Frederick County, Maryland, in the early eighteenth century had three qualities which made it highly attractive to German, Huguenot, and Scotch-Irish settlers in Pennsylvania who acutely felt the rising costs of land in that colony. The abundance of unoccupied land which was at once cheap and fertile, a legal system which offered a large measure of civil and religious liberties, and the guarantee that property rights would be protected and secure were strong magnets for those seeking better opportunity for themselves and their families. By 1790 Germans formed fully fifty percent of the county's population. Case studies of selected German settlers and their descendants who acquired land between 1738 and 1767 in the region which constitutes today's Frederick County form the basis of this study. The skills and abilities, as well as the timely arrival, of these settlers enabled them to participate in the development of this prosperous inland county and to take full advantage of its special opportunities. Official records--land, probate, tax, court, military, and church documents--provide considerable detail about this generation of Germans in the various aspects of their lives: cultural, social, economic, and political. The underlying theme of this dissertation is the subtle balance between cultural persistence and accommodation that these settlers achieved. In Frederick County the process of integration was complex and uneven. Even though Germans came at a time when they were welcomed and held many values and characteristics in common with the English, they still spoke a different language, observed different religious practices, and had a different cultural heritage. The eighteenth century was a period in which toleration was only beginning; Germans, who were trying to preserve elements of their cultural identity while participating in the new society, encountered both prejudice and formal barriers to the acquisition of full legal and social status. In time the normative effect of the legal and economic structures influenced and modified German behavior. Yet in the process Maryland society was also affected, so that following the American Revolution, which most Germans of this study supported, there was greater toleration of diverse groups. The heterogeneity of our society, long recognized as a hallmark of American cultural life in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, actually had its origins in the Middle and Southern Colonies of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
Despite the misgivings of Confederate troops in Frederick, Maryland (Historical Society of Frederick County). 12. his critics, McClellan restored the Army of the Potomac to combat efficiency in less time than many—including Lee—had thought possible. The Confederates had positioned both horse and mounted artillery batteries on the high ground called Nicodemus Heights—on the farm owned by Joseph and Mary Anne Poffenberger—to support the infantry of J. R. Jones’ and Lawton’s divisions in that sector. After Hood’s division had retired following the skirmish in the East Woods, it took a reserve position behind the simple white brick house of worship belonging to a congregation of German Baptist Brethren, or “Dunkers.” A paper read by Edward T. Schultz before the Frederick County Historical Society, January 17th, 1896, and before the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, March 17th, 1896. To which items of historical interest referring to Frederick City and County are added. (Published by request). Item Preview. First settlements of Germans in Maryland. A paper read by Edward T. Schultz before the Frederick County Historical Society, January 17th, 1896, and before the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, March 17th, 1896. To which items of historical interest referring to Frederick City and County are added. (Published by request). Cresap’s War (also known as the Conojocular War, from the Conejohela Valley where it was mainly located along the south (right) bank) was a border conflict between Pennsylvania and Maryland, fought in the 1730s. Hostilities erupted in 1730 with a series of violent incidents prompted by disputes over property rights and law enforcement, and escalated through the first half of the decade, culminating in the deployment of military forces by Maryland in 1736 and by Pennsylvania in 1737. The armed phase of