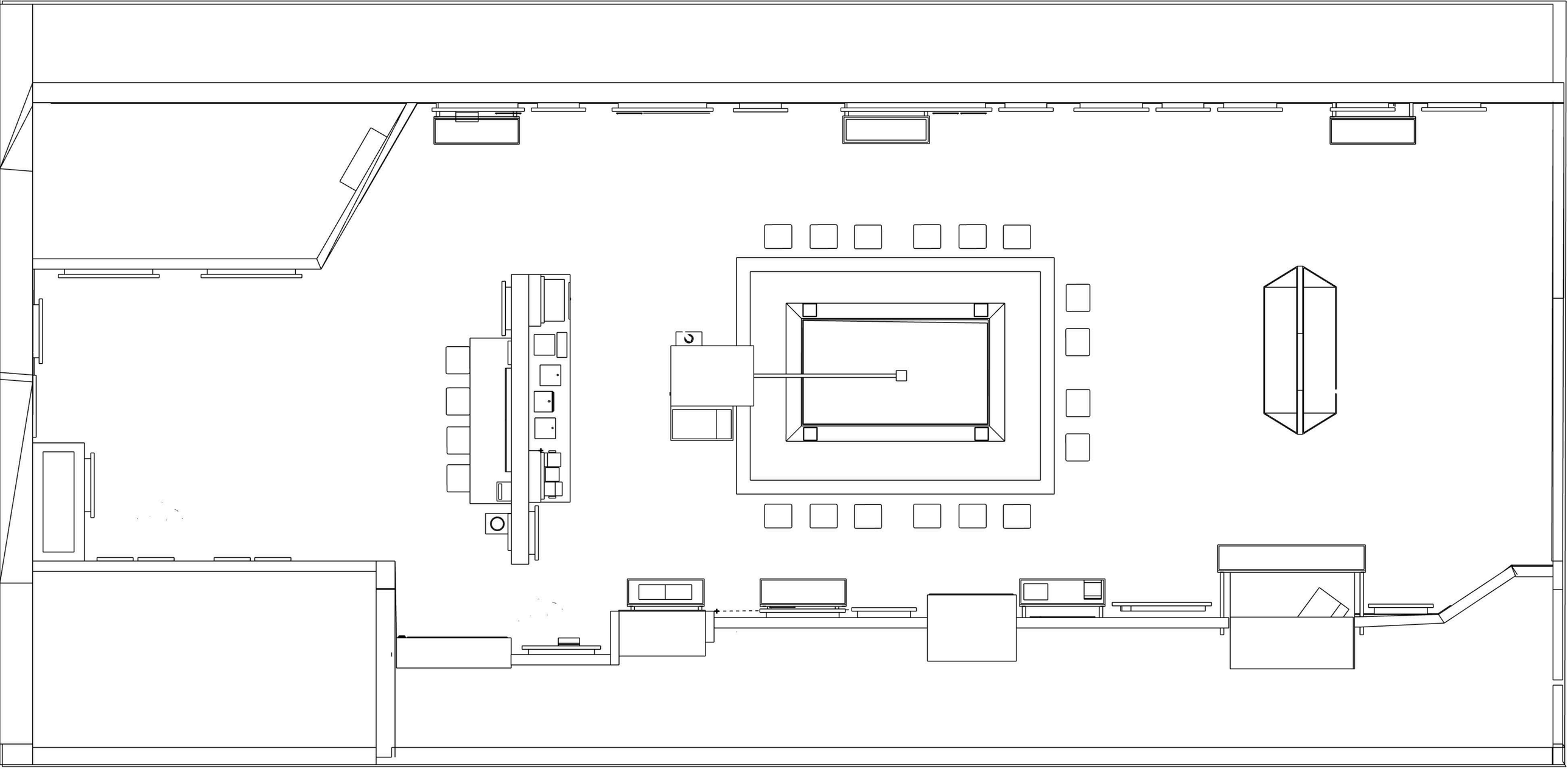
Description in Myrtle!
Bending Beach Bulkhead

Immigration to Maryland



The Battle that Saved Washington
The General's Strategy
The Soldier's Experience
Regiments
From Terror to Tedium
Medals of Honor
Capture the Flag
Georgia's Role

Crossroads Primed for War
The Soldier's Experience
From Terror to Tedium
Medals of Honor

The Aftermath of War
Picking Up the Pieces
Emergency!
July
9th
1864
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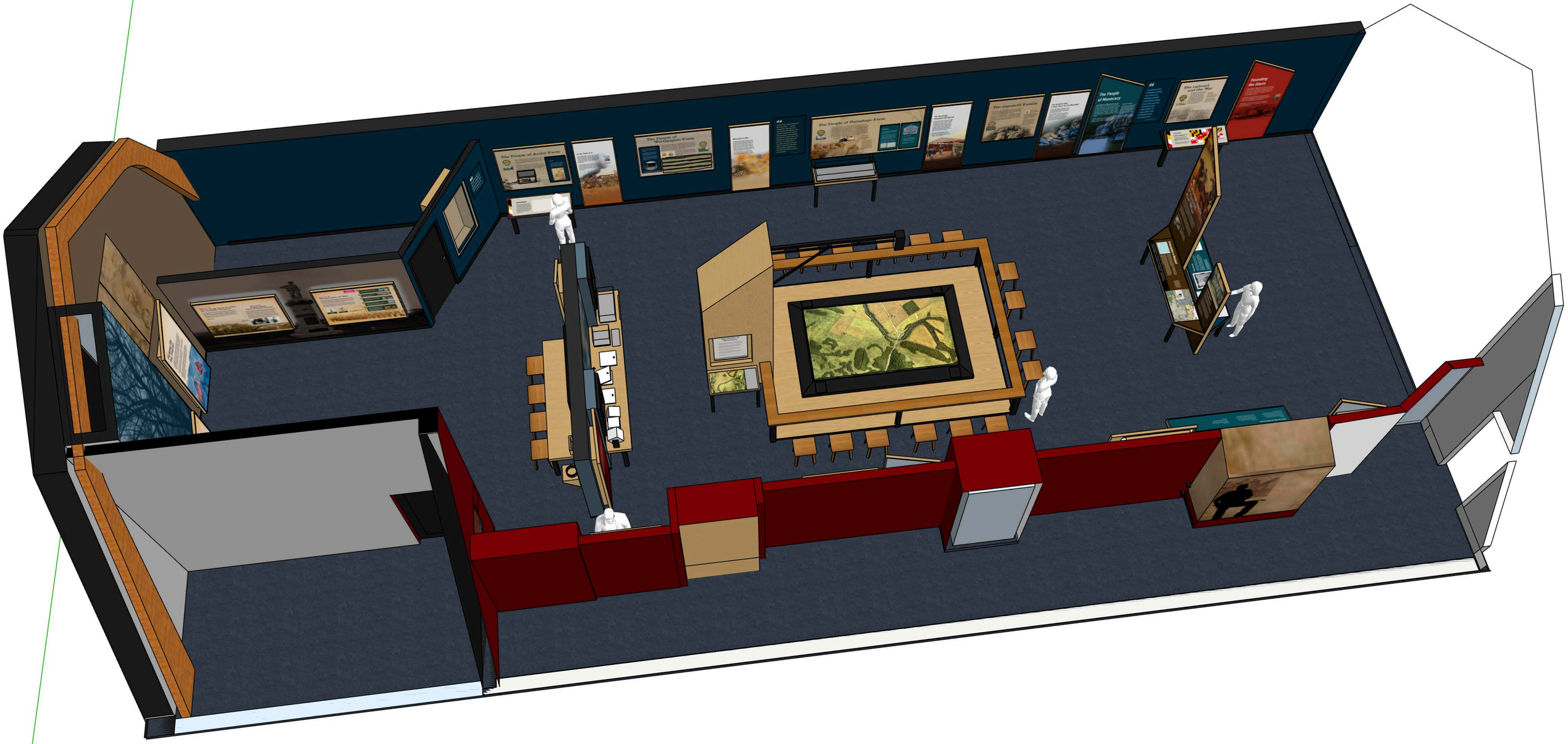
The Battle that Saved Washington
Causes of War
The Battle that Saved Washington


The People of Arsley Farm
The People of Hermitage Farm
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Early's Advance
Nerve, Great Nerve
Emergency!
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Causes of War
Throughout the early 1800s, tensions mounted over the expansion of slavery in the United States. Our national ideal that "all men are creeted equal" did not apply to the millions of African Americans living in bondage.
Abraham Lincoln's victory in the 1860 presidential election cemented the growing divide over slavery's future. To protect their power and economic interests, eleven states seceded to form the Confederate States of America and preserve the institution of slavery.
This action set the stage for a bloody Civil War.
The People of Hermitage Farm
The Battle that Saved Washington
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The Gambrill Mill: A Safe Place for the Wounded

