

# OUR CAMP JOURNAL



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"We are but few in number but formidable." -Pvt. James Shelton, 7th Md. Co. B

August 2024

## National Cemeteries Series

# Alexandria National Cemetery

By Pvt. Jeff Joyce

On May 24, 1861, Union troops occupied Alexandria, Virginia. The day before Virginia voters had ratified the decision of a state convention to join the Confederacy. During the course of the Civil War Alexandria became a major Union supply depot as well as a center for treating wounded and sick sol-

diers, with over 30 military hospitals established consisting of 6,500 beds. Churches, homes, the city's largest hotel and other buildings were taken over as hospitals. In addition, hospital complexes extending over city blocks were built based on plans from the Quartermaster-General in Washington City. Their main features were long, ventilated wooden barracks in

which patients could be divided into wards. After black soldiers were recruited for the Union Army as United States Colored Troops (USCT) L'Overture General Hospital was opened in Alexandria in February 1864 to treat black soldiers and civilians.

With the large number of deaths during the Civil War the War Department

decided to create national cemeteries and the first 14 cemeteries were established in July 1862, including Soldiers Cemetery in Alexandria near today's Old Town. The original cemetery consisted of four acres known as Spring Garden Farm located near other city cemeteries. By 1864 the cemetery was nearly filled, leading to the establishment of Arlington National Cemetery. Additional land was acquired after the Civil War and by November 1870 the cemetery had reached its current size of a little over five acres.

The design of Alexandria National Cemetery is consistent with cemeteries established during and after the Civil War, with an enclosure wall, an ornamental cast-iron entry gate, graveled walks and paths and a superintendent's lodge. The lodge at Alexandria National Cemetery was constructed of Seneca sandstone and brick in 1871. During the 1930s the Civilian Works Administration made general repairs to the



*Block bounded by Pendleton, Oronoco, North Payne and North West Streets, in Alexandria City, Virginia.* The hospital was built for the Second Division. The Quartermaster Map indicates that the hospital was built by Col. Sickel in 1863, and occupied by Surgeon T. Ruels Spenser in 1864. The hospital complex included approximately 24 wood frame structures, ward tents, surgeon's headquarters, 13 wooden wards, sutler's building, wash house, dead house and two sinks (privies). After the War, some of the building materials were said to have been given to the Freedmen's Bureau to build schools.

*(Continued on page 2)*



# Upcoming Campaigns

AUGUST

August 9-11: 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Foulkes Mill, Cumberland, MD (Individual)

August 10-11: Securing the Home Front, Stroudsburg, PA 142<sup>nd</sup> Co. G Event (Individual)

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

October 18-20: 160<sup>th</sup> Battle of Cedar Creek, Middletown, VA Register [www.ccbf.us](http://www.ccbf.us) (Company event) \*(FVB Event)

NOVEMBER

November 16-17: FVB Annual Meeting & Remembrance Day Parade (Company event) \*(FVB Event)

## Alexandria Nat'l Cemetery

(Continued from page 1)

lodge and outbuildings and erected a new flagpole. Alexandria National Cemetery was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1995. Managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs today, it has over 4500 interments, including 280 USCT soldiers.

Several 7th Marylanders are buried at Alexandria National Cemetery. Private George Parks (Company I) died in Alexandria of sickness on December 9, 1863. Private Theodore Hyder (Company F) died in Alexandria on July 9, 1864, from complications of a gunshot wound received in June 1864 outside Petersburg. Sergeant Joshua Lightner (Company E) died in Alexandria of sickness on August 26,

1863. Following his death members of Company E wrote a resolution of grief and condolence that was published in the Frederick Examiner. Corporal Benjamin Lightner (Company E) died near Culpeper of sickness on January 29, 1864, and was subsequently moved to Alexandria for burial. At least four Lightners served in the 7th Maryland, though it's not clear if they were brothers or cousins.



Left, the headstone of Joshua F. Lightner at Alexandria National Cemetery and right, the "Resolution of Grief and Condolence" by members of Co. "E".

