



Gina Galloway

Francis Embrey, speaking in front of the Connor House Saturday, receives applause from Adele Leach during the gala benefit to help raise funds for the restoration of the Civil War landmark. The Connor House once served as a hospital during Civil War action but has since fallen into a state of disrepair.

Something new for something old

Staff report

The past was remembered Saturday evening during the "Grand Illumination" benefit gala at the city's best-known historic landmark.

The benefit was organized to raise funds to restore the house which was used as a hospital during the Civil War but has since fallen into a state of disrepair.

Events kicked off with a performance by SaraLee Fassette and Vaughnette Lynch of 19th century

music including hymns and songs. The lighting ceremony was held at about 8 p.m. and was attended by Manassas Park City Council members, Sen. Charles Colgan, and Walser Rohr and Elvere Cox, both descendants of the original builders and owners of the Connor House, as well as many other local community and government officials. The keynote speaker was Kenneth Apschnikat, the superintendent of the Manassas National Battlefield

Park.

Most of the evening's other events revolved around a Civil War theme. The 49th Virginia Infantry Regiment and the Fifth New York Zouaves represented the South and North in re-enactments and firing drills; historical interpretation was done by 49th Virginia Soldier's Aid Society and the Frederick Ladies Relief Society; and entertainment was provided by the Bull Run Cloggers.

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Connor House