



# The Signal Flag



## BRANDYWINE VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Campaign # 23

Skirmish # 6

February 2010

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*From the Rear Ranks:*

### ABRAHAM LINCOLN – SELECTED QUOTES

June 16, 1858: “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the union to be dissolved - - I do not expect the house to fall - - but I do expect that it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other.

August 1, 1858: As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is not democracy.

March 4, 1861: I am loth to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearth-stone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

December 3, 1861: The struggle of today, is not altogether for today - - it is for a vast future also.

August 22, 1862: My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that.

December 1862: If there is a worse place than Hell, I am in it.

January 26, 1863: Major-General Hooker – I have placed you at the head of the Army of the Potomac. I have heard, in such a way as to believe it, of your recently saying that both the Army and the Government needed a dictator. Of course it was not for this, but in spite of it, that I have given you the command. Only those generals who gain successes, can set up as dictators. What I now ask of you is military success, and I will risk the dictatorship.

November 19, 1863: Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

November 21, 1864: Mrs. Bixby – Dear Madam, I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours, to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom. Yours, very sincerely and respectfully, A. Lincoln

March 4, 1865: With malice towards none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan - - to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States  
Born: 12 February 1809, Hodgenville, Kentucky  
Died: 15 April 1865, Washington, DC

*I remain your most obedient servant.*

*Robert Paul Sprague*

~ Officers ~

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**Vice President:** Chip Crowe  
**Secretary:** Ted Pawlik  
**Treasurer:** Dave Walter

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**Trips:** Greg Buss

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Unsolicited articles from our members are welcome.  
Please contact Lynne!

*\*We are wheelchair assessable*

**What is the BVCWRT all about???**

We were founded in 1987. According to our by-laws, "the purpose of the Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table shall be to provide a congenial medium through which persons having a common interest in the events of the American Civil War - its causes and effects, engagements, personages, units, armaments and other things pertaining thereto - may satisfy their interest and broaden individual knowledge through discussion, lectures, field trips and the exchange of books, paper and other data. The purposed is also to consider the preservation and protection of the battlefields, sites, landmarks, relics and collection of the period."

In plain English, we are an organization of diverse people brought together by our common interest in the American Civil War. This interest can range from the casual to the obsessive. We intend to tailor our activities and presentations to appeal to all our members, novice or expert.

**Welcome New Members & Reenlistments**

The Round Table welcomes our new members since our last meeting. Please welcome them and share your Civil War enthusiasm.

**New Members:**





*Brandywine Valley Civil War Round Table*  
*Come to our next meeting*  
*February 3, 2010*

**Speaker: Marc Leepson**  
**Topic: "Battle of Monocacy"**  
**Time: 7:00 PM**  
**Place: West Chester Borough Hall, Gay Street**

Marc Leepson is a journalist, historian and author who specializes in writing about American history, the Vietnam War and Vietnam veterans. A former staff writer for Congressional Quarterly, he has been arts editor and columnist for *The VVA Veteran*, the magazine published by Vietnam Veterans of America, since March of 1986, when his "Arts of War" column began.

He has written for many newspapers and magazines, including the *Washington Post*, *Washington Post Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Smithsonian*, *Military History*, *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *New York Times*, *New York Times Book Review*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Arizona Republic*, *New York Newsday*, *Detroit News*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *St. Petersburg Times*, and *USA Today*. He also was a long-time contributor to the *Encyclopedia Americana Yearbook*.

He is the author of six books, most recently, *Desperate Engagement: How a Little Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History*. His well-received, *Flag: An American Biography* (Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press, 2005), a history of the American flag from the beginnings to today, was published in 2005. His previous book was *Saving Monticello: The Levy Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House and Jefferson Built* (Free Press/Simon & Schuster, 2001; University of Virginia Press, paperback, 2003). He is the editor of *Webster's New World Dictionary of the Vietnam War* and a contributor to *The Dictionary of Virginia Biography*.