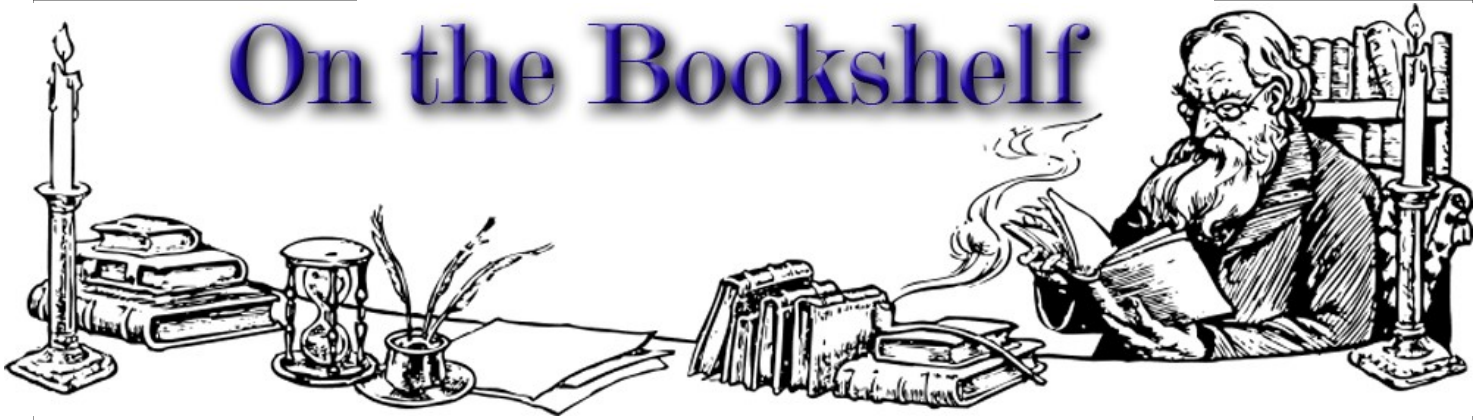
**RESOLUTIONS OF GRIEF AND CONDOLENCE**  
 At a meeting of the officers and men of Co. E, 7th Maryland Volunteers, held at Rappahannock Station, Va., Sept. 1st, 1863, Lieut. John Howard, presiding; it was unanimously resolved, That we have heard with the most profound emotions of grief, of the death of Serg't Joshua F. Lightner, our comrade in arms, endeared to us through a long association, by his noble qualities of heart and mind, his soldierly bearing, his readiness to perform duty in every trying emergency, his generous and disinterested conduct, and his amiable disposition.  
 Resolved, That whilst we as a company feel the mourning void made in our ranks, by the sad bereavement, and the loss of a noble and dutiful soldier, we all of us as men and his associates, mourn the loss of a deep companion and a kind friend.  
 Resolved, That the sincerest sympathies of this company are with his relatives and friends who have been deprived of a dutiful son, an affectionate brother and a true friend, but we mingle with our sorrow the proudest satisfaction, in the thought that his truly pious character, his eagerness after divine truth, and his christian death have gained for him a happy admittance into the eternal kingdom of the blest, when wars shall cease and perpetual happiness reign.  
 Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be transmitted to the family of the deceased and be published in the Frederick Examiner and Baltimore American.  
 Serg't HOPKINS H. BRIGGSMAIER,  
 Serg't JOHN W. KAPPA,  
 Serg't ROBERT BARRETT,  
 Corp. DAVID R. COLEMAN,  
 Private G. N. GALT,  
 Committee



Left, Alexandria National Cemetery in the 1860's and above as it appears today.



# On the Bookshelf



## The Civil War in Maryland Reconsidered

Reviewed by Zachery A. Fry

Among the more common images in Civil War political history is that of Maryland being held in the Union at the point of the bayonet. That traditional view—Maryland loyalty enforced by cold steel—highlights a military threat posed by Federal soldiers who occupied much of the state as well as the perceived ruthlessness of Lincoln’s constitutional violations against legions of Southern-leaning citizens. It is a well-worn notion, though, and it often denies the diversity of experience in a state that ran the gamut from secession sympathy to abolitionist activism, Union soldier to Confederate, and slaveholder to enslaved. Charles Mitchell and Jean Baker have collected the work of numerous outstanding scholars to tackle these complexities with their edited volume, *The Civil War in Maryland Reconsidered*. The book succeeds in reaching broadly for new source bases and interpretive trends to tell a more complete story of border state experiences in the Civil War era.

