

National Preservation Group Accepting Nominations for Endangered Battlefields Reports.

Nonprofit organization seeks to highlight the myriad threats faced by historic sites – from urban development to the ravages of time

Mary Koik, American Battlefield Trust.
January 31, 2020

(Washington, D.C.) — The American Battlefield Trust, the nation’s premier battlefield preservation organization, is accepting nominations for a landmark investigation into the status of this country’s hallowed ground. The resulting report, entitled *History Under Siege*®, will identify the most threatened battlefields on American soil — and what is being done at the national, state and local levels to safeguard them.

“Too often the threats to our priceless historical treasures go unnoticed,” noted Trust President James Lighthizer. “This report is a rallying cry to the nation, a powerful reminder that our most hallowed ground may still be in imminent danger.”

History Under Siege® is part of the American Battlefield Trust’s ongoing effort to protect this nation’s most hallowed ground — the battlefields upon which our citizen-soldier ancestors fought in the conflicts that shaped the country we have become. Each day, priceless acres fall victim to development, succumbing to the backhoe and the bulldozer. Others are all but forgotten, ignored and uncared for, despite their importance to the American story. Once lost, these historic treasures can never be replaced.

Individuals and groups are encouraged to fill out the nomination form available at www.battlefields.org/HistoryUnderSiege.

Any battlefield on American soil, regardless of which conflict it was a part of, is eligible, but applications must include a detailed description of specific threats facing the site. Submission of relevant photographs, recent news stories and other supporting material is also encouraged. Nominations should be submitted by March 1, 2020.

The American Battlefield Trust is dedicated to preserving America’s hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about what happened there and why it matters today. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization has protected more than 52,000 acres associated with the American Revolution, War of 1812 and Civil War. Learn more at www.battlefields.org.

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Modern Drugstores: Created by Civil War Soldier Eli Lilly

By Norm Dasinger. Blue and Grey Dispatch

Have you ever wondered why you have to see a doctor for a prescription in order to get medicine? You know what you need but you still have to visit a doctor! You can thank, or not, Eli Lilly a Union officer from the Civil War.

Lilly, born in Baltimore, Maryland, grew up mostly in Indiana. He was always interested in chemistry as a boy and became an apprentice in a drugstore in Lafayette, Indiana in 1854. He loved it! By 1861 he was married, had a son, and was the owner of his own drugstore in Greencastle, Indiana.

When the Civil War began, he enlisted in the US army and was soon an officer recruiting for the formation of an artillery unit. The 18th Indiana Artillery, known as

Lilly's Battery, made their initial baptism into combat in Kentucky and Tennessee in 1862. Soon attached to Wilder's Lightning Mounted Infantry Brigade, Lilly and his men became some of the very best cannons in the Army of the Tennessee.

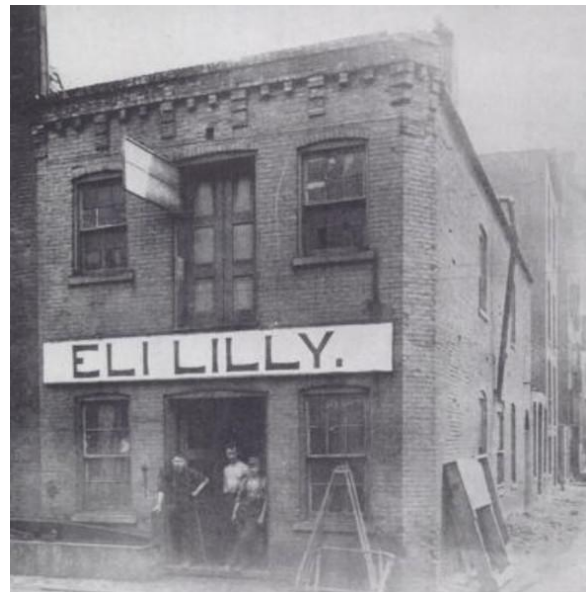
By 1864, Eli had decided he needed a change and joined the 9th Indiana Cavalry. Quickly however, he was captured in Alabama, by Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Shipped to Mississippi he finished the Civil War as a POW.