He has been interviewed on MSNBC, FOX News, *The Today Show*, The History Channel, The Discovery Channel, *All Things Considered*, CNN, CNBC, *Talk of the Nation, Morning Edition*, *The Diane Rehm Show* (NPR), *On the Media*, *New York and Company* (WNYC-FM), Irish Radio, Russian Channel One TV, and CBC (Canada). He has presented papers and chaired panels at academic conferences at the University of Notre Dame, Tulane University, University of Massachusetts, Texas Tech University, the College of William and Mary, and Salisbury State University. He has given presentations to students at the colleges, universities and high schools, including the University of Miami, American University, Georgetown University, Appalachian State University, the University of Maryland and Foxcroft School.

An adjunct instructor of history at Lord Fairfax Community College in Warrenton, Virginia, he earned a BA in history from George Washington University in 1967. After serving in the U.S. Army from 1967-69, including a year in the Vietnam War, he earned a Masters Degree in history from George Washington University in 1971. He lives in Middleburg, Virginia, with his wife and their two children.

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**Minutes of the January 6, 2010 Meeting**  
**BVCWRT**  
**Submitted by Ted Pawlik**

**John Walls - Presiding:**

**Treasurer's Report (Dave Walter):**

- The bank balance as of December 1, 2009 was \$2,443.44. Expenses for the month of December were \$0.0. Receipts for the month of November were \$972.00. The bank balance as of January 1, 2010 was \$3,415.44. This includes money that has been paid for the field trip.

## Field Trip (Greg Buss)

- Greg reminded members of the field trip to 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas on April 10, 2010. The bus will leave the West Chester Municipal Building at 6:15 PM. The cost will be \$50.00 per person. Checks are to be made payable to the BVCWRT and can be sent to Gregory R. Buss, 502 Langford Drive, Downingtown, PA 19335
- Spaces on the bus will be first come – first served.

**Harriet Mueller** announced that the German Society of Pennsylvania is looking for descendents of soldiers of German ancestry who fought in the civil war. They are applying for a grant to celebrate German ancestry and qualified descendents will talk on what the civil war meant to them. Descendents interested in participating are asked to contact Harriet.

**Richard Klein** advised that there will be a program at the Unionville High School on Friday night December 15<sup>th</sup> on how the Society of Friends influenced the Emancipation Proclamation.

## Preservation Committee (Bob Sprague)

Donations of books on the civil war will be accepted by **Chip Crowe or Bob Sprague**. Bob reminded everyone that all books sales by the sutler (Bob) go to preservation, as do the proceeds from the book raffle.

**Speaker for the Evening: Mike Kochan** talking on the USS Monitor.

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## ***Battle of Monocacy***

*From Wikipedia*

The **Battle of Monocacy** (also known as **Monocacy Junction**) was fought on July 9, 1864, just outside Frederick, Maryland, as part of the Valley Campaigns of 1864, in the American Civil War. Confederate forces under Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early defeated Union forces under Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace. The battle was part of Early's raid through the Shenandoah Valley and into Maryland, attempting to divert Union forces away from Gen. Robert E. Lee's army under siege at Petersburg, Virginia.

## ***Background***

Reacting to Early's raid, Union General-in-Chief Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant dispatched two brigades of the VI Corps, about 5,000 men, under Brig. Gen. James B. Ricketts on July 6, 1864. Until those troops arrived, however, the only Federal army between Early and the capital city was a ragtag group of 2,300 mostly Hundred Days Men commanded by Lew Wallace. At the time, Wallace, who would eventually become best known for his book *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*, was the head of the Union's Middle Atlantic Department, headquartered at Baltimore. Very few of Wallace's men had ever seen battle.

Agents of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad reported signs of Early's advance on June 29; this intelligence and subsequent reports were passed to Wallace by John W. Garrett, the president of the railroad and a Union supporter. Uncertain whether Baltimore or Washington, D.C. was the Confederate objective, Wallace knew he had to delay their approach until reinforcements could reach either city.

