



CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011

“Extraordinary Women of the Civil War” Is Theme of Society’s Upcoming Programs

To mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the Chevy Chase Historical Society’s Fall and Spring Programs will feature lectures telling the stories of extraordinary women who played significant roles during the Civil War.

Ann Blackman, eminent journalist and author of *Wild Rose* (Random House, 2006), the definitive biography of Civil War spy Rose Greenhow, will deliver a lecture at the Fall Program. The public, including school age children accompanied

by adults, is invited to the program on Sunday, November 20, at 4:00 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, 5906 Connecticut Avenue.

A beautiful widow who was born in Montgomery County and rose to the top of Washington society, “Wild Rose” Greenhow counted many of the key figures in Civil War history as friends and colleagues, and used her connections to spy for the Confederacy. Greenhow was imprisoned by President Lincoln, exiled to Richmond, and traveled to Europe as Jefferson Davis’ emissary to plead the Confederacy’s cause. On her return voyage, her ship ran aground while running the Union blockade. She drowned trying to get ashore, weighed down by the gold she had raised in Europe for her beloved South. She probably was the first American woman to negotiate for her government on foreign soil.

Blackman will describe the political and social milieu in antebellum Washington and trace the exploits of this independent woman of remarkable courage and dedication who, like many fellow Southerners, gave her last measure of devotion for a lost cause.

“Wild Rose” herself will join the program in the person of historical impersonator Emily Lapisardi. This dramatic presentation, developed



**Lecturer Ann Blackman, and historical impersonator
Emily Lapisardi as “Wild Rose” Greenhow**

from careful research and enhanced by period clothing and artifacts, will bring Greenhow’s personality vividly to life. Blackman and Lapisardi collaborated previously in a program about Greenhow at the Smithsonian’s International Spy Museum.

Blackman has been a journalist in Washington for more than three decades. For 16 years she was Deputy Chief of *Time Magazine’s* Washington Bureau, covering the lives of the nation’s power brokers. She also was a correspondent in *Time’s* Moscow Bureau for

three years. Before that, she was a national correspondent for The Associated Press, covering the Watergate hearings, presidential politics, the Iranian hostage crisis, and the assassination attempts on Governor George Wallace and President Ronald Reagan. In addition to *Wild Rose*, she is the author of *Seasons of Her Life: A Biography of Madeleine Korbel Albright* and co-author of *The Spy Next Door: the Extraordinary Secret Life of Robert Philip Hanssen*.

Lapisardi has presented historical impersonations at museums, historical societies, schools, festivals, and reenactments around the nation. She has a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from West Virginia University, where she was the school’s nominee for the Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships. She is a regular soloist in opera and oratorio and is actively involved in teaching vocal music. She has participated in numerous national and international conferences, and presented a paper on historical impersonation as a form of interactive theater in Norway in 2000. Her repertoire of historical subjects includes another Civil War spy, Antonia Form Willard, wife of one of the founders of Washington’s Willard Hotel.

A reception including the speakers will follow the program. Please direct questions to Mary Ann Tuohey at (301) 656-1779.

Celebrating One of America’s First Streetcar Suburbs



CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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on Tuesday and by appointment.

The Chevy Chase Historical Society collects, records, interprets and shares materials relating to the history of Chevy Chase, Maryland, one of America's first streetcar suburbs. The organization provides resources for historical research and sponsors a variety of programs and activities to foster knowledge and appreciation of the community's history.

Recent Acquisitions

1. A page taken from the July 1902 issue of The American Monthly Review of Reviews with an article titled "Irrigation Bill is Passed." The page features an image of Francis G. Newlands when he was a member of the House Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands. He was a prominent advocate for the bill signed by President Roosevelt on June 18, 1902. Acquired by staff.
2. Two pages taken from the Baum Family scrapbook, possibly created in the 1950s when the Baum family lived on Brennon Lane in Chevy Chase. One page features a program entitled "Chevy Chase Circus" about a production by neighborhood children. The program features the titles of six different acts. The other page is a financial statement of the Chevy Chase Circus showing the expenses and profits divided among the performers. Donated by Lyn Sutherland.