Eli Lilly during the Civil War

He liked the climate and opportunities Mississippi might afford a young entrepreneur, so after the War he relocated to the state to become a farmer. It was a disaster. His wife died of malaria and Lilly was broken both mentally and financially. He returned to his love of chemistry by opening a drugstore in Illinois, but one that was unique. Instead of just mixing chemicals, Lilly wanted to make his

own drugs and therefore his own medicine. In other words, he wanted to control everything from the production, to the distribution, to the inventory and he wanted to become nationwide. His first innovation was the gelatin pill. Shortly thereafter, he was requiring a doctor's written authorization before medicine would be given. Eventually, the initial \$1,400 he invested in his new venture grew into a profit of \$48,000, then \$200,000 and then into the massive pharmaceutical powerhouse we know today, Eli Lilly and Company.



Lilly's first laboratory

Lilly was a proud member and financial supporter of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). He also established the United Way.

All drugstores today are patterned after the ideas and concepts developed by Colonel Eli Lilly! It may be strange, but it is important to understand our modern-day connections to the Civil War. Connections that are not so far removed from our daily lives.



Eli Lilly in 1894

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DR. MARY EDWARDS WALKER AND THE MEDAL OF HONOR

**By William M. McKinnon M.D. Bluee
and Gray Dispatch**

By an act of Congress on March 3rd, 1863 the Medal of Honor was created as a permanent decoration “for officers and enlisted men of the army and volunteer forces who have distinguished or may distinguish themselves in battle during the present rebellion”. Since that time some 3525 Medals have been awarded, with about 40% given during the Civil War. Only once has a Medal ever been awarded to honor a woman.

Mary Edwards Walker was born on November 26th, 1832 in Oswego, New York into a family of abolitionists, with parents who were “free thinkers”, progressives who questioned many of the accepted customs of the times. She and her siblings were home

schooled and worked on the family farm. Believing in dress reform, her parents allowed Mary to wear “bloomer” pants instead of the skirts and corsets women were expected to wear at the time, as she and her parents thought the usual feminine garments too restricting. Mary came to strongly oppose long skirts with petticoats not only for their discomfort and decreased mobility, but also because they collected dust and dirt that were felt to be carriers of disease. She became a strong advocate of dress reform and experimented with a number of new combinations of attire, eventually settling on trousers with suspenders under a knee length dress with a full skirt and a tight waist. Such attire became a lifelong habit.

After finishing her home schooling, Mary attended the Falley Seminary in Fulton, New York. Prepared as a teacher, she taught in Minetto, New York, where she was ridiculed for her clothing choices by her students and their parents. She left teaching and decided to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor. She saved her teacher’s earnings, was accepted into the Syracuse Medical College, and graduated in 1855 as the second female to do so. She married classmate Albert Miller, though she declined to include “obey” in her vows and she refused to take her husband’s name. Together they started a practice in Rome, New York that failed, presumably as the public would not yet accept a female physician. She separated from her husband because of his infidelity and they were officially divorced 13 years later.



Young Mary Walker

With the beginning of the Civil War Dr. Walker volunteered as a surgeon for the Army but was rejected promptly because of her gender. She worked for a time as a volunteer nurse at First Bull Run and at the Patent Office Hospital in Washington, D.C. She thereafter began to work as an unpaid field surgeon on the front lines and was at Fredericksburg and Chickamauga. All the while, she continued to wear a modified men's uniform during her work, reporting that it made her duties easier.

In 1862 she volunteered as a spy, but again was denied. In 1863 she was finally hired as a contract assistant surgeon by the Army of the Cumberland—but remained technically a civilian. In this capacity she treated both Union and Confederate soldiers as well as many civilians on both sides of the lines. It was doing this that led to her capture by Confederate forces, and she was imprisoned as a spy in Castle Thunder in Richmond for four months in 1864. She was exchanged and was pleased to see that she was traded for a male Confederate surgeon with the rank of major, giving her some vindication.

Filling a vacancy, she was later appointed contract assistant surgeon of the 52nd Ohio Infantry by Gen. George Thomas. Though she was weakened by muscular atrophy suffered while imprisoned, she continued to serve as a physician in several locations until the end of the war.



