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Mosby Heritage Area Association Newsletter - April 2014

Welcome, New Members!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, volunteers, and supporters of MHAA, we warmly welcome our new members:

David Hamilton
William Harvey
Pamela McKay
Ronda McCrea
Nancy Napolitano
H.R. Schappert
Frederick Tagg III

LEAD STORIES:

Mosby Heritage Area Association Hosts Public Meetings

As part of the grant received from the American Battlefield Protection Program, under the National Park Service, MHAA hosted two public meetings on May 13th and May 14th allowing citizens the opportunity to comment and add input to a draft preservation plan. Twenty-three citizens attended the first evening in Upperville and twenty-four attended the next in Aldie. Robert O'Neill spoke on the history of the cavalry battles, followed by Laura Knott, consultant with John Milner Associates, who outlined the preservation priorities for battlefield properties. The meetings concluded with breakout sessions to view maps and to make comments.

This preservation plan deals with the 1863 Cavalry Battles of Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville where Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart fought a delaying tactic to screen the northern movement of General Robert E. Lee into Pennsylvania prior to the Battle of Gettysburg. Additional information is online at www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp.

If you were unable to attend, please keep up with our progress and to see maps identifying properties within the battlefields go to http://amubattlefieldspp.wordpress.com .

If you would like to make comments about this plan, please contact our offices at info@mosbyheritagearea.org before June 6th.

Aldie Triangle Program Serves Large Numbers in April

Since 2003, the Mosby Heritage Area Association has been offering teachers and students to study one topic at three famous historic sites in the heritage area, all centrally located in or near the village of Aldie. The Aldie Triangle Program works through MHAA with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority to open Aldie Mill and Mt. Zion Church Historic Park and with Tom and Gayle DeLashmutt to open President James Monroe's Oak Hill so that students can feel and touch history. Each year, students investigate the impact of the Civil War on these non-military sites. We see a church used as a hospital, prison, and battlefield; a miller worried about losing his mill to one or the other army during the War only to have a skirmish fought right in the mill; and a Founding Father's home vandalized by passing soldiers and turned into a Freedman's Bureau office at the War's end.

MHAA and NVRPA staff working with our loyal volunteers, local historians, and re-enactors bring each site to life through multiple ways of viewing history. Students view working 19th century heavy machinery, historic architecture, material culture, medicine, military technology, gravestone art, as well as learning of slavery and the Civil War. They take home re-tellable stories and mental images that we hope will stir their interest in history and may, at some future date, make them into valuable stewards of the historic landscape.

