



## Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area

**CARROLL  
COUNTY**  
HAMPSTEAD  
MANCHESTER  
TANEYTOWN  
SYKESVILLE  
UNION BRIDGE  
WESTMINSTER  
NEW WINDSOR

**FREDERICK  
COUNTY**  
BRUNSWICK  
BURKITTSVILLE  
EMMITSBURG  
FREDERICK  
MIDDLETOWN  
MYERSVILLE  
MT. AIRY  
NEW MARKET  
ROSEMONT  
THURMONT  
WOODSBORO

**WASHINGTON  
COUNTY**  
BOONSBORO  
HAGERSTOWN  
HANCOCK  
SMITHSBURG  
WILLIAMSPORT

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***Illuminating Frederick 1865: from Celebration to Grief to commemorate 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Civil War's end***

**Frederick, MD** - Frederick, MD — On Friday, April 10 at 7 p.m., the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWHA) will partner with the City of Frederick, the National Medicine of Civil War Medicine, and the Historical Society of Frederick County to commemorate the ending of the Civil War with a free program for all ages. The event, *Illuminating Frederick 1865: from Celebration to Grief*, will be held at City Hall (101 North Court Street). The evening has three components: a presentation by author James Swanson, an illumination in the square in front of City Hall, and a living history walking tour.

#### Presentation by James Swanson

Swanson, the best-selling author of *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer*, will discuss President Lincoln's assassination and the role of correspondent George Alfred Townsend. "The evening will be a fitting way to recognize partners that have joined together the last five years to commemorate the Civil War sesquicentennial in Frederick County," said Elizabeth Scott Shatto, Executive Director of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area. "Mr. Swanson is an accomplished historian about the events that unfolded in April 1865, and we enthusiastically welcome him to Frederick to share his research and narratives." Seats for the presentation must be reserved online: [bit.ly/jamesswanson](http://bit.ly/jamesswanson).

#### Commemorative Illumination

Guests will be invited to participate in a ceremonial illumination to commemorate the end of the Civil War following Mr. Swanson's presentation. On April 13, 1865, Frederick homes and businesses placed candles in their windows to mark the war's end. Mayor and resident diarist Jacob Engelbrecht described the scene, "Our city last night was illuminated to its fullest extent. Every dwelling was illuminated with perhaps two or three exceptions. The military had a general turn out with two bands of music and paraded nearly the entire city. The streets were crowded with people – a large number from the country. On the whole it passed of peaceably and quiet. The liquor shops had been ordered to be closed all day by Provost Marshal Baugher."



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Kyle Wichtendahl, program coordinator and historian at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, said, “We hope to recreate the feeling of that night. In the 1860s, it was a rare and special occasion to have candles and bonfires illuminating the streets. During that time an illumination very much signaled a celebration.” A music performance and brief presentation is also planned during the illumination. Wichtendahl said, “After Mr. Swanson’s program, guests will be given candles to fill City Hall Park with glorious light. We will also have torches to illuminate the evening.” He continued, “It is important to note that less than 48 hours later, on April 15 word spread through the country about President Lincoln’s assassination, shifting the mood from celebration to mourning the loss of a beloved president. This event will ceremonially commemorate both.” This portion of the event is free and open to the public.

#### Living History

After the brief ceremony guests will be invited to carry their candles on a brief, two-block walking tour of several of Frederick’s most significant Civil War sites, including churches that were used as hospitals, locations visited by Abraham Lincoln, and the place where Maryland’s General Assembly voted not to secede from the Union in 1861. Living historians in period dress will deliver brief vignettes at each site, explaining their importance to Frederick’s Civil War history. This portion of the event is free and open to the public. For more information about the illumination and living history portions of the event, contact Kyle Wichtendahl at 301-695-1864 x 1013.

The social media hashtags are #BellAndHistory, #IlluminatingFrederick, and #cw150. Images are available upon request.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Community Foundation of Frederick County. Arrangements for the appearance of James Swanson made through HarperCollins Speakers Bureau, NY, NY.

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