The key to understanding Maryland’s complicated place in the Civil War is to read forward in the state’s narrative, according to Baker, Mitchell, and company. The “mythical Maryland version of the

Lost Cause,” like its broader cousin movement in ex-Confederate states, reflects postwar contrivance more than historical reality (2).

### The Civil War in Maryland Reconsidered

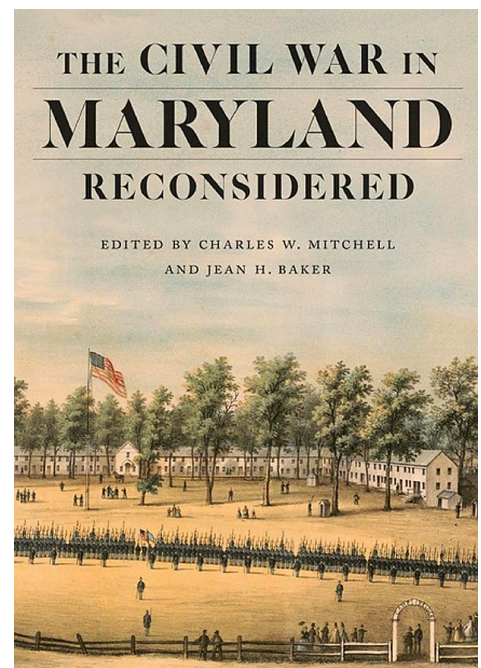
Edited by Charles W. Mitchell and Jean H. Baker

Louisiana State University Press, 2021, \$45.00, hardcover.

*The Civil War in Maryland Reconsidered* is an ambitious volume in that its 300 pages boast an impressive thirteen essays. Most of the essays are therefore on the shorter side, and it would be unwieldy to review them all. The benefit of such a diverse spread is that the topics really do represent

the best of recent trends in Civil War scholarship. Nearly half the chapters place the political issue of slavery or the experiences of the enslaved at the core of their studies. Jessica Millward, for instance, uses microhistory to offer an insightful glimpse into the life of Charity Folks, whose complicated story carries “testimony to the multifaceted legacies of enslavement” (55). Millward’s essay is particularly memorable for its call to consider alternate methodologies for chronicling the lives of slaves, since bare-bones archival records can only offer so much on the topic.

A few other strong essays dealing with the military sphere of the Civil War stand out for this reviewer. Timothy Orr, an expert on all things Army of the Potomac, delves into the issue of Baltimore recruit-



ment practices to show the tense politics of promotion in Maryland units. The number of Maryland officers purged from Burnside’s Ninth Corps reflected an army-wide “anti-Maryland bias,” according to Maryland’s ranks serving at the front (167). Jonathan White, whose work *Emancipation, the Union Army, and the Reelection of Abraham Lincoln* (LSU, 2014) ranks as one of the most important books in Civil War history over the past decade, tackles the issue of Maryland soldier voting in a brilliant essay on how Union soldiers gave the state’s new anti-slavery constitution a decisive boost in 1864. White contextual-

(Continued on page 8)





# Skirmish at Funkstown



The annual Funkstown Day in the Park 2024, "Skirmish at Funkstown" saw another fine street battle pitting Confederate forces against the Union stalwarts. Food, vendors and a troop town foraging opportunity allowed plenty of time for interaction with town locals and spectators.