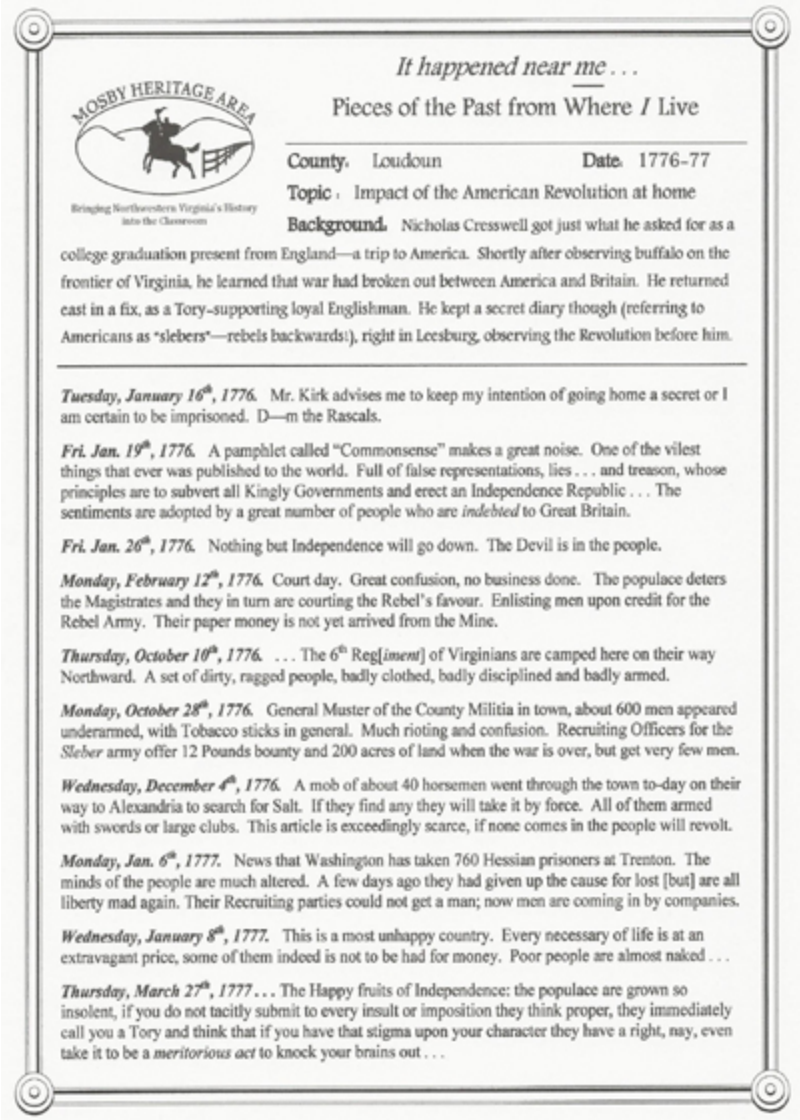
Joe Becek interpreting at Aldie Mill

Jim Hildbold interpreting at Mt Zion Church

Rich Gillespie, MHAA Director of Education, noted the thrill of watching 9 and 10-year-old students exposed to their first view of the front portico of the Jefferson-inspired, Latrobe-designed, Hoban-built Oak Hill. "WHOA!!!" was what they said, as the structure appeared after a turn into the garden. "That's what this program is all about," said Gillespie. History is visual, history is tactile, history is a good story—history is "WHOA!" They get all of that from some great historical interpreters on this day at the mill, church, and Oak Hill.

This year, Lovettsville, Sycolin Creek, Aldie, Middleburg, Banneker and Buffalo Trail Elementaries participated, along with Powhatan and The Hill Schools. A third day of programming substituting Oatlands for Oak Hill allowed Leesburg's Evergreen Mill Elementary as well as Middleburg Montessori of Atoka and Mountain Laurel Montessori from Front Royal to also participate. In all, 620 students and some six dozen adults were able to participate in the Aldie Triangle Program this year. A warm thanks to all who made this happen!

A New Website-Based Tool for Teachers



It happened near me . . .

Pieces of the Past from Where *I* Live

MOSBY HERITAGE AREA

Bringing Northwestern Virginia's History into the Classroom

County. Loudoun **Date.** 1776-77

Topic. Impact of the American Revolution at home

Background. Nicholas Cresswell got just what he asked for as a college graduation present from England—a trip to America. Shortly after observing buffalo on the frontier of Virginia, he learned that war had broken out between America and Britain. He returned east in a fix, as a Tory-supporting loyal Englishman. He kept a secret diary though (referring to Americans as "slebers"—rebels backwards!), right in Leesburg, observing the Revolution before him.

Tuesday, January 16th, 1776. Mr. Kirk advises me to keep my intention of going home a secret or I am certain to be imprisoned. D—m the Rascals.

Fri. Jan. 19th, 1776. A pamphlet called "Commonsense" makes a great noise. One of the vilest things that ever was published to the world. Full of false representations, lies . . . and treason, whose principles are to subvert all Kingly Governments and erect an Independence Republic . . . The sentiments are adopted by a great number of people who are *indebted* to Great Britain.

Fri. Jan. 26th, 1776. Nothing but Independence will go down. The Devil is in the people.