Dr. Mary Walker in modified army uniform

After the war Dr. Walker requested a brevet promotion to major in recognition of her many services, including treating soldiers of both armies, helping civilians, and serving a time as a prisoner of war. Secretary Stanton could not grant her request though Generals Sherman and Thomas wished her contributions to be recognized. There was no legal provision for women to serve in the Army, much less a way for the Army to reward female service. President Andrew Johnson determined however that her

contributions should be acknowledged, and she received the Medal of Honor in January 1866. She wore it proudly for the rest of her life.



Mary Walker with her Medal of Honor



Interior courtyard of Castle Thunder, Richmond, Virginia 1865

After the war Dr. Walker never again practiced medicine but was very active as a reformer. She spoke up about women's rights, abstinence from tobacco and alcohol, suffrage, and dress reform. She gradually simplified her attire to that of a men's suit,

complete with top hat. Her habit of wearing men's clothing got her arrested multiple times for impersonating a man. This continued until finally stopped by a judge and she was greeted by hearty applause as she left the courtroom. She said, "I don't wear men's clothes, I wear my own clothes".

She wrote two books, lectured, and appeared before Congress twice regarding women's suffrage. She became estranged from the leaders of the suffrage movement who viewed her as eccentric because of her choice of dress. Still, she continued to seek reform, wearing her usual attire and her precious Medal daily.

In 1916 a review of requirements for the Medal by the Army resulted in the striking of 911 names from the list of recipients, including Dr. Walker and William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody. The honor she had held for 50 years was rescinded. The law required that recipients be officers or enlisted members of the military, and as she was still considered to have been a contract surgeon, she was considered ineligible. This was the rationale for rescinding her Medal, though it has been shown that some male honorees with similar credentials did not suffer this indignity.

Dr. Walker steadfastly refused to return the Medal and wore it until her dying day. She died on February 21, 1919 and was buried in her usual black men's suit in a rural cemetery in Oswego. In 1977, at the request of her niece her case was reviewed, and the Army Board for Correction of Military Records restored her medal posthumously

during the administration of President Jimmy Carter. A U.S. postage stamp issued in 1982 honored her as the first female recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Dr. Walker, though unconventional and eccentric, was a tireless reformer for all causes linked to women's rights. Sadly, she never voted as the nineteenth amendment was not passed until a year after her death. She is remembered today by a group of ardent supporters, and there is a life-sized statue of her in Oswego where her Medal and other artifacts are displayed by the Oswego County Historical Society.

Despite what she felt was unfair treatment by the government she never lost her devotion to her country. She wrote:

"When I am buried neath the ground, wrap that flag my corpse around, plant that flag above my grave, there let it wave, let it wave".



Mary Walker at a photographer's studio in her usual dress - with Medal of Honor and top hat.

A Quiet Corner of the War

By Bert Dunkerly. Blue and Gray Dispatch

Blockhouse Point Conservation Park is a county-run park in Montgomery County, Maryland, just east of Washington, D.C. While it includes several miles of hiking and horse trails, the park preserves, as the name suggests, the site of a Civil War blockhouse.

The park preserves a site that focuses on a lesser-known aspect of the war. The park's brochure describes it well, "Long hours of picket duty and drill. Swampy camp conditions and muddy drinking water. Forays into Virginia chasing Confederate raiders."

This is a part of the conflict we often gloss over, but it was the reality for much of the war for Union troops in any theater. While the headline events like savage battles, epic marches, and grand campaigns capture our attention, the truth is that the day to day reality for many Union troops was something dull and monotonous, and dangerous, like duty at the Potomac River blockhouses.



One of the many trails at Blockhouse Point Conservation Park in Maryland.

As the war dragged on and Federal armies penetrated deeper into the Confederacy, occupation and control of captured areas demanded more and more of the Union army's attention. Union commanders had to deal with civil issues and act as a police force in regions like northern Virginia, middle Tennessee, central Missouri, and the Carolina coast.

