

THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Booth's fate was Both Fame and Infamy

By Frederick N. Rasmussen
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Baltimore Sun

The nation was gripped in deep mourning when President Abraham Lincoln died April 15, 1863, hours after he was shot during a performance of *Our American Cousin* at Washington's Ford's Theatre.

Eleven days would pass before his assassin, actor John Wilkes Booth, a Harford County native, would be found hiding in a barn in Bowling Green, Va.

After Booth shot Lincoln, he made his way to Anacostia, Va., where he was met by David Herold, a young accomplice, and the pair made their way through Southern Maryland to Port Tobacco.

There was one unexpected stop at the farmhouse of Dr. Samuel Mudd near Waldorf, where Booth sought medical attention for a broken shin bone, sustained when he jumped from the theater's presidential box to the stage.

Mudd set Booth's leg and gave him a crutch. Booth and Herold later rowed across the Potomac River and made their way to Bowling Green. At 2 a.m. on April 26, Col. E.J. Conger of the U.S. Secret Service found the men hiding in a barn and ordered them to surrender.

Herold emerged, but Booth did not. Conger then warned him that the barn would be set on fire.

"I am but a crippled, one-legged man. Withdraw your men a hundred yards from the door and I will come out. Give me a chance for my life, captain. I will never be taken alive," replied Booth.

When he refused the order to come out, Conger threw a lighted bundle of straw into the building. "Behind the blaze," Conger said, "I saw Wilkes Booth standing upright on a crutch."

Booth dropped the crutch and stumbled toward the door with a revolver in his hand. A shot sounded and he fell. Dragged

from the inferno, Booth died shortly afterward.

Booth's body was taken aboard the ironclad *Montauk* for identification. Dr. John Frederick May, a Washington surgeon who had recently removed a fibroid tumor from Booth's neck, identified the body from the scar made by his surgical incision. Sensing that an exhibition of Booth's body might cause a riot, the government had it secretly buried at night in a grave in the yard of the Washington Penitentiary.

In 1869, Booth's brother, actor Edwin Booth, asked John H. Weaver, a Baltimore undertaker, to take a letter to President Andrew Johnson requesting that the remains be released to him for burial in Baltimore. "I beg that you will not delay in ordering the body to be given to his care. He will retain it (placing it in his vault) until such time we can remove other members of our family to the Baltimore cemetery and thus prevent any special notice of it," Edwin Booth wrote.

Johnson signed the release, and John Wilkes Booth's body was removed from its temporary grave where it had rested in an old gun case. Inked on the box was a single word: Booth.

The Sun reported that it was then placed in a "common deal coffin," which Weaver transported to his undertaking establishment on Fayette Street, near Gay, across from the stage door of the Holliday Street Theater, on Feb. 18, 1869.

Booth's mother, sister and another brother, Dr. Joseph Booth, and several others - including Daniel Haggerty, former Central District police captain; Basil Moxley, doorkeeper of the Holliday Day Street Theater, Maj. William B. Pegram, a longtime friend, and Henry C. Wagner - identified the body.

Booth's body was well preserved, Pegram recalled in 1913. "The left leg was disjointed both at the knee and ankle, the latter having been broken when he jumped from the box to the stage of the theater

after the shooting of Lincoln," Pegram wrote. "It will be remembered that Dr. Mudd treated the broken ankle without knowing who his patient was. He cut the boot from the left leg and manufactured a shoe from the boot's foot, in which we saw the remains of the actual foot lying in the casket. It had become separated from the bones of the leg, and they also separated at the knee."

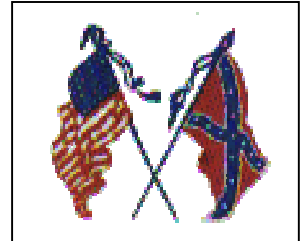
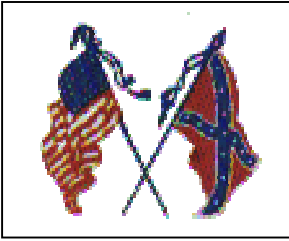
Booth's face was still recognizable. The skin was still drawn tightly over the grinning skull, which showed the splendid teeth for which Booth was noted. The coal-black hair, which rolled back from the forehead, had grown nearly a foot in length.

