



A Special Performance of Clara Barton, Red Cross Angel

Saturday, January 17, 2015

La Plata Methodist Church Hall

2:00 p.m.

Mary Ann Jung takes you back to Clara Barton, the Red Cross Angel. A passionate and moving public speaker, Clara dramatically relates how she became the first woman to work for the Federal Government, its first female department head, and America's first woman ambassador. You'll be swept into her story of the Civil War and the dangers of nursing at the Battle of Antietam. Finally, learn about her nine-year struggle to get America to sign the Geneva Convention and join the International Red Cross. There are few better role models than Clara Barton, who still inspires us to "Never Give Up!"

Ms. Jung researches and writes her own programs, and uses authentic costumes, accents, and attitudes for her characters' time period in her performances. Her entertaining portraits of famous women and their times continue to encourage a love of history, drama, and literature in young and old alike. Mary Ann Jung received her degree in British history and has been featured on CNN, in the New York Times, and in other newspapers and magazines worldwide. Mary Ann Jung serves as the history chairperson and Shakespearean language instructor at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. She was nominated in 1997 as one of Maryland's Top Women in the Arts. Ms. Jung's shows have been featured at the National Theater of Washington, Port Discovery, National Museum of Medicine, and the Folger Shakespeare Library.



Charles County Confederate Occupation

By Rick Barram



The fate of Washington and by extension, the whole country, was in grave doubt that late summer of 1861. Earlier, the battle that would save the Union and end the rebellion had gone terribly wrong on July 21 at Bull Run. Federal troops had been routed by an equally untried Confederate force and had fallen back to the capital, demoralized and shaken. Northern troops still being organized in their home states were rushed to protect Washington but still, there was much danger.

Washington D.C. was a southern city, now surrounded by enemies and potential enemies. To the south and west was Virginia, most important of the rebellious Confederate states; to the north and east lay Maryland, which state's loyalties to the Union could be called tenuous at best, and through which all of Washington's supplies and reinforcements must now travel.

Confederate sympathizers and outright secessionists had burned many of the rail bridges only weeks before which let into and out of Baltimore, the essential link between Washington and the loyal states further north. Baltimore citizens had fought and died rioting against Massachusetts and Pennsylvania troops (a few of whom also died), transiting the town on their way south to the capital. President Abraham Lincoln recognized the situation for what it was, and used all his diplomatic skills to bolster the hand of Unionist men like Governor Thomas H. Hicks, and mollify the opposition. Eventually, the situation in Baltimore stabilized, and as it did the President's methods become more heavy-handed and arguably unconstitutional in struggling to keep Maryland in the Union, even to the extent of suspending habeas corpus, and using military detentions to prevent elected pro-secessionist delegates from convening a special secession convention.

Washington had become the most fortified city in the world by September, protected by a vast array of forts, redoubts, camps and barracks. Supplies were still trickling though Baltimore but now the focus had shifted south, to the vital supply avenue of the Potomac River. Rebel troops in Virginia had built a series of batteries along their side of the Potomac, unmolested by the overly cautious General George B. McClellan, the newly appointed head of the Federal army. These batteries which ranged south from Alexandria were now free to fire upon ships sailing north to Washington, further threatening the city's survival. Across the river, in Charles County, Maryland, pro-Confederates held sway and the stream of men and material crossing the river from places like Budd's Ferry and Sandy Point to Virginia went virtually unstopped. For Federal war-planners, both the harassment of ships and support for the enemy in southern Maryland had to be stopped.

On water, a squadron of ships was gathered and eventually given the name of the Potomac Flotilla. Its task was to interdict Rebel ships and boats plying the river and to suppress the enemy batteries which threatened Union commerce heading for the capital. On land, the job of suppressing support for the rebels was given to General Joseph Hooker and his newly formed division.