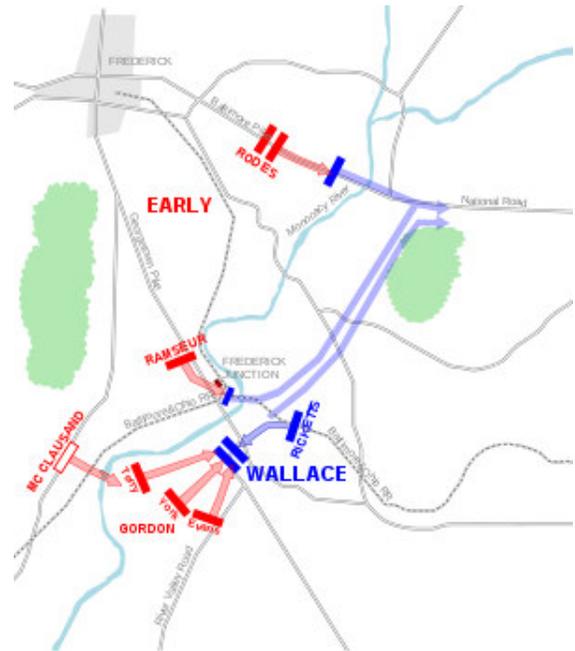
At Frederick, following the Battle of Frederick in which Confederate cavalry drove Union units from the town, Early demanded, and received, \$200,000 ransom to forestall his destruction of the city. Frederick Junction, also called Monocacy Junction, three miles southeast of Frederick, was the logical point of defense for both cities. The Georgetown Pike to Washington and the National Road to Baltimore both crossed the Monocacy River there as did the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. If Wallace could stretch his little army over six miles of riverfront to protect both turnpike bridges, the railroad bridge, and several fords, he could make Early disclose the strength and objective of the Confederate force and delay him as long as possible.

Wallace's prospects brightened with word that the first contingent of VI Corps troops commanded by General Ricketts, had reached Baltimore and were rushing by rail to join Wallace at the Monocacy. On Saturday, July 9, combined forces of Wallace and Ricketts, numbering about 5,800, were positioned at the bridges and fords of the river. The higher elevation of the river's east bank formed a natural breastwork for some of the soldiers. Others occupied two block-houses, the trenches they had dug with a few available tools, or what cover they could find among the fences and crops of once peaceful farms.

## Battle

Confederate Maj. Gen. Dodson Ramseur's division encountered Wallace's troops on the Georgetown Pike near the Best Farm; Maj. Gen. Robert E. Rodes's division clashed with the Federals on the National Road. Believing that a frontal attack across the Monocacy would be too costly, Early sent John McCausland's cavalry down Buckeystown Road to find a ford and outflank the Union line. Confederates penetrated the Monocacy defenses below the McKinney-Worthington Ford and attacked Wallace's left flank. Some of the heaviest fighting that day took place where they confronted Ricketts's veterans at a fence separating the Worthington and Thomas farms.

The Federals fought fiercely to hold position, but it was only a matter of time before the superior force—about 14,000 Confederates—gained control. A three-pronged attack from Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon's division pushed Ricketts back toward the National Road where he was joined by the beleaguered troops who had fought Ramseur and Rodes all day.



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## References

- Eicher, David J., *The Longest Night: A Military History of the Civil War*, Simon & Schuster, 2001, [ISBN 0-684-84944-5](#).
- Kennedy, Frances H., ed., *The Civil War Battlefield Guide*, 2nd ed., Houghton Mifflin Co., 1998, [ISBN 0-395-74012-6](#).
- [National Park Service battle description](#)
- [National Park Service Monocacy battlefield website](#)

## Notes

1. <sup>^</sup> [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) Kennedy, p. 308.
2. <sup>^</sup> [Eicher](#), p. 717.

## Further reading

- Cooling, B. Franklin., *Monocacy: The Battle That Saved Washington*, White Mane, 1997, [ISBN 1-57249-032-2](#).
- Leepson, Marc., *Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History*, Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press, 2007, [ISBN 978-0312363642](#).

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## Lewis Wallace (1827-1905)

Although he would have much preferred to be remembered as a highly successful military hero, Lew Wallace has been thwarted in this ambition and is best known as an author. Born in Indiana, he had worked as a clerk and early displayed a fascination for Mexico which would affect him in later years. During the Mexican War he served as a second lieutenant in the 1st Indiana but saw only minor action. In 1849 he was admitted to the bar in his native state and seven years later entered the state senate.