**Clifton Freeman,
caretaker and handyman**

3. Digital photographs taken by John D. Barnes at CCHS' May 1, 2011 event, "Chevy Chase Celebrates." Donated by Mr. Barnes.
4. A typed short history of Clifton Freeman, 1900-1985, written by Lois Fern. Freeman worked as a caretaker and handyman at the homes along Raymond Street. Also included with the history are four photographs of Freeman. Donated by Ms. Fern.

It's not even Thanksgiving yet ...

but it's not too early to think about your 2012 membership in the society. Look for a membership letter soon, and please respond by joining CCHS for 2012. You will receive our Newsletter, an early invitation to our annual Gala, and notice of our Fall and Spring Programs, History-Go-Round tours, and other interesting offerings.

**Continue to support your community and keep
our history alive by joining us for 2012.
We count on you!**



History-Go-Round Tour Of Mary Surratt House

In keeping with its theme this year of featuring women who played significant roles during the Civil War, starting with its Fall Program on Confederate spy "Wild Rose" Greenhow, CCHS will offer a History-Go-Round tour of the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, Maryland, on Thursday, December 1. Mary Surratt was convicted of taking part in the conspiracy to assassinate Abraham Lincoln. Sentenced to death and hanged, she was the first woman executed by the United States government.

The Surratt House, built in 1852 as a plantation home, also served as a tavern and inn, a post office, and a polling place in the decade before war. It was a safehouse during the war for the Confederate underground in southern Maryland. Today, the house museum offers programs and events that capture the history of mid-19th century life and focus on the fascinating web of the Lincoln conspiracy.



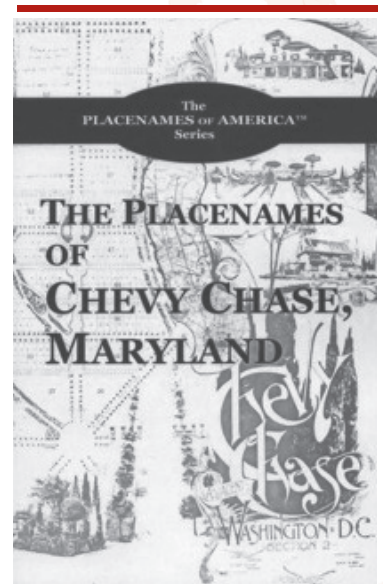
Surratt House Museum in Clinton, Maryland

The guided tour begins at 11:00 am. The house is approximately 30 minutes from Chevy Chase. Participants must provide their own transportation. CCHS will provide directions, and will assist in forming carpools if requested. After the tour the group will enjoy a buffet lunch at the Wayfarer Restaurant in the Colony South Hotel. The cost for the tour and lunch is \$18.00 per person. To make a reservation, please mail a check, payable to CCHS, to Mary Anne Tuohey, 29 West Kirke Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. If you have questions, please call Mrs. Tuohey at (301) 656-1779.

In the spring, in connection with its Spring Program on Clara Barton, CCHS will offer a History-Go-Round tour of Barton's house in Glen Echo, Maryland. Look for further details on the program and tour in the Winter 2012 Newsletter.

