



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

From the Editor:

In order to keep expenses down, thus having more funds available for program and preservation projects at the end of the year, we are asking that those receiving a hard copy of the BCWRT Newsletter via USPS please notify me if they wish to continue doing so. Please call me at 410-788-3525 or send a note to Earle Hollenbaugh, 17 Fusting Ave, Ste 1W, Catonsville, MD.

We certainly want to ensure that everyone is able to get a newsletter but we are mindful that each hardcopy issue of the newsletter costs the Roundtable approximately \$11.00 per year. This is merely an effort to ensure that we are not mailing hardcopies unnecessarily. The new mailing list will be effective with the March Issue.

Peace Light Vandalism probe ongoing

BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER,
Gettysburg Times, *January 26, 2009*

National Park Service investigators are teaming with area police departments to apprehend the vandals that defaced the popular Peace Light Memorial.

Gettysburg Police Chief Joe Dougherty confirmed that his agency is working on a lead, but he was unable to release details, since the investigation is ongoing.

"We're working with other police departments to find links and other helpful information," said Gettysburg National Military Park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon.

The destruction was discovered Jan. 8. Vandals spray painted profanities and obscene images onto the towering monument, located along

Mummasburg Road on the Gettysburg Battlefield.

"This isn't just casual graffiti. This is mindless and ignorant," Park Service Ranger Vic Gavin told WGAL. "It probably took these morons five minutes and five dollars worth of paint, and it'll take us thousands of dollars to clean it up and restore it." The language and symbols are so offensive, that the park covered the graffiti with plywood boards. "Word of this heinous act quickly spread across the veterans community," Gerry Hawk, Executive Director of the AMVETS Dept. of Pa., wrote in a letter to the editor. "To me, the defacement of the Peace Light further demonstrates a sense of apathy among many Americans when it comes to honoring those who have served."



Part of the vandalism at the Eternal Light Peace Memorial on the Gettysburg battlefield is sprayed over a quote from Abraham Lincoln. (Evening Sun Photo by James Robinson)

Repairs to the Peace Light take precedence over other monuments, given the memorial's popularity. "It's definitely at a high-profile

location," said Lawhon. "We have so many monuments to take care of with normal maintenance and preservation, but this moves to the top."

Initially, park officials feared that they didn't have the equipment to remove the graffiti. Lawhon indicated otherwise Thursday.

"I think it's a matter of power washing. We have that equipment," she said. "We've taken paint and oil off monuments before."

The equipment, however, is ineffective in cold weather, so repairs will have to wait. There is no cost estimate for the repairs.

"It'll definitely be at a cost to the National Park Service," said Lawhon. Hawk called upon veterans organizations to subsidize the repairs, possibly through fundraising. "The Park Service estimates that repair costs will be high, but it is our duty to ensure that the Peace Light shines on as a symbol of our national unity, especially in a time of national instability and war," Hawk said. The \$60,000 monument was dedicated July 3, 1938, on the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, representing unity between the North and South. Dark-colored granite from Maine, a Union state, was used to construct the base of the monument, while the lighter colored shaft is made of Alabama limestone. Alabama was part of the Confederacy.

A fire glows eternally atop the monument, symbolizing peace in the United States. The gas-fueled flame has burned continuously for 24 hours a day, aside from the energy crisis in the 1970s, and another period when it was electrified.



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Wills House quadrant of Lincoln Square reopens

BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER, Gettysburg Times, January 27, 2009
When asked last week when the southeast quadrant of Lincoln Square in Gettysburg would open again to pedestrians, Gettysburg National Military Park spokesperson Katie Lawhon offered a safe prediction. "The goal is Feb. 12," she said, regarding the date that the David Wills House Museum opens to the public.

A brief pause ensued. "We hope sooner," Lawhon smiled.

The barricade, walkway and associated construction equipment finally disappeared Monday from Lincoln Square.

"I don't remember the last time this sidewalk was even open," Orrtanna resident Ray Owen said as he strolled by the Wills House. "This is great."

A portion of the southeast quadrant was closed to foot traffic for two years to accommodate construction equipment for the \$7.2 million Wills House restoration.

Six of the eight parking spaces were barricaded, frustrating Lincoln Square business owners who saw a decline in sales.

"It's been a long haul," Gettysburg Councilman Michael J. Birkner said during the board's monthly public safety committee meeting. "That portion of the square has been barricaded for a long time. It'll make our square look a whole lot better." The barricaded meters generated no revenue for 24 months.