A Crossroads Primed for War
Here at Monocacy Junction, the B&O Railroad met the main highway out of Washington, D.C. This was a transportation crossroad connecting the rest of the country to economic centers to the east.
For years, those living here experienced military occupation as war raged around them. Residents lived in a state of heightened anxiety, hopeful that conflict would come no closer.
They would not be so lucky.
In 1862, Confederate soldiers occupied Frederick, and burned the bridge over the Monocacy. Soldiers camped in farm fields on their way to nearby battles at Gettysburg, Sharpsburg, and Antietam.
COME AND JOIN US BRETHERN.
United States Colored Troops
The Emancipation Proclamation took effect on January 1, 1863. Formerly enslaved and free Blacks could enroll in the army and navy. The United States Bureau of Colored Troops (USCT) was formally established on May 22, 1863. Before they were able to enlist as soldiers, many Black workers already served as laborers, cooks, or camp guards in the army.
To help organize this vast, new supply of manpower, recruiting stations were established throughout the northern and border states, including a recruiting station was established here at Monocacy Junction. Although they did not fight in the Battle of Monocacy, several men formerly enslaved on farms at Monocacy signed up for service here.4 By the end of the war, at least 340 men had been placed on muster rolls from Frederick County. These men joined some of the most renowned regiments to fight in the war, including the 54th and 55th Massachusetts Infantry.
Free to Serve
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Media Travel Memory

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Emancipation in Maryland
COME AND JOIN US BROTHERS.
United States Colored Troops
Free to Serve

"The whole country has been devastated by the whirlwind of destruction that swept over it."
The People of Antietam Farm
The People of Worthington Farm
The People of Hermitage Farm
The Gambrill Family
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The People of Monocacy
The Battle of Monocacy ranged across the farm fields just outside this building for most of the day July 9, 1864. Families took shelter, some witnessing the horrors of war from boarded up windows in their cellars and basements. Those enslaved here had no choice in whether they stayed or left.
Civilian witnesses provide us with some of the most detailed accounts of the events that unfolded here.
Filing for Damages
"Our heart grows sick over the statements we constantly hear in reference to the devastation of our beautiful country. With houses destroyed, fences torn down, crops ruined, stores robbed and private residences pillaged, a distressing spectacle of waste and desolations meets the eye at almost every step."
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—The Examiner, Frederick MD July 13, 1864

The railroad and the War

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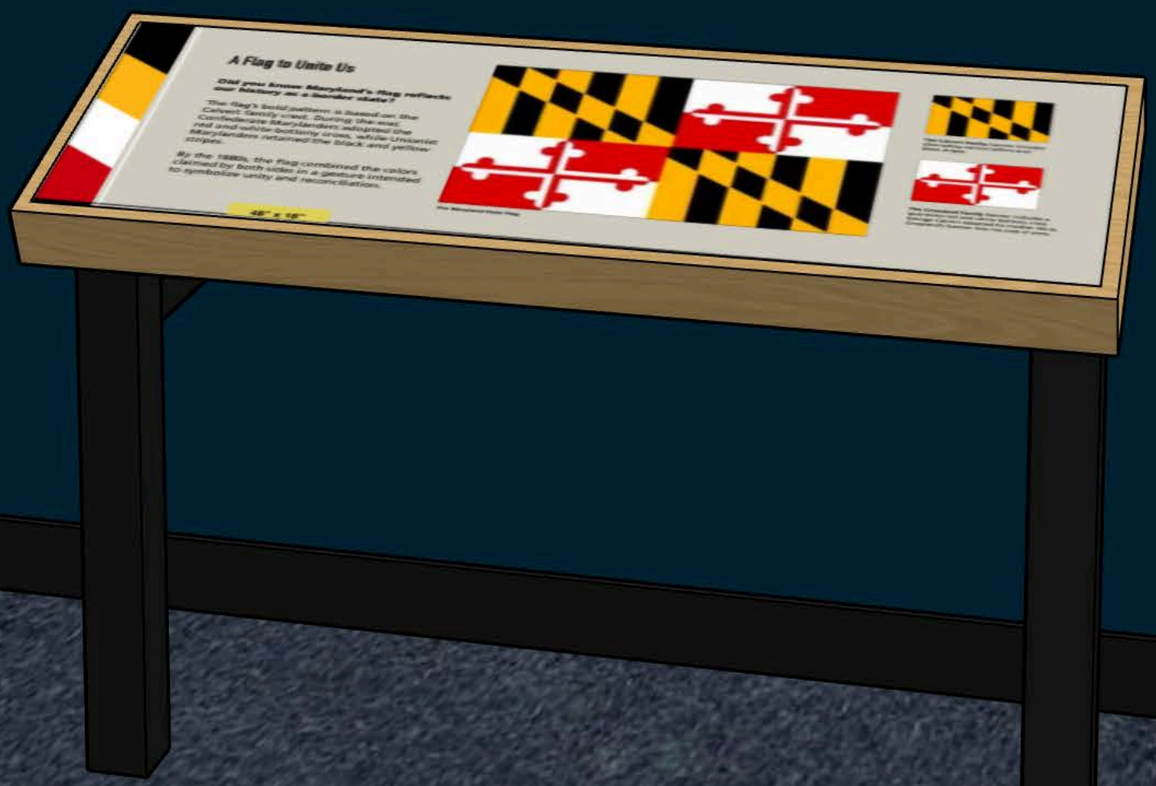
Reporting Movements

Mantz reported in the early hours of July 9 that trains were moving everything out of Frederick, and that "many citizens have evacuated the town tonight."

tMantz continued to send reports throughout the day worrying that supplies would run out for the Federal troops. Meanwhile, his family sought refuge in the Worthington House cellar with neighbors.



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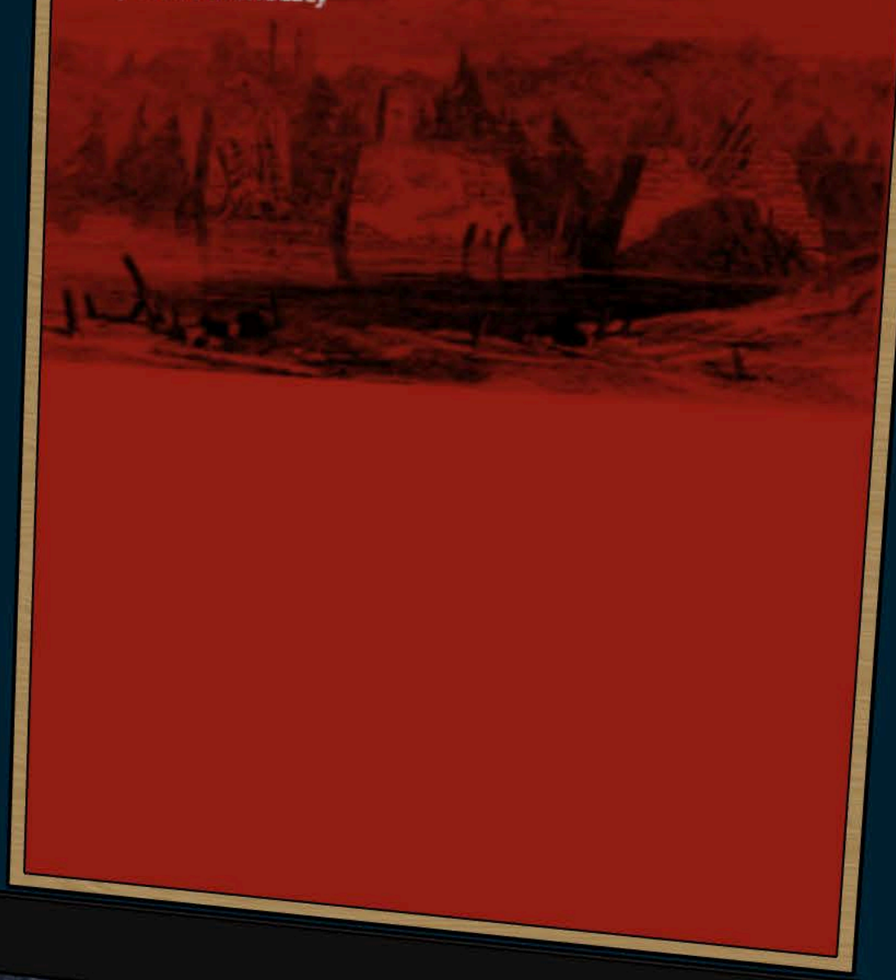


The Gambrill Family

The Gambrills were a large and prominent Monocacy family. At the time of the battle, James Gambrill's wife, Antoinette, was seven months pregnant. She was able to take shelter with her two young sons at the Thomas farmhouse.