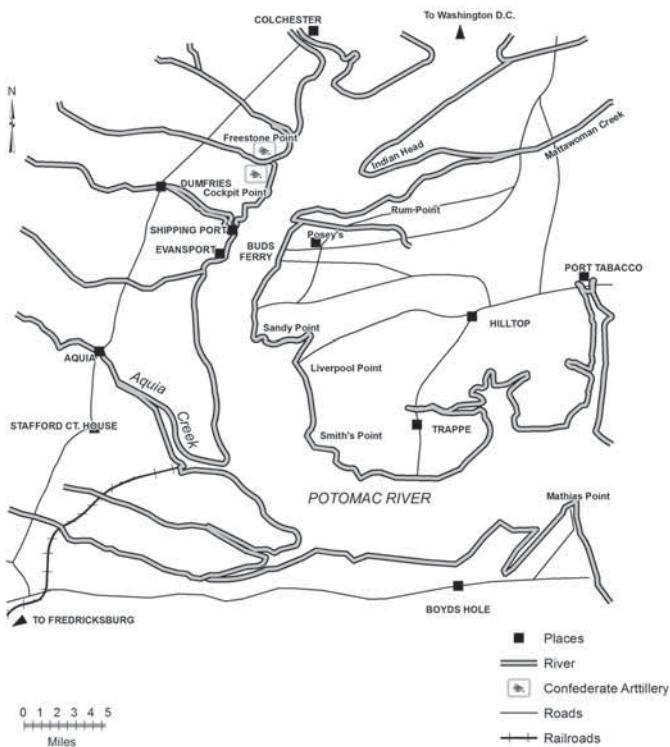


Hooker mounted an expedition led by Colonel H. L. Potter into the counties of lower Maryland to root out enemy spies, scouts, and provocateurs on September 8. Fearing Rebel infiltrators might use the Southern-sympathizing region as a base of operation within the Union, the president wanted potential trouble makers thrown off of his side of the river or in jail. Hooker had orders to stop any flow of information or war materials to the Rebels. A special detachment was formed from companies throughout the command, and for the next two weeks this battalion stormed about Maryland looking for enemy agents. Arthur McKinstry, a New York soldier, in his anticipation of the expedition wrote:

Last Sunday, Sept. 8th, we received orders to prepare to leave with one day's rations in our haversacks. Every man was all astir with excitement, the sick, who could walk, suddenly got well, and the biggest company was turned out that had ever been seen since pay day.

Continued on Page 3

Lower Maryland Campaign



Within the first few days Potter's force had trudged through Cedarville and on to Upper Marlborough. Working from reports that were vague and often inaccurate, Federal troops collected suspicious weapons of sometimes dubious importance as they went, with a fine double barred shotgun and ancient flintlock among the haul.

The column eventually arrived at Butler's Tavern late one night, eleven miles or so from Annapolis were "a number of persons were brought in," reported McKinstry, adding, "one had in his house a Southern captain's uniform, and Col. Potter desired the pleasure of his company back at headquarters. This invitation was unhesitatingly complied with." Next, they forded the main branch of the Patuxent River on their way to Queen Anne. Here young McKinstry records a welcome sight:

On entering the village we passed a neat house, in the doorway of which, a lady stood, waving a small Union flag. This was the only hearty Union sign that we saw in the place, and was greeted by our boys with round of applause. As the lady kept somewhat within her dwelling, I concluded she desired to escape the observation of the neighbors.

Encountering mostly contempt, Potter's band continued to scour the countryside for signs of trouble as they worked their way further south, marching as many as 14 miles a day in an usually round-a-bout manner. Eventually the expedition

marched as far south as Allen's Fresh, a small creek east of where the Potomac winds south again after rounding Mathias Point. After a few days of combing the countryside for rebel activities the troops moved north from Allen's Fresh to Port Tobacco, the supposed "grand centre of treason for Southern Maryland." Here a squadron of cavalry joined the expedition which searched the countryside for 30 miles in every direction. From Port Tobacco Potter's column moved 16 miles north to their next stopping place, Piscataway. Piscataway, while only several miles from Washington, was another supposed nest of treason. Though home to a "rebel recruiting office," here shone one of the few glimmers of Union patriotism of the trip; a small flag, the Stars and Stripes, was displayed in the window of a local home.