The body was moved to a holding vault at Green Mount Cemetery, and in late June, it was carried to the Booth family plot by pallbearers whose lighted torches illuminated the eerie late-night scene. Booth was then "left to the profound repose of the tomb," reported The Sun.

The graveside services were presided over by the Rev. Fleming James, an Episcopal minister visiting from New York. When his parishioners learned that he had officiated at the reburial of Lincoln's killer, they fired him.

Years later, Henry W. Mears, who had taken over Weaver's business, and as a boy had played with John Wilkes Booth, went to Philadelphia to speak with Edwin Booth about several gravestones in the Booth plot. In the course of their conversation, Mears mentioned that the grave of John Wilkes Booth had never been marked. Edwin Booth, who never recovered from what his brother had done, replied, "We'll let that remain as it is."

Visitors to Green Mount today will still find the grave unmarked.



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Bush Policy Could Affect Park Jobs

Proposal: Make 850K federal workers private

By JEFFREY J. MITCHELL For Dispatch/Sunday News

Sunday, April 27, 2003 – A proposed Bush administration policy could turn as many as 850,000 federal jobs over to the private sector, a statistic that holds serious implications for the National Park Service and the Gettysburg National Military Park. The policy could reduce visitor services and cause unexpected layoffs, according to an internal memorandum by Park Service Director Fran Mainella. Jobs held by fee collectors, museum curators, historians, archivists and park scientists are slated to be the first to be eliminated. The Bush administration said the outsourcing of jobs is a way to promote the free-market style economy, and not so much about saving federal funds. Although the plan could have devastating effects in Gettysburg, park officials are staying calm. "It's still too soon to say how this (outsourcing) will play out at Gettysburg," said the spokeswoman Katie Lawhon. "The good thing about the park is that we have a number of volunteers who provide us with some of these services."

Currently, the National Park in Gettysburg employs 82 full-time and 38 seasonal employees.

Volunteer base: Lawhon said Penn State sends students and faculty to the park to fill scientist positions and conduct research within the park. "We have huge volunteer services," Lawhon said. "We're lucky to have something like that to rely on."

Lawhon said the number of hours donated by volunteers at the park is equivalent to having 21 full time employees. In fact, 2001 statistics show that 2,738 volunteers contributed more than 44,690 hours of work at the park. Lawhon said the National Park in Gettysburg probably has one of the leading volunteer turn-outs in the Northeast sector, which includes parks from Virginia to Maine. But Gettysburg National Park still employs many of the jobs slated for removal.

National Park Service Public Affairs spokeswoman, Elaine Sevy, said the goal of the outsourcing is not to impact the employees but to study certain positions and accredit them accordingly. "We think the big thing is not to impact the operations of the park," she said. "We're trying not to lay off employees." Sevy was also skeptical about the support that volunteer work would have if the outsourcing were to occur. "Volunteers are not something you can totally rely on," she said. "We'd be lost without our volunteers, but we can't use them to replace workers completely." No quota: Interior officials have maintained that there is no quota on positions to be privatized. Deputy Assistant Interior Secretary Scott Cameron predicted in January that no more than 4 percent of the 16,470 current park employees would lose their jobs. That would amount to only about 650 workers. But, according to Mainella's memo and a spreadsheet detailing outsourcing studies through the end of February, 900 jobs have already been identified as replaceable with at least 800 more under study. Under the program, some federal workers who lose their jobs could be hired elsewhere in the government, Cameron said.