Like other families of Monocacy, the Gambrills were impacted by war over a period of years. James Gambrill filed claims for commissary stores taken by General McClellan's army during the 1862 Sharpsburg Campaign, and again by General Truex in July 1864, but he was not fully compensated.

Mr. Gambrill & General Ricketts

Three local men — Samuel Thomas, Julius Anderson, and Hugh Gotchell— were briefly impressed into service with the 11th Maryland. On release, they hurried to the home of James Gambrill. There, they found Mr. Gambrill speaking with General James B. Ricketts on the front porch.

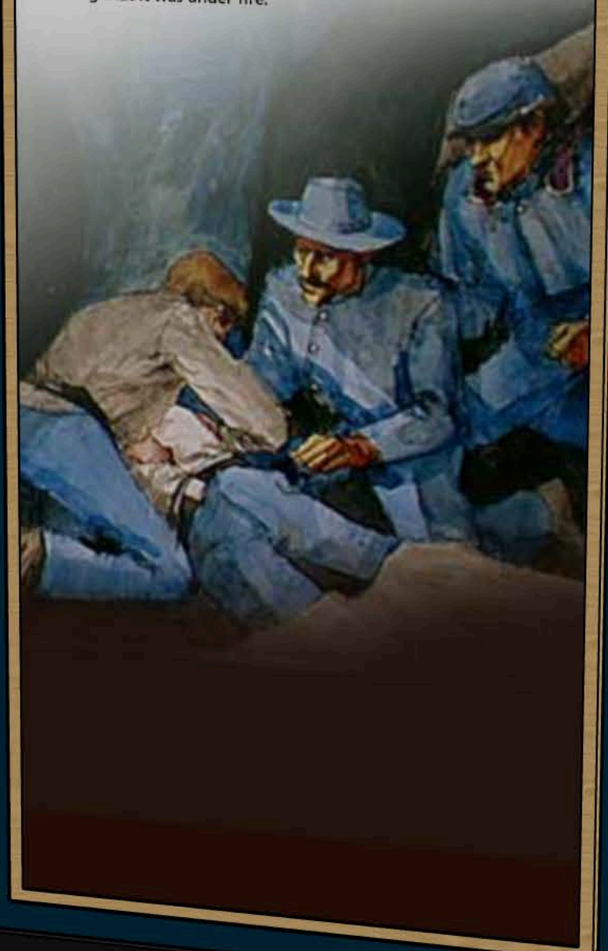
A young officer rode up with a message for Gen. Ricketts, then left to return to the line of battle. Just moments later, the same officer was carried back, shot and badly wounded. With fighting clearly intensifying, Ricketts advised Gambrill and the three young men to take cover right away. They sheltered in the Mill for the rest of the battle.

GO SEE IT

The Gambrill Mill: A Safe Place for the Wounded

On the morning of the battle, Union forces were positioned in the yard of James Gambrill's operating flour mill. As fighting intensified, Gambrill took cover inside the mill.

The mill and its yard became a field hospital where wounded soldiers and officers were brought throughout the day. Of its use as a hospital, Major General Lew Wallace remarked that "the place appeared well selected for the purpose, its one inconvenience being that it was under fire."



The People of Monocacy

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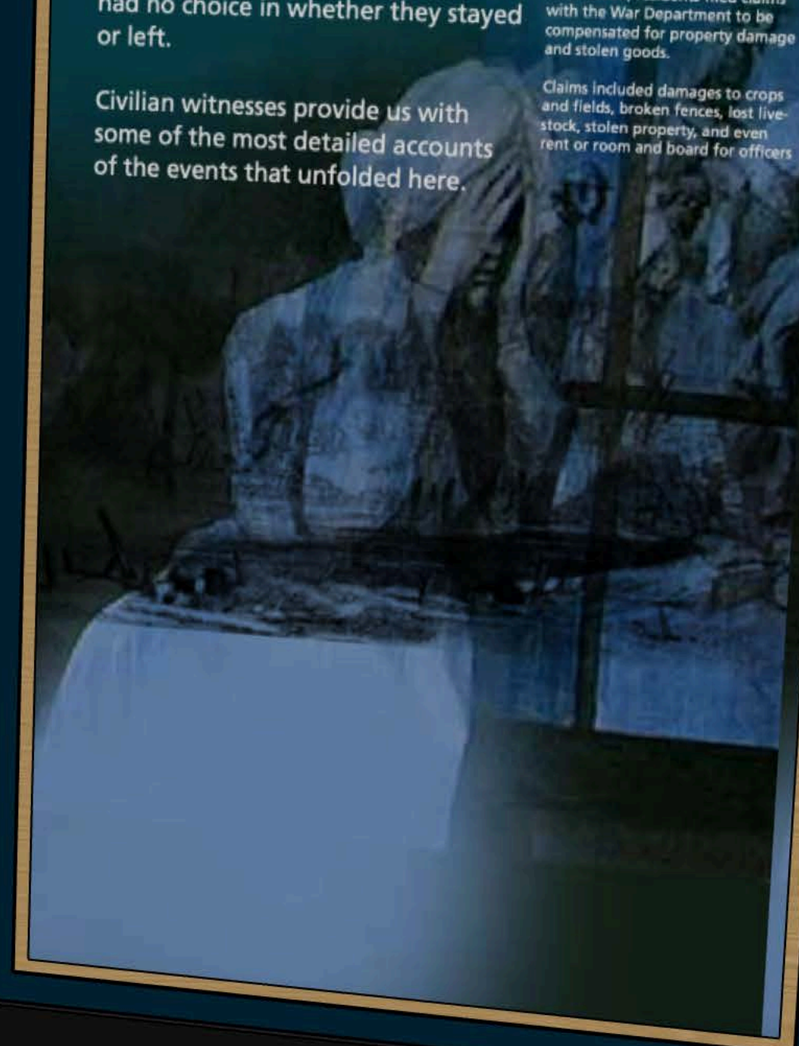
Filing for Damages

This community felt the impacts of war long before the battle on July 9. Regiments were stationed here and troops passed through on their way to battles at Sharpsburg, Antietam, and Gettysburg. Each time property was damaged or goods were taken, residents filed claims with the War Department to be compensated for property damage and stolen goods.

Claims included damages to crops and fields, broken fences, lost livestock, stolen property, and even rent or room and board for officers



"[There] stood a large and splendid farm house, with … numbers of large holes, pierced in them from the guns of the enemy. Large numbers of rifle barrels, broken rifles, knapsacks, and everything pertaining to a soldiers outfit, were strewed over the ground in every direction. Across the railroad … the greater part of our men were buried. A rifle pit into which they had been thrown together, and covered by the rebels formed their common grave."

The People of Hermitage Farm

The French-Carribean Vincendière family purchased hundreds of acres of land along the Monocacy in 1798 and the plantation property known as L'Hermitage. Victoire Vincendiere enslaved as many as 90 people to work the plantation, and eventually sold the property to Ariana McElfresh Trail and her husband Charles Trail. The Trails never lived on the plantation, instead renting parcels out, including the large farmhouse rented by David Best and his son John. The Bests had a successful farming operation, growing wheat, straw, oats, rye, corn, potatoes, and clover, as well as producing wool, milk, and butter. After the war, John Best converted the operation to be primarily a dairy farm, and may have been the first in the area to do so.

GO SEE IT

From Enslaved to Enlisted

The Best family operated a successful farm on the Hermitage property. The 1860 census records David Best as owning six people between the ages of 4 and 20.8 The Bests are known to have enslaved a man named John Combash since his birth. Records of the enslaved are vague, but research suggests Mr. Combash may have been freed in 1863 to join the United States Colored Troops 2nd Regiment. He saw action in battle at Fort Meyers, Florida, but survived the war and was discharged in 1865, and lived in Baltimore.

Special Orders 191: A Confederate Plan

Following victories in Richmond and Manassas in the summer of 1862, Confederate General Robert E. Lee sensed an opportunity to further demoralize his enemy. He would invade the border state of Maryland and force a confrontation because the US Army had reorganized.

On September 9, Lee's army camped at the Hermitage Farm. Here, Lee formed a plan to divide his army and move three branches of troops to capture Federal garrisons. General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson would move on the garrison at Martinsburg while Generals Lafayette McLaws and John G. Walker would surround troops at Harpers Ferry and force their surrender. Generals James Longstreet, D.H. Hill, and J.E.B. Stuart would bring up the rear and all detached forces would regroup in Hagerstown or Boonsboro.

Lee's Assistant Adjutant General Robert H. Chilton took down this strategic plan as Special Order 191. The generals all received their orders, but one copy – written by Chilton and intended for General Hill – never made it to Hill's camp.

Lost Order No. 191, Found

On September 13, General George B. McClellan's Federal troops moved into the Frederick area on the heels of Lee's army, but unaware of his intentions or exact location. Resting from the morning march, soldiers from Company F, 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, III Corps discovered the Lost Orders in a wheat field on the Best Family Farm.

