

OUR CAMP JOURNAL

Volume 27, Issue 12

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

July 2024

Culpeper National Cemetery

By Private Jeff Joyce

The 7th Maryland spent the winter of 1863-1864 with the Army of the Potomac encamped around Culpeper. As was common to Civil War armies during winter encampments several members of the 7th Maryland succumbed to disease and at least four of these young men now rest in Culpeper National Cemetery.

In 1860 Culpeper County had a population of 12,063, including 6,675 slaves. The primary commercial crop was wheat and Culpeper served as an

important railroad hub. Being halfway between Washington and Richmond, Culpeper and the surrounding area became a center of the conflict, with the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers often serving as the dividing line between Union and Confederate forces between 1862 and 1864. Major battles fought nearby included Cedar Mountain (August 9, 1862) and Brandy Station (June 9, 1863).

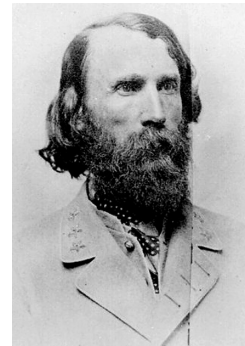
During the Civil War an estimated 700,000 soldiers perished. Most soldiers

were buried where they fell or interred in temporary cemeteries near battlefields, hospitals or winter camps. In July 1862 permanent cemeteries for Union dead were authorized and the first burials at what became Arlington National Cemetery occurred in May 1864. By 1872, 74 National Cemeteries with over 305,000 graves had been established. Unfor-

tunately, nearly half the dead recovered from wartime cemeteries remained unknown due to lack of formal identification tags and poor record keeping.

In 1867 the War Department purchased six acres for \$1400 from Major Edward B. Hill, the older brother of Confederate Lieutenant General A. P. Hill, who had been killed outside Petersburg on

April 2, 1865. The cemetery featured four burial sections laid out in a square, with a flagstaff at the end of the main drive. Over the next few years 1355 Union dead were moved to Culpeper, including 912 unknowns, from the surrounding area. One Confederate (1st Lieutenant D. J. V. Martin from South Carolina) was mistakenly buried the cemetery. He was mortally wounded during the 2nd Battle of Manassas and apparently misidentified as a Union cavalryman when his remains were uncovered. He is the only known Confederate buried at Culpeper, though there



(Continued on page 8)

Upcoming Campaigns

JULY

July 6-7: **161st Gettysburg**, Daniel
Lady farm, Gettysburg, PA
(Company event) *(FVB Event)

Visit: www.GBPA.org to register
online.

July 19-21: **Funkstown**, MD

[http://www.funkstown.com/special-
events/day-in-the-park/](http://www.funkstown.com/special-events/day-in-the-park/)