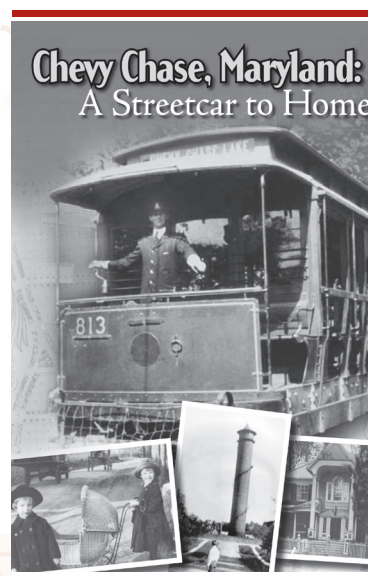
CCHS "Out and About"

Last spring, the society introduced its new book, *The Placenames of Chevy Chase, Maryland*, that traces the history of the Chevy Chase area from colonial times to the present. By using research, photos, maps, and oral histories from the CCHS archive the book offers "a glimpse into the past and a view of the present to satisfy your curiosity and jog your memory." In recent months authors Joan Marsh and Frances Stickles have taken their book "on tour" in the community.



On July 19 they addressed a large crowd at a meeting of Chevy Chase@Home, the organization helping Chevy Chase seniors live independently at home, held at the Chevy Chase Village Hall. Accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation of images from the book, they shared highlights of the text, discussed little known facts about the history of our community, told entertaining stories about the growth of Chevy Chase, and answered wide ranging questions from the audience. Fifty copies of the book sold out rapidly.

On September 9, the two authors did a reprise of their presentation, at the Friendship Heights Community Center, where the audience again learned much about our local history. If you are interested in having the authors speak to your group or organization, please call the CCHS Archive and Research Center at (301) 656-6141.



Reminder: the holidays are right around the corner! *Placenames* and CCHS' award winning DVD, "Chevy Chase, Maryland: A Streetcar to Home," especially if "paired," make welcome hostess gifts, stocking stuffers, guides for visitors, or holiday presents. Copies may be ordered on the society's web site, www.chevychasehistory.org, or by calling the Archive and Research Center at (301) 656-6141.

The Civil War in the Chevy Chase Area

In observance of the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, local historian, author, and lecturer William M. Offutt describes the war activity in upper Northwest Washington, DC and what would become Chevy Chase and Bethesda

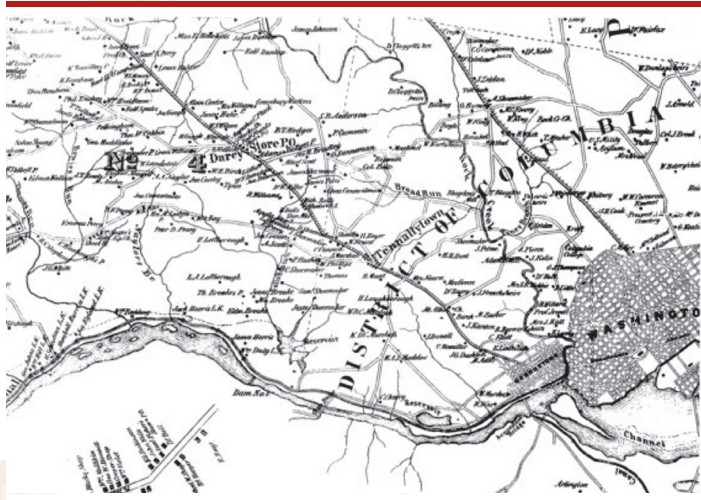
Not only was the nation torn apart by the Civil War, Maryland also was divided and sent more than 30,000 men into Confederate military units. In rural Montgomery County most of the dominant slave owning patricians favored secession and were proud to say their sons had mounted their riding horses, crossed the river, and joined rebel cavalry units. Some 120 did just that. About an equal number of young men volunteered for Mr. Lincoln's army. Families split, friends parted, and for four years violence reigned. But in what became Chevy Chase a half century later the war was little noticed.

The main road in the county had been called the "Great Road" by earlier generations. It was a well worn, one time Indian trail from Frederick to Georgetown, the local stretch of which had been turned into part of the toll road known as the "turnpike" (which is why we still have "Rockville Pike"). During the war, both armies used it regularly. It saw some serious excitement in the summer of 1863 when Confederate General Jeb Stuart's troopers chased a long Union wagon train into the sleepy crossroads that later was named Bethesda, making himself late for the fight at Gettysburg.