Over time the Union government had to adopt, and refine, policies regarding the conduct of the war, interactions with civilians, and procedures for occupying forces. These were issues that commanders had little experience with, and likely had never thought of in the heady, patriotic days of 1861.



Blockhouse Point

Union forces arrived here that first year of the war to set up camp. From this isolated outpost, Union troops patrolled the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, the Potomac River, and nearby roads. They drilled and performed routine camp duties. They interacted with unsympathetic civilians. They explored the hills and valleys in their leisure time. And they likely pondered the movements of the large armies that were making headlines, knowing full well that their trials and tribulations were not being captured for posterity.

Moreover, the blockhouse overlooking the Potomac and the C&O Canal was quite

literally on the front lines, on the border, with Virginia just across the river. Forays into the Old Dominion would have been frequent, and dangerous. Guerilla activity, much of it led by Col. John S. Mosby, annoyed these occupying troops and disrupted their efforts to maintain the area's security.

The Federals would have also had to interact with civilians, many of whom likely resented their presence. Dozens of local men had left to join Confederate forces and their wives and families remained. Men from New York and Massachusetts likely bought produce or other goods from these civilians, but also had to oversee their movements and monitor their activities. It was an uneasy peace between the civilians and the soldiers.

A hike on the trail to appoint of land jutting out over the river rewards visitors with a spectacular view of the Potomac, and Virginia on the other side. It had obvious military significance, overlooking the C&O Canal.

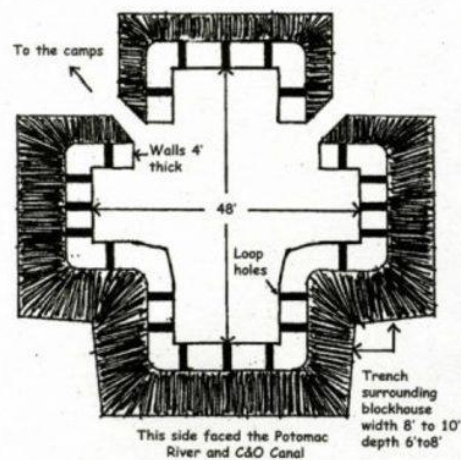


Diagram of Blockhouse

Blockhouse plan

The trail also passes the remains of earthworks at the blockhouse site. The men stationed here at this lonely outpost were on guard duty twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In the rain, in the snow, in the cold, on Christmas Day, it didn't matter, security was primary. The soldiers would have struggled in brogans over the jagged rocks here in search of firewood every day or refiling canteens from the nearby spring.

The park has interpretive signs that discuss not only Civil War history but other topics as well. Archaeological finds are also highlighted. Personal items from the blockhouse and campsites have shed light on life here during the war.

Sites like Blockhouse Point Conservation Park allow us to reflect on various topics that don't often make it into our studies of the Civil War, both in the classroom or in the field. Issues of maintaining military discipline in isolated posts, of cooperating with local authorities, of interacting with hostile or indifferent civilians, of Union military policy, and of historic preservation all permeated my mind on the return trip.

For those interested, Blockhouse Point Conservation Park is located off River Road in Montgomery County, MD. The park is open daylight hours. Its website, with trail information and a historical summary is here. <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/blockhouse-point-conservation-park-trails/>

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The Civil War Wasn't Just About the Union and the Confederacy. Native Americans Played a Role Too



People stand on the sidewalk and in the street at the east side of Plaza in Santa Fe, N.M., 1866. Corbis via Getty Images

By Megan Kate Nelson. Time Magazine. Feb. 11, 2020

It was the first summer of the Civil War, and everyone thought it would be the last. Hundreds of thousands of Americans converged on train platforms and along country roads, waving handkerchiefs and shouting goodbyes as their men went off to military camps. In those first warm days of June 1861, there had been only a few skirmishes in the steep, stony mountains of western Virginia, but large armies of Union and Confederate soldiers were coalescing along the Potomac River. A major battle was coming, and it would be fought somewhere between Washington, D.C., and Richmond.

In the Union War Department a few steps from the White House, clerks wrote out dispatches to commanders in California, Oregon and the western territories. The federal government needed army regulars currently garrisoned at frontier forts to fight in the eastern theater. These

soldiers should be sent immediately to the camps around Washington, D.C.