When it was all over, commanders reported a large number of Rebel agents had been caught and their job was done. Though it is uncertain just how successful Potter's men were in clearing the land of traitors, it was doubtless they were in hostile territory. A *New York Times* writer traveling with the expedition summed it up this way:

The inhabitants are intensely treasonable in their sentiments, and the soldiers of the Union were very much of an eye-sore to them. The men were silent, but the women gave free vent to their feelings of hatred. But this mattered little. The Negroes were true to the

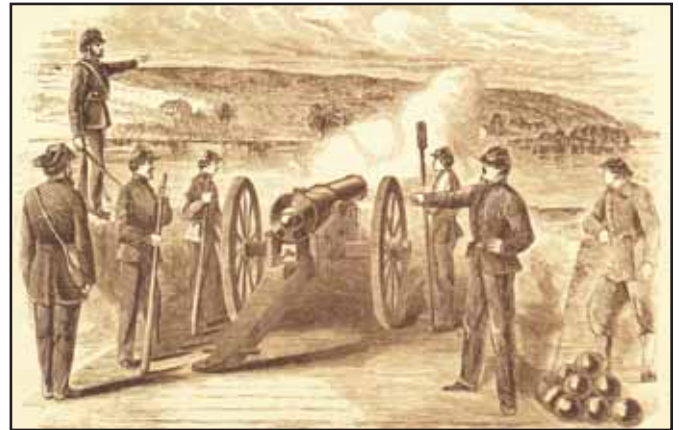


Union and to us, and the most valuable information was gained.

Two-week expeditions into Maryland would not be enough to secure the river and pacify the region. In late October Hooker moved his division into Charles County as his number of men grew to 15,000. Union troops initially camped near the shore but soon found that enemy cannon shots could make life there hazardous so a move inland was in order.

With the regiments encamped out of range of Rebel artillery, companies now rotated through picket duty at the various points on the river. This put them in better position to observe Confederate activity, interdict bellicose communications and get shot. "You can hardly form an idea how efficiently the river is guarded," wrote McKinstry, "In addition to the pickets which are of themselves impassable, the whole river is alive with boats as soon as darkness falls." The Potomac Flotilla kept a close watch on gun emplacements on the Virginia shore. New batteries drew a quick response from one or two Union gunboats while others received attention from nearly the entire fleet. "If the rebels undertake to start fortifications upon the forbidden ground, one or two gun-boats slide gracefully into the bay, and down comes a perfect hail of eight inch shell and fixed ammunition, which operation is the precursor of a very active stampede inland." Sometimes Rebel gunners would hold their ground resulting in a pitched duel between the Virginia batteries and Federal gunboats, assisted by Yankee cannon posted on the Maryland side. These contests prompted cheers from the various sides depending on the success or failure of each round. George Shelly describes his first experience at one such engagement:

It was our turn to cheer now, and we did it right lustily. The rebel ire had been kindled now, and "take care boys," was the next word from the officer in charge. I had not thought of this before. What he meant by taking care, I did not know...but as they had seen the thing before, I determined to do as they did, which was to throw themselves on the ground, and crawl under an old hovel which stood near...scarcely had I got my position before the death dealing missile



came roaring, whizzing through the air. It passed directly over us, and exploded some 60 rods from our position. We came out of our hiding place...and suddenly recollecting that I had business in camp, I took double quick for home, or any other place of safety.

Most residents of southern Maryland resented the presence of an occupying army. Local farmers in some cases would dump gallons of milk onto the ground rather than sell it to Yankees at a premium. But there was no such bias when it came to the sale of liquor. Indeed much time and effort was spent tracking down and intercepting alcohol destined for thirsty and bored Union soldiers. Bottles were often hid during the day and moved at night. In one instance a patrol under the command of Lieutenant Hugh Hinman apprehended a peddler with four bottles:

Hinman applied his nose to the bottle, but his air of expectation gave way to one of great disgust, as he exclaimed: "Boys, that will kill at forty rods!" Solemnly the bottle passed from nose to nose, and all were unanimous in the opinion that a man whose stomach was not lined with copper sheathing, or boiler plate iron, had no business with whiskey of that quality.