McClellan acted immediately, isolating the fragmented Confederate army and forcing them into battles at South Mountain and Antietam.

The Hermitage: Evacuated and Burned

The property known as the Hermitage was near the center of battle throughout the day on July 9, 1864, and had witnessed the effects of war for years. The Hermitage farm was in view of both bridges over the Monocacy River. In 1862, the B&O railroad bridge had burned. During the Battle of Monocacy, Federal troops set the Georgetown Pike covered bridge on fire to delay the advance of the Confederate army down the road to Washington.

Confederate sharpshooters took up position in the barn to fire on Federal troops guarding the railroad bridge. Federal artillery returned fire and destroyed the barn.

The People of Worthington Farm

Poor creatures, it means death to them either way!"

John and Mary Worthington, with children John Jr. and Glenn, took shelter in their cellar. Francis, Barbara, Lillie, and William Mantz, the wife and children of B&O Railroad agent Frank Mantz sheltered with them, along with an unknown number of enslaved laborers.

From the cellar, they watched Union soldiers ambush the Confederates. The families heard officers cursing and threatening the panic-stricken Confederate troops. Young Glenn Washington, just six year old, later recalled hearing the moans and cries of the wounded and dying soldiers just outside the cellar window.

John Worthington bought this property in April of 1862. For several days in September of that year, Confederates occupied Frederick as part of the Maryland Campaign. Then, in 1864, the Battle of Monocacy was fought on his doorstep. After enduring the damage and trauma of the war, the family rebuilt and continued to live in the home. The property remained in the family until the 1950s.

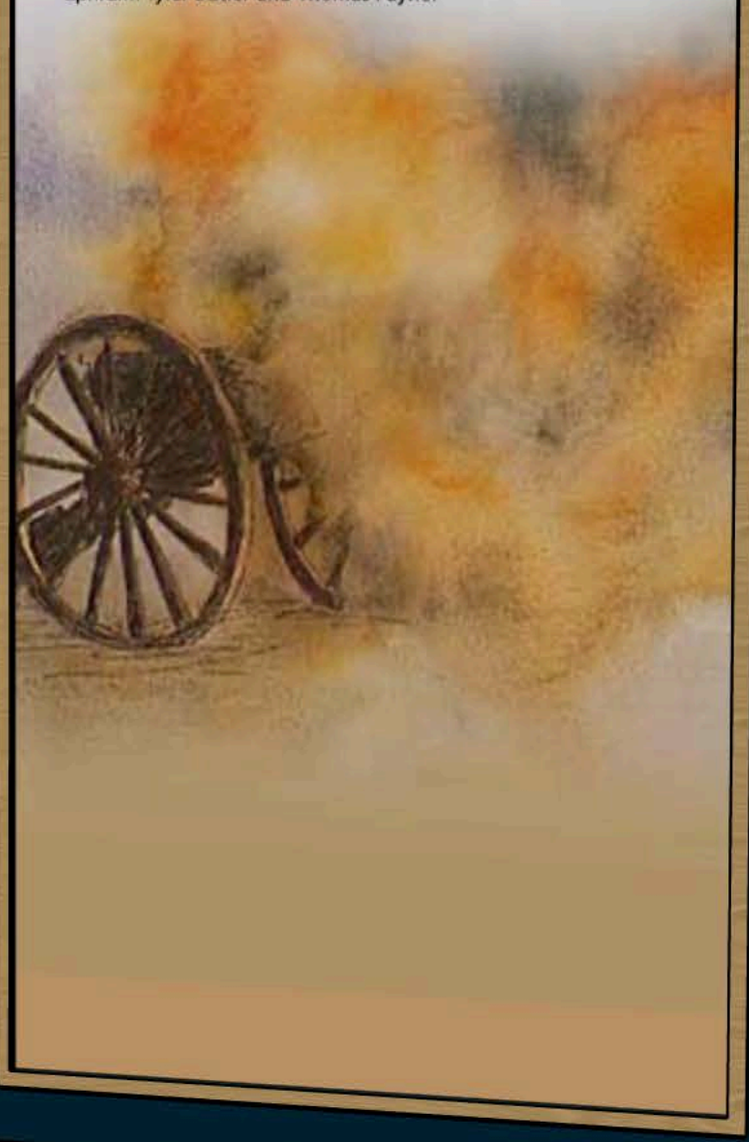
Records from 1860 account for seven enslaved laborers, though it is unknown how many enslaved people Mr. Worthington retained or purchased by the time of the battle in 1864.

GO SEE IT

Witnesses to War

The Worthington Farm became a staging area for Confederate troops during the battle. General McCausland's cavalry crossed the Monocacy River at Worthington Ford, just 500 yards from the family home. From the second floor of his house, John Worthington could see Union soldiers lying in wait for Confederates who did not expect to encounter experienced troops. He later said that he "could not understand why the confederates went forward as if on parade."

John Worthington later filed a claim for damages, which was supported by two formerly enslaved laborers – John Ephraim Tyler Butler and Thomas Payne.



Mamma, she's a Rebel, but papa, he is a Rebel when the Rebels are here and a Yankk when the yankees are here."
—Virginia Thomas to General Ulysses S. Grant
The People of Araby Farm
GO SEE IT
Christian Keefer (C.K.) Thomas was a Frederick County native who sold his interest in a Baltimore dry goods company and bought Araby farm in 1860 to avoid what he saw as impending hostilities between the north and south.18
Little did he know that his property would become the site of a bloody battle. After the war, the family rebuilt and remained on the property. The 1870 census included both Black and white paid household and farm laborers, and by the 1880s the farm was worked by tenants.
Tom Jones
Tom Jones is believed to have been enslaved in the Thomas household. Both the 1860 and 1860 Baltimore census record that C.K. Thomas was an enslaver. Records refer to multiple laborers who may have been enslaved laborers rented from other enslavers -- a common practice among agricultural land owners at the time.
In the Thick of It
By mid-morning, the fighting had moved to the fields around Araby Farm -- the Thomas family homestead. By the afternoon, the battle reached its climax here, with Confederate troops sweeping twice across the fields in their attempt to push back Union forces to open the road to Washington.
At least eight artillery shells hit the house, one exploding in the home's dining room. Although the house survived the battle, it sustained severe damage. A month later, a Union soldier passing through noted that he had "scarcely seen a house more scarred by battle."

"If victorious, we have everything to live for. If defeated, nothing will be left for us to live for."
The General's Strategy
Early's Advance
Emergency!
The Sick and Wounded
Firsthand Accounts
Civil War Atmosphere
The Gambrill Family
The Gambrill Mill: A Safe Place for Our Wounded
The People of Monocacy
The railroad and the War

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COME AND JOIN US BROTHERS.
United States Colored Troops
The Gambrill Family
The People of Monocacy
The railroad and the War

Every man tried to do his best against great odds.
From Times to Volume
Emergency!
The General Hospital in Fredericksburg tended to many soldiers wounded in battle, but before they were transported there, injuries were treated in the field. Hundreds of tents, mostly belonging to the Sanitary Commission, encircled the Montocacy Battlefield, and numerous field hospitals. Both the Worthington and Thomas houses both served as field hospitals, as did the Spotsylvania Mill and the smaller, neighboring homes of the McKinney and Teetor families.
In the aftermath of this and other Civil War battles, civilians worked alongside soldiers and surgeons to shelter and help the wounded.
The Sick and Wounded
Firsthand
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Civil War Ammunition
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GO SEE IT
A Flag to Unite Us
Did you know Maryland's flag
our history as a border state

"led to do his best against great odd."
The Soldier's Experience
Regiments
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—Virginia Bowen (remembered)
The People of Hermitage Farm
The Hermitage Evacuated and Burned
The Gambrill