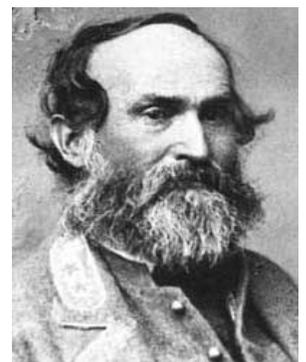
With the outbreak of the Civil War he offered his services, and his assignments included: adjutant general of Indiana (April 1861); colonel, 11th Indiana (April 25, 1861); colonel, 11th Indiana (reorganized August 31, 1861); brigadier general, USV (September 3, 1861); commanding 3rd Division, District of Cairo, Department of the Missouri (February 14-17, 1862); major general, USV (March 21, 1862); commanding 3rd Division, Army of the Tennessee (February 17-June 1862); commanding 8th Corps, Middle Department (March 22, 1864-February 1, 1865 and April 19-August 1, 1865); and also commanding the department (March 22, 1864-February 1, 1865 and April 19-June 27, 1865).

His career got off to a promising start when he routed an inferior Confederate force at Romney, Virginia. Promoted to brigadier general, he was given charge of a newly organized division in the midst of the operations against Fort Donelson and was soon rewarded with a second star. However, that spring his reputation plummeted after the battle of Shiloh. On the first day his division was stationed north of the main army at Crump's Landing, and a series of contradictory orders from Grant forced him to countermarch his command and delayed his arrival on the main battlefield until the fighting was nearly over. He redeemed himself on the second day, but a scapegoat was needed for the near disaster the day before and this was Wallace. Sent home to await further orders, he offered his services to Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton and, despite his high rank, took temporary command of a regiment during the emergency posed by Kirby Smith's invasion of Kentucky. With Cincinnati threatened, Wallace was placed in charge of a mostly civilian defense force. Through a show of tremendous energy he was able to save the city without a major fight. He was then head of the commission which examined Buell's handling of the invasion and other boards until placed in charge in Maryland in early 1864. There he bought valuable time for the defenders of Washington during Early's drive into the state when he made a stand at Monocacy with an inferior scratch force.

At the close of the war he sat on the court-martial which tried the Lincoln conspirators and presided over that which sent Andersonville chief Henry Wirz to the gallows. He then joined a movement to aid the Juarez forces against Maximilian in Mexico. He tried to raise money and troops and even accepted the title of major general from the Juarez group. On November 30, 1865, he resigned from the U.S. service, but his Mexican venture collapsed and he realized little of the money which he had hoped to gain from it. In later years he was governor of the New Mexico Territory and a diplomat to Turkey. As a prolific writer, who often drew upon his own experiences, he is best remembered for *Ben Hur*. - *A Tale of the Christ*, one of the most popular novels of the nineteenth century. (McKee, Irving, "Ben Hur" Wallace, *the Life of General Lew Wallace*) **Source: "Who Was Who In The Civil War" by Stewart Sifakis**

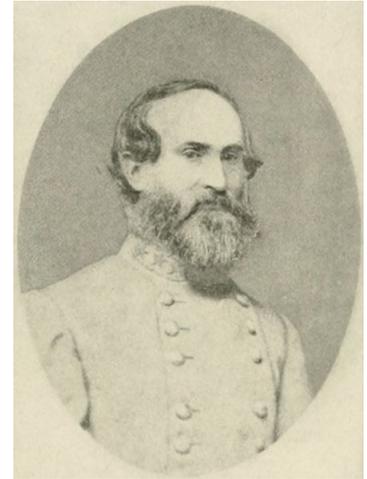
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**Jubal Anderson Early** (November 3, 1816 – March 2, 1894) was a lawyer and Confederate general in the American Civil War. He served under Stonewall Jackson and then Robert E. Lee for almost the entire war, rising from regimental command to lieutenant general and the command of an infantry corps in the Army of Northern Virginia. He was the Confederate commander in key battles of the Valley Campaigns of 1864, including a daring raid to the outskirts of Washington, D.C. The articles written by him for the Southern Historical Society in the 1870s established the Lost Cause point of view as a long-lasting literary and cultural phenomenon.<sup>[1]</sup>



## Early years

Early was born in Franklin County, Virginia, third of ten children of Ruth Hairston and Joab Early.<sup>[2]</sup> He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1837, ranked 18th of 50. During his tenure at the Academy he was engaged in a dispute with a fellow cadet named Lewis Addison Armistead. Armistead broke a mess plate over Early's head, an incident that prompted Armistead's resignation from the Academy.<sup>[3]</sup> After graduating from the Academy, Early fought against the Seminole in Florida as a second lieutenant in the 3rd U.S. Artillery regiment before resigning from the Army for the first time in 1838. He practiced law in the 1840s as a prosecutor for both Franklin and Floyd Counties in Virginia. He was noted for a case in Mississippi, where he beat the top lawyers in the state. His law practice was interrupted by the Mexican-American War from 1846–1848. He served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1841–1843.