They were bagged Monday evening, but the meters are expected to be operational by mid-February, possibly sooner.

Unofficial calculations suggest that the borough government has lost nearly \$90 for every day the meters were closed, or \$2,300 a month, equating to more than \$50,000 over two years.

"It's an additional eight meters of revenue," said Councilman John Butterfield.

The quadrant's sudden clearance brings a long and sometimes controversial era to a close. When the Wills House project began

at the end of 2006, the park did not install a pedestrian walkway around the barricaded construction area. The walkway, originally valued at \$10,000, was too expensive, the park said.

Public outcry followed, with locals arguing that the square was "an accident waiting to happen." After hearing loud complaints from borough and county leaders, the park recanted.

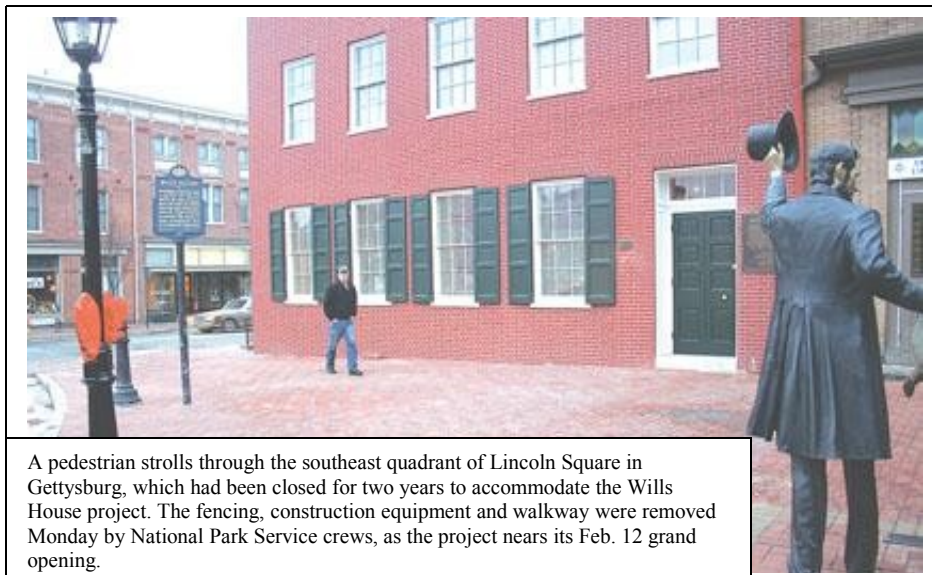
A pedestrian walkway was installed, but for double the estimated price. "Once the construction equipment moves out, we're good to go," Gettysburg Police Department Chief Joe Dougherty told Borough Council. Grand opening festivities are scheduled at the Wills House Feb. 12. Weather permitting, a portion of the event may be held outdoors. The three-story building has been renovated to its Civil War appearance, and includes two re-created rooms: the law office of David Wills, and the bedroom where President Abraham Lincoln penned the final words to the Gettysburg Address.

Civil War-era mystery steps into Winchester spotlight

By Stephanie M. Mangino, The Winchester Star, January 26
Winchester — A mystery lies at the heart of Winchester's multiple connection to abolitionist John Brown's violent Oct. 16, 1859, raid on Harpers Ferry, W.Va.

The first man killed in the raid — an operation begun in hopes of seizing weapons from the town's federal armory to free the nation's slaves — was Hayward Shepherd, a free black man from Winchester.

Although Shepherd was buried in his hometown with great ceremony, his



A pedestrian strolls through the southeast quadrant of Lincoln Square in Gettysburg, which had been closed for two years to accommodate the Wills House project. The fencing, construction equipment and walkway were removed Monday by National Park Service crews, as the project nears its Feb. 12 grand opening.



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burial site in what was referred to as the "Old Colored Cemetery" is unknown today.

As The John Brown 150th Anniversary Quad-State Committee gets ready to start commemorating the raid with events starting in April, Sally Coates, visitor and community relations manager for the Winchester-Frederick County Convention and Visitors Bureau, is trying to give Hayward Shepherd his due.

But few traces of Shepherd remain.

By 1901, The [Winchester] Evening Star reported the grave of Shepherd was in a sad state. "Nearly forty years have passed and his people are now enjoying the privileges of the free born, but his grave remains solitary and impoverished and neglected," the paper stated.