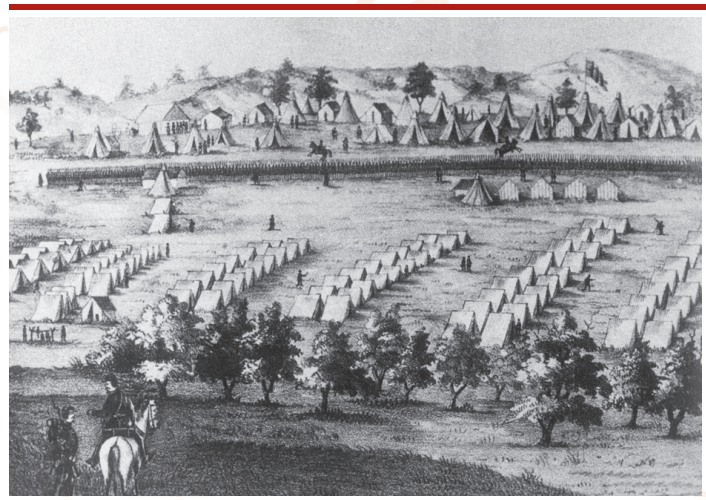
Bradley's Lane existed and perhaps was not much wider than it is now. It connected the old Bradley farm that became the Chevy Chase Club to the turnpike, and also reached east to Brookeville Road, another old timer in long use from the busy mills at Brookeville to the boisterous taverns at Tenallytown (which the soldiers came to call Ten Alley Town). The growing family of Ottmar Sonneman, who worked on the Capitol's new dome, had settled on Brookeville at Broad Branch. Clean Drinking, No Gain, Hayes Manor, and other big farms also had their lanes across the gently rolling farmland and second growth scrub. And, of course, the land grant of old Colonel Joseph Belt, which he named "Chevy Chace," lay just south of the District Line.

In the capital, real estate values collapsed after Lincoln's election. "Experts" predicted that it would have to be abandoned or it would surely become a battleground. Some Southern-sympathizing families quickly moved from Washington City to the Chevy Chase area. Alfred Ray transplanted his farming operation to what would later be called North Chevy Chase or Kensington. Hilleary Lyles Offutt abandoned Georgetown for a large farm just north of Dr. John Davidson's place in the middle of the future Bethesda and had his mail delivered to Darcy Store Post Office.

On local farms the number of slaves had decreased sharply as wheat and diversified farming replaced tobacco. The largest slaveholders at the time of the Civil War included Greenbury Watkins who owned 33, 13 of whom were under 10 years of age (his lane became the western end of East-West Highway; Robert P. Dunlop of Hayes Manor who owned 15; John Davidson who owned 14 including eight children (one 10 year old was listed as a fugitive); the various Counselman families who owned 18 slaves among them; and the Magruder clan who held some three dozen. At the other end of the spectrum was Joseph Bradley who owned one 16 year old boy.



"Darcy Store P.O." preceded "Bethesda"



Fort Pennsylvania, later renamed Fort Reno

When the Federal army started building a ring of forts around the capital after the disaster near Bull Run in the summer of 1861, the area of Washington south of what became Chevy Chase was greatly changed. Of the 60-some forts, dozens of batteries, and miles of trenches, the most impressive construction was Fort Reno (originally named Fort Pennsylvania for the men who built it) atop the tallest hill around. Reno's lookout and signal tower was visible for miles. The fort contained 27 siege guns and guarded the roads to Georgetown.

All the way to the District Line the soldiers cleared fields of fire in front of Fort Reno. They felled acres of timber, including a number of orchards, and turned the tangled branches toward the expected enemy. A large campground spread behind the fort, and by September 1861 it was ready to welcome the President for review of the troops and presentation of colors. Reno's forward redoubt grew at about Fessenden and 39th Streets, NW. The complex included barracks, officers' quarters, two hospitals, several kitchens, stables, and a number of other structures for the 3,000 man force. The soldiers' mail overwhelmed the post office at Tenallytown.

