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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**

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Vol. 31 March 2012 No. 07

- DATE:** Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012
- TIME:** Dinner 7:00 PM; Program 8:00
- PLACE:** Camp Hill Methodist Church, Harpers Ferry, WV
- SPEAKER:** James A. Addy
- SUBJECT:** President Ulysses S. Grant: *His Presidency, His Legacy*

### The Speaker:

James A. Addy is the former mayor of Harpers Ferry, having filled that position for ten years. He is a professor of social studies at Bowie State University where he teaches classes in American history. Mr. Addy is a native of Baltimore.

### The Subject

The topic is President Ulysses S. Grant and the true lost cause. His presentation will include General Grant's prevention of a coup d'etat by president Andrew Johnson, Grant's policy of forceful implementation of political rights for Negroes and his support for the fifteenth amendment enfranchising black male voting. President Grant will be portrayed as being of equal stature to President Lincoln in reconciling differences between the North and the South in the aftermath of the Civil War.

## 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, March 11th**, to Kyle Wichtendahl at 301-639-8855 or you can email him at [kfwichtendahl@gmail.com](mailto:kfwichtendahl@gmail.com) The meal will consist of Corned Beef and Cabbage, Carrots, Potatoes, Iced Tea, Irish Soda Bread, and Dessert.

## On This Day, Friday, June 3, 1864 Charge at Cold Harbor

The rain ceased and dawn approached. A sudden crash of cheers and the drumming of musket fire signaled the attack by Grant, Meade, and the Army of the Potomac. With Richmond scarcely beyond the horizon, Grant hoped a surprise shift in tactics would split, possibly crush, Lee's army. The Army of Northern Virginia was lined up behind strong fortifications from the Chickahominy on the south to the swamps along the Totopotomoy on the north. Disposition of units was mixed, but basically A.P. Hill's corps was on the right, Anderson's in the center, and Early's on the left. Grant planned to use the three corps of Hancock, Wright, and Smith, on the left and center for the main assault. Warren and Burnside to the north would join later.

At 4:30 a.m. the blow came. For both sides it was a crisis, but for the Confederates it was crucial; a serious breakthrough by Grant might end the war in Virginia. Listing units and their movements is of little import. For this was a smashing, headlong attempt to ram through regardless of cost. Immediately the cost was great. As the three Federal corps made some early gains, Confederate guns and infantry enfiladed various units; the issue was determined in an incredibly short time. Just how long that ferocious storm lasted is disputed, as is the number of fallen assailants. But it failed, and Grant later regretted that it was ever made. It was a great victory for Lee, if stemming of a tide by a human wall can be called victory, and was his last major triumph in all-out battle. Nevertheless, Richmond and his army were still in danger.

Federal killed and wounded for the June 3 assault may be put at around 7,000 in well under an hour, with perhaps 5,000 more for June 1 – 2. Confederate losses June 3 were probably under 1500. The North utilized perhaps 50,000 out of around 117,000 present for duty; the South about half of the less than 60,000 available. Around noon Grant called off his entire attack; the day was spent strengthening lines and caring for the casualties of the futile assault of Cold Harbor, though countless wounded went unsuccored. (Excerpted from *The Civil War Day by Day*, E. B. Long, published by Doubleday)

## Goddard / Zon: "The Good Fight That Didn't End: Henry P. Goddard's Accounts of Civil War and Peace"

Personal accounts of Civil War service are common enough in the literature (as we all know), but ones that deeply extend into and beyond the Reconstruction years are less so. Such are the writings of Norwich, Connecticut's Henry P. Goddard, compiled and edited

by his great-grandson Calvin Goddard Zon and published as [The Good Fight That Didn't End: Henry P. Goddard's Accounts of Civil War and Peace](#) (University of South Carolina Press, 2008). After a brief stint in the 2nd New York Cavalry's "Connecticut Squadron," Goddard joined the newly formed 14th Connecticut in June 1862. Beginning his service as a sergeant major and ending it as a captain, Goddard had combat experience in the infantry that extended from Antietam through his resignation in April 1864 (with a disability certificate).

Calvin Zon, who contributed the book's introduction and index as well as brief transitional narratives and occasional notes, has skillfully arranged Goddard's writings, which include letters, diary entries, and post-war reminiscences. Other sources, such as Charles D. Page's *History of the Fourteenth Regiment, Connecticut Vol. Infantry*, are extensively excerpted by Zon, to provide context and additional information.

The last third of the book comprises Goddard's journalistic work for Connecticut and Baltimore newspapers. In these articles he critically explores important issues of race relations, Reconstruction, and national reconciliation. While his newspaper writings advocated for black civil rights, they also reflected the deeply conflicted feelings many in the public had over Reconstruction policy.

This book is an obvious labor of love on the part of the editor. Zon's work is an exceptionally thoughtful compilation of his ancestor's writings, which comprise useful source material for researchers of the military campaigns of the eastern theater as well as historians interested in the key issues raised by the societal upheaval of the post-war decades, North and South.

## Introducing UNC Press E-Book Shorts



UNC Press Shorts excerpt compelling, shorter narratives from selected bestselling books published by the University of North Carolina Press and present them as engaging, quick reads. Presented exclusively as e-books, these shorts present essential concepts, defining moments, and concise introductions to topics. They are intended to stir the imagination and encourage exploration of the original publications from which they are drawn. Forthcoming UNC Press Shorts will highlight some of the most significant publications in many disciplines, including American History, African American history, religious studies, and more.

Among the first of these e-book shorts are a series of UNC Press Civil War Shorts that excerpt rousing narratives from distinguished UNC Press books on the military, political, social, and cultural history of the Civil War era. These e-book shorts focus on pivotal moments and figures and are intended to provide a concise introduction to larger themes. For in-depth analysis, contextualization, and perspective, we invite readers to consider the original publications from which these works are drawn.

Look for more UNC Press E-Book Shorts to be issued in the coming months.

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