The 1901 article that describes Shepherd's neglected grave doesn't state the cemetery's location.

Some people may assume the cemetery would be Orrick Cemetery at Valley Avenue and Southwerk Street in Winchester, but that was a fairly new burial ground at the time of Shepherd's death, Coates said. She's heard of, but can find no record for, an older African-American graveyard on East Lane near Mount Hebron Cemetery.

Shepherd, who was a railroad baggage master in Harpers Ferry, lived at 438 N. Kent St. in a home that no longer stands.

He and his wife, Sarah, had six children, four of whom were living when she died in 1902, according to another article from The Evening Star.

Coates, also a genealogist, said she has placed messages on a host of online genealogy bulletin boards, trying to find some of Shepherd's descendants, but so far hasn't "gotten one bite."

"It's frustrating," she said of the research into Shepherd, whose first name has been alternately spelled Heywood, Heyward, and Haywood in various accounts of his death. "I've definitely hit my brick wall," Coates said.

"Poor Hayward," Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Natalie Wills said in a wistful tone as she and Coates talked about his unknown gravesite. "It's so sad. It really is."

In trying to locate his grave and tell his story, "now's the time to right a wrong, in some way," Wills said.

The two women also hope that Shepherd's story will help draw eyes toward Winchester's commemoration of the raid in Harpers Ferry, a town that was part of Virginia in 1859.

Still, more than Shepherd's life and death link Winchester to John Brown's raid.

Militia units based in Winchester took the train to Harpers Ferry to respond to the raid. Judge Richard Parker, who presided over Brown's treason trial in Charles Town, W.Va., and sentenced him to death, lived in Winchester and is buried in Mount Hebron, Coates said.

And finally, it's believed that a cadaver used at the long-defunct Winchester Medical College was one of Brown's raiders — perhaps even one of his sons. Some say that Union troops later burned down the college in retaliation, she said.

An exhibit detailing the city's connections to the raid, "From the First Shot to the Gallows: Winchester's Involvement with the John Brown Raid," will run from April 1 until Oct. 31 at The Hollingsworth Mill at 1360 S. Pleasant Valley Road. The Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society is sponsoring the free exhibit, which will feature, among

other things, the uniform George Washington Kurtz wore when his militia unit from Winchester responded to the raid in Harpers Ferry.

Another exhibition, "A Militia, A Medical College, and A Judge: Winchester's Connection to the John Brown Raid," will be presented through Shenandoah University. It will run from June 1 to Oct. 31 at the Winchester-Frederick County Visitors Center in SU's Davis Hall at 1400 S. Pleasant Valley Road.

At the end of October, SU Associate Professor James Bryant II will present a lecture on the raid. His talk is sponsored by the historical society, SU, and the CVB.

The commemoration of the raid will feature events not only in Virginia, but also Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.



Hayward Shepherd Memorial, Harper's Ferry
Photo by Richard E. Miller



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Latschar's decision to Remain with NPS 'unrelated' to new administration

BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER, Gettysburg Times, **January 30, 2009**
Even though Gettysburg Battlefield Supt. John Latschar announced his retirement and desire to take over the Gettysburg Foundation before President Barack Obama was elected, the new president's administration may have prevented the move anyway.

Obama signed executive orders last week preventing former government employees from taking roles with lobbying organizations.

Still, Latschar said Wednesday that his decision to stay with the park was "unrelated" to the president's executive orders.

"This had nothing to do with the change of administration," Latschar said. "All the folks that were involved are career government officials — not political."

When Latschar was offered the position with the Gettysburg Foundation in October, he received blessing from the National Park Service. He planned to retire at the end of the February, and start his new job with the foundation. But he was informed in December that the Dept. of Interior, the branch of the federal government that governs the National Park Service, was looking into the arrangement. The park was told Monday that the career move may be unethical. "I just think that there was enough interest in what's going on here, that they thought they may want to take a second look and see if we're giving them the best advice that we can,"

said Latschar, superintendent at the 6,000-acre Gettysburg battlefield since 1994.

The United States may be under a new administration, but the ethics officials that have probed Latschar since December have not changed. "The same people that talked to me back then, saying that they needed to re-review my case are the same ones that gave me the new guidance," Latschar said.

The park issued a statement Wednesday afternoon announcing that Latschar is staying, and that a search committee has formed to replace outgoing Gettysburg Foundation President Robert C. Wilburn.

