



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Historic Civil War battlefields endangered by development, CWPT says

By Jennifer C. Kerr, ASSOCIATED PRESS, March 12, 2008

WASHINGTON – The site of the single bloodiest day in American history is under siege – threatened by a 120-foot cell phone tower, says a preservation group.

The vast field in western Maryland is where the Battle of Antietam was fought on Sept. 17, 1862. It's one of the 10 most endangered Civil War battlefields, according to an annual report released Wednesday from the Civil War Preservation Trust.

The list includes other historic sites in Kentucky, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Florida, Arkansas, Georgia and Tennessee.

"In almost all cases, it is suburban sprawl that threatens these battlefields," said Jim Lighthizer, president of the trust. "We're not against development, but we're for thoughtful, sensitive growth that takes cognizance of the assets in the community."

The Battle of Antietam ended Gen. Robert E. Lee's first attempt to invade the north. It resulted in nearly 23,000 casualties – about 3,700 killed, 17,300 wounded and 1,800 captured or missing. The casualties over a 12-hour period shocked the nation.

The trust says the site is virtually devoid of visual intrusions, giving visitors a sense of the battlefield as it was in 1862. The cell tower, it says, would rise 30 feet above the tree line and be seen from almost all of the site's most famous vantage points – including Lee's headquarters.

Another major concern for the trust is the Cedar Creek Battlefield in Virginia, where Confederate Lt. Gen.

Jubal Early attacked Union forces in the fall of 1864. Union troops, however, were able to rally and defeat the Confederates. The trust says the site is facing a triple threat: expansion of a limestone mining operation, possible widening of I-81 and the proposed inclusion in a plan to expand power line construction.

Intense development pressure in the Richmond, Va., area is the reason the Cold Harbor battlefield is on the list. The 1864 battle saw heavily entrenched Confederate forces repel repeated attacks from a Union army nearly twice its number.

Only 300 of the battlefield's 7,500 acres have been preserved, the trust said. It said a county plan would double the housing density allowed in the area, encouraging more development.

The other endangered sites on the list are: Perryville, Ky.; Prairie Grove, Ark.; Hunterstown, Pa.; Monocacy, Md.; Natural Bridge, Fla.; Savannah, Ga., and Spring Hill, Tenn.

With its more than 60,000 members, the trust said it was able to save more than 1,600 acres at legendary battlefields last year. It cost about \$14 million to buy the land, said Lighthizer.

The trust is the nation's largest nonprofit battlefield preservation group.

Bridge Construction Forces Gettysburg Road Closures, Detours

Press release, NPS, March 17, 2008
Beginning Monday, March 17, the section of Reynolds Avenue north of US

Route 30, on Gettysburg National Military Park will close for approximately two months for bridge repairs, National Park Service officials have announced.

The closure is necessary to allow access for rebuilding a non-historic bridge over railroad tracks. The bridge dates to the late 1950s. The closure and detours also affect Buford Avenue and Doubleday Avenue.

These roads will be closed except for local traffic.

A signed detour route for park visitors from the intersection of US 30 and Reynolds Avenue will follow US 30 West to Herr's Ridge Road North and Mummasburg Road South to the Eternal Light Peace Memorial. The return detour for those on the auto tour route will be Mummasburg Road North to Herr's Ridge Road South, to US 30 East to Seminary Avenue. The project is part of a \$ 2.2 million roads project on the Gettysburg battlefield. The Federal Lands Highway Program has funded the repaving project on nineteen historic roads in Gettysburg National Military Park and the repair of the Reynolds Avenue bridge over railroad tracks.

Beauvoir plans reopening on 200th birthday of Jeff Davis

By Wayne Risher,
commercialappeal.com, March 24, 2008

John Echols doesn't mix business with pleasure.

If he did, he could teach a class on the life and times of Jefferson Davis and his final years at Beauvoir in Biloxi.

Echols' personal interest and knowledge gravitate toward Southern history and the Civil War, but his American history class at Southaven High School skips that period altogether.

The class begins, appropriately enough, at 1877, when the former



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Confederate president moved from Memphis to Beauvoir. Mississippi's middle school social studies curriculum covers the Civil War era.

Echols, 66, a 42-year member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, has served the group's Mississippi division for 20-plus years as a trustee of Beauvoir, a historical landmark.