Photos by Bill Hart



# The Ladies' Knapsack.



**Miss Sarah Harris**  
Civilian  
Coordinator

This past month, my son William the Youngest (Liam for short) attended his first FVB event at Funkstown. This was Liam's first experience of 'camping' under a fly, and while he was only there for a few short hours, he still found time to create chaos and havoc. What follows is what I assume is the point of view of a 21-month-old while in camp:

- Fly ropes are for climbing and pulling on
- Chairs are for climbing on (all chairs, even when people are already sitting in them, or if the chairs are folded up)
- Every cup belongs to him
- Water has many uses:
  - Drinking
  - Spitting out
  - Dribbling down one's front as a self cooling mechanism
  - Dumping on the ground
  - He must immediately ask for more water after completing one of the used mentioned above
  - Spoons are for digging in the ground, then putting in his mouth
  - Sticks are better than any other pre existing toy
  - If someone else is eating something, he must eat (this is normal though, not just confined to camp)
  - Horses are very good at captivat-ing attention for brief periods of time

Mommy is very glad she chose a dark color fabric for his dress ( I added

that one in, I'm sure Liam wasn't thinking about that)

Overall, Funkstown proved to be a nice little adventure for Liam, and another annual occurrence of one of my favorite events. This year also marked the first year that Funkstown was made an FVB event. In talking with various FVB members, they appeared to enjoy the weekend, but it was noted that multiple events in July did make it difficult to get larger numbers at Funkstown. I did get the sense, however, that there seemed to be more spectators at the event this year than in past years. I know that the event coordinators have been working so hard, year after year, to improve the experience for both reenactors and community members alike. And having done this event for 15ish years now (please no one correct me if

it's longer, I'm already feeling my age), I can see how much this event has grown and improved over the years.

And now that the baking and hand sewing marathon is over from Funkstown, I can start to think more about the Othello event scheduled for September 7 and 8, just outside of Brunswick, MD. This is another event, similar to Funkstown, where we would have great opportunities to meet and talk with the public.

And even better, our camping location will be in a fenced-in back yard, so I can let Liam run free. I hope to see several of you there, especially if you're willing to let Liam throw things at you.



**Miss Sarah Lafferty, Joshua Harris, Kevin Harris, Della Lafferty (who was having a bad day...) Mike Lafferty holding Liam Lafferty who experienced a whole new world in Civil War reenacting.**

# The Daguerreotype

Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre invented the daguerreotype process in France. The invention was announced to the public on August 19, 1839 at a meeting of the French Academy of Sciences in Paris. American photographers quickly capitalized on this new invention, which was capable of capturing a "truthful likeness." Daguerreotypists in major cities invited celebrities and political figures to their studios in the hopes of obtaining a likeness for display in their windows and reception areas. They encouraged the public to visit their galleries, which were like museums, in the hope that they would desire to be photographed as well. By 1850, there were over 70 daguerreotype studios in New York City alone.

Popularity of the daguerreotype declined in the late 1850s when the ambrotype, a faster and less expensive photographic process, became available. A few contemporary photographers have revived the process.

## The Process

The daguerreotype is a direct-positive process, creating a highly detailed image on a sheet of copper plated with a thin coat of silver without the use of a negative. The process required great care. The silver-plated copper plate had first to be cleaned and polished until the surface looked like a mirror. Next, the plate was sensitized in a closed box over iodine until it took on a yellow-rose appearance. The plate, held in a lightproof holder, was then transferred to the camera. After exposure to light, the plate was developed over hot mercury until an image appeared. To fix the image, the plate was immersed in a solution of sodium thiosulfate or salt and then toned with gold chloride.

Exposure times for the earliest daguerreotypes ranged from three to fifteen minutes, making the process nearly impractical for portraiture. Modifications to the sensitization process coupled with the improvement of photographic lenses soon reduced the exposure time to less than a minute.

Although daguerreotypes are unique images, they could be copied by redaguerreotyping the original. Copies were also produced by lithography or engraving. Portraits based upon daguerreotypes

appeared in popular periodicals and in books. James Gordon Bennett, the editor of the New York Herald, posed for his daguerreotype at Brady's studio. An engraving, based on this daguerreotype later appeared in the *Democratic Review*.