While there is no record of what happened to this particular peddler, two men attempting to sell hard drink to a New Jersey regiment were "sentenced to receive 20 lashes on their bare back and to be set adrift in the Potomac in an open boat without oars." While it is known that the lashings were administered, it is uncertain the aquatic banishment was.

After months in the disaffected locality of southern Maryland, many of the men's beliefs about the institution of slavery were changing, especially among those who had never seen a Negro until joining the army. The popular image of "the Southern planter with his smiling family of domestics around him, over whom he exercises so mild and benevolent a sway," as Arthur McKinstry writes, was merely an illusion. "This picture, so charming in the perspective, upon nearer approach, fades away into a dirty-looking farmer, in a coarse

Continued on Page 5

suit of clothes... and a ragged parcel of chattels, who look eagerly to us for one ray of hope for their delivery." During earlier contacts, many slaves saw the Union troops as their emancipators and flocked to them only to be disappointed when, under orders, they were sent away in respect of the state's fugitive slave laws. As months wore on, an uneasy status quo was maintained. Slaves were increasingly an issue which required attention, one which caused yet more friction between the various levels of command. McClellan had issued strict orders allowing slave-owners to enter camps in search of their human property and retrieve it if found, an order Hooker obeyed. This order's observance in the regimental camps was a different story however. New England and New York men were particularly unwelcoming of slave hunters, frequently barring them access to camp; one brigade commander even went so far as to countermand Hooker's decree and ordered slave hunters out. One New Yorker stated flatly "it is not our business to return slaves," and men of the regiment took a measured approach:



Citizens, whether black or white, are generally allowed pass our lines in the day time, and the slave owner has precisely the same privilege as the darky. We suffer, but we never aid in the capture of fugitives. We are more passive spectators, though sometimes, when a "Chiv," is scampering hot foot after a contraband, it has occurred that the sentry didn't see the latter until he had got past the lines, while the owner was discovered just in time to bring him up at the point of the bayonet, and send him around to No. 1 post, where he could get out and dash after his property, which had got about a half mile into the woods.

Hooker increasingly found himself in a no-win situation pulled three ways between the orders of McClellan, the reality of the camps, and the edicts of radical Senate Republicans

who wanted to make it a crime for Federal officers to return runaways. An anecdote told in the camps illustrates Hooker's eventual, less than wholehearted cooperation with the slave-owners. It would seem a group of slave-hunters came to Hooker demanding access per McClellan's orders to the camp of a Massachusetts regiment where their slaves reportedly hid. "Yes I have seen the order," Hooker supposedly replied, "and if your slaves are there and wish to go with you, and the Massachusetts boys are content, I have no objections. But if they refuse and a row occurs over there, I fear you will get into the guardhouse-the same as any other marauders." But when the hunters asked if Hooker would not apprehend the slaves for them, Hooker responded, "I am Brigadier General United States Volunteers, and no nigger catcher. I was born and bred in New England."

Throughout the winter and early spring of 1862 Hooker's men kept their thumbs on the locals. Not every anti-Union man in southern Maryland was necessarily a slave owner and the line between secessionist sympathizer and an outright rebel was often a fuzzy one. Oaths of loyalty were frequently administered throughout the population. Though these oaths were readily recited, both soldiers and citizens alike knew mere words weren't usually enough to change a person's politics. "The people here are all secessionist, and it is only the presence of an overpowering Union force which cause them to feign loyalty," confided a local Union man. "They are all ready to take the oath of allegiance; that doesn't hurt them a bit; but just so soon as they think they can help Jeff Davis, so soon their dispatches will be sent on."

Raids across the river by Hooker's troops into Virginia to gather information, or to weed out traitors or traitorous activities were increasing. Cannons on the Virginia side of the river, which caused so much consternation earlier, had been removed by the Confederates that spring as the strategic situation changed. With the threat to Union shipping now greatly diminished, the exigencies of war called Hooker's Division away from Maryland, and in April to the tip of the Virginia peninsula, where it joined the rest of the Army of the Potomac gathering for McClellan's push toward Richmond.