## Civil War

Early was a Whig and strongly opposed secession at the April 1861 Virginia convention for that purpose. However, he was soon angrily aroused by the aggressive movements of the Federal government (President Abraham Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers to suppress the rebellion) and accepted a commission as a brigadier general in the Virginia Militia. He was sent to Lynchburg, Virginia, to raise three regiments and then commanded one of them, the 24th Virginia Infantry, as a colonel in the Confederate States Army.

Early was promoted to brigadier general after the First Battle of Bull Run (or *First Manassas*) in July 1861. In that battle, he displayed valor at Blackburn's Ford and impressed General P.G.T. Beauregard. He fought in most of the major battles in the Eastern Theater, including the Seven Days Battles, Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and numerous battles in the Shenandoah Valley. During the Gettysburg Campaign, Early's Division occupied York, Pennsylvania, the largest Northern town to fall to the Rebels during the war.

Early was trusted and supported by the commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, Robert E. Lee. Lee affectionately referred to Early as his "Bad Old Man" because of his irascible demeanor and short temper, but appreciated Early's aggressive fighting and ability to command units independently. Most of Early's soldiers referred to him as "Old Jube" or "Old Jubilee" with enthusiasm and affection. His subordinate generals often felt little of this affection. Early was an inveterate fault-finder and offered biting criticism of his subordinates at the least opportunity; in the reverse case, he was generally blind to his own mistakes and reacted fiercely to criticism or suggestions from below. Early was wounded at Williamsburg in 1862, while leading a charge against staggering odds.

## Serving under Stonewall Jackson

He convalesced in Rocky Mount, Virginia, and returned in two months, under the command of Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, in time for the Battle of Malvern Hill. There, Early demonstrated his career-long lack of aptitude for battlefield navigation and his brigade was lost in the woods; it suffered 33 casualties without any significant action. In the Northern Virginia Campaign, Early was noted for his performance at the Battle of Cedar Mountain and arrived in the nick of time to reinforce Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill on Jackson's left on Stony Ridge in the Second Battle of Bull Run.

At Antietam, Early ascended to division command when his commander, Alexander Lawton, was wounded. Lee was impressed with his performance and retained him at that level. At Fredericksburg, Early saved the day by counterattacking the division of Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, which penetrated a gap in Jackson's lines. He was promoted to major general on January 17, 1863. At Chancellorsville, Lee gave him a force of 5,000 men to defend Fredericksburg at Marye's Heights against superior forces (two corps) under Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick. Early was able to delay the Union forces and pin down Sedgwick while Lee and Jackson attacked the remainder of the Union troops to the west. Sedgwick's eventual attack on Early up Marye's Heights is sometimes known as the Second Battle of Fredericksburg.

## Gettysburg and the Overland Campaign

During the Gettysburg Campaign, Early commanded a division in the corps of Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell. His troops were instrumental in defeating Union defenders at Winchester, capturing a number of prisoners, and opening up the Shenandoah Valley for Lee's oncoming forces. Early's division, augmented with cavalry, eventually marched eastward across the South Mountain range in Pennsylvania, seizing vital supplies and horses along the way. He captured Gettysburg on June 26 and demanded a ransom, which was never paid. Two days later, he entered York County and seized York, the largest Northern town to fall to the Confederates during the war. Here, his ransom demands were partially met, including a payment of \$28,000 in cash. Elements of Early's command on June 28 reached the Susquehanna River, the farthest east in Pennsylvania that any organized Confederate force would penetrate. On June 30, Early was recalled as Lee concentrated his army to meet the oncoming Federals.