## The Cameras



**Photographer unidentified. Occupational portrait of a woman working at a sewing machine. One-sixth plate daguerreotype, ca. 1853.**

The earliest cameras used in the daguerreotype process were made by opticians and instrument makers, or sometimes even by the photographers themselves. The most popular cameras utilized a sliding-box design. The lens was placed in the front box. A second, slightly smaller box, slid into the back of the larger box. The focus was controlled by sliding the rear box forward or backwards. A laterally reversed image would be obtained unless the camera was fitted with a mirror or prism to correct this effect. When the sensitized plate was placed in the camera, the lens cap would be removed to start the exposure.



## Daguerreotype Plate Sizes

Whole plate	6-1/2" x 8-1/2"
Half plate	4-1/4" x 5-1/2"
Quarter plate	3-1/4" x 4-1/4"
Sixth plate	2-3/4" x 3-1/4"
Ninth plate	2" x 2-1/2"
Sixteenth plate	1-3/8" x 1-5/8"

**1839:** The invention of the daguerreotype by Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre is formally announced in Paris, France. William Henry Fox Talbot announces a camera-less photographic process called photogenic drawing, which creates images of plant forms, lace and other objects placed directly on a sheet of light-sensitive paper. In September, the first American daguerreotypes are made in New York City. Robert Cornelius makes a daguerreotype self-portrait.

**1840:** William Henry Harrison is elected President of the United States.

**1841:** William Henry Fox Talbot patents the calotype, or paper negative process. President William Henry Harrison dies and is succeeded by John Tyler. P. T. Barnum opens the American Museum in New York City. Horace Greeley begins publishing *The New York Tribune*.

**1844:** Mathew Brady opens a daguerreotype studio in New York City. Samuel F. B. Morse sends the first successful telegraph message between Baltimore and Washington. James Knox Polk is elected President of the United States.

**1846:** The Mexican-American War begins. Sewing machine is patented by Elias Howe.

**1847:** Liberia becomes an independent republic in Africa. (Liberia was founded by the American Colonization Society.) Gold is discovered in California.

(Continued on page 7)



## Pvt. Theodore Hyder, Co. "F"

After spending the winter of 1863-1864 camped outside Culpeper the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland prepared for the spring campaign. When Lieutenant General Grant took command as General-in-Chief in March 1864 the Army of the Potomac was reorganized, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland became part of the Second Division of the Fifth Army Corps. Crossing the Rapidan River on May 4, 1864, the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland entered the Wilderness at the start of the Overland Campaign. Over the next month the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland was in almost constant combat as the Army of the Potomac grappled with the Army of Northern Virginia in the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor and the approaches to Petersburg. From June 15 to June 18 the Army of the Potomac assaulted Confederate defensive works surrounding Petersburg. The 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland and the Fifth Corps attacked on June 18 but were repulsed



with heavy casualties. Major Edward Mobley of the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland was in a hospital suffering from fever when the attack occurred but recorded in his diary, "Our loss heavy and the wounds horrible as they mostly came from shells."

One of those casualties on June 18 was Private Theodore Hyder of Company F. Theodore was born on March 24, 1842, in Frederick County, Maryland, to farmer Jacob Hyder and Sarah Lightner, one of 11 children. On August 18, 1862, Theodore and his older brother Amos enlisted in Company F in Westminster, Maryland. Both served faithfully, Amos being promoted to Sergeant in July 1863. Wounded on his left side by a gunshot on June 18, Theodore was first treated at

City Point. As his condition worsened, he was transported to Alexandria and admitted to Slough General Hospital on July 4. Slough had originally been built as a barracks for garrison troops before being converted to a hospital in 1864. Theodore, suffering from his gunshot wound and typhoid fever, died on July 9 and was buried at Alexandria National Cemetery. Buried nearby are several other members of the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland, including Sergeant Joshua Lightner and Corporal Benjamin Lightner (both of Company E). Joshua and Benjamin are likely cousins of Theodore on his mother's side.

Despite several bouts of illness, Amos survived the Civil War and mustered out with the 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland in May 1865. He moved to Missouri in 1866 and married Mary Repp in December 1867. The couple had eight children. Amos, who worked as a carpenter, passed away on April 20, 1916, and is buried in Center-view Cemetery in Johnson County, Missouri. Mary died in 1920 and now rests with Amos."