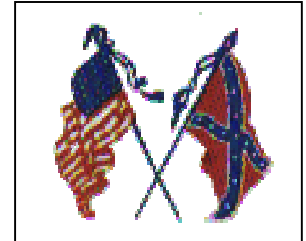
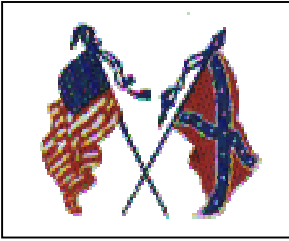
Interior officials said the Park Service's entire science staff could be replaced by January. Interior officials have also made

no quota on which positions of number of positions that will be privatized. While The National Park in Gettysburg awaits President Bush's decision, many aren't concerned about its negative effect on the park. "I know there is a draft plan for which positions will be outsourced," said Doug Scott, an archaeologist at the Park Services Midwest Archeology Center in Lincoln, Neb. Scott is considered to be an expert in battlefield forensics and specialized in Civil War historic sites. Scott, who said he's been to Gettysburg on more than one occasion, believes the park will not be affected. "Gettysburg has a lot of people coming to its park to do research because it's a high profile site," he said. "I think a position like an archivist would be an important position to have there. I doubt the park will see any major problems as a result of the outsourcing."

Possible Remains of CSS Virginia Found on River Bottom

May 2, 2003--The remnants of the CSS Virginia, the original Confederate ironclad that fought the USS Monitor to a draw off Hampton Roads, Virginia in 1862, may have been found as part of an underwater survey conducted before the building of a new marine terminal on the Elizabeth River. "It would be a stroke of incredible luck to discover it after all these years," said Dick Hoffeditz, curator of the Virginia War Museum in Newport News.

The report on the underwater survey describes two shipwrecks in the area and says there is "a distinct possibility" that they might be parts of the Virginia and of a schooner that hit



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the submerged wreck and sank next to it.

The Virginia which was built on part of the salvaged hull of a Union sailing ship, the USS Merrimack, leading to the popular but inaccurate description of the best-known naval battle of the Civil War as having been between the "Monitor and the Merrimack." The combat between the two ironclads was dramatic but indecisive as neither ship could damage the other. The Virginia, based as it was on an existing wooden ships and using the Merrimack's original engines, proved too heavy to maneuver quickly in battle. The excess weight from the cast-iron plating eventually doomed the ship as it rode too low in the water to be evacuated upstream when Union forces threatened to retake Hampton Roads.

On May 11, 1862, the Virginia ran aground near Craney Island. After the crew was evacuated, the ship was set afire, detonating the 16,000 pounds of black powder in the ship's magazine. Documents show that salvage companies later removed two boilers and parts of the wooden hull. Proving that black powder is not an ideal material for demolition work, substantial pieces of the ship still remained intact after the explosion. It was later blown up again, and some sections were dragged off to the Navy Yard in Portsmouth, VA, local sources report. Enough pieces remained to sink the schooner in later years. Parts of the Virginia survive in museums, including dented armor and the ship's wheel at the Mariners' Museum, and an anchor and part of a propeller shaft at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources has called for a follow-up investigation to decide if the wreck spotted in the survey is the Virginia. If

it is, federal and state laws require that the ship's remains be removed before any dredging can take place. Mariner's Museum officials in Newport News would like to have any remaining Virginia artifacts the survey finds, to accompany their major display of her most famous antagonist. The Monitor sank at the end of 1862, landing upside down in 240 feet of water, 16 miles off Hatteras, N.C.

A joint Navy and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration team has raised several historically important parts of the Monitor, with the Navy using the actions as a project to train deep-sea divers. The ship's drive train and other items were recovered first, and last year the project succeeded in bringing up the historic rotating gun turret and the two huge cannon it contained.

The remains of two of the Monitor's sailors were found inside the turret and are currently at the Army's military identification laboratory in Hawaii as researchers attempt to discover their names.