The home and grounds were devastated by Hurricane Katrina, but Beauvoir officials are nearing the end of a painstaking restoration of the main house. For details, go to beauvoir.org.

It's due to reopen June 3, the 200th anniversary of Jefferson Davis' birth.

Fellow Southaven High history teacher Allen Latimer nominated Echols to the First Regional Library board last year, in part because of Echols' love of books and history.

Latimer also appreciated the lengths Echols went to to reinvent himself as an educator. Echols is a prime example of the concept of lifetime learning that is a central theme of the library system.

The library of his Southaven home contains about 2,000 volumes, about two-thirds of them concerning the Civil War and probably 30 specifically about Jefferson Davis.

Echols grew up in South Memphis, graduated from South Side High School and served in the Air Force. He returned to Memphis and went to work as a bill collector for 24 years. He has lived in Southaven since 1970.

Echols was manager of the collection agency when his interest in teaching young people got the best of him. He had been involved in Boy Scouts when his two sons were growing up. While training scout leaders, he discovered his second career.

Echols studied at Northwest Mississippi Community College and

the University of Mississippi. He waited tables at a Mexican restaurant to support himself, his wife, Paula, and his son, the younger of the two, who is disabled.

He graduated Ole Miss at 48 with a bachelor's degree in social studies and went to work teaching at Southaven High.

Alongside props and artifacts in Echols' classroom -- mementos from the Twin Towers and Oklahoma City federal building, a flag that flew over Camp Taji, Iraq -- are pictures of some of his other heroes: Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee.

Echols was in his 20s when he became interested in his Southern roots and joined the Sons of Confederate Veterans. He has been a leader in the organization's Military Order of Stars and Bars, which is open to descendants of Confederate officers.

The Mississippi division of the SCV owns Beauvoir, which has been closed for reconstruction since Hurricane Katrina bashed the Gulf Coast in 2005.

Echols has served on the board of trustees since the mid 1980s. The trustees and a board of directors form a joint board that operates the home and grounds.

Echols said the morning after Katrina, "The first word I got was that the house was completely gone. Then I found out it was 65 percent damaged. We had something to work with."

Prior to Katrina, Echols traveled to the coast four to five times a year to attend meetings. He hasn't gone as much since the storm, in part because of lack of lodging and facilities for visitors.

Restoration of the main house is nearing completion, but Echols said there's plenty of work left to do. "The whole library has got to be torn down

and rebuilt on a different site that's outside of the new FEMA-designated flood plain."

As 200th anniversaries of the births of Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis approach, Davis fans have complained he has gotten a bad rap.

Said Echols, "Some people say he shouldn't be honored. They're looking at the fact that he was president of the Confederate States of America. He didn't do anything different than our ancestors did in the American Revolution. There was no treason to it."

Echols argued that Davis deserves to be honored because of a distinguished career as a U.S. Senator, Secretary of War and a colonel under Zachary Taylor in the Mexican War.

"These alone warrant that he be remembered. He was the only president of the Confederate States of America. You can't forget history."

Historic Burkittsville house in danger of collapsing

By Karen Gardner, Frederick News-Post, March 24, 2008 Staff

BURKITTSVILLE -- The yellow brick house at the corner of Gapland Road and Catholic Church Road has a magnificent view of the Middletown Valley and South Mountain.

Gen. William B. Franklin thought it was a good place to prepare for a likely encounter with Confederate troops back in September 1862.

The house served as home base for a key unit in the Battle of South Mountain, the battle that preceded the bloody Battle of Antietam.

Today, however, the house is deteriorating.

Mary Motherway, the most recent occupant, died in 2003. She left the



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

house to a great nephew, Shannon Shafer, who lives near Richmond, Va. "We're trying to get this house secured from the weather," said Dan Fout, a Burkittsville resident who wants to see that bit of area history preserved. The roof leaks, and some local history buffs hope to find the money to buy a roof tarp.

"Once the roof goes, the rest of the house starts to go," Fout said on a recent tour of the structure. Gaps at least a foot long and 2 or 3 inches wide have opened in the roof.

The house served as Franklin's headquarters during the Battle of South Mountain. Franklin and his troops used the farm as a staging area to fight in nearby Crampton's Gap.