The Potomac River was safe for Union ships heading to Washington, and though Confederate ironclads posed only passing threats, the overwhelming dominance of Federal men and material would never again be challenged. Maryland, of course, remained in the Union, and though she contributed regiments to both sides, that contribution was decidedly loyal. While the war would come to Maryland in a most bloody way at Antietam, Charles County would remain out of the war's spotlight until it's most tragic and fateful final scene: the pursuit, capture, and death of John Wilkes Booth.

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The Fredonia Censor

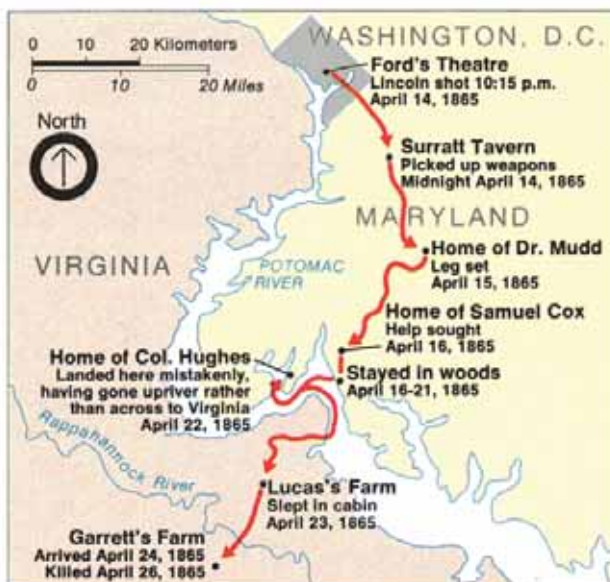
The New York Times

Biography

Rick Barram lives and works in northern California where he teaches United States history. Barram's history of *The 72nd New York Infantry in the Civil War*, was published this past spring. He serves on the board of directors for two Civil War oriented non-profit organizations where he also serves as the newsletter editor.

Mark Your Calendar

- **Saturday, January 17, 2015:**
Mary Ann Jung's Performance of "Clara Barton, Red Cross Angel," at the La Plata Methodist Church Hall, 2:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, April 11, 2015:**
Spring Luncheon and Dedication of Friendship House of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century
11:00 - Dedication Ceremony
11:30 - Friendship House and Cellar Museum Open
12:00 - Luncheon at the Center for Business & Industry, College of Southern Maryland, La Plata Campus
12:30 - Guest Speaker Katie Barney Moose will present *Chesapeake Foods and Herbs from the Colonial Period to the Civil War*.
- **Saturday, May 2, 2015:**
Port Tobacco Market Days
- **Saturday, October 24, 2015:**
Fall Dinner Meeting. Dave Taylor will present "The John Wilkes Booth Escape Route: Rich Hill and The Garrett Farm." Tour, dinner and meeting at the Surratt House.
- **Saturday, January 23, 2016:**
January Meeting. Sara Rivers-Cofield will present *Small Finds, Big Picture: Artifacts of the Colonial Chesapeake as Bait for the Tobacco Trap*.



Friendship House Foundation

The Friendship House Foundation was established to preserve, refurbish and promote this unique treasure of Charles County. Donations will help to maintain the historical integrity of the house through its furnishings, tours and educational programs, and to honor those who have devoted countless hours of volunteer time in the preservation and promotion of this Maryland Tidewater Home.



Today, Friendship House sits proudly on the campus of the College of Southern Maryland. Please join the Historical Society of Charles County in contributing to the preservation of Friendship House for many generations to come.

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| Friend | \$ 25.00-\$ 99.00 |
| Colonist | \$ 100.00-\$199.00 |
| Patriot | \$ 200.00-\$499.00 |
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| Renaissance | \$1,000.00 + |

To donate, please make checks payable to the Friendship House Foundation, and mail to the Historical Society.

President's Message

Dear Society Members,

Oh my gosh, my golly!

What a busy three months it has been for the Historical Society of Charles County! October's general membership meeting was an outstanding success at Christ Church, Durham Parish. The meal was delicious, and the program informative and entertaining. Carol Donohue and Mike Mazzeo put a lot of effort and thought in our dinners and it shows!