Descendants Gather to Remember *Sultana* Tragedy

May 1, 2003--courtesy CWI Premium--People who survived the Civil War tended to be a sturdy lot. Those who survived the explosion and sinking of the steamship *Sultana* were doubly so, and lucky as well. At least two of them were still siring children later in life than usual, and two of those children came to Memphis last weekend to talk to other descendants and interested people about the biggest maritime disaster in American history. Glenna Jenkins Green, 83, is one of those children. As a little girl she heard her father--himself nearly 80 by that time--tell stories about escaping from a burning boat

in the middle of the Mississippi River. "Dad would get us on the front porch a lot of times," Green said. "All the kids in the neighborhood would come around. He was a big storyteller, and I didn't know if half of it was lies or the truth." Samuel W. Jenkins, a Union soldier in the Civil War, was a survivor of the worst maritime disaster in U.S. history - the April 27, 1865, explosion and fire aboard the steamboat *Sultana* on the Mississippi River north of Memphis.

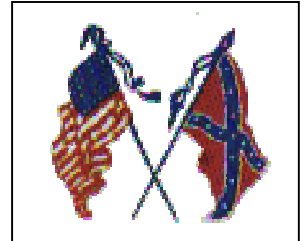
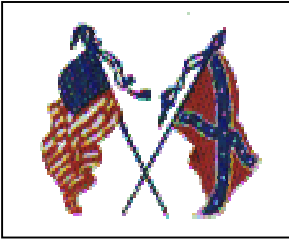
"He was blown out in the water, and he got hold of some logs or something and floated around out there," Green told the Memphis Commercial-Appeal. "He was burned pretty bad on his shoulders." Some 70 members of the Association of *Sultana* Descendants and Friends, 22 of whom were descendants of survivors, held their 16th annual meeting last weekend in the town closest to the site of the ship's explosion. It had originally left from Vicksburg carrying Union soldiers just released from the army on their way back to their Midwestern homes. Many had just been released not only from the service, but from Confederate prison camps as well.

Norman Shaw of Knoxville, the founder of the *Sultana* association, said the annual gathering is a way of making sure the disaster is not forgotten.

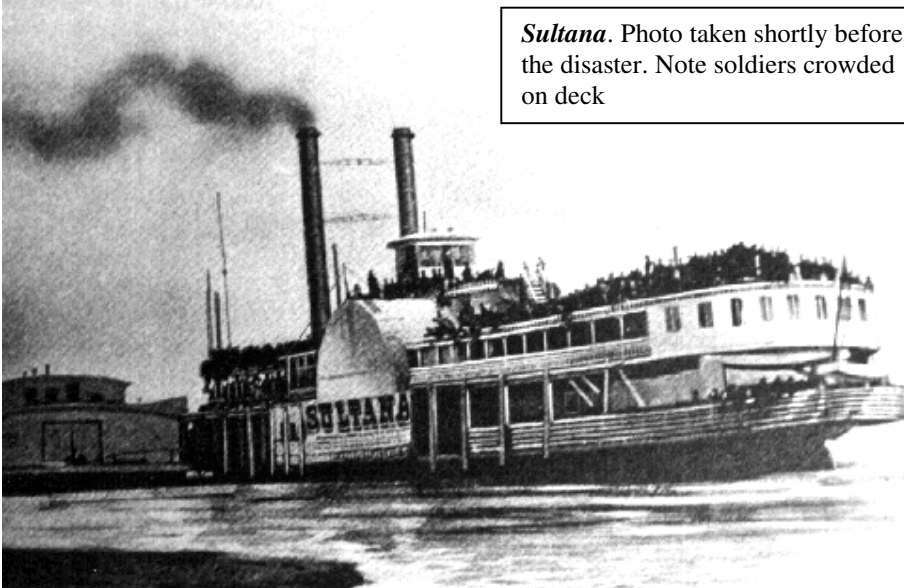
"After the last survivor from Knoxville died in 1931, there was no gathering at all until our organization got started in 1988," Shaw said.