Approaching Gettysburg from the northeast on July 1, 1863, Early's division was on the leftmost flank of the Confederate line. He soundly defeated Brig. Gen. Francis Barlow's division (part of the Union XI Corps), inflicting three times the casualties to the defenders as he suffered, and drove the Union troops back through the streets of town, capturing many of them. In the second day at Gettysburg, he assaulted East Cemetery Hill as part of Ewell's efforts on the Union right flank. Despite initial success, Union reinforcements arrived to repulse Early's two brigades. On the third day, Early detached one brigade to assist Maj. Gen. Edward "Allegheny" Johnson's division in an unsuccessful assault on Culp's Hill. Elements of Early's division covered the rear of Lee's army during its retreat from Gettysburg on July 4 and July 5.

Early served in the Shenandoah Valley over the winter of 1863–64. During this period, he occasionally filled in as corps commander during Ewell's absences for illness. On May 31, 1864, Lee expressed his confidence in Early's initiative and abilities at higher command levels, promoting him to the temporary rank of lieutenant general.

Upon his return from the Valley, Early fought in the Battle of the Wilderness and assumed command of the ailing A.P. Hill's Third Corps during the march to intercept Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Spotsylvania Court House. At Spotsylvania, Early occupied the relatively quiet right flank of the Mule Shoe. At the Battle of Cold Harbor, Lee replaced the ineffectual Ewell with Early as commander of the Second Corps.

## The Valley, 1864

Early's most important service was that summer and fall, in the Valley Campaigns of 1864, when he commanded the Confederacy's last invasion of the North. As Confederate territory was rapidly being captured by the Union armies of Grant and Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, Lee sent Early's corps to sweep Union forces from the Shenandoah Valley and to menace Washington, D.C., hoping to compel Grant to dilute his forces against Lee around Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia. Early delayed his march for several days in a futile attempt to capture a small force under Franz Sigel<sup>[4]</sup> at Maryland Heights and to rest his men from July 4 through July 6.<sup>[5]</sup> Although elements of his army would eventually reach the outskirts of Washington at a time when it was largely undefended, the time delay at Maryland Heights would ultimately prove detrimental for his ability to engage in any attack on the city itself.

During the time of Early's Maryland Heights campaign, Grant sent two VI Corps divisions from the Army of the Potomac to reinforce Union Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace. With 5,800 men, he delayed Early for an entire day at the Battle of Monocacy, allowing more Union troops to arrive in Washington and strengthen its defenses. This invasion caused considerable panic in Washington and Baltimore, and Early was able to get to the outskirts of Washington. He sent some cavalry under Brig. Gen. John McCausland to the west side of Washington. Knowing that he did not have sufficient strength to capture the city, Early demonstrated outside Fort Stevens and Fort DeRussy, and there was skirmishing and artillery duels on July 11 and July 12. Abraham Lincoln watched the fighting on both days from the parapet at Fort Stevens, becoming the only sitting U.S. President to come under hostile military fire. After Early withdrew, he said to one of his officers, "Major, we haven't taken Washington, but we scared Abe Lincoln like hell."

Early crossed the Potomac into Leesburg, Virginia, on July 13 and then withdrew to the Valley. He defeated the Union army under Brig. Gen. George H. Crook at Kernstown on July 24, 1864. Six days later, he ordered his cavalry to burn the city of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, in retaliation for Maj. Gen. David Hunter's burning of the homes of several prominent

Southern sympathizers in Jefferson County, West Virginia, earlier that month. Through early August, Early's cavalry and guerrilla forces attacked the B&O Railroad in various places.

Grant, losing patience and realizing Early could attack Washington any time he pleased, dealt with the threat by sending out an army under Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan. At times outnumbering the Confederates three to one, Sheridan defeated Early in three battles starting in early August and laid waste to much of the agricultural properties in the Valley, denying their use as supplies for Lee's army. In a brilliant surprise attack, Early routed two thirds of the Union army at the Battle of Cedar Creek on October 19, 1864, but Early claimed in his post-battle dispatch to Lee that his troops were hungry and exhausted and fell out of their ranks to pillage the Union camp, allowing Sheridan critical time to rally his demoralized troops and turn their morning defeat into victory over the Confederate Army that afternoon. One of Early's key subordinates, Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon, in his 1904 memoirs, offers evidence that it was Early's own inexplicable decision to halt the attack for six hours in the early afternoon and not disorganization in the ranks or pillaging that led to the disastrous rout that occurred in the afternoon.<sup>[6]</sup>