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The Soldier's Experience
Many of the Federal soldiers who fought at Monocacy were inexperienced troops who had never seen battle. Others were the seasoned soldiers of Brigadier General James Ricketts's VI Corps and the Army of the Potomac. These young veterans arrived fresh off rail transports before dawn the morning of July 9.
For the Confederates, it had been a long march over hundreds of miles up the Shenandoah Valley. The Confederate force was 15,000 strong and battle-hardened, but weary from marching so many miles in the heat of a Virginia summer.
Regiments
From Terror to Tedium
Capture the Flag
Emergency!
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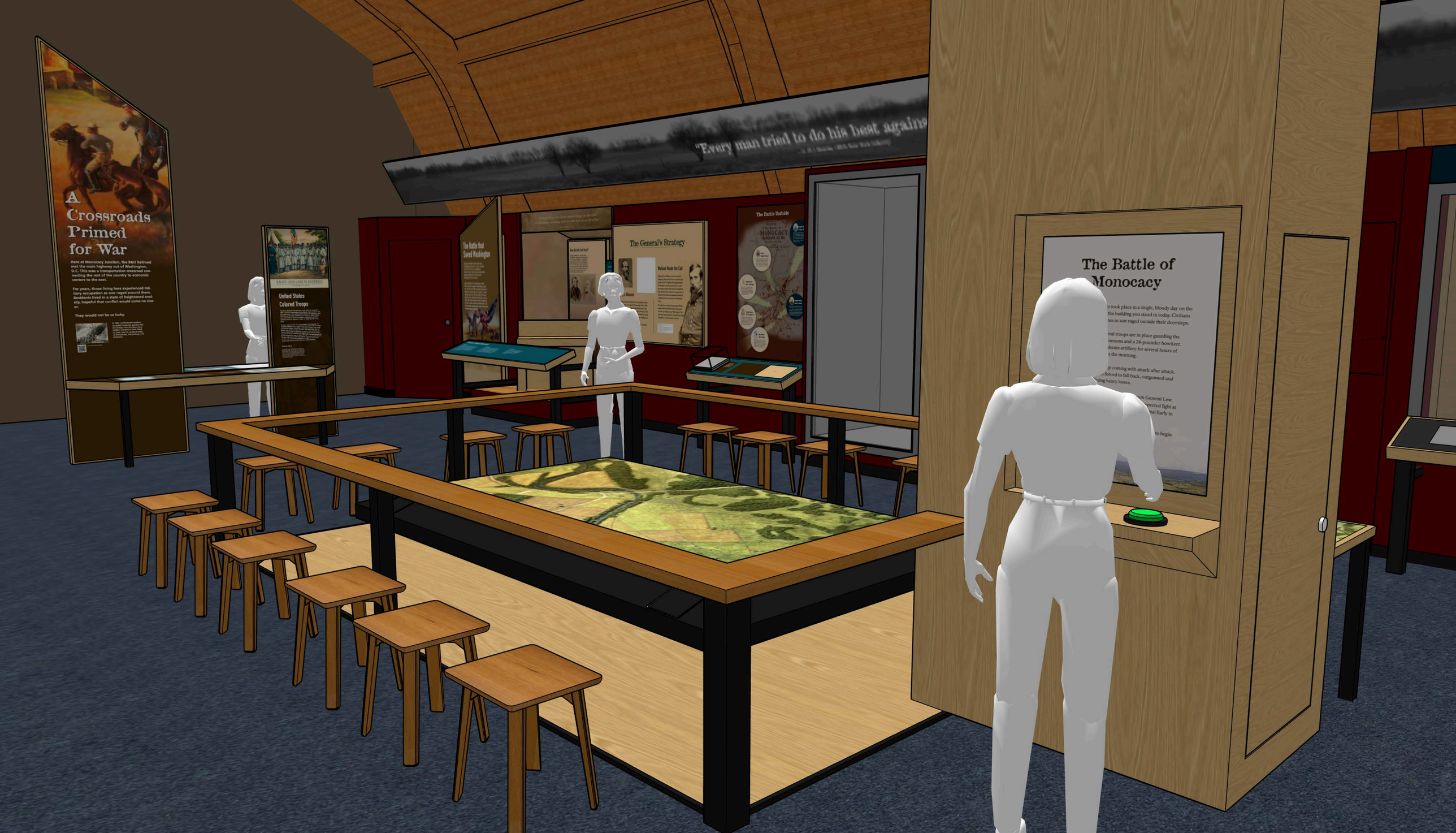
Civil War Ammunitions


A Crossroads Primed for War
Here at Monocacy Junction, the B&O Railroad met the main highway out of Washington, D.C. This was a transportation crossroad connecting the rest of the country to economic centers to the east.
For years, those living here experienced military occupation as war raged around them. Residents lived in a state of heightened anxiety, hopeful that conflict would come no closer.
They would not be so lucky.
United States Colored Troops
The Battle that Saved Washington
The General's Strategy
The Battle Unfolds
The Battle of Monocacy

Witnesses to War
The Battle of Monocacy
The Battle of Monocacy took place in a single, bloody day on the farm fields just beyond the building you stand in today. Civilians watched from their homes as war raged outside their doorsteps.
By 4am on July 9th, Federal troops are in place guarding the bridges with a mere six cannons and a 24-pounder howitzer. They hold off the Confederate artillery for several hours of fierce fighting throughout the morning.
But the Confederates keep coming with attack after attack. The Federal troops are forced to fall back, outgunned and outnumbered, suffering heavy losses.
As the day ends, it is a clear defeat for Union General Lew Wallace's men on the battlefield. But the unexpected fight at Monocacy has delayed Confederate General Jubal Early in his march to Washington, DC.
Who can claim true victory? Press the start button to begin the presentation.
The People of Monocacy
The railroad and the War
Sounding the Alarm
A Crossroads Primed for War
United States Colored Troops

"Every man tried to do his best against great odd."
The Battle that Saved Washington
Although the Battle of Monocacy was a Confederate field victory, it was a strategic win for the US Army. Lew Wallace's Federal troops, though vastly outnumbered, delayed Jubal Early's march toward Washington, DC by one day.1
General Robert E. Lee hoped that a battlefield victory at the gates of Washington would turn the tide of the 1864 Presidential election. If Abraham Lincoln was not re-elected, it would change the course of the Civil War.2 The Confederate army reached Fort Stevens on July 11, 1864, but Federal reinforcements had already arrived. Unable to break the defensive line, the Confederates retreated into Virginia, leaving the Federal capital unscathed.
"If victorious, we have everything to live for. If defeated, nothing will be left for us to live for."
—General Robert E. Lee
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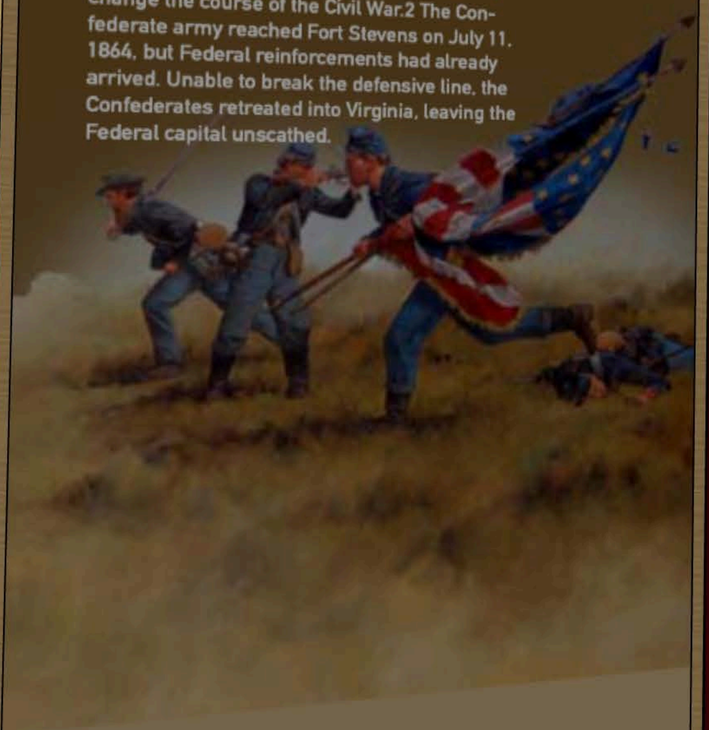

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We Get Here?

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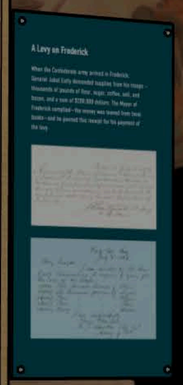
A Levy on Frederick

When the Confederate army arrived in Frederick, General Jubal Early demanded supplies from the troops – thousands of pounds of flour, sugar, coffee, salt, and bacon, and a sum of $200,000 dollars. The Mayor of Frederick complied – the money was loaned from local banks – and he penned this receipt for his payment of the levy.



The General's Strategy

Early's Advance

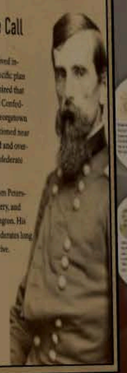
Generals Jubal Early and John Breckinridge had made terrific progress through the Shenandoah Valley. With most Federal forces stationed near Richmond, word was that the US capital was only lightly defended. Early believed that the only Federal force between his troops and Washington was nothing more than a small group of inexperienced 100-Days men.

It appeared he would pull off General Lee's strategic plan to take Washington by surprise.

Wallace Heeds the Call

Although Lew Wallace never received intelligence that alerted him to a specific plan to attack the US capital, he recognized that Washington was threatened if the Confederate army advanced down the Georgetown Pike. He knew the small force stationed near Frederick would be outnumbered and overwhelmed by the experienced Confederate army.