"Crampton's Gap is the reason why (Gen. Robert E.) Lee's army met the Union army at Sharpsburg (for the Battle of Antietam)," said Paul Gilligan, a local historian who lives in Burkittsville. "Had Franklin pursued Lee's army, he could have cut the Confederate army in half."

After an early victory at Crampton's Gap, Franklin chose to return to the farm rather than continue with the assault. That hesitation, many historians believe, allowed the Union and Confederate armies to meet at the Battle of Antietam.

Burkittsville's role in the Civil War is important to the town's residents, Mayor Debby Burgoyne said, and the community wants to help preserve the house. "I don't know that the town could get involved," she said. "It has to be a grass-roots effort. The town could host a meeting for all interested parties."

The South Mountain Heritage Society, a local historical organization, could collect donations toward the tarp, said Catherine Cox Murray, the society's president.

Fout said he's been keeping watch on the house. The roof problems started a few weeks ago. "A 7-foot section of the roof has peeled off," he said. "After every wind storm, the holes get bigger and bigger."

Shafer did not return a telephone call asking for comment. He did, however, give Fout permission to monitor the property and do anything needed to stabilize it.

"He wants to see it preserved," Fout said.



Photo by Skip Lawrence

The Motherway house near Burkittsville was occupied by Federal troops during the Civil War.

Relics and relationships

Fout and Gilligan would like to see the house donated to a preservation group. Fout is working with the Frederick County Landmarks Foundation for advice on preserving the house.

The interior is in good shape. It smells musty and needs painting, but could be fixed up. "Old houses need to be lived in, or they'll deteriorate," Burgoyne said.

Inside the house, Burgoyne found a 1927 letter addressed to Mary Shafer, who later became Mary Motherway, offering her a job in health care at the Panama Canal for \$120 a month. Motherway, who died at age 103, grew up in the house, before leaving the area and launching a career in public health service. She moved back after she retired.

In a bit of coincidence, Motherway's mother grew up in the Burkittsville house Gilligan now owns. Mary Motherway married a man from Somerville, Mass., Gilligan's hometown, and her husband knew Gilligan's father. Motherway's husband died young, and she never remarried. Motherway and Gilligan both worked as officers in the U.S. Public Health Service.

Still in the house are medical and psychology reference books, along with old ceramic pieces that might have some value.

Vandals have visited the house in the past several months, leaving behind broken windows, beer bottles and evidence of a campfire in an upstairs bedroom. Sheriff's deputies patrol the area regularly, Fout said, but that hasn't stopped the vandalism.

Burkittsville, which has about 175 residents, counts many history buffs and old-house aficionados among its population, Burgoyne said. The views from the community and the surrounding farms are largely the same as they were during the Civil War, she added. "People love this part of the valley."

"To live here is to fall in love with the place," Fout said. "I would love to see the South Mountain battlefield area preserved forever."

Man asks Pennsylvania to let him search for gold lost in Civil War

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) – March 22, 2008— A treasure hunter wants permission to dig in a state forest in northern Pennsylvania for a cache of gold he believes was lost by a Union convoy transporting it to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia during the Civil War. The legend has circulated for decades about the half-ton of lost



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

gold — worth \$20 million or more at today's prices.

Dennis Parada believes he has found the site of the missing treasure in an Elk County state forest and is fighting to get state permission to dig it up. The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources said Parada needs to provide more proof before he starts tearing up state land. The department will not decide whether Parada can dig until he provides more information, spokeswoman Chris Novak said. "There's a lot of people that will say this story is not true, and you'll have your share of people swearing that it is true," said Parada, of Clearfield, who runs a treasure-hunting business called Finders Keepers. "You'll get that with any treasure."

According to the legend, a Union officer received orders in the summer of 1863 to lead a wagon train from Wheeling, W.Va., to Philadelphia through Harrisburg by way of northern Pennsylvania. The story claims that the route was chosen to avoid Confederate soldiers advancing into southern Pennsylvania for what would become the battle of Gettysburg.

As the story goes, the convoy — with two wagons, eight soldiers and 26 50-pound bars of gold — got lost in the wilderness, and the gold vanished. Parada, who won't reveal details of the location, said he and his partners made some initial digs in 2005 and found bones, a shattered bottle, a pocket knife, tin cans and two bullets. The state halted that effort, saying it's a crime to remove historical artifacts from state lands.