The *Sultana* was built to carry a mere 376 passengers. Accounts vary as to why it was loaded with nearly six times that many on board. Some say it was bureaucratic error--a clerk in charge of assigning passengers to boats went off duty, and the man working the next shift, not realizing the *Sultana* was already fully loaded, sent hundreds more soldiers aboard.

By other accounts, the boat's operator was simply crooked. He got paid by the head,



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Sultana. Photo taken shortly before the disaster. Note soldiers crowded on deck

so the more heads the better. However it happened, the boat was carrying far more weight than its engines could safely push upstream against the Mississippi currents. They docked at Memphis to get repairs on a boiler that had already started to leak steam. Possibly the operator was told the whole unit was unsafe and should be replaced rather than patched. He settled for the patch anyway. A few miles upstream from Memphis the overstrained boiler exploded. An estimated 1,800 people died, some of scalding, some by fire, some by the force of the explosion. Many made it off the boat only to drown in the massive river. In comparison, sixty-two years later 1,517 would die when the much larger ocean liner Titanic struck an iceberg and sank in the Atlantic Ocean.

Exact numbers and details on the Sultana disaster are hard to come by, even more so than most Civil War actions. By the time the news of the event reached the East Coast it was drowned out by headlines trumpeting the end of the war, and a few days later by the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Little in the way of hard investigation of the incident was done.

As survivors straggled ashore or were rescued by other boats, the dead and injured filled Memphis hospitals and morgues for months. Bodies floated to the banks of the city for weeks. Green, who now lives north of Chattanooga in Bakewell, Tenn., said her father became a doctor partly because of what happened on the Sultana. He died in 1933. "He'd think of all of the soldiers that drowned that day and how bad they were burned and things he couldn't do to help them," Green said.

Jenkins had been released from Cahaba, a Confederate-run POW camp near Selma, Ala., before boarding the Sultana in Vicksburg, Miss. Private William Carter Warner was a teenager who had lied about his age to enlist in the Union army, was captured and also taken to Cahaba. He was another survivor who had children late in life.

His son, Bob Warner, 85, of San Angelo, Texas, toured the Memphis cemeteries Saturday, where some of the Sultana's dead are buried. He and the group also stopped at a historical marker in Marion, Ark., near the field where the charred remains of the Sultana are believed to be buried under 30 feet of dirt and silt. It was

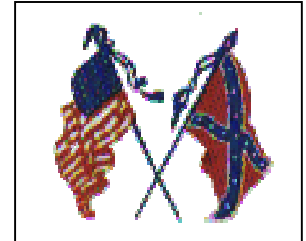
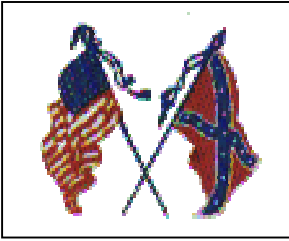
his second visit to the area. Warner's father didn't talk about the war, Cahaba or the Sultana until very late in his life, his son said. He never heard the story until 1933, shortly before his father and the last few surviving Civil War veterans in Wellington, Kansas marked their last Decoration Day, the predecessor to Memorial Day. Even then he didn't get much detail.

"He said he woke up out in the middle of the Mississippi River," Warner said. Green, too, wishes she had heard more, or at least listened more attentively. "I used to talk to my Dad, and he'd tell us stories about different things about the Sultana. I wish I had been older so I would have remembered more of it," Green said after the gathering.

Purchase Finally Secures Site of Washington's Fort Stevens

May 2, 2003-courtesy CWI Premium-When the Civil War broke out, it took very little time for a ring of forts to be built to protect the national capital from invasion by a hostile power just a river away. It has taken somewhat longer to save the sites of these forts from invasion by developers in one of the tightest housing markets in the world. Fort Stevens was the only one of the "ring forts" around Washington to see actual combat duty, marking the closest Confederate incursion towards the capital. Now the site is safe from development thanks to the timely intervention of the National Park Trust and local residents who fought a protracted zoning battle to keep a townhouse project off the historic land.