He called for seasoned troops from Petersburg to head towards Harpers Ferry, and to shore up defenses near Washington. His best hope was to delay the Confederates long enough for reinforcements to arrive.



Moving Toward Monocacy

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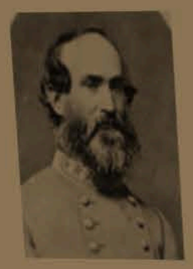
How Did We Get Here?
In May of 1864, two months before the battle, Lieutenant General Ulysses S Grant was engaged in a campaign south of Richmond, VA to defeat the Confederate army of General Robert E. Lee. To the west, ongoing fighting in the Shenandoah Valley threatened to cut off critical supplies from reaching the main forces of Lee's army under siege near Richmond.
A Levy on Frederick
Moving Toward Monocacy

The General's Strategy



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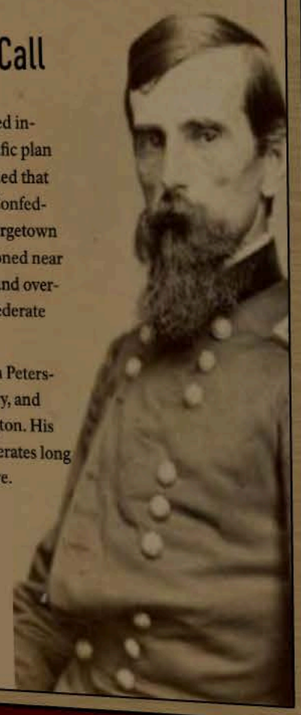
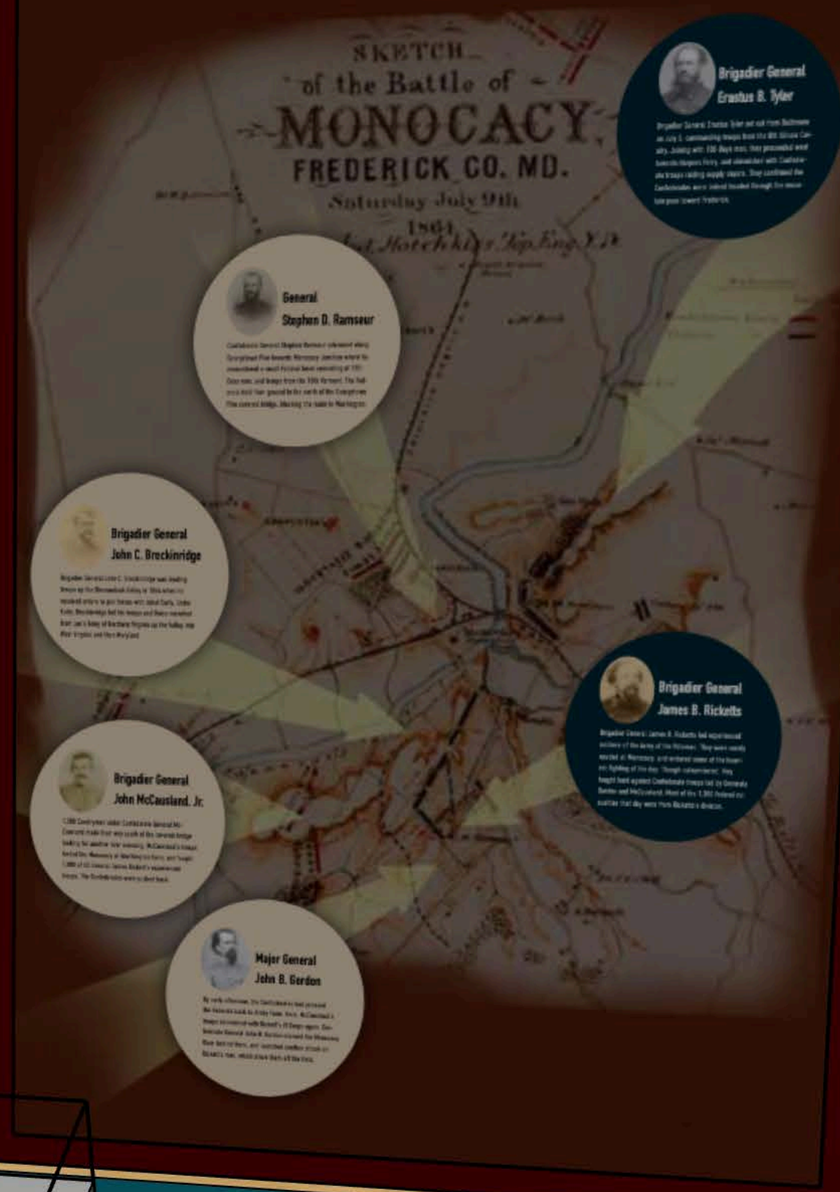


The Battle Unfolds



Flipbook

The Soldier's Experience
Many of the Federal soldiers who fought at Monocacy were inexperienced troops who had never seen battle. Others were the seasoned soldiers of Brigadier General James Ricketts's VI Corps and the Army of the Potomac. These young veterans arrived fresh off rail transports before dawn the morning of July 9.
For the Confederates, it had been a long march over hundreds of miles up the Shenandoah Valley. The Confederate force was 15,000 strong and battle-hardened, but weary from marching so many miles in the heat of a Virginia summer.
Regiments
Many of the men who fought at the Battle of Monocacy were so-called "100-Days men"— they enlisted for just 100 days, were lightly trained, and were typically used to guard railroads, bridges, and forts. Most never saw more than a minor skirmish defending supplies.
Other soldiers were stationed at Monocacy for longer periods, primarily to defend the bridges which came under attack several times throughout the long years of Civil War.

From Terror to Tedium
Waiting for War
Medals of Honor
Two Medals of Honor, the highest award in the US Military, were awarded for actions at the Battle of Monocacy – both to men from the 10th Vermont.
Lt. George Davis received the Medal of Honor for his defense of the bridges over the Monocacy. Private Alexander Scott received the Medal of Honor for saving the national flag of the regiment while under very heavy fire from the enemy.
"I cannot now recall an incident or occurrence under my eyes, more desperate in the undertaking, yet more successful in the outcome. From every point of view it was heroism." – Gen. Lew Wallace
Heroes of the 10th Vermont
First Lieutenant George Davis
Corporal Alexander Scott
Capture the Flag
Every "color bearer" on the battlefield carried the flag of his specific regiment. This honorable job was also incredibly dangerous – color bearers were clear targets for the enemy. When a regiment was overrun, the attacking troops captured the flag, often by wounding or killing the color guard.
The schoolyard game "Capture the Flag" is a light-hearted take on this battlefield practice.
NIGHTHAWK
RANGERS.
Regimental flag of Company F, 17th Virginia Cavalry
The 17th Virginia, chased members of the 9th Illinois south from Monocacy. The Illinois regiment evaded the pursuit, and circled back to shoot the Confederate color guard. Lt. Col. Clendenin, commander of the 9th Illinois, presented the captured Confederate company flag to Major General Lew Wallace.

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Heroes of the 10th Vermont

First Lieutenant George Davis

First Lieutenant George Davis was among the 300 soldiers (75 of them from the 10th Vermont Volunteers) who encountered Confederate troops on the Georgetown Pike around 8:30am on the morning of July 9. Davis was given sudden command of the troops, and proceeded to extend a defensive line to protect the two bridges over the Monocacy. The men held this position all day, preventing the Confederate advance from these points across the river.

The 9th New York Volunteers were ordered to burn the Covered Wooden Bridge and became trapped, eventually made a dangerous retreat over the bridge.

Corporal Alexander Scott

During the Battle of Monocacy, **Corporal Alexander Scott** fought with his regiment on Araby Farm. During the Federal retreat, the regiment's color sergeant fell out due to exhaustion. Under heavy enemy fire, Scott took the National colors and the state flag, and carried them off the field to safety.