Monday, February 12th, 1776. Court day. Great confusion, no business done. The populace deters the Magistrates and they in turn are courting the Rebel's favour. Enlisting men upon credit for the Rebel Army. Their paper money is not yet arrived from the Mine.

Thursday, October 10th, 1776. . . . The 6th Reg[*iment*] of Virginians are camped here on their way Northward. A set of dirty, ragged people, badly clothed, badly disciplined and badly armed.

Monday, October 28th, 1776. General Muster of the County Militia in town, about 600 men appeared underarmed, with Tobacco sticks in general. Much rioting and confusion. Recruiting Officers for the *Sleber* army offer 12 Pounds bounty and 200 acres of land when the war is over, but get very few men.

Wednesday, December 4th, 1776. A mob of about 40 horsemen went through the town to-day on their way to Alexandria to search for Salt. If they find any they will take it by force. All of them armed with swords or large clubs. This article is exceedingly scarce, if none comes in the people will revolt.

Monday, Jan. 6th, 1777. News that Washington has taken 760 Hessian prisoners at Trenton. The minds of the people are much altered. A few days ago they had given up the cause for lost [but] are all liberty mad again. Their Recruiting parties could not get a man; now men are coming in by companies.

Wednesday, January 8th, 1777. This is a most unhappy country. Every necessary of life is at an extravagant price, some of them indeed is not to be had for money. Poor people are almost naked . . .

Thursday, March 27th, 1777 . . . The Happy fruits of Independence: the populace are grown so insolent, if you do not tacitly submit to every insult or imposition they think proper, they immediately call you a Tory and think that if you have that stigma upon your character they have a right, nay, even take it to be a *meritorious act* to knock your brains out . . .

The Mosby Heritage Area education staff has been hard at work since July on a new offering for teachers. It meets a desire by social studies educators to have students use more primary sources in the history classroom. It comes from MHAA's hope to have teachers as well as students realize that one of the best primary resources we have for studying history is the historic landscape, which in Loudoun, Clarke, and Fauquier is all around us. "It Happened Near Me—Pieces of the Past from Where I Live" uses a variety of local paper primary source evidence—diary entries, letters, newspaper clips, advertisements, regulations, and more—and matches these with the place or places they discuss, all viewable on local roads. Each document comes with photos of this local place to ingrain in students' minds the local historical connection. Each document also comes with an overview, editing of the document down to an easily usable length, and questions for students to discuss with a partner or in a small group.

Our goal is to have a battery of small, flexible, Virginia Standards of Learning-relevant pieces of history that will be ideal for beginning or ending a class. Some teachers might use these as "bell ringer" activities to get kids thinking as the class begins and

they are tending to administrivia. Others might base a class on them. We've put them on the Mosby Heritage Area Association website now as we're eager to have teachers try one or two of these during their last several weeks of school, see how they work, and think about how they might use these during the coming year. If these prove useful to teachers, we have more documents in the queue we can prepare for future uploading to our website.

These documents, photos, and questions are free, part of the Mosby Heritage Area's mission to educate both students and teachers about our local history and the valuable resource we have in the still-extant historical landscape.

You can find these documents on our website, at www.mosbyheritagearea.org. Go to the "Education" tab at the top, then scroll down to "For Teachers". Near the bottom of that website interface, you'll find "It Happened Near Me." A new page will open with an overview of each document. Any document can be printed out with its accompanying photos, along with a relevant page of questions to engage duos or groups.

Most new teachers are also new to the area and know little about our local history to use in their classroom. Some teachers in our region stay that way. We hope "It Happened Near Me" will allow teachers to nevertheless dose their students with a little local history in their Virginia or American history classroom.