Officials later examined the items and said they were newer than the Civil War era and of little value.

"The circumstances arouse my suspicions that this is some very old

wives' tale," said Allen Guelzo, a Gettysburg College history professor who specializes in the Civil War. He doubts that Union troops hauled gold through northern Pennsylvania, and believes it more likely would have been transported by rail through Altoona to Harrisburg. Even in summer 1863 the train would have been safe, he said.

Parada, 55, first heard the legend more than 30 years ago. In 1975, he and some friends obtained a map he thought would lead to the gold but the search was unsuccessful.

He resumed the quest in 2004, taking his case to state officials. "They shot everything down. Everything," Parada said. Parada said he and his three partners hope for at least a 10 percent finders' fee if they find the gold — which would be more than they'd get on the black market if they took it without permission.

"We stand to make as much or better and sleep at night instead of going to jail," he said.

Frederick County Tourism Council Opposes Incinerator

By Karen Gardner, Frederick News-Post, March 18, 2008

The Tourism Council of Frederick County echoed Monocacy National Battlefield's concerns that the county's proposed waste-to-energy plant, also known as an incinerator, will detract from the historic nature of the battlefield.

The proposed plant would be across the Monocacy River from the park boundary. Last week, the Civil War Preservation Trust said the plant's smokestack would loom over the battlefield.

"While we recognize that the viewshed to the west of the battlefield

does contain industrially-zoned land, and an existing smokestack, the addition of another smokestack is of great concern to us," wrote Randy McClement, president of the council's Board of Trustees, in a letter to Frederick County Commissioners.

McClement cited statistics that showed a 19 percent increase in visitors from 2006 to 2007, which he attributed partly to the battlefield's new visitor center.

The center contains an overlook, and the plant's smokestack would be visible from this overlook, as well as from the entire visitor center. The Civil War is approaching its 150th anniversary, and McClement expects interest in the war to increase.

"Furthermore, we understand that the National Park Service is expressing concerns about the persistent emissions that would have the potential to accumulate in the battlefield's soil and ground cover," he wrote.

State, Federal Officials Forming the Future of Fort Monroe

By Kate Wiltrout, The Virginian-Pilot, March 26, 2008

FORT MONROE - Transferring ownership of an Army fort is a complex task, especially when the place boasts as much history — and as much valuable real estate — as Fort Monroe.

Almost three years after the federal government announced that the Army would exit Fort Monroe, state and federal officials are beginning to hammer out specifics.

They aim to sign an agreement by August that would specify how the 570-acre peninsula will be managed after 2011.

A draft of the agreement released this week is 45 pages long. Kathleen



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Kilpatrick, the state historic preservation officer, warned that it's only going to get longer.

Kilpatrick is one of the state officials most closely involved in the transfer. The bulk of the property would revert to state control when the Army moves its personnel to Fort Eustis and Fort Knox, Ky.

The agreement will be revised to reflect public input and comments from more than 30 "consulting parties" involved in the process, Kilpatrick said. But she emphasized that the principles at its core are sound and won't change.

"It's a very strong agreement," Kilpatrick said. "It's very preservation-friendly, while recognizing that preservation depends on creating economic sustainability to support your culture."

The three guiding principles are to respect the fort's historic assets, provide public access and cover the cost of running what's essentially a small town.

The agreement divides the fort into five zones, each with its own rules for demolishing buildings and constructing new ones. The strictest rules would apply to everything within the moat-encircled stone fort built in the 1830s. Development at the grassy, eastern end of the base would be permitted, if it maintained the same scale, density and characteristics as its surroundings.

Beyond that, the agreement states that the Army would facilitate negotiations for a long-term loan of the collections at the Casemate Museum. The museum, built inside the cavernous stone halls of the fort, preserves the cell where Confederate President Jefferson Davis spent months in captivity after his capture at the end of the Civil War.



Fort Monroe – Courtesy State of Virginia

Another facet of the fort's history is its role in the crumbling of slavery. The Union general in charge during the Civil War decreed that escaped slaves be considered contraband of war, and granted them freedom inside the fort.

As part of the agreement, the Army would do more archaeological testing in search of the Freedmen's Cemetery rumored to have existed on base.