In New Mexico Territory, however, some regulars would have to remain at their posts. The political loyalties of the local population—large numbers of Hispano laborers, farmers, ranchers and merchants; a small number of Anglo businessmen and territorial officials; and thousands of Apaches and Navajos—were far from certain. New Mexico Territory, which in 1861 extended from the Rio Grande to the California border, had come into the Union in 1850 as part of a congressional [compromise](#) regarding the extension of slavery into the West. California was admitted to the Union as a free state while New Mexico, which was south of the Mason-Dixon Line, remained a territory. Under a policy of popular sovereignty, its residents would decide for themselves if slavery would be legal. Mexico had abolished black slavery in 1829, but Hispanos in New Mexico had long embraced a forced labor system that enslaved Apaches and Navajos. In 1859 the territorial legislature, made up of predominantly wealthy Hispano merchants and ranchers with Native slaves in their households, passed a Slave Code to protect all slave property in the Territory.

In order to ensure that this pro-slavery stance did not drive New Mexico into the arms of the Confederacy, the commander of the Department of New Mexico would have to keep most of his regulars in place to defend the Territory from a secessionist overthrow, as well as a possible Confederate invasion of New Mexico. Union officials wanted more Anglo-Americans to settle in New Mexico Territory at some point in the future, in order to colonize its lands and

integrate the Territory more firmly into the nation. As the Civil War began, however, they wanted to control it as a thoroughfare, a way to access the gold in the mountains of the West and California's deep-water ports. They needed the money from the mines and from international trade to fund their war effort. The Confederates wanted these same resources, of course. In the summer of 1861, Union forces had to defend New Mexico Territory in order to protect California, and the entire West.

Edward R. S. Canby, the Union Army colonel who was in control in Santa Fe, hoped that in addition to his army regulars, he could enlist enough Hispano soldiers to fight off an invading Confederate Army. To recruit, train, and lead these soldiers the Union Army needed charismatic officers, men who could speak Spanish and who had experience fighting in the rolling prairies, parched deserts, and high mountain passes of the Southwest. Several such men volunteered for the Union Army in the summer of 1861, including Christopher "Kit" Carson, the famed frontiersman. Carson had been born in Kentucky but had lived and traveled throughout New Mexico for more than thirty years, working as a hunter, trapper, and occasional U.S. Army guide. He volunteered for the army when the Civil War began, accepting a commission as a lieutenant colonel. In June 1861, Canby sent him to Fort Union to take command of the 1st New Mexico Volunteers, a regiment of Hispano soldiers who had come into camp from all over the Territory. Carson knew that most of New Mexico's Anglos were skeptical about these men and their soldiering abilities. The frontiersman believed, however, that the soldiers of the 1st New Mexico

would fight well once the battles began. His job was to get them ready.

Some of Carson's men came with experience, having served in New Mexican militias that rode out to attack Navajos and Apaches in response to raids on their towns and ranches. It was a cycle of violence with a long history, one that predated the arrival of Americans in New Mexico. That summer, however, as soldiers gathered in Union military camps, there had been few raids into Diné Bikéyah, the Navajo homeland in northwestern New Mexico. The calm was unusual, but welcome.

The Navajos were not the only ones who noticed a shift in the balance of power in the summer of 1861. In the southern reaches of New Mexico Territory, the Chiricahua Apache chief Mangas Coloradas watched Americans move through Apachería, his people's territory. This was the latest in a series of Anglo migrations through Apachería over the past 30 years. Mangas decided that these incursions would not stand. In June 1861, sensing that the U.S. Army was distracted, he decided that this was the time to drive all of the Americans from Apachería.