As always, MHAA will still happily come into history classrooms with presentations on SOL-tied local history topics. This year, these programs are free, thanks to the financial support of our membership and those who read this electronic newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuscarora Brass Band

Legends of Llangollen
Sunday, June 1, 1:00-4:00pm

Llangollen
21515 Trappe Road
Upperville, Virginia

Enjoy a day in the country with the family at lovely historic Llangollen farm. House tours offered at 1:00 and 3:00pm. BBQ picnic offered by Blackthorne Inn, so bring a blanket or lawn chair and sit in the picturesque courtyard of the famous Horse Shoe Barn. The Confederate regimental band, The Tuscarora Brass Band, will play at 2:00. Grab a glass of wine or a tasting offered for sale by Delaplane Cellars.

While taking the house tour, learn about the legends of Llangollen – from Civil War tales to 1930s Hollywood darlings. Llangollen is a stunning home, with a fascinating past. Do not miss this opportunity to see it.

$40 MHAA members/$50 non-members. $15 kids. Aged 5 and under free.

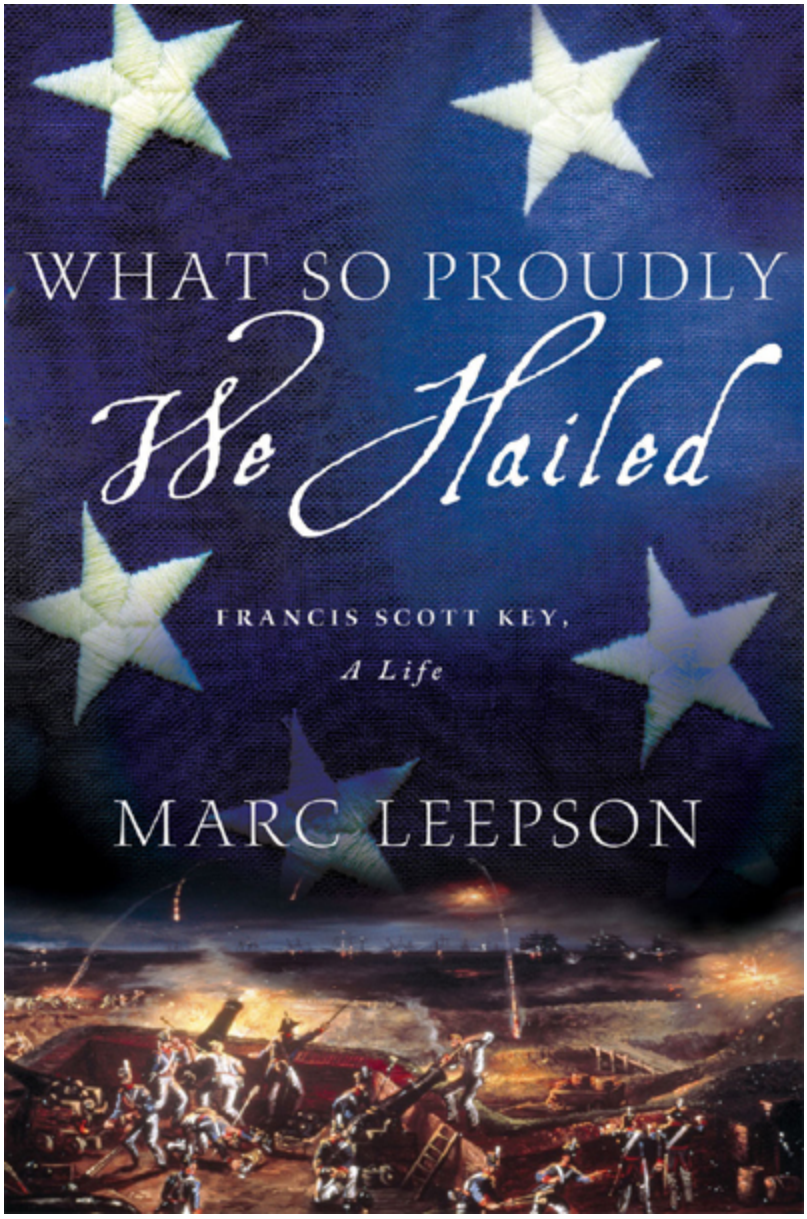
Thank you to our sponsors:
Harry Bigley
Delaplane Cellars
Lands Trails and Parks Consulting LLC
Mrs. George L. Ohrstrom Jr.
John Zugschwert

