

## Hillsboro, Civil War, romance come to life in 'Annabelle' saga

If you would like to read some historical fiction with a light-hearted romance, set in Loudoun County, obtain a copy of the paperback "Annabelle" written by Hillsboro resident Meredith Bean McMath (Vine Books).

Ms. McMath has placed her novel in the days of the Civil War (or the War of Northern Aggression depending upon which side you were on) with heroine Annabelle MacBain caught in the midst of the upheaval.

The story begins July 1863 as young Annabelle is called upon to help a young man locate the grave of a friend. Annabelle has been left in charge of the household while her widowed father, a doctor, accompanies Gen. Lee as an assistant surgeon.

Annabelle decides she must join her father in helping the wounded



### BOOKENDS

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Confederate soldiers. Thus she learns first-hand the atrocities of war.

As the plot develops, the reader is given hints about the underground railroad and how the war divided family loyalties even to the point of murder.

Told with fascinating detail that allows the reader to feel transported back in time to the actual residences of Hillsboro, this story lacks nothing in the pace, the intrigue or the sadness war brings into a community's life. As with other wars, however, there is always the element of hope, and this story ends with love the victor.

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