Meanwhile, that same day in Washington D.C., the new administration's crackdown on unethical behavior continued when new Dept. of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced plans to clean house.

"Over the last eight years," Salazar said, "the Dept. of Interior has been tarnished by ethical lapses, of criminal behavior that has extended to the very highest levels of the government."

Ethics officials didn't stop Latschar from taking the position, but they did advise against it, warning that taking the position could "severely curtail" his ability to work with the park in his new role.

Latschar was instrumental in creating the 9-year-old foundation, the park's nonprofit fundraising and management partner.

He also played a crucial role in developing two general agreements between the park and foundation. Latschar presided over the development of the park's General Management Plan in 1999, the subsequent bidding process for the

new Battlefield Visitor Center, the ensuing formation of the foundation, and the construction and opening of the new \$103 million visitor center. Nearly one-third of the funds that were obtained to subsidize the project were provided by Congress and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. "The Gettysburg Foundation's loss is the National Park Service's gain, and I am happy that John chose to remain as superintendent," NPS Northeast Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach wrote in a statement. "The situation with the ethics guidance was unfortunate, but John Latschar and the Gettysburg Foundation have always maintained the highest ethical standards possible."

President Obama's executive order, signed Jan. 21, curbs the revolving door between lobbying and appointive positions in federal offices. The new president banned his appointees from lobbying jobs for two years after leaving office, and from lobbying his administration.

Also, current government appointees cannot work in agencies they lobbied within the past two years and, even if they are in another agency, they must abstain from decision-making on any issue that they may have lobbied during that time.

Shepherdstown Preservation efforts continue

By Naomi Smoot, Martinsville Journal, January 27, 2009

SHEPHERDSTOWN - A local preservation group could be one step closer to saving a property that they say was part of a Civil War battlefield. Members of the U.S. Senate approved a measure known as the Omnibus Public Lands Bill earlier this month, and the legislation is now awaiting approval from the House of



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Representatives. The bill, among other things, authorizes a resource study for a property that is believed to be the site of the 1862 Battle of Shepherdstown.

The study aims to determine the national significance of the site, as well as the suitability and feasibility of including it in either Harpers Ferry National Historical Park or Antietam National Battlefield.

"It's the first step that the federal government takes," said Edward Dunleavy, president of the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association.

In recent years, Dunleavy's group has been fighting to preserve the property, which is currently slated to become home to a 152-unit housing development known as Far Away Farms.

As a part of the effort, group members met with U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., nearly three years ago to tell him about their efforts to preserve the site.

"He took an interest in it," Dunleavy said of Byrd.

The Senator later introduced a bill in an attempt to help save the historic property, and noted in an April 2008 news release that he was excited have a chance to aid in the group's efforts.

"West Virginia is home to many great landmarks that are a significant part of our nation's history," Byrd said. "I am pleased to be working with the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association to help initiate this National Park Study."

Dunleavy said that once the study is complete, the National Park Service could consider expanding the boundaries of either Harpers Ferry National Historical Park or Antietam National Battlefield to include the property. After that, he said the land

would have to be purchased, but only if there is a willing seller.

"It has nothing to do with eminent domain," Dunleavy said. "The National Park Service does not use eminent domain."

But attorneys representing Far Away Farms' developer say the property's owners maintain their right to use the land as they see fit.

"In West Virginia people still have the right to own their property and do with it what they want," said Nathan Cochran, an attorney from the law office of Richard Gay. "We don't believe it should be taken from them without their consent."

Cochran said the office also disputes the property's historic significance, and noted that a ruling issued in Jefferson County Circuit Court maintained that the property did not meet the definition of historic as outlined in the county's ordinances.

"We do not believe that this property is within the core area of that battlefield," Cochran said.

But Dunleavy and other members of the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association disagree, and recently announced their intentions to team up with West Virginia University to conduct a historic resource study of the property.

Gettysburg Battlefield House Undergoes Renovations

BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER, Gettysburg Times, January 9, 2009
The oldest building at the 6,000-acre Gettysburg Battlefield is getting a facelift following years of deterioration.

Gettysburg National Military Park crews began disassembling the historic Patterson House this week in

preparation to restore the 146-year-old log home.

