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## HARPERS FERRY

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### CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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**PO BOX 1079, HARPERS FERRY, WV 25425**

Vol. 28 April 2009 No. 8

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**TIME:** 7:00 PM - CWRT Members Dinner  
(Dinner Reservations Required)

8:00 Speaker's Presentation and Book Raffle  
(Open to the Public)

**PLACE:** Camp Hill Methodist Church, Harpers Ferry, WV

**SPEAKER:** Betsy Estilow

**SUBJECT:** For The Benefit of the Sufferers

#### The Subject:

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1861 gunfire erupted on the streets of Baltimore leaving behind dozens of wounded soldiers and civilians. Citizens such as Dr. William Hammond and Mrs. Adeline Tyler stepped forward to offer their services. Because of its key location and connection to rail, road and water transportation, Baltimore would soon become a supply and medical center for the North. Eleven Federal hospitals would eventually care for thousands of sick and wounded Union and Confederate soldiers. While most of the buildings vanished long ago, the stories of the soldiers and their caregivers remain.

## The Speaker:

Betsy Estilow currently serves as Professor of Biology and adjunct instructor in Civil War history at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. She received a BS degree in biology from Albright College, Reading, Pennsylvania, and a certificate in medical technology from the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After completing a Master of Science degree in clinical microbiology at West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, she became the director of the clinical microbiology laboratory at Washington County Hospital in Hagerstown, Maryland. In 1975, she joined the faculty at Hood College where she has taught courses as varied as biology of aging to mechanisms of infectious disease. She also developed and taught a week-long course on Civil War history for Hood Elderhostel entitled "In the Footsteps of the Blue and Gray." Ms. Estilow is a two-time recipient of the Mortar Board Excellence in Teaching Award, an award given by the students.

A native of southern New Jersey, Betsy got involved in Civil War history at a very young age. As a young man, her grandfather began collecting books and materials on Abraham Lincoln, a passion he passed on to his son and granddaughter. Some of Ms. Estilow's earliest memories involve sitting on the floor of her grandfather's library looking through Lincoln books and visiting various Lincoln sites and battlefields with her family. She currently serves as a docent and as President of the board of directors of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. She is co-founder of the Society of Women and the Civil War. She has researched, written and lectured on the role of women, especially in medicine, during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## THE MEAL

A family-style meal will be served at 7:00 PM prior to the program. The cost of the meal is \$15.00 per person. Reservations for the meal **must be phoned in no later than Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**, to Allison Alsdorf, at 304-535-2101 or you can e-mail her at [alsdorf@comcast.net](mailto:alsdorf@comcast.net)

## The Third Invasion of the North

By mid-1864, the tide of war had turned against the Confederacy. Its army in the west was being beaten back toward Atlanta, GA. In the east, Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was forced to establish battle lines around Richmond and Petersburg, VA. To bolster Union forces besieging those cities, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant had removed thousands of troops from the ring of forts surrounding Washington, DC, leaving the city lightly defended and a tempting target.

To relieve the pressure on his beleaguered army, Lee sent 15,000 troops under Lt. Gen. Jubal Early on a campaign to divert Union troops away from Petersburg. Early would head west into the Shenandoah Valley, then sweep north in Maryland. His goal: threaten or capture Washington and, if possible, raid the prison at Point Lookout to free the thousands of Confederates held there. Lee also hoped this third incursion into the war-weary North would further destroy public support for the conflict.

Early's army reached Harpers Ferry, WV on July 4. Crossing the Potomac River near Sharpsburg, MD, they headed east toward Frederick and the road to Washington. Their movements did not go unnoticed. Railroad agents alerted the president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, John W. Garrett, who notified Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace, the Union commander in Baltimore. Wallace quickly assembled 2,800 troops, most of them new or short-term recruits without experience.

Unsure of Early's strength and whether the Confederates were headed to Baltimore or Washington, Wallace rushed his troops to Monocacy, an important trade and transportation center and a logical point to defense for both cities. There, the Georgetown Pike to Washington and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad crossed the Monocacy River, and did the nearby National Road to Baltimore. By guarding all three bridges and several fords, Wallace hoped to delay Early until reinforcements arrived in Washington.

By dawn on July 9, the last of 3,000 Union veterans sent by Grant from Petersburg arrived, more than doubling Wallace's force. But the Confederates massing near Frederick still greatly outnumbered the Federals by almost three to one.

## Monocacy National Battlefield 2009 Special Events

### May 2: Battlefield Hikes (8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 2:00 p.m.)

National Park Service rangers will conduct three hikes that will take visitors to separate areas of the battlefield highlighting the tactics and troop movements that transpired in those areas on July 9, 1864. Each hike covers a distance of less than two miles. Allow a maximum of two hours per hike. Appropriate clothing and footgear for walking is recommended and participants should bring their own water. Meet at the park visitor center. **Reservations required.** Call 301-662-3515.

### On this day, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1862

Federal guns from Tybee Island roared forth again in the morning against wounded Fort Pulaski on the Savannah River near the major Confederate port of Savannah, Ga. Soon Pulaski's fire slackened at the rifled guns and heavy artillery of the Federals, well protected, silenced more of the fort's guns and blasted two visible holes through the brick walls. Youthful Confederate commander Col. Charles H. Olmstead made his decision and in mid-afternoon surrendered. Over five thousand shot and shell had been fired against the fort, with only one Federal killed. For the Confederates, the fort was a wreck, but only one man died, although others were wounded. The fall of Fort Pulaski successfully blocked the main channel to Savannah and greatly strengthened the effectiveness of the never-ceasing Federal blockade. Once more, as it had so often this spring, the Confederacy reeled from another blow. (Excerpted from *The Civil War Day by Day*, E. B. Long, published by Doubleday)