H.O. Malone, a retired Army historian who heads Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, doesn't disagree that finding revenue to support it is crucial to the fort's future.

But he doesn't like how fast the agreement is coming together. He thinks the Army and state officials should focus instead on exactly who gets jurisdiction after the Army leaves.

"They're putting the cart before the horse," he said.

Statue of Forrest's Horse Dedicated on Anniversary of Thompson's Station Battle

By Jill Cecil Wiersma,

Tennessean.com, March 6, 2008

THOMPSON'S STATION — Roderick gazes again across the countryside where he once rushed to be with his master on the battlefield.

Mayor Leon Heron unveiled a bronze statue of Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's loyal horse at Roderick Place Wednesday, honoring the 145th anniversary of the Battle of Thompson's Station. Attending were local officials, Thompson's Station aldermen, county commissioners and Franklin Mayor John Schroer. Other invited guests took special note of the history they learned at the dedication from author and historian Eric Jacobson, of Historic Carton Plantation.

"We just finished our unit on the Civil War and I just thought it was a great opportunity for the kids to see some of our history right here," Oak View Elementary Principal Denise Goodwin said of the 12 fifth-graders who attended with her. The students were randomly selected for the field trip by a drawing.

"They're going to grow up and remember what this is and know all about it," Goodwin said. She added that the children took pictures and shot video to create presentations they can soon share soon with other grades.

"I was amazed because I never get drawn for anything," Elizabeth Brackins said. "I want to know what kind of horse he was, where he died and that kind of thing."

Bradley Noelting likes to ride horses and said he was curious to learn more about Roderick.

"I know he was something great in the Civil war," he said. "I'd like to find out what the horse did that was so important."

Heron and Jacobson explained the history and some of the grand lore about Roderick.

On March 5, 1863, Forrest led his troops to cut off Union troops under the command of Gen. John Coburn coming down from Franklin. Roderick,



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

wounded by three gunshots, was led away from the battle by Forrest's 17-year-old son, William. The horse bolted away to return to Forrest and was killed after being shot for a fourth time.



Photo by Jeanne Reasonover
Students from Oak View Elementary School in Franklin were among those to get the first glimpse of the statue of Roderick in Thompson's Station. A memorial unveiling and luncheon on Wednesday commemorated Roderick, the horse ridden by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest during the Battle of Thompson's Station on March 5, 1863.

Jacobson described Roderick as a Chestnut gelding said to be Forrest's favorite horse. He supposedly followed Forrest around like a faithful dog. The historian noted that Roderick's story is an example of the long-standing bond between man and horse, particularly in battle.

"As a man not stirred by much, I think it says a great deal that Forrest knelt down, overcome with grief, to say goodbye to his beloved Roderick," Jacobson said. "Then he remounted and went bank into the thick of the fight and splintered what was left of the Federal left flank."

Coburn surrendered more than a thousand troops and Roderick was buried that night on the property now owned by Heron and his wife, Cynthia.

Roderick Place is an 80-acre mixed-use development that will include dining, a day spa and pool, retreat,

wellness center and an outpatient surgery center in addition to approximately 134 homes and a 60-room country inn. It will also include a retail village and an amphitheater.

Heron also announced the creation of the Roderick Award of Courage, which will be presented each March 5, starting next year, to an individual who, similar to Roderick, displays courage in the face of adversity.

Jacobson thanked Heron for keeping history a vital part of the land's use. He noted it was a fitting memorial to the land's namesake.

"I can say without absolutely any doubt that if there were more people like Leon Heron, much more of our American history would be preserved, not built upon. We may all live for our future, but all of us are products of our past."

Tampa Sued For Nonpayment Of \$299.58 Civil War Debt

By **NEIL JOHNSON**, Tampa Tribune, March 19, 2008

TAMPA -- The descendant of a 19th century Tampa business owner has sued the city to collect on a Civil War-era promissory note for implements and ammunition to defend the town.

With interest, the bill amounts to more than \$22 million.

The note issued by the city June 28, 1861, was \$299.58, but with the 8 percent interest since, the total comes to \$22.72 million, an attorney for Joan Kennedy Biddle says in a December letter to the city requesting payment.

Biddle's attorney, James Purdy, filed the lawsuit against the city March 10 in Hillsborough County Circuit Court.