Navajos and Chiricahua Apaches were a serious challenge to the Union Army's campaign to gain control of New Mexico at the beginning of the American Civil War. If Canby could secure the Territory against the Union's Confederate and Native enemies, he would achieve more than Republicans had thought possible after ten years of constant, angry debates about the introduction of slavery into the West, and the significance of that region in the future of the nation. Would the West become a patchwork of plantations,

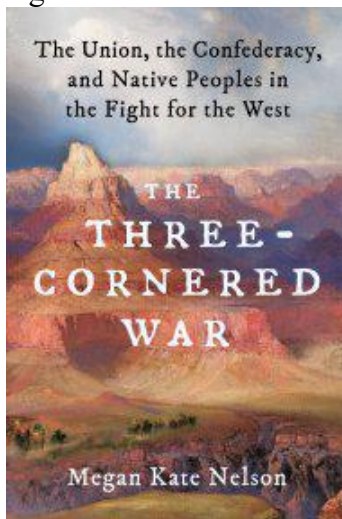
worked by black slaves? Southern Democrats, led by Mississippi senator (and future Confederate president) Jefferson Davis, had argued that the acquisitions from Mexico, particularly New Mexico Territory, "can only be developed by slave labor in some of its forms." The amount of food and cotton that New Mexico plantations would produce, Davis imagined, would make that Territory a part of "the great mission of the United States, to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, and to establish peace and free trade with all mankind."

Members of the Republican Party disagreed. A relatively new political organization [born out of disputes](#) over slavery in 1854, Republicans considered slavery to be a "relic of barbarism" and argued that it should not be expanded into the western territories. "The normal condition of all the territory of the United States is that of freedom," their 1860 party platform asserted. Preventing Confederate occupation of New Mexico Territory and clearing it of Navajos and Apaches were twin goals of the Union Army's Civil War campaign in New Mexico, an operation that sought not only military victory but also the creation of an empire of liberty: a nation of free laborers extending from coast to coast.

As those determined to make that dream a reality — and those determined to prevent it from becoming one — converged in New Mexico Territory in 1861, a comet appeared overhead, burning through the desert sky. Astronomers speculated about its origins. It could be the Great Comet of 1264, the huge and brilliant orb that had presaged the death of the pope. Or it might be the comet of 1556, whose tail resembled a

wind-whipped torch, and whose splendor had convinced Charles V that a dire calamity awaited him. In either case, the editors of the Santa Fe *Gazette* found the appearance of this “new and unexpected stranger” in the skies to be ominous.

“Inasmuch as bloody [conflicts] were the order of the day in those times,” their report read, “it is easy to see that each comet was the harbinger of a fearful and devastating war.”



Scribner

Excerpted from The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West by Megan Kate Nelson, available now from Scribner.

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Disgruntled Civil War reenactor allegedly framed Antifa by fabricating threats against his unit

February 11, 2020



By Justin Rohrlich . Quartz via Yahoo News
Geopolitics reporter

FROM OUR OBSESSION

The New Propaganda

What are the new weapons in the arsenal of influence?



The suspect played a soldier in reenactments of the Battle of Cedar Creek

In 2017, Antifa, a loose collection of left-leaning militant anti-fascist groups, was blamed by many for a series of violent threats mailed to a Virginia organization that hosts Civil War reenactments, as well as a pipe bomb planted at one of its annual gatherings.

Now the FBI believes those threats likely didn't come from Antifa at all, but instead from a member of the Civil War reenactment group itself.

A search warrant application seeking phone records for Gerald Leonard Drake, a former volunteer at the nonprofit Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation in Middletown, Virginia, was unsealed today in federal court. The filing lays out evidence that Drake, a 61-year-old registered sex offender who has spent time in prison, sent the letters to exact revenge on Cedar Creek after it kicked him out of his unit. The document does not say which side Drake fought for during the reenactments, but email addresses for Drake

listed in public records include variations on the word “confederate.”

Drake, it appears, attempted to leverage existing tensions between Antifa and the far-right. Members of Antifa will often show up at rallies held by far-right white supremacist groups and organizations defending so-called “Confederate heritage.” Skirmishes between the two sides sometimes break out at these competing demonstrations.

The Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation every year reenacts the Battle of Cedar Creek, an 1864 fight that began with a sneak attack by Confederate troops, but ended with a Union victory. The mailed threats, and a pipe bomb found at Cedar Creek’s 2017 reenactment, prompted the foundation to cancel the annual event in 2018.