(7th MD Max Effort - Company event)
***(FVB Event)**

AUGUST

August 9-11: **160th Anniversary Foulkes Mill**, Cumberland, MD **(Individual)**

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

161st Anniversary Battle of Gettysburg Reenactment July 6-7 2024

Schedule of Events

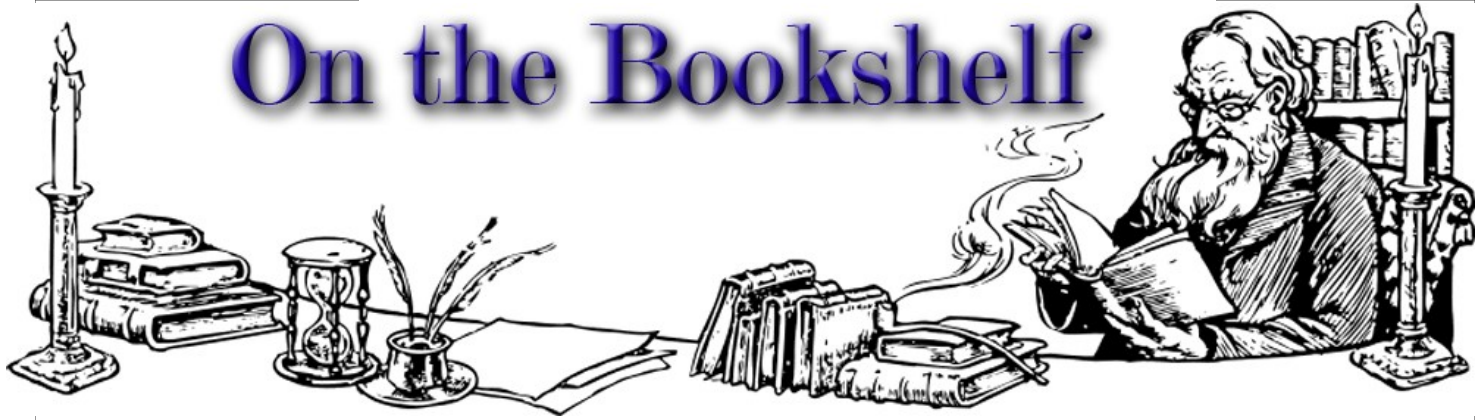
TIME

SATURDAY

- 8:30 Gates Open**
9:00 Medical discussion with George King of the Antietam Army Hospital
9:30 *Union Army Dress Parade held at US Camp*
10:00 General Forrest explains his plans to WIN the West
10:30 FULL SCALE BATTLE - 1st Phase "Fight Them Inch by Inch"
General Buford and the Iron Brigade on July 1st
11:30 Raine's Battery - Confederate Field Artillery Demonstration and Firing
NOON Jubal Early talks about CULP'S HILL
1:00 A display and discussion on LADIES' APPAREL
1:00 *LITTLE SOLDIERS' BATTLE held at Living History Area #2*
1:30 United States Sharpshooters - Tactical Demonstration and Firing
2:00 Eddie Roberts presents "*The Footsteps of History*" PART ONE
3:00 *Ceremony for the Horses of the Civil War at the Horse Corral*
3:00 Fact and Fiction about the Civil War Spies
4:00 FULL SCALE BATTLE - 2nd Phase "Go Directly In Upon Them"
The Stand of the 16th Maine on July 1st
6:00 Memorial for the Reverend Alan Farley - US Christian Commission
7:00 Civil War Ball
Music: Susquehanna Travellers - Caller: Victorian Dance Ensemble

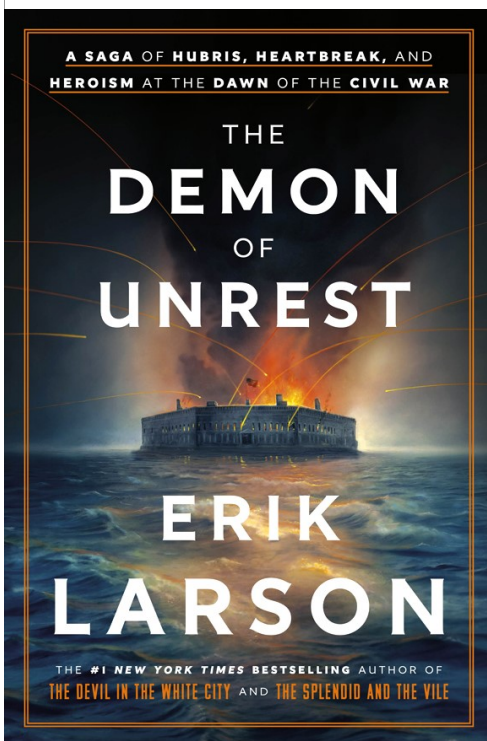
SUNDAY

- 8:30 Gates Open**
9:00 Civil War Church Service by U. S. Christian Commission
10:00 A display and discussion on Civil War LADIES' APPAREL
10:30 The Cavalry Battle - East Cavalry Field - "Custer tests J.E.B. Stuart's Resolve"
11:00 Eddie Roberts presents "*The Footsteps of History*" PART TWO
11:00 Infantrymen's Load and Fire Competition
11:30 Raine's Battery - Confederate Field Artillery Demonstration and Firing
NOON Jubal Early talks about CULP'S HILL
12:30 United States Sharpshooters - Tactical Demonstration and Firing
1:00 General Forrest explains his plans to WIN the West
2:00 FULL SCALE BATTLE - July 3rd "It's Murder, But That Is The Order"
Spangler's Spring and the Charge of the 27th Indiana Infantry on July 3rd



On the Bookshelf

The Demon of Unrest



On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln became the fluky victor in a tight race for president. The country was bitterly at odds; Southern extremists were moving ever closer to destroying the Union, with one state after another seceding and Lincoln powerless to stop them. Slavery fueled the conflict, but somehow the passions of North and South came to focus on a lonely federal fortress in Charleston Harbor: Fort Sumter.