The original note, in a safe deposit box, states that the city agreed to pay the partnership of Kennedy and

Darling for the material and that it was for "defense of the city."

The note, signed by the acting mayor, has been in the Kennedy family for years.

The lawsuit was filed by the great-granddaughter of Thomas Pugh Kennedy.

The city had agreed to pay 8 percent interest on the note.

Kennedy and Darling was a business partnership, and Darling also was deputy city clerk when the note was issued. His signature also appears on the note.

Tampa, though, does not feel obliged to pay, City Attorney David Smith said.

"In our view, it is not a valid, enforceable obligation against the city of Tampa," Smith said.

The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution eliminates any debt incurred in aid of an insurrection, a reference mainly to the Civil War, Smith said.

Here is the section of the amendment that would apply to this case, Smith said: "But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States."

Biddle's attorney could not be reached for comment.

The city that issued the note officially doesn't exist, said Rodney Kite-Powell, curator of the Tampa Bay History Center. The city was dissolved in 1869. The Tampa of today was incorporated in 1887.

In fact, the man elected mayor in 1869, John T. Lesley, ran on the platform of dissolving Tampa because residents were unhappy with the state Legislature's directives on Reconstruction.



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Atlanta's Cemetery hit hard by tornado

Trees torn apart, headstones toppled

By MARK DAVIS, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, March 17, 2008

Something so violent should have had a name. Instead, it came unannounced to the city of the dead. The tornado that hit Atlanta Friday night rumbled over the brick wall where Oakland Cemetery rests on the edge of downtown. It swirled along a northern wall and then switched track, sweeping into the rolling expanse where 7,000 Civil War dead are buried.

where the unknown poor are buried. It tipped a final oak tree at a corner close to the intersection of Memorial Drive and Boulevard before turning its fury on the living.

It hit hard at one of Atlanta's cultural gems. Cemetery officials estimate the burial ground sustained \$3 million to \$4 million in damages.

The 48-acre park, founded in 1850, is Atlanta's oldest municipal park. It contains the remains of about 70,000 people, including those of author Margaret Mitchell and former Mayor Maynard Jackson. It is the resting place of businessmen, philanthropists, soldiers, the acclaimed and the anonymous. The site is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The storm destroyed about 70 trees, from 65 to 130 years old. It upended some and snapped others like small sticks. It knocked over hundreds of monuments. They ranged from a 40-foot column to stones a child could sit on. The tornado smacked two buildings — one, hit by hurricane-

force winds, surrendered its shingles; the other, hit by a falling oak limb, surrendered its roof.

The tornado blew the head off a marble angel. It kicked over a cross that had stood in the same spot since 1899.



Photo by John Amis
A marble monument to Civil War governor Joseph Brown lays on the ground as Georgia State History professor Charles Steffen photographs the rest of the monument in Historic Oakland cemetery Monday.

It left Kevin Kuharic stunned. On Monday, Kuharic, Oakland's director of restoration and landscapes, walked paths littered with evidence of destruction: torn bits of insulation, tattered shingles, tiny pieces of granite and marble. It also deposited proof that the storm had visited other spots first: the plastic base of a telephone, flashing grabbed from a building, legal pads with writing no one recognized.

Kuharic paused at the cracked remnants of an obelisk erected to John Gramling, born in 1832. The soggy corpse of a sparrow lay nearby. Until Friday night, the stone

had not moved since 1890. Now, it lies on the ground in two pieces, each the size of a grown man.

"This is just devastating," he said.

The devastation was random, capricious. The tornado denuded a magnolia tree before blowing off its major limbs — but didn't tear away the cemetery's flags. It plucked two boxwood bushes from their perch along a stone wall — but didn't bother the greenery between them. The tempest twisted the head off a stone angel at a column erected in 1891 to the memory of former Georgia Gov. Joseph Emerson Brown — but didn't shred a leaf from a nearby willow oak. The stone casualties included an obelisk honoring the life of Patrick Lynch, an Irishman who came to America in 1847 with his brothers, John, James and Peter. On Monday, his great-great grandson, Charles Lynch, came to check on the old man's plot.

When he first heard about the tornado's path through Oakland, "I kind of had a cold chill go up my back," said Lynch, who lives in Dunwoody. "We [family members] were all concerned."