Reactions from the right were vitriolic. Right-wing media outlets and message board postings blamed the situation on, variously, “lib terrorists,” “attention-seeking organizations and anarchists,” and “leftists.”

“If Civil War reenactments are somehow unacceptable because of people playing the roles of Confederate soldiers, how much further must this effort to erase history go?” asked an article in the National Review. “Museums? Books? Movies or television shows?”

“Its [sic] only a matter of time before the general population signals that its [sic] had enough and starts turning the tables on these violent fascist antifa fcks [sic],” said one commenter in an online firearms forum.

“You know this was coming, the left can’t get over their stunning loss,” said another,

apparently referring to US president Donald Trump’s 2016 election victory. “Anything that reminds them of their failures must be attacked a racist [sic].”

The first threat sent to the group was postmarked Sept. 21, 2017 and included an Antifa symbol printed on the outside of the envelope. It was addressed to “Cedar Creek Battlefield Event People.”



Source: US District Court for the Western District of Virginia

The letter read, in part:

“You need to cancel your coming up celebration of the Civil War on October 13, 14, 15, 2017...Many of us have dogs, so will bring dog feces to throw on people! We will also throw cups of human urine! We might resort to actually firing guns into the camps and at the re-enactors! We will put poison in the water, we will use noise to disrupt the battles and sleep! These events must stop! Our local organizer tells us he is ready to go! You have been warned, now if it is not called off, we will destroy you! You have less than 1 month to issue a cancellation notice, do it asap!”

Despite the threat, the reenactment went ahead as planned. On its second day, an unexploded pipe bomb was discovered on the grounds. No one claimed responsibility.

Figure 15



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Source: US District Court for the Western District of Virginia

Another letter was sent the following summer, this time addressed to Joe D'Arezzo, the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation's president. The threat again included an Antifa symbol. The sender threatened to kill D'Arezzo's mother with a car bomb if he didn't cancel the 2018 reenactment.

"Don't think metal detectors will help, we have plastic pipe bombs," a portion of the threat said. "If you won't stop this celebration of slavery than maybe we need to hurt the participants to stop it instead of just the visitors... We are the ones that did it to you last year, we used a bad bomb guy his mercury switch, and rocket launch wire didn't work on the pipe bomb covered in nuts, just so you know we are real and returning."

The foundation decided to call off the 2018 event. D'Arezzo then resigned because, he said, the organization wasn't taking security seriously enough. His replacement, Jeannette Shaffer, then received another threat that read, in part: "If Jeannette Shaffer thinks she is safe, well she is right, but her children are not!"

As the FBI investigated the threats, certain details raised red flags. According to an FBI affidavit attached to the search warrant

application, the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation is a small organization with just one full-time employee, 12 board members, and a "small number" of volunteers. The person sending the threats somehow knew a lot about the inner workings of the group, including specific operating procedures, plans, and names only an insider would know. The sender was also strangely fixated with a former Cedar Creek volunteer named Shawn Mowbray, who hadn't worked there since 2014.

"You also have a rat in your place, our information about everything you are or were doing came from him," one of the letters said. "Yes, we like real information, but we also hate rats. You might want to get rid of him. Shawn Mowbray is your rat. We will continue to get information from our other friends."

Investigators eventually learned that the group had removed Drake from his reenactment unit after a disagreement he had with Mowbray, who was a member of the same unit. Surveillance footage reviewed by the FBI placed Drake's car at the scene where the pipe bomb was discovered in 2017. Law enforcement also obtained eight pages of diagrams Drake had drawn while in prison a decade earlier. They included detailed sketches of pipe bombs, a grenade, a propane bomb, a Coleman fuel bomb, and a CO2 cartridge bomb.

"The pipe bomb diagrams were similar to the pipe bomb discovered at the Cedar Creek Battle reenactment in 2017," the FBI affidavit says.

The FBI also linked Drake to messages on Reddit that investigators said indicated a "negative attitude toward the [Cedar Creek]

event, possibly due to the incident with Mowbray in 2014.” Other postings used language similar to that found in the mailed threats.

Drake was unable to be reached for comment. He does not have a lawyer listed in court filings.

edited by pete gelling

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