Most of the men of Early's corps rejoined Lee at Petersburg in December, while Early remained to command a skeleton force. His force was nearly destroyed at Waynesboro and Early barely escaped capture with a few members of his staff. Lee relieved Early of his command in March 1865, because he doubted Early's ability to inspire confidence in the men he would have to recruit to continue operations. He wrote to Early of the difficulty of this decision:

While my own confidence in your ability, zeal, and devotion to the cause is unimpaired, I have nevertheless felt that I could not oppose what seems to be the current of opinion, without injustice to your reputation and injury to the service. I therefore felt constrained to endeavor to find a commander who would be more likely to develop the strength and resources of the country, and inspire the soldiers with confidence. ... [Thank you] for the fidelity and energy with which you have always supported my efforts, and for the courage and devotion you have ever manifested in the service ...— Robert E. Lee, *letter to Early*

## Postbellum career

Early in his elder years. Early fled when the Army of Northern Virginia surrendered on April 9, 1865. He rode horseback to Texas, hoping to find a Confederate force still holding out, then proceeded to Mexico, and from there, sailed to Cuba and Canada. Living in Toronto, he wrote his memoirs, *A Memoir of the Last Year of the War for Independence, in the Confederate States of America*, which focused on his Valley Campaign. They were published in 1867.

He returned to Virginia in 1869, resuming the practice of law. He was pardoned in 1868 by President Andrew Johnson, but still remained an unreconstructed rebel. He was among the most vocal of those who promoted a bitter Lost Cause movement and who vilified the actions of Lt. Gen. James Longstreet at Gettysburg. He was involved with the Louisiana Lottery along with retired General P.G.T. Beauregard.

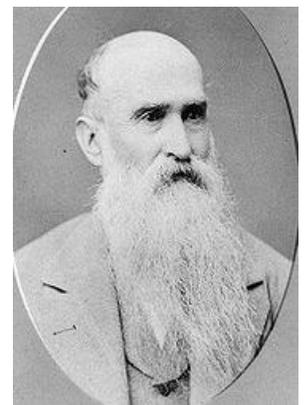
*General Early, disguised as a farmer, while escaping to Mexico, 1865*



At the age of 77, after falling down a flight of stairs, Early died in Lynchburg, Virginia. He is buried in Spring Hill Cemetery.

## Legacy

Early's original inspiration for his views on the *Lost Cause* may have come from General Robert E. Lee himself. When he published his farewell order to the Army of Northern Virginia, Lee spoke of the "overwhelming resources and numbers" that the Confederate army fought against. In a letter to Early, Lee requested information about enemy strengths from May 1864 to April 1865, the period in which his army was engaged against Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant (the Overland Campaign and the Siege of Petersburg). Lee wrote, "My only object is to transmit, if possible, the truth to posterity, and do justice to our brave Soldiers."<sup>[7]</sup> In another letter, Lee wanted all "statistics as regards numbers, destruction of private property by the Federal troops, &c." because he intended to demonstrate the discrepancy in strength between the two armies and believed it would "be difficult to get the world to understand the odds against which we fought." Referring to newspaper accounts that accused him



of culpability in the loss, he wrote, "I have not thought proper to notice, or even to correct misrepresentations of my words & acts. We shall have to be patient, & suffer for awhile at least. ... At present the public mind is not prepared to receive the truth."<sup>[7]</sup> All of these were themes that Early and the Lost Cause writers would echo for decades.

Lost Cause themes were taken up by memorial associations such as the United Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy, helping in some degree the (white) Southerners to cope with the dramatic social, political, and economic changes in the postbellum era, including Reconstruction.<sup>[8]</sup>

Early's contributions to the Confederacy's last efforts at survival were very significant. Some historians contend that he extended the war six to nine months because of his efforts at Washington and in the Valley. The following quote summarizes an opinion held by his admirers:

Honest and outspoken, honorable and uncompromising, Jubal A. Early epitomized much that was the Southern Confederacy. His self-reliance, courage, sagacity, and devotion to the cause brought confidence then just as it inspires reverence now.