The city is committed to repairing the park, said Sharon Davis, public information manager for the city's Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs.

"It [Oakland] has a lot of value to the city," she said. "It's beneficial to visitors as well as neighbors."

That's reassuring, say Oakland officials. But words are only the beginning in a rebuilding process that may take years. It will take months to remove the trees, said Kuharic.

Compounding the work: Oakland is a patchwork private and public property — family plots in a city-owned park. Assessing the damage may be



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

difficult. State preservation officials were on the site Monday afternoon.

"We're still discovering stuff," said Kuharic. He eyed a shard of marble so brilliant that it must have been broken in the tornado. "It [the inventory] is bound to go up."

And don't forget the what the earth may surrender. Some trees lying on the ground still have roots in the soil. Those tendrils may be wrapped around coffins.

Workers will have to be careful, said Kuharic, to dig up only roots from the city of the dead.

Exhibit in Ellicott City looks at conflict's impact on the town

By Sandy Alexander, Baltimore Sun, March 23, 2008

Six-year-old Ethan Rushlow was almost finished visiting the B&O Railroad Museum Ellicott City Station when the Union Army caught up with him.

Mike Radinsky, a Civil War re-enactor, first had Ethan stand on a slip of paper with the number 18 written on it so he would meet the requirement of being "over 18" (a tactic Radinsky later said was actually used in the 1800s).

Radinsky made a perfunctory check of Ethan's ears, eyes and teeth, had him recite an oath and asked him to sign a form. Then he told the boy he had two weeks to settle his affairs and say goodbye to his family before he had to report for duty. "I love it [re-enactments]," said Ethan's father, Robert Rushlow, who moved with his wife and two sons to Pikesville from San Diego a few months ago. "The kids just love being able to ask questions, and being able to do it with the guys in costume, that's a great learning experience."

Living-history demonstrations are one attraction of the museum's latest exhibit, which runs through May 4, focusing on Ellicott City during the Civil War.

On weekends, men dressed as soldiers offer rifle-firing demonstrations and talk to visitors. Some days, female historians in costume talk about home life during the war in the station's re-created living quarters, and other volunteers play music or talk about the history of the station.

From Wednesday through Sunday, Civil War-era images, artifacts, weapons and other items are on display.

The focus of the new exhibit is "Retreat from Monocacy." In July 1864, the Monocacy River near Frederick was the site of a battle in which the Union soldiers slowed the Confederate Army on its march to Washington and enabled defenders there to prepare for the invasion. The federal army was forced to retreat from the Monocacy, and waves of troops and wounded men came through Ellicott City to get on trains to Baltimore.

The Civil War exhibit is a change from the Roads to Rails exhibit that has been in place for much of the past year, but the subject is a familiar one for the Ellicott City museum. Previous Civil War exhibits, living-history displays and activity days have been held at the museum in the past 15 years.

On April 12, the station will join other public historic sites, including the county Historical Society, the Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park and the Ellicott City Colored School Restored, as well as several merchants, to offer Civil War information and historic interpretation. "It's a tradition here," said Adele Air,

the Ellicott City Station's new site director, who was previously historic sites director for Howard County Recreation and Parks. "We have a really fascinating Civil War history. We still haven't told the full story." The Ellicott City Station has been under the management of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Museum in Baltimore for two years. While the museum in Baltimore focuses on trains and railroading history, Air said, the Ellicott City site tries to explore what was going on in the station during different time periods and how the railroad affected the local community.

Radinsky, who lives in Ellicott City, and fellow re-enactor Bob Candler of Towson used their firing demonstrations over the weekend to try to paint a picture of life on a Civil War battlefield.

On a recent Saturday, they started by teaching four young museum visitors how to hold wooden rifle replicas on their shoulders in various positions. Then the two demonstrated how a soldier would bite the top of a paper capsule containing gun powder and a round piece of shot, load his gun, tap the contents down with a rammer, place a cap below the hammer and fire.

The demonstration left out the bullets but still made a loud noise to please the onlookers.

Soldiers had to repeat the loading process three times in one minute, Radinsky said, while standing on a battlefield surrounded by flying bullets, injured men, noise and smoke.

"We have the ability to teach people about an important part of history," Radinsky said. "If one or two facts stick in their heads, maybe that will lead to more." He added: "People



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

don't realize all this history is in their backyard."