CLICK HERE to view this event on the MHAA Website Calendar Page

What So Proudly We Hailed
Sunday, June 29, 2:00pm

A Biography of Francis Scott Key
Talk by Author Marc Leepson
Oak Hill

Aldie, Virginia



Author and Historian Marc Leepson will speak at President James Monroe's home, Oak Hill, on the life of Francis Scott Key. He will be available to sign books as well. Seating is limited and reservations required.

CLICK HERE to view this event on the MHAA Website Calendar Page

Saturday, July 5, 7:00pm
Conversations in History Series
The Nature of Sacrifice: William Hathaway Forbes and the California Battalion Confront Mosby, 1864

Talk by Carol Bundy

Mt Zion Church
40309 John Mosby Hwy
Aldie, VA 20105

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the sharp fight between Mosby's Rangers and the California Battalion at Mt Zion Church, Carol Bundy will bring alive the nature of young Bostonians who took on the hunt for Mosby in 1864. Carol Bundy is the author of The Nature of Sacrifice, a biography of Charles Russell Lowe. She designed an exhibit at the Massachusetts Historical Society on Boston's young Brahmins in the Civil War. Co-Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

$10/students free

Sunday, July 6, 6:30pm
Cavaliers, Courage & Coffee Program
Cavalry Clash at Mt Zion, July 6, 1864

Mt Zion Church
40309 John Mosby Hwy
Aldie, VA 20105

The Gray Ghost Interpretive Group living historians present a series of dramatic reminiscences at dusk as we discover the nature of the horrific cavalry clash at Mt Zion Church late on July 6, 1864. Co-Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. $8 adults/$4 students.

Since our Last Newsletter:

Photos by Douglas Lees

Sunday, May 4
Exploring Historic Rectortown

The seventh annual Mosby Ride visited historic sites associated with the Civil War command of Colonel John S. Mosby and the 1862 occupation of Rectortown by Union General George B. McClellan.

Members of the Gray Ghost Interpretive Group provided stories of the famed 1864 Lottery, Mosby's use of safe houses, and attacks on the railroad. Riders explored graffiti in a warehouse used to hold captured Union soldiers.

Thanks to Fauquier Realty for sponsoring this event.

Saturday, May 10
The Final Rendezvous: A Visit to Mosby Rangers' Graves in Mt. Zion Church, Sharon and Ivy Hill Cemeteries

Eric Buckland and Don Hakenson led a tour of the final resting places of 49 of Mosby's Rangers; Mt. Zion Church, Sharon, and Ivy Hill Cemeteries. There was also a stop at the Caleb Rector House in Atoka to visit the site where John Mosby officially formed Company A of the 43rd Battalion of the Virginia Cavalry.

Also on Saturday, May 10th
Cavaliers, Courage and Coffee Program
Mosby Safe House Life at Belle Grove
Belle Grove

The Gray Ghost Interpretive Group presented a series of dramatic reminiscences at dusk and by lantern-light exploring the nature of life at a Mosby safe house in 1864. Belle Grove was the home of noted diarist Amanda Virginia Edmonds who recorded it all.

Photo of the Month

by J. Riley Stewart

"Spring Pasture in the Loudoun Valley" is a common scene this time of year; changing temperatures bring both morning fogs and new lambs.

See our monthly chronicle of beautiful scenes from the Mosby Heritage Area at

http://www.pbase.com/mosbyheritage/photo_of_the_month

Copyright J Riley Stewart (Contact the photographer at http://jrileystewart.com to acquire a print of this scene).

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