Master storyteller Erik Larson offers a gripping account of the chaotic months between Lincoln's election and the Confederacy's shelling of Sumter—a period marked by tragic errors and miscommunications, enflamed egos and craven ambitions, personal tragedies and betrayals. Lincoln himself wrote that the trials of these five months were “so great that, could I have anticipated them, I would not have believed it possible to survive them.”

At the heart of this suspense-filled narrative are Major Robert Anderson, Sumter's commander and a former slave owner sympathetic to the South but loyal to the Union; Edmund Ruffin, a vain and bloodthirsty radical who stirs secessionist ardor at every opportunity; and Mary Boykin Chesnut, wife of a prominent planter, conflicted over both marriage and slavery and seeing parallels between them. In the middle of it all is the overwhelmed Lincoln, battling with his duplicitous secretary of state, William Seward, as he tries desperately to avert a war that he fears is inevitable—one that will eventually kill 750,000 Americans.

Drawing on diaries, secret communiques, slave ledgers, and plantation records, Larson gives us a political horror story that captures the forces that led America to the brink—a dark reminder that we often don't see a cataclysm coming until it's too late.

About the Author

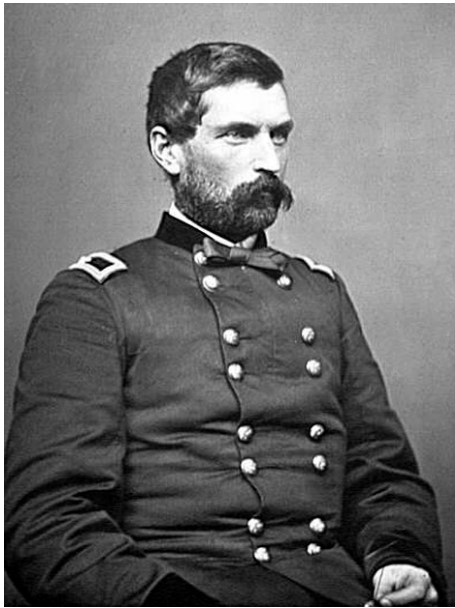
Erik Larson is the author of six *New York Times* bestsellers, including *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz*, which examines how



Winston Churchill and his “Secret Circle” went about surviving the German air campaign of 1940-41. Larson's *The Devil in the White*

City is set to be a Hulu limited series; his *In the Garden of Beasts* is under option by Tom Hanks for a feature film. He recently published an audio-original ghost story, *No One Goes Alone*, which has been optioned by Chernin Entertainment, in association with Netflix. His *Thunderstruck* has been optioned by Sony Pictures Television for a limited TV series. Larson lives in Manhattan with his wife, who is a writer and retired neonatologist; they have three grown daughters.

