Junction. McCoy reported that "We lay and our arms all night and on the morning of the 8th advanced 3 miles but fell back on the town in the evening and at night marched to Monocacy."⁹ Gilpin reported on the company positions.¹³ Companies A and B were "stationed at the base of the mountain, north of the railroad, skirmishing on the Monocacy river". Companies C, D and E were "supporting Alexander's Battery, north of the railroad river ford, one mile north of railroad." Companies F and G were "stationed at block-house, north of railroad, supported howitzer, skirmishing on river." Company H was "supporting battery north of railroad, not engaged." Company I was "mounted as scouts." Company K was "supporting section of Alexander's Battery east of Monocacy River, north of railroad, skirmishing on river."

Companies B, G, and H of the 1st Maryland Potomac Home Brigade were already protecting Crum's Ford when the 3rd Maryland Potomac Home Brigade arrived. There were two block-houses protecting the railroad. The Brigade's Companies F and G supported the block-house east of the river, while the 1st Potomac Home Brigade's Companies C and K supported the blockhouse downstream west of the river. The six guns of the Alexander's Baltimore Light Artillery were positioned on the ridge east of the river running from Crum's Ford to the Thomas farm.

At Crum's Ford, Tyler reported the "enemy appeared directly in my front about 9 a.m., and opened on us with artillery, and attacked in considerable force our skirmish line formed on the west bank of the Monocacy and composed of the troops of the First Maryland Potomac Home Brigade, under command of Captain Brown. Three guns of Captain Alexander's battery (three having been sent to General Ricketts) and a 24-pounder howitzer soon checked their advancing lines; and the action in my front, with the exception of sharpshooters and skirmish firing, was an artillery fight. This at times was quite spirited, continuing until near the close of the action, we maintaining our position without serious loss."¹⁰

Frederick Wild of Alexander's Battery reported that

"The gun that I was with, was placed on the right of the line, which was on the right of the railroad, on a knoll where we defended the railroad as well as the turnpike bridge. It was 10 o'clock when the enemy came in sight, and it was but a few seconds when we received notice of their presence by three shots flying over our heads, to which we promptly replied with our single gun...The skirmishers were scattered in a thin line and slowly advancing towards the enemy, with the heavier lines of Infantry near the guns...bullets began to whistle dangerously near us, one Infantry soldier, not ten feet from where I was standing, was shot in the arm, another one ran down the hill to our rear as fast as he could, and then dropped into a heap... Our trouble was, that we could not locate our enemies for some time, until one of our officers noticed small puffs of smoke from under the shingles of a barn, half mile or more away; that barn was filled with sharpshooters, so we directed our attention to them, the second shot burst inside of the barn, and so did the third, and the fourth; the barn was soon on fire... (cont'd)

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, and they having no shot to waste, left us alone, as soon as we did not reply...In the meantime, the enemy at our front came out boldly, two of the three cannon which had confronted us in the morning, were paying their respects to our boys on the left; we could easily have given them a few good shots, but for some reason it was, not done...Our Infantry kept firing away at them, but they did not seem to mind it at all, they marched by as if in review, towards the left."

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McCoy reported at "3 o'clock p.m. were over powered and retreated to Ellicott Mills which we reached at 4 o'clock p.m." ⁹

During the Battle, Pvts. Jacob Baker, Charles Mason, Samuel Yates, were wounded on July 7. Pvts. John Clabaugh, Daniel McAllister, George E. Shipway, and Jacob Settlemyer were wounded on July 9. See figures 2 and 3.

Charles Mason was a 16-year-old farmer from Mt. Airy in Carrol County when he enlisted in February of 1864. He was wounded on July 7 in the leg and died in Frederick General Hospital on October 22 due to a "GS wd left thigh ball lodging in cervex femoria". ¹⁵

John Claybaugh was a 19-year-old farmer from Taneytown in Carrol County when he enlisted in May of 1862. He was wounded on July 7 in the hand and died in York General Hospital on November 6 due to "apoplexy." ¹⁶

Daniel McAllister was a 55-year-old millwright from Baltimore when he enlisted in March of 1862. He was wounded on July 9 in the leg and died in Frederick General Hospital on July 12 due to "comp fract of thigh amputation." ¹⁷

Jacob Settlemyer was a 40-year-old baker from Carroll County when he enlisted in April of 1862. He was wounded on July 9 in the hip and admitted to Camden Street General Hospital in Baltimore. He was transferred to Haddington General Hospital in Philadelphia and then to Satterlee General Hospital in Philadelphia where he was discharged on June 2, 1865. ¹⁸

Samuel Yates was a 30-year-old day laborer from Baltimore when he enlisted in March of 1862. He was admitted to Jarvis General Hospital in Baltimore. He was discharged in October 1864 and was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps. ¹⁹

George Shipway was 22-year-old farmer from Warfordsburg in Pennsylvania when he enlisted in September of 1861. His wound was not serious and he stayed on duty. ²⁰

Jacob Baker was a 34-year-old wagoneer from Ellicott Mills in Howard County when he enlisted in February of 1864. His wound was not serious and he, too, stayed on duty.²¹

The following were taken prisoner and sent to Confederate Prison No. 6 in Danville, Virginia: Michael Donovan, a 36-year-old laborer from Baltimore who enlisted in April 1862²²; Henry Magness, a 18-year-old farmer from Ellicott Mills who enlisted in March 1864²³; George Nalls, a 44-year-old tanner from Ellicott Mills who enlisted in April 1864²⁴; Samuel Slayman, a 22-year-old farmer from Warfordsburg who enlisted in October 1861²⁵; and Jacob Stedding, a 26-year-old shoemaker from Baltimore who enlisted in March 1864²⁶. Stedding and Nalls died of disease in prison. The other three were paroled on February 22, 1865.

After General Early's Army was driven out of Maryland, the Brigade was part of the Union Army's pursuit in Brigadier General John Kenly's Independent Brigade of the VI Corps. McCoy reported "14th inst. were taken on the cars to Washington. 15th inst. marched towards Poolesville which we reached on the evening of the 16th and crossed the Potomac into Virginia. 17th inst. marched to Leesburg, 18th marched to Snicker's Gap, 20th fell back through Leesburg and reached the river at 8 o'clock a.m. on the 21st. 22nd marched for Chain Bridge and crossed it on the 23rd. 26th inst. marched from Chain Bridge to Rockville MD, 27th marched from Rockville to Urbana, 28th marched from Urbana through Frederick towards Harper's Ferry VA which we reached on the 29th and crossed the river to Halltown VA. 30th marched from Halltown towards Frederick which we reached on the 31th." ⁹

In August of 1864, the Potomac Home Brigade was assigned to the Reserve Division at Harpers Ferry in the Department of the Shenandoah to guard the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad from Monocacy Junction west to Sleepy Hollow. In October 1864, they were transferred to guard the railroad west from Sleepy Hollow. They were mustered out of the service at Baltimore on May 29, 1865.

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Thank You to Our Editors

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