Soldiers and foraging squads from the forts became common in the area and many farms lost horses, cattle, and chickens in return for curses or quartermaster receipts. There were some depredations and the property of known Southern sympathizers often suffered. The artillery did practice from time to time and that became at least a nuisance because some of the large guns could fire projectiles several miles, if with mixed results. During Confederate General Jubal Early's so-called "raid" of 1864 a couple of Confederate soldiers were killed on the turnpike, near where the National Naval Medical Center stands, by a shell fired from Fort Reno. But a local farmer who went to the fort to complain was told not to worry, his home was the practice aiming point, and the troops never hit what they aimed at.

It was in July of 1864 when a Confederate cavalry squad came through the northern reaches of present day Chevy Chase and was welcomed at the Ray farm. The late Edith Saul Ray kept among her prized possessions the Confederates' receipt for hams, quinine, and two mules. On the night of July 11, 1864, as Early's tired men slept near Silver Spring, planning to strike Fort Stevens in the morning, James Loughborough made his way through what are now Chevy Chase and Bethesda to dine with his family at their large home on the hill where The American University now stands. Today, Fort Reno is gone, as is Fort Bayard, which occupied the soapstone knob where River Road, NW crosses Western Avenue, NW. But one can still see the remains of Fort DeRussy on the edge of the Rock Creek Valley. It housed a "hundred

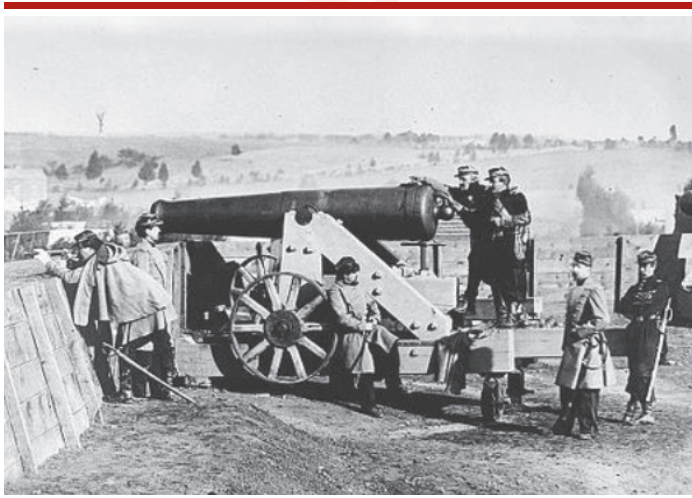


United States Army, 1862

"Defenses of Washington" showing the ring of Federal forts

pounder" gun and actually saw action in 1864. DeRussy lies just east of St. John's College High School on Military Road, NW, the original "beltway" built to connect the forts.

The slaves were freed by the short lived Maryland constitution of 1864 although many had fled to freedom in Washington before that date. At war's end, life hereabouts returned to pretty much what it had been, and did not change much until the coming of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and the Chevy Chase Land Company.



Library of Congress

A field siege gun, like those mounted at Fort Reno and nearby Forts DeRussy and Bayard

MYSTERY!

"Mystery!" is a regular feature in the Newsletter. We invite all sleuths to help CCHS solve "mysteries" contained in the society's archive.



The Town of Chevy Chase, then known as Section 4, celebrated its 65th anniversary in 1983. Who are these musicians -- three trumpeters and one saxophone player -- who marched in a parade to celebrate the occasion? This photograph recently joined our collection and inquiring minds want to know, who these men are and where the photo was taken. Write to us via our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/chevychasehistory, send us an email at chevychasehistory@msn.com, or call us at (301) 656-6141. The first person to solve this mystery wins a "Chevy Chase Historical Society" bumper sticker!

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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