JOHN GIBBON – LOYAL TO THE UNION



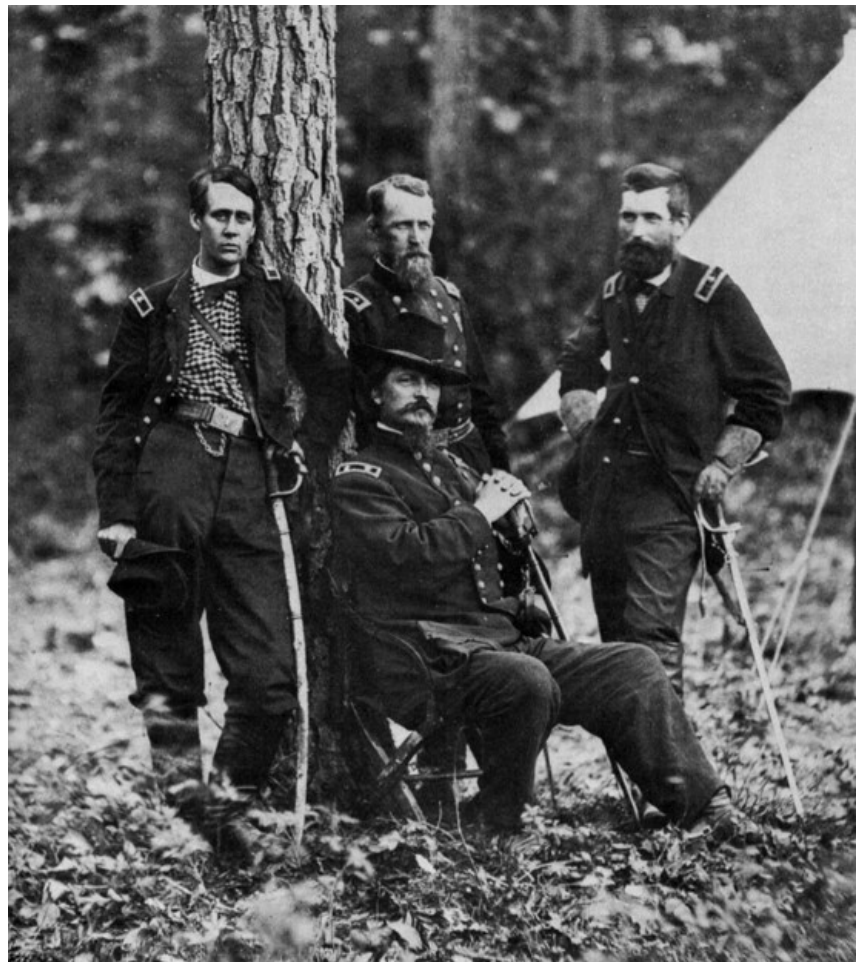
hough his family were slave owners and three of his brothers, two of his brothers-in-law, and at least one of his cousins (Johnston Pettigrew) served in the rebel military, John Gibbon remained true to the United States and began his Civil War service in command of the 4th U.S. Artillery. In 1862 he was appointed brigadier general of volunteers and placed in command of a brigade of westerners. He drilled them hard and had them uniformed (at their own expense) with frock coats, white leggings, and Hardee hats earning them the nickname of "The Black Hat Brigade".

He led this brigade at the Battle of Brawner's Farm on July 28, 1862 where the unit experienced a stand-up fight against Jackson's Stonewall Brigade which outnumbered them nearly three-to-one (Jackson's 6,200 men against Gibbon's 2,100) and where the two brigades traded mass volleys for nearly three hours until the fight was ended only by the fall of night, essentially a draw. At the Battle of South Mountain on September 14 of that same year, Gibbon led his men in an uphill charge to take Turner's Gap earning them their famed sobriquet of "The Iron Brigade", the name they were known by from then on. At the Bat-

(Continued on page 5)

Much has been written about southern officers who served in the U.S. Army prior to the civil war placing their loyalty to their native states above their allegiance to the United States, resigning their commissions and serving in the rebel army. Not all southerners behaved in this manner. Often cited as southerners who stayed faithful to the United States are Virginians General George Thomas and General Winfield Scott. There were others of lower rank who remained loyal to their county who are not so often mentioned. One of these was Captain John Gibbon. Although born in Philadelphia in 1826, he moved to North Carolina at the age of ten with his family when his father took a position as chief assayer at the U.S. mint in Charlotte where he was raised among southern institutions and absorbed southern culture.

John Gibbon graduated from the Military Academy at West Point in 1847 and served in the artillery during the Mexican War but saw no combat. He was serving as captain of Battery B, 4th U.S. Artillery in Utah when the civil war began. Alt-



Gibbon (right), with his II corps commander Winfield Scott Hancock (sitting) and fellow division commanders Francis Barlow (left) and David Birney (center standing) during the Wilderness campaign.

JOHN GIBBON – LOYALIST

(Continued from page 4)

tle of Antietam three days later on September 17, Gibbon's brigade was heavily engaged at Miller's Cornfield.

Gibbon was promoted to command the 2nd Division, I Corps which he led at the Battle of Fredericksburg in late 1862 and at the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863. He commanded the 2nd Division II Corps at the Battle of Gettysburg in July where his division bore the brunt of Pickett's charge. During the Overland Campaign, he saw action at the Battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and Cold Harbor. He was placed in command of the XXIV Corps in 1865 and his troops helped

achieve the breakthrough at Petersburg ending the siege of Richmond and then took part in the pursuit of the rebels to Appomattox Courthouse.