"The William Patterson house is the oldest building within the boundaries of Gettysburg National Military Park," spokeswoman Katie Lawhon said Thursday. "The building retains a high level of integrity to the historic period. There is a high percentage of original material remaining in this building." The project includes foundation work and replacement of approximately 30 percent of the logs in the structure, mainly because the wood has failed.



A huge mechanical claw carefully removes timbers from the William Patterson House along Taneytown Road on Thursday morning. The two-room log structure, built in the 1820s, is the oldest house located within the boundaries of the Gettysburg National Military Park. Park employees will replace deteriorating components and reassemble the building to its 1863 appearance. (NPS Photo)

A cost estimate for the project was not released.

The building is located along the 400 block of Taneytown Road. According to historians, portions of the house date back to 1798. The house is a two-story, two-bay log building on a stone foundation, and measures 18 by 25 feet. It was altered in the pre- and post-Civil War period.

Also, the park removed non-historic additions to the house in 1982, when the building was stabilized. The project follows the suggestions made in a 1997-98 park report, which calls



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for preservation of the building. The building's setting along the Taneytown Road is near the center of the Union Battle Line during Pickett's Charge, subjecting the house to fire. Historians believe that the building served as the headquarters of Union cavalry General Alfred Pleasonton during the latter stages of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

National Museum of American History to Open "Abraham Lincoln: An Extraordinary Life"

Jan 14 - Washington, DC
/PRNewswire/ —

The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth with a new exhibition, "Abraham Lincoln: An Extraordinary Life," opening Jan. 16, 2009. The exhibition is made possible through the generous support of the Ford Motor Company Fund, the Richard Lounsbery Foundation and the History Channel.

Showcasing the museum's major Lincoln collection, the exhibition will present more than 60 objects associated with Lincoln's life, from an iron wedge he used to split wood in the early 1830s in New Salem, Ill., to his iconic top hat that he wore the night he was shot at Ford's Theatre. More than 50 graphics in the form of photographs, personal portraits, painting, sketches and cartoons will also be featured throughout the exhibition.

"We are excited about bringing together for the first time this unique and unparalleled collection of Lincoln objects," said Museum Director Brent D. Glass. "What better way to celebrate Lincoln's 200th birthday than by telling the story of his extraordinary life?"

Visitors to "Abraham Lincoln: An Extraordinary Life" will explore sections on Lincoln's early life, his presidential campaign, the White House and the Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation, his assassination and the national mourning that followed. Stories about how the objects came to be in the Smithsonian collections are integrated into the exhibition, to present not only aspects of Lincoln's life but also how he has been remembered. Lincoln's office suit and Mary Todd Lincoln's gown, made by Elizabeth Keckley, will be displayed together, with additional costumes and family-related objects that convey more of the history of the Lincoln family's time in the White House.

Visitors will see Lincoln's gold pocket watch from his days as a Springfield lawyer, the inkstand he used to draft the Emancipation Proclamation, his patent model for lifting boats and all eight prison hoods worn by the Lincoln conspirators.

Other notable objects will include plaster casts of Lincoln's face and hands that were taken by Chicago artist Leonard Volk. The casts of Lincoln's hands were taken May 20, 1860, two days after he received the nomination as the Republican Party presidential candidate. To steady his right hand in the mold, which was still swollen from shaking hands with supporters, Lincoln cut off a piece of broom handle to hold. Volk later placed the piece of broom handle in the original cast, which will be on display.

Two short videos by the History Channel will round out the exhibition. The first looks at Lincoln's patent model for lifting boats over shoals. Lincoln was inspired to design the device after his boat became stuck in shallow waters during a trip to

Niagara Falls. An animation based on an engineering analysis of the Lincoln patent model will show visitors how it would have worked. The second, an eight-minute film, sheds light on the Emancipation Proclamation and how it affected the Civil War.

"As a whole, the exhibition presents a more personal and intimate look at Lincoln. It reminds us that Abraham Lincoln, whose story has become so mythic, was a real individual. Through all his achievements, successes and tragedies, he led an extraordinary life," said Harry Rubenstein, the exhibition's curator and chair of the museum's division of politics and reform. The opening of the exhibition will coincide with the museum's debut of "America's New Birth of Freedom: Documents from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum" in the Albert H. Small Documents Gallery.



Abraham Lincoln wore this hat to Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865. Soon after Lincoln's assassination, the War Department preserved the hat and other materials. In 1867, the hat was transferred to the Smithsonian Institution. Smithsonian photo by Hugh Tallman