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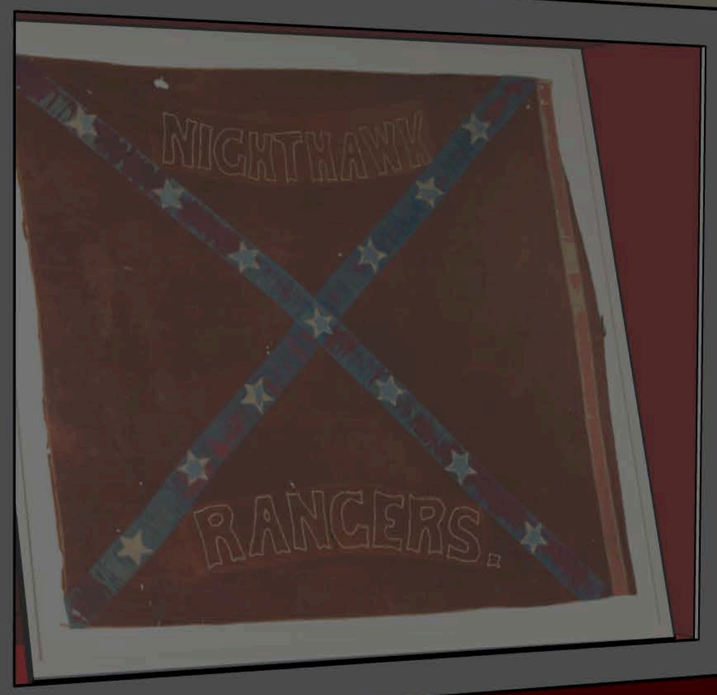

Side A

Side B

Regimental flag of Company F. 17th Virginia Cavalry

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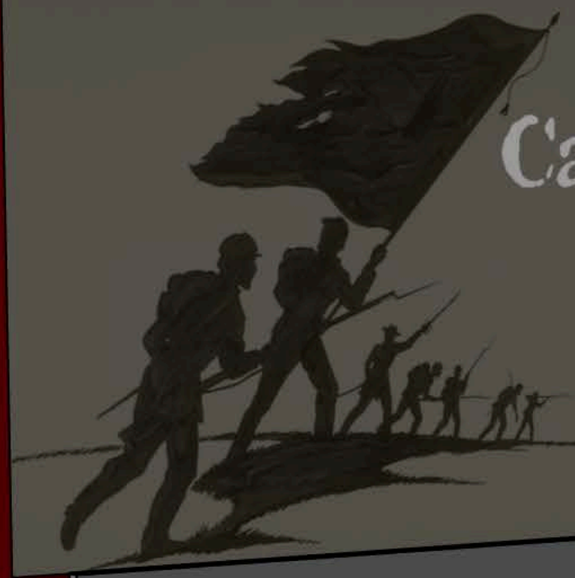

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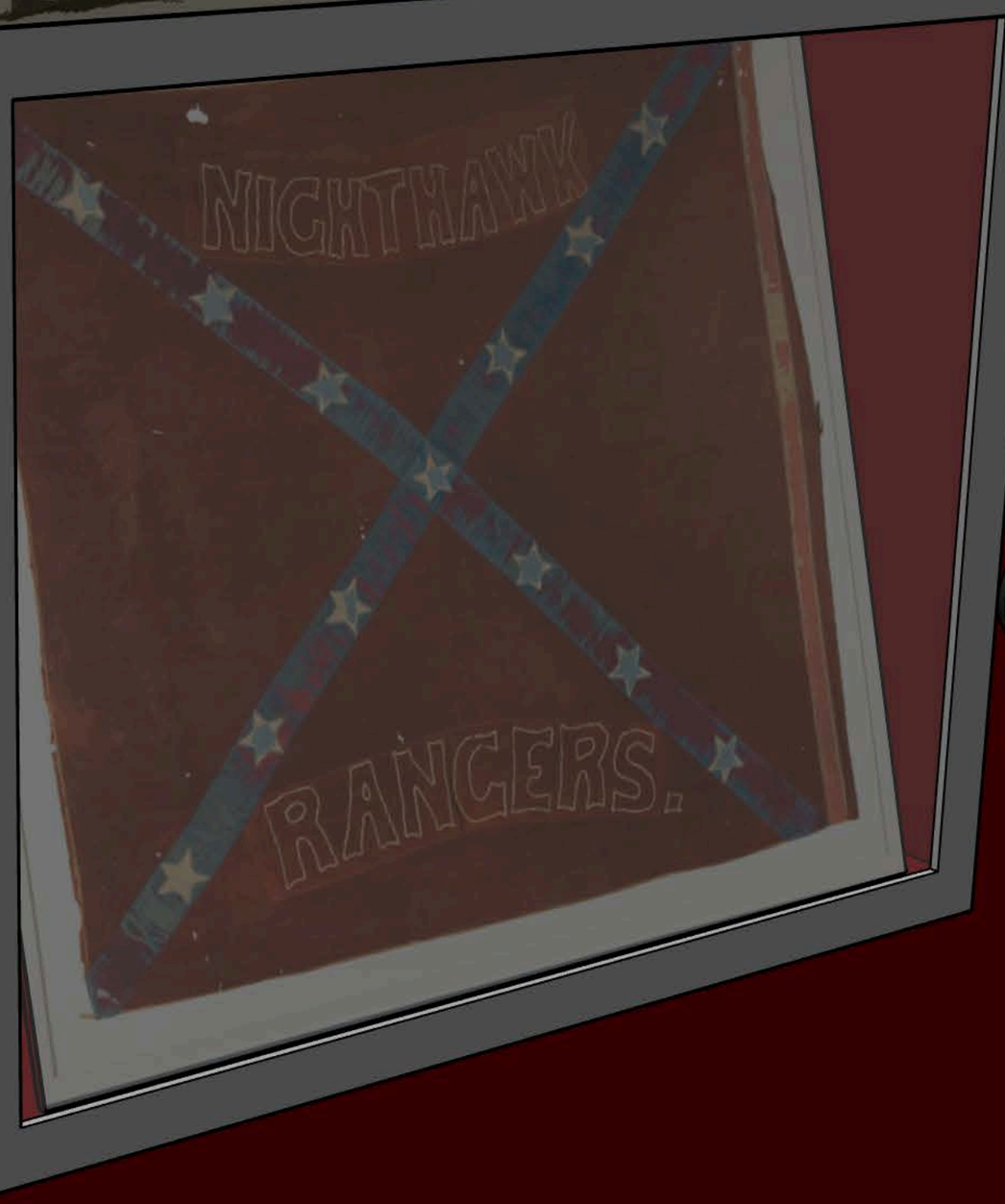

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Capture the F
Emergency!
The General Hospital in Frederick tended to many soldiers wounded in battle, but before they were transported there. Injuries were treated in the field. Many houses, schools, churches, and even orchards around the Monocacy Battlefield were converted to field hospitals. Both the Worthington and Thomas houses both served as field hospitals, as did the Gambrill Mill and the smaller, neighboring homes of the McKinney and Yasle families.
In the aftermath of this and other Civil War battles, civilians worked alongside soldiers and surgeons to shelter and help the wounded.
The Sick and Wounded
Firsthand Accounts
Soldiers often kept diaries or wrote letters home, leaving a record that today helps us understand both the horrors and the kindnesses that soldiers experienced in the aftermath of battle.
Lift the panels to read soldiers' firsthand accounts.
"When wounded I lay where I fell, in care of Sam Lindsey, one of my company, who had me removed the next morning to Frederick City and placed in a comfortable, improvised hospital filled with wounded and apparently all the good women of the town busily engaged administering to the sufferers."
Civil War Ammunitions

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The Sick and Wounded
Did you know that more soldiers died of disease than battle wounds during the Civil War? Turn the cubes to discover what might affect a soldier, how he might be treated for his ailment, and whether or not he was likely to survive.
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Civil War Ammunitions
Imagine the damage each of these ammunitions could do to a human body, or a standing structure. Minie bullets were created in 1849, and came into common use during the American Civil War. Made of soft lead, they expanded as they moved down the rifle barrel – which made their firing more accurate. They also flattened when they hit a target, shattering bone rather than just breaking it, inflicting the kind of damage that often led to amputations.