Welcome to our new board members, Howard Post, treasurer, Elsie Picyk and Debi Scoggins. Thank you to the members who have continued their service to the board.

In October, Mike Mazzeo and I met with Michael Worthington of Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory at Friendship House. The HSCC Board voted to have a dendrochronology study to determine the actual age of Friendship House. This



was precipitated by our upcoming spring event when the Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century, Lady Jane Sewall Chapter will commemorate and mark Friendship House. The Colonial Dames prefer to have an accurate date on the plaque that will be posted on Friendship House. It has always been an educated guess, and we have used circa 1740, 1750 for years, and assumed Warren Dent was the builder. We held our breath until the results were known, hoping we had been correct. Success! The lab has determined our Friendship House was built in 1766 based on the tree rings in an oak beam. Dating of some of the other samples also gave a timeline that some of the floor joists were replaced in the 1833-36 time period, possibly fixing a worn kitchen! So now we know these walls and floors can "talk."

Thank you to Louise Turner and Joyce Candland for their dedication to the Historic Sites files at CSM. Howard Post has joined in volunteering at CSM and without this tireless

effort, our files would be a haphazard mess of paper. Louise and Joyce are to be thanked too for having our parlor chairs in Friendship House reupholstered. Working with Neil Ackerman, who picked up and delivered, the new coverings compliment the parlor decor.

With Friendship House decorated for the Holiday Trail, the chairs looked splendid in their new attire!

On December 6 & 7, we opened Friendship House to patrons of Charles County's Holiday Trail. This year, as HSCC is the umbrella organization for this event, we were one of 13 sites across the county who greeted visitors to our county's historic places. I had the privilege of visiting almost all of the sites on a two-day grand tour with grandchildren in tow. There is so much history right here under our feet, and the tour provided opportunities for all ages. Thank you to our volunteers, Mike Mazzeo, Howard Post, Carol Donohue, Debi Scoggins and Frank and Jean Santora, who greeted our guests, and a special thank you to Millie Hamman for coordinating the volunteers and getting our directional signs printed. Another thank you to Jim



Berry for replacing the cracked window pane and removing the broken door in the cellar, and also to Joyce and John Candland, who along with myself, cleaned and polished Friendship House before the event. Decked in its greenery, full of curious visitors, Friendship House presented a step back in time and what a wonderful time was had by all.

It is a pleasure to serve as your president, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and hope to see you in the New Year.

Mary Pat

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If you would like future newsletters sent to you by e-mail, please send us your e-mail address. Articles of historic interest on Southern Maryland are requested for publication in future issues of *The Record*. Please send your articles and photographs to: The Historical Society of Charles County, Publications, *The Record*, P.O. Box 2806, La Plata, Maryland 20646. Or you can email your articles and photographs to Mary Pat Berry at bugs4berry@gmail.com.

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What is happening in 1766?

- An observer in Wilmington, North Carolina reports to the Edinburgh newspaper Caledonian Mercury that three ships were seized by British men-of-war on the charge of carrying official documents without stamps. The strict enforcement causes seven other ships to leave Wilmington for other ports.
- Meermin slave mutiny: captive Malagasy people seize a Dutch East India Company slave ship in the Indian Ocean.
- The Pennsylvania Gazette reports that a British sloop outside of Wilmington, North Carolina seized 1 sloop sailing from Philadelphia and 1 sloop sailing from Saint Christopher on the charge of carrying official documents without stamps. In response, local residents threaten to burn a Royal Man-of-War attempting to deliver stamps to Wilmington, forcing the ship to return to the mouth of the Cape Fear River.
- The British Parliament repeals the Stamp Act which is very unpopular in the British colonies. The persuasion of Benjamin Franklin is considered partly responsible. The Declaratory Act asserts the right of Britain to bind the colonies in all other respects.
- An observer in New York City, in the Province of New York reports to the Pennsylvania Gazette that a British Sloop of War is searching all vessels passing near Cape Lookout, North Carolina and that some vessels have been seized.
- Friendship House is built by Warren Dent

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