Stolen painting of General Sherman has been recovered, restored

BY [ALAN JOHNSON](#), THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH, March 19, 2008

Lancaster native William Tecumseh Sherman is coming home.

A rare original portrait of a youthful Sherman, stolen from the Sherman House Museum in Lancaster in 1982, has been recovered, restored and will be returned to the museum in a March 29 ceremony.

Sherman, a Civil War general who was appointed commander of the U.S. Army after Ulysses S. Grant became president, probably had the painting of him in civilian clothes done when he was superintendent of what would later become Louisiana State University.

The Sherman House Museum, originally the Sherman family home, was burglarized in 1982. The painting and 69 other items were stolen.

The painting didn't resurface until last November when officials with the Ohio Historical Society and the Fairfield Heritage Association discovered it was about to be auctioned in Delaware, Ohio. Lancaster police returned the painting to the Historical Society.

"It's been a long and eventful journey, but Sherman is finally coming home," said James Strider, the society's director of collections, historic preservation and statewide outreach. The painting was restored by Barry Bauman, owner of a Chicago art-restoration service. Bauman said when he got the painting, "It was layered with dirt, grime, and aged, discolored varnish."



Sherman Portrait before restoration



After restoration

"We're excited that the portrait will be on display again," said Laura Bullock, head of the Sherman House Museum, which includes Sherman family and Civil War artifacts.

145th Gettysburg Battle Re-enactment Planned July 4-6

Massive stonewall, historic fence will create dramatic visual
Fulton County News, 03/27/08
Everything about the 145th annual Gettysburg Anniversary Battle Re-enactment at Redding Farm in Gettysburg this summer will be big. The event planned for July 4-6, 2008, on Independence Day weekend, is a "once every five-year" large-scale national event. More than 10,000 re-enactors from across the nation and around the world are already registered, with several more thousand expected. One hundred cannons have been registered since January and more are on a waiting list. At least 400 mounted cavalry will participate.

One of the largest and most diverse gatherings of sutlers anywhere will display their historic merchandise for sale. A large living history village and two living history activities tents will provide a multitude of educational opportunities from dawn to dusk.

These combined dynamics mean that both visitors and re-enactors will have a seldom-seen and unique opportunity to experience history on a grand scale in Gettysburg this summer.

The size of this summer's re-enactment also required a new and much larger Pickett's Charge stonewall at just the right location on the battlefield. The Gettysburg Anniversary Committee staff labored for several months last fall moving 20 dumptruck loads of historic granite fieldstone from a neighboring farm to create the wall. The effort exceeded expectations, resulting in the completion of a 210-yard-long wall with a wonderful historic look. The famous "Angle" has been recreated in the wall's center.



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

This year, 1,000 feet of historically reproduced five-rail fence, representing the fence on Emmitsburg Road at the time of the battle, will be placed an actual distance of 873 feet from the "Copse of Trees." Attacking Confederate troops will cover the same distance from Emmitsburg Road to the wall that they traveled on July 3, 1863, during Pickett's epic charge. The fence was reproduced by the same lumber mill near Morgantown, W.Va., that produces the fencing for the Gettysburg National Military Park. It was trucked to the re-enactment site this past winter.



Workers prepare stone wall for 145th anniversary Gettysburg reenactment

In addition to Pickett's Charge, five other major battles will be recreated during this three-day event. An explosive Independence Day 145th Artillery Salute with all 100 cannons will take place both Saturday and Sunday. Each day, there will be live mortar fire demonstrations and continuous living history programs, which have become a trademark of this event.

The Gettysburg 145th National Civil War Battle Reenactment is an all-day family event. It will stimulate the senses and bring history books alive.

"To be both entertained and educated at this unique reenactment is a fabulous way for families to spend

Independence Day Weekend celebrating our nation's history," said event spokeswoman Andrea Di Martino.

Gates open each day at 8:30 a.m. Complete event information and tickets are available at the official Gettysburg re-enactment Web site, www.gettysburgreenactment.com or by calling The Gettysburg Anniversary Committee at 717-338-1525. Tickets should be ordered in advance as grandstand seating normally sells out prior to the event. For information on visiting Gettysburg, please contact the Gettysburg Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800-337-5015 or online at www.gettysburg.travel