Period
onstruction
followed the end of the Civil War,
to re-unify the nation. The period
known as Reconstruction, aimed to
eries of constitutional amendments.
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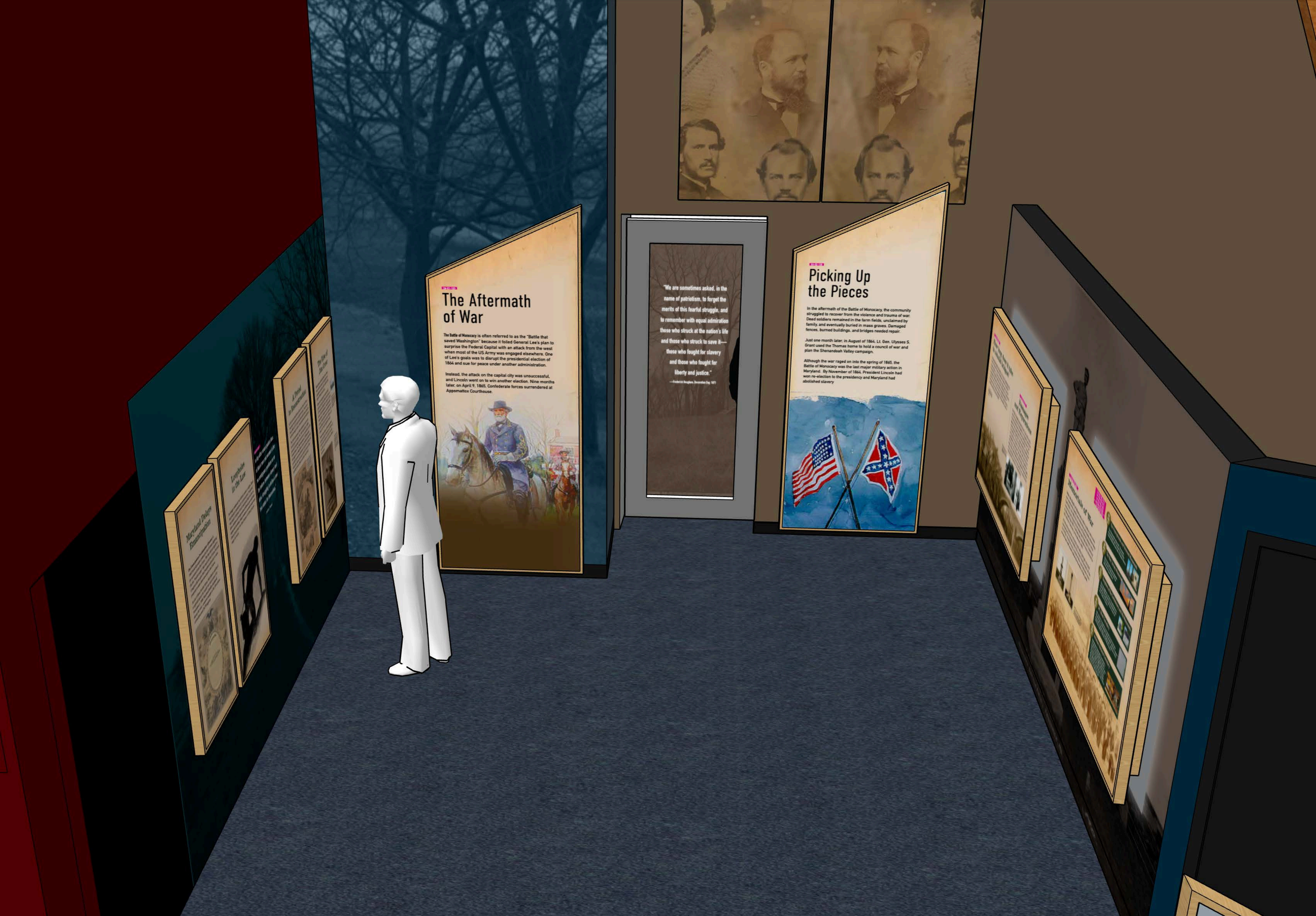
regardless of race. Southern states had
amendments to rejoin the Union, and
, they also looked for ways to limit
n Black and white Americans.
The Rise of Jim Crow
Many states enacted Jim Crow laws
that created systems of complete and
segregation and severely restrict
rights of Black Americans.
Films and newspapers widely
contributed to ingrained racial harmony
stereotypes and language about Black
In the 20th Amendment and Jim Crow
laws, slavery "legally" continued in
states, "prisoners could be sold to work
private Black men were arrested on
charges and sent to chain gangs
The Jim Crow era saw many
groups emerge in Southern states
to protect white supremacy and
Jim Crow era saw many Black people
and lynchings.
6-10-16
Outcomes and Relevance
The Civil War ended more than 150 years ago, but the rifts in society that caused the war are still being felt today. Eras, events, and institutions like Reconstruction, Jim Crow, Segregation, the Civil Rights Movement, the prison industrial complex, and the Black Lives Matter movement all represent a societal tug-of-war that continues to impact the way Americans live their lives.
Were you taught this history in school? Consider how you, your friends, and your family have experienced these events and movements. Are there actions you are taking (or not taking) that could impact others around you?
Negroes Are Americans Too Protect Them WHERE
STOP BRUTALITY IN ALABAMA
Negroes Are We Demand Americans Too THE RIGHT TO VOTE EVERYWHERE
What Do You Think?
THEIR NAMES
LIVES MATTER
VOTE HIM OUT 2020
THE ARMY IS COVERING UP THEY'LL KNEEL WITH YOU
Illegal Bondage
General Lew Wallace claimed that following emancipation in Maryland, he learned of Maggie Toogood, a young woman who continued to be held in bondage in neck chains, in opposition to the new law freeing the enslaved. Wallace instructed his men to find and free her; they did so, and brought Wallace the chains that had bound her neck.
Wallace's account is unverified, and scholars continue to research the story of Maggie Toogood. The chains, however, are known to have hung in Wallace's office in Crawfordsville, Indiana.
Medals of Honor
Heroes of the 10th Vermont
Cap


The Aftermath of War
The Battle of Monocacy is often referred to as the "Battle that saved Washington" because it foiled General Lee's plan to surprise the Federal Capital with an attack from the west when most of the US Army was engaged elsewhere. One of Lee's goals was to disrupt the presidential election of 1864 and sue for peace under another administration.
Instead, the attack on the capital city was unsuccessful, and Lincoln went on to win another election. Nine months later, on April 9, 1865, Confederate forces surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse.
"We are sometimes asked, in the name of patriotism, to forget the merits of this fearful struggle, and to remember with equal admiration those who struck at the nation's life and those who struck to save it—those who fought for slavery and those who fought for liberty and justice."
—Frederick Douglass, Decoration Day, 1871
Picking Up the Pieces
In the aftermath of the Battle of Monocacy, the community struggled to recover from the violence and trauma of war. Dead soldiers remained in the farm fields, unclaimed by family, and eventually buried in mass graves. Damaged fences, burned buildings, and bridges needed repair.
Just one month later, in August of 1864, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant used the Thomas home to hold a council of war and plan the Shenandoah Valley campaign.
Although the war raged on into the spring of 1865, the Battle of Monocacy was the last major military action in Maryland. By November of 1864, President Lincoln had won re-election to the presidency and Maryland had abolished slavery

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How long does it take to rebuild bridges?
Damages and Reparations
In 1864, Congress passed an act to provide repayment for property damaged by or supplies provided to the Federal army during the time they were "engaged in the suppression of the rebellion." Claims could only be made by "loyal citizens, in States not in rebellion." For the civilians at Monocacy, there were plenty of claims to be made, and each was investigated to determine "the question of loyalty to the Union," the claimant's citizenship, and the legitimacy of the items destroyed or supplied to the army. Most claimants received only about one-third of the damage they claimed in compensation.
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Memorials of War
After the Battle of Monocacy, fallen soldiers who were not claimed by family were buried in the fields where they had fallen. In 1866, the remains of Federal solders were removed and reinterred at Antietam National Cemetery in Sharpsburg, MD. Confederate remains were moved to Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Frederick, MD.
As decades passed, veterans and other groups erected monuments to memorialize the events and people of the Civil War. At Monocacy, a total of five monuments were erected and still stand within the borders of the park.
The Pennsylvania and Vermont Monuments
The Pennsylvania and Vermont monuments are located on Araby Church Road near the Thomas Farm.
The New Jersey Monument
The New Jersey monument is located on Route 355 at Monocacy Junction.
Daughters of the Confederacy and Md Monuments
The Daughters of the Confederacy and the Maryland monuments are located on Route 355 just west of the Visitor Center.
Mt. Olivet Cemetary
Mt Olivet Cemetery, located in downtown Frederick, is the final interrment site for more than 600 unknown confederate soldiers who fell during the Battle of Monocacy
Antietam National Cemetary
Antietam National Cemetery, located in Sharpsburg, Maryland, is the final interrment site for more than 4,000 unknown federal soldiers killed during the Battle of Antietam, South Mountain, Monocacy, and other actions in Maryland

Maryland Delays Emancipation
The Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 freed all people enslaved in the 10 states fighting for secession from the Union. The law did not apply to the five "border states" that stayed in the Union, because Congress did not give the President authority to seize property in states that were loyal to the Union.
As one of those border states, Maryland continued to uphold slavery for nearly two more years. On November 1, 1864, Maryland finally abolished slavery by vote – a narrow margin of 30,174 in favor of abolition and 29,799 against.
Loopholes in the Law
No longer enslaved, but without means or rights, Black Marylanders maintained a very precarious "freedom." Maryland's Orphans Court interpreted the new law to allow children to be apprenticed without pay until their eighteenth birthday. Many enslavers evicted newly freed Blacks from their one-time homes, or refused to pay wages for work.
"The day after emancipation thus found black men and women in the same ambiguous positions as on the day before: between slavery and freedom, struggling to define a new free status for themselves."
A Period to Reconstruction
The 13th Amendment (1865) abolished slavery and involuntary servitude. The 14th Amendment (1868) granted citizenship to anyone born or naturalized in the United States. The 15th Amendment (1870) granted the right to vote regardless of race. Southern states had to ratify the new amendments to rejoin the Union, and while they did so, they also looked for ways to limit equality between Black and white Americans.
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