He remained in the army after the war, reverting to the rank of colonel in the regular army. Gibbon commanded a column that relieved several hundred men of the 7th Cavalry under Major Marcus Reno and Captain Frederick Benteen who were still under siege after the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876. He retired from the army in 1891 after 44 years of service. He died in Baltimore in 1896 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



Gibbon was among the 10,000 or so North Carolinians who served in the Union Army during the Civil War and among the many U.S. Army officers who remained true to their oath to "solemnly swear, or affirm, that I will bear true allegiance to the United States of America, and that I will serve honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whatsoever."

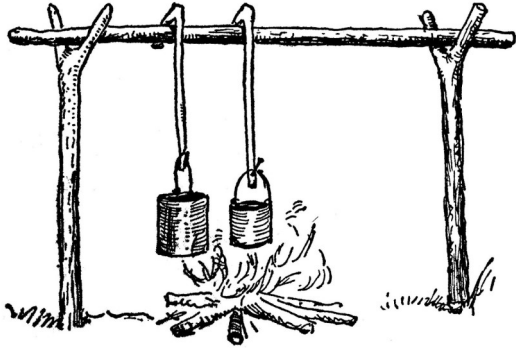
Arlington Cemetery, VA. Monument of the Iron Brigade - Rears this Block of Granite - To the Memory of - Loved Commander .



Former adversaries Chief Joseph and Col. John Gibbon met on the Big Hole Battlefield, in Montana, many years later.



FAMILIAR HINTS TO INDIANA SOLDIERS TAKING THE FIELD



Following up on the first of the *Familiar Hints to Indiana Soldiers Taking the Field* printed in the last issue of *Our Camp Journal*, the second deals with the important aspect of how to feed oneself.

These hints were prepared by Colonel Henry B. Carrington, mustering officer for the state of Indiana to be given to Indiana volunteers to help prepare them for their military experience.

Diet and Cooking.

You will cook for yourselves. Your rations are super-abundant; save them; you can. In cooking, remember that half cooked food is ruinous. Better use uncooked pork or bacon, hard bread and coffee, than eat victuals half cooked that need perfect cooking. **Beans** require thorough cooking; soak them over night; don't smoke them; you ruin them; boil them over a slow fire for

three hours at least – the same with hominy. Skim your soups often, it will pay you. Start with clear, cold water, in clean kettles. If your kettles are foul your victuals will become foul also. Pepper and salt your soup half an hour before it comes off the fire. **Onions** in your soup are good. They are anti-scorbutic, and if you can get them, they are good against scurvy. If you fry **bacon**, get your fat hot before you put the bacon in the mess pan.

The pores of the flesh close up at once, and prevent its becoming greasy and indigestible. Stale bread crumbled and spread over it will help it. Start **potatoes** in cold water, with salt; if the water boils sharply, throw in cold water, and check it. When nearly done, pour off the water, and leave the kettle on until the steam evaporates. You can have mealy potatoes if they are good for anything. To **fry potatoes**, put them first in cold water half an hour; then into hot fat until brown, cutting in thin slices; if you don't they only accumulate fat.

Boil **rice** gently, stirring constantly until it is soft. Turn it into a kettle or coarse towel, and pour

over it fresh cold water; put it then in a clean kettle until dry; serve hot or cold, as convenient, with molasses. Don't burn your **coffee**, use a little fat or sugar stirring constantly, over a slow fire. When browned, cover with a damp cloth to cool; then grind it, passing the mill twice. Use clean kettles. When the water boils briskly throw in the coffee, having first wet it, and let it boil for two minutes; then dash in a cup of cold water, and take it off the fire; let it stand five minutes, pour it through a flannel strainer into another kettle, to be served. In measuring the water, by rations, allow five percent. – leeway. **Poor** coffee is secured by excessive boiling. **Good** coffee can be made in a few minutes, as directed.

Soup can be made of most anything; save your beef bones for the purpose; skim faithfully. After the first boil, and the scum begins to rise, check your fire, and only let the water simmer. If you boil too hard, the pores of the flesh close, the essence of the meat is retained with all impurities, no scum rises, the meat is hard and tough, the soup is thin and watery. Otherwise the juices are extracted, the meat is rich and tender, the soup rich and nutritious. The fat skimmed off **keep**, if you can, for other cooking. Cook two hours. Don't put in too much salt and pepper; there is no remedy but thinning the soup which spoils it. Better add more, if necessary. In **Pork and Bean Soup**, boil briskly for an hour, with the beans alone; then take the kettles off for fifteen minutes; pour off the water; put in clean water, add your pork without rind, and boil an hour and a half or two hours continuously.