## The Daguerreotype

(Continued from page 6)

**1848:** The Mexican-American War ends. Zachary Taylor is elected President of the United States.

**1849:** William and Frederick Langenheim acquire the American rights to Talbot's calotype process.

**1850:** Mathew Brady begins publication of his Gallery of Illustrious Americans. Two American photography journals begin, the *Daguerreian Art Journal* and the *Photographic Art Journal*. Henry Clay's compromise slavery resolutions are laid before U.S. Senate. President Zachary Taylor dies; Millard Fillmore becomes President. Jenny Lind tours the United States.

## Familiar Hints to Indiana Soldiers Taking the Field

### III. ARMS AND EQUIPMENTS.

These are the wife and family to the soldier. *Pet* them. Keep your musket dry and bright. It may save your life. Don't use sand or brick dust. A little "flour of emery" will last long, and be of service. Don't use oil to excess; a little carefully applied, and well rubbed, is better; keep flannel for the purpose; see that the cone is clear, the lock action, free and regular; your ball-screws and screw-driver always on hand. After cleaning your piece, leave it perfectly dry. A little more time taken, will pay the pains. After guard duty, at night, wipe off the dew; however weary, never sleep until this is done. Better lie down wet yourself, than leave your musket wet, if both cannot be attended to. See there is no water in bayonet scabbard.

Use common blacking for your belts and leather equipments. They will then last. It will pay. When oil or lard is used, use it sparingly, and rub well. It is seldom needed. Don't use strong fat for the purpose. Keep your ammunition dry, your boxes full.

Soldiers need neither *bowie-knives* or *revolvers*. They are a secret weapon, *too ready* in case of brawls, and *useless* against a foe. Trust your musket and bayonet. If you have six shots, and are hard pressed, you will throw away your musket. You then *cease* to be a soldier. Remember, *here*, that "crossing bayonets" is never done by any considerable force, few well authenticated cases are found in history. Push on steadily, coolly and persistently, and you will win.

# OUR CAMP JOURNAL



*Civil War Re-enactors;  
America's Living Historians.*

(Continued from page 3)

izes soldier balloting within wider political debates about the enfranchisement of men at the front to show that, absent “the votes cast by the soldiers in the field...legal freedom probably would not have been achieved in the state until the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment in December 1865” (236).

Embracing a particularly novel form of historical interpretation is Brian Matthew Jordan, well-known to readers of Civil War literature and followers of *Emerging Civil War* for his body of work on the long-term physical and emotional traumas of soldiering in the conflict. Jordan examines the aftermath of Antietam— and the Union Army’s role in burying the dead and recovering the debris of combat there— to apply insights from sen-

sory history. Most studies of a battle’s aftermath focus either on the herculean task of caring for the wounded or the impact of carnage on civilians left in the wake (both pioneered, to a great extent, by the late Gettysburg historian Gregory Coco). Jordan focuses instead on what it meant for the psyche of the Army of the Potomac itself to retain the field after America’s bloodiest day.

*The Civil War in Maryland Reconsidered* brings together a wide array of approaches and interpretations, all centered on the idea of reexamining the question of state loyalty and identity in the mid-nineteenth century. The result is one of the more impressive edited volumes in recent years, one that resurrects some previously unknown stories and provides new interpretations for other long-standing questions. Highly recommended.

## Gettysburg 19th Century Base Ball Festival

Below, Jim Cobb and Dawn and Steve Giovannini enjoy the play at the Base Ball Festival.

*Photos by Bill Hart*



Above, The Bovina Dairymen took on the Lewes Base Ball Club during the 2024 Gettysburg 19th Century Base Ball Festival, held July 21 & 22nd held on the old Pumping Station Road site of previous Gettysburg anniversary events.

The festival is meant to show the public what a sporting event would have been like in Adams County and the surrounding region back in 1864.

The event is managed, operated, and promoted by the Elkton Base Ball Club and Exhibition Company with the help of the Gettysburg Generals Base Ball Club.

A significant amount of the proceeds each year goes to charitable causes in and around the Gettysburg Community.