– James I. Robertson, Jr., *Alumni Distinguished Professor of History, Virginia Tech; Member of the Board, Jubal A. Early Preservation Trust*

Early was an outspoken believer in white supremacy and despised the abolitionists. In the preface to his memoirs, Early wrote about African Americans as "barbarous natives of Africa" whom he believed were "in a civilized and Christianized condition" as a result of their enslavement. He continued:

The Creator of the Universe had stamped them, indelibly, with a different color and an inferior physical and mental organization. He had not done this from mere caprice or whim, but for wise purposes. An amalgamation of the races was in contravention of His designs or He would not have made them so different. This immense number of people could not have been transported back to the wilds from which their ancestors were taken, or, if they could have been, it would have resulted in their relapse into barbarism. Reason, common sense, true humanity to the black, as well as the safety of the white race, required that the inferior race should be kept in a state of subordination. The conditions of domestic slavery, as it existed in the South, had not only resulted in a great improvement in the moral and physical condition of the negro race, but had furnished a class of laborers as happy and contented as any in the world.<sup>[9]</sup>

## Notes

## Information from Wikipedia

- <sup>1</sup> <sup>^</sup> Ulbrich, p. 1221.
- <sup>2</sup> <sup>^</sup> Early, Ruth Hairston, *The Family of Early: Which Settled Upon the Eastern Shore of Virginia and Its Connection with Other Families*, Brown-Morrison, 1920, pp. 107-08.
- <sup>3</sup> <sup>^</sup> *Resignation of Lewis A. Armistead*, January 1836, RG 77, E18, National Archives. Some historians characterize Armistead's departure as a dismissal from the Academy; see citations in *Lewis Addison Armistead*.
- <sup>4</sup> <sup>^</sup>  "Harper's Ferry". *Encyclopædia Britannica* (11th ed.). 1911.
- <sup>5</sup> <sup>^</sup> O.R., Series I, Vol. XLIII, Part 1, p. 1020.
- <sup>6</sup> <sup>^</sup> Gordon, pp. 352-72.
- <sup>7</sup> <sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> Gallagher (2000), p. 12.
- <sup>8</sup> <sup>^</sup> Ulbrich, p. 1222.
- <sup>9</sup> <sup>^</sup> Early and Gallagher, pp. xxv-xxvi.
- <sup>10</sup> <sup>^</sup> *White's Ferry website*.

## Further reading

- Early, Jubal A., *The Campaigns of Gen. Robert E. Lee: An Address by Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early before Washington & Lee University, January 19, 1872.*, John Murphy & Co., Baltimore, 1872.
- Early, Jubal A., *A Memoir of the Last Year of the War for Independence in the Confederate States of America*, Bielock & Co., New Orleans, 1867.
- Early, Jubal A. & Ruth H., *Lieutenant General Jubal Anderson Earl, C.S.A.: Autobiographical Sketch and Narrative of the War Between the States*, J.B. Lippincott Company, 1912.

- Leepson, Marc, [\*Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History\*](#), Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press, 2007, [ISBN 0-312-36364-8](#).



### *Scheduled Speakers for 2009 - 2010*

- Sep 2, 2009:** James Lawler – “Survival – Andersonville and Sultana”
- Oct 7, 2009:** Roger Arthur – “Importance of John Brown” (Tentative)
- Nov 4, 2009:** M. Borowick – “Fitz-John Porter’s Court Marital
- Dec 2, 2009:** BVCWRT Members - Discussion of selected topics, plus our Christmas Social
- Jan 6, 2010:** Mike Kochan – “Monitor”
- Feb 3, 2010:** Marc. Leepson – “Battle of Monocacy”
- Mar 3, 2010:** J Booz – “Antietam”
- Apr 7, 2010:** Gary Eckelbarger – “2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas” (Tentative)
- Apr 10, 2010:** Field Trip: 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas (More information to come from Greg Buss)
- May 5, 2010:** ChipCrowe – “Hunter McGuire”
- May 25, 2010: (Annual Banquet):** **Speaker will be Elizabeth Brown Pryor**, who is an American diplomat and historian. In 2008, Pryor was awarded the Lincoln Prize for *Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee through his Private Letters*. She shared the honor with James Oakes, who won for *The Radical and the Republican: Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, and the Triumph of Antislavery Politics*. Pryor's book is notable for using hundreds of Lee's previously unpublished private letters to create a fresh biography of the Confederate general.

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