Elbow grease and ashes applied to your kettles with not hurt what is to be cooked in them. Grease upon coffee, because of dirty kettles is an abomination. Keep your kettles clean.



THE CHARLOTTE NORTH CAROLINA MINT

The first documented discovery of gold in the United States was in North Carolina in 1799. The state was the only gold-producing state from 1803 until 1828 and the leading producer until 1848. Miners had to send their gold to Philadelphia to be melted and coined. The transportation of the raw gold was difficult, slow, expensive, and dangerous. Because of this, a mint was established in Charlotte in 1837. Only the processing and refining of raw gold was performed until 1838 when the first \$5 gold piece was struck. The mint operated until 1861 when it was seized by the rebels and no coins were produced thereafter. Over \$5 million dollars' worth of gold coins were minted between 1849 and 1859.



A 1839 Five dollar gold coin front and reverse.



Right, the U. S. Mint and Assay Office, Charlotte, North Carolina circa 1811.

Calling Card Etiquette

"Often as the subject of the use of cards and the etiquette of visiting is discussed with correspondents there remain always certain points to be taken up and explained...."

"It is generally understood that women leave their husband's cards. The custom is for a married woman calling formally on another married woman to leave one of her own and two of her husband's cards, one of his being for the hostess, the other for her husband...."

"As a rule, it is impossible to do more than make a single call a year on acquaintances in large cities, and this is supposed to be sufficient...."

"Occasions when other calls are obligatory. After a wedding breakfast, a luncheon, a dinner, a card party, or any evening entertainment to which one has been invited, a call should be made after the event whether one has accepted or not...."

"When an invitation to a church wedding, or a marriage announcement, is received, it is necessary to send cards to those in whose name it was issued and to the newly married pair..."

"In large cities it is usual to leave cards when attending an afternoon tea..."

"It is bad form to write "regrets" or "accepts" on a card. A note of reply must be written in acknowledgement of an invitation..."

"It is unreasonable to fancy that one's acquaintance is not desired because a call has not been returned promptly. There are many reasons for delayed calls. Illness in the family, absence from town, many occupations, may prevent the best-intentioned persons from making calls...."

"If an acquaintance calls after a long delay it is a duty to welcome her cordially... to hasten to accept any explanation she may offer and not to allude to it again...."

SONNET.— ABSENCE. BY R. H. STODDARD.

DEAR friend, I often pass the places
where

WE held our happy trysts of olden
time,
Chatting, and reading, and reciting
rhyme,

And magic Memory recalls you there;
I see you sitting in the accustomed
chair—

A favorite volume open on your knee,
Read with a knitted brow;— when skies
are fair,

As was your wont, you're roving
round with me

The busy streets— I talk to you again
Of Faith, and Hope, and Love, and
Poesy,

And all the little ways of little men,
And question you, and waiting for
reply,

Start at the solitude and find you flown—
And then, with saddened heart, pursue
my walk alone.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK
Philadelphia, April 1850

OUR CAMP JOURNAL

Culpeper National Cemetery

(Continued from page 1)

may be others included in the over 900 unknowns.

In the 1870s, marble headstones replaced the temporary headboards and a brick enclosure wall and lodge for the caretaker were built. A National Cemetery monument using an inverted cannon was authorized by Secretary of War for all National Cemeteries in 1872 and one was installed at Culpeper. Over the next several decades additional monuments were dedicated in memory of soldiers from Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Due to lack of space Culpeper National Cemetery was closed to new burials in 1972. Fortunately, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2524 donated 10.5 acres and the cemetery re-opened in 1978. New administration and maintenance buildings were built in 1989 and an additional 12 acres acquired in 2001. Today Culpeper National Cemetery has grown to over 29 acres and has over 14,000 interments, among which are at least four members of the 7th Maryland.



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



Left, the Unknowns lie at rest in Culpeper National Cemetery.

Right, the memorial cannon at Culpeper National Cemetery.

Below, the entrance to the Cemetery.