The National Park Service will accept the one-acre parcel at the end of the month, the Washington Post reported, adding it to



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Rock Creek Park. The land on what is now Missouri Ave. NW is largely woods today, the hastily built fort having long since crumbled away.

"Fort Stevens is probably one of the most important of the forts that remain from the Civil War era surrounding Washington, D.C., because it is the fort the Confederates actually got the closest to," said Jim Campi of the Civil War Preservation Trust.

The property was long owned by the Washington Hebrew Congregation. In 1999 developer Martin Poretsky signed an agreement with the congregation to buy it, and announced plans to put 26 town houses on the site.

The site, although small, contains or is adjacent to an amazing number of places of historic significance, neighbors said. It is part of the Civil War battlefield where Lincoln came under fire from the Confederates in July 1864. It also borders the Military Road School, formerly a school for African American residents of Vinegar Hill. And it borders the Lightfoot-Walker house, one of whose first owners helped found Howard University.

Sarah Green, a former commissioner for the neighboring ANC District 4B, said: "The [developer's] plans were very poor. His emergency exit plans were flawed. He had to rework the whole thing for a second hearing. He didn't even have any drawings."

The thought of townhouses among historical lands and architecture made Green "just want to vomit," she said. Loretta Neumann, a member of Historic Takoma and the DC Preservation League, helped fire up the local residents to stop the proposal. She told the Post she had opposed the townhouses in the first place because of their density. That number of new residents would generate a need for additional parking in the neighborhood, a chronic problem in Washington. Also, Neumann noted, the land would be

further dug up by the creation of basement apartments. And an ancient, unpaved road through adjacent national parklands would have to be altered for builders to use as an access road.

Opponents began to gather, including the Military Road School Alumni Association members Patricia Tyson, Charles Powell, Sara Green and Neumann. First skirmishes took place at meetings of the Board of Zoning Adjustment, because the development needed an exemption from that body.

"BZA should have just thrown the thing out. But instead they offered him another year to resubmit a proposal so he wouldn't have to pay application fees again," Green said.

Finally Neumann contacted Paul Pritchard at the National Park Trust. The trust is a group of private individuals who facilitate the buying of land for the National Park Service. Operating solely with private funds, the trust has acquired land for over 100 park projects since 1983, about 10 in or around Washington, according to Pritchard.

The trust, for legal reasons, bought not only the property but also the developer's rights to buy it as well.

"The developer was very cooperative," Pritchard said. "If he hadn't been so cooperative, the price would have gone up. It's rare that I've ever complimented a developer. Of course, that was after years of him being beaten down by the community."

Carol Lightfoot-Walker and her brothers Michael and George Lightfoot, who own a neighboring house, had filed a civil suit because they said the developer could have built on their driveway. "We could not improve our property, because according to the developer, he even owned part of our steps," Lightfoot-Walker said.

To make the deal work, the National Park Trust borrowed \$185,000 from a bank in Kansas and held the land for over a year

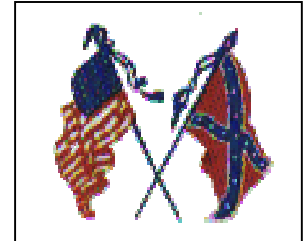
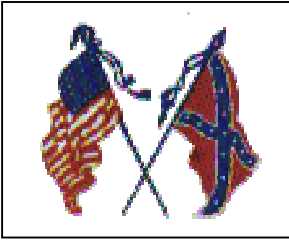
while the National Park Service went through its lengthy land-buying process. The National Park Service is buying the property for \$145,900. And according to Carol Lightfoot-Walker, her family will pay an anticipated \$25,000 for rights to the disputed land around their driveway. "It's a bittersweet victory," she said. All that remains to finalize the deal is an environmental review, which is not expected to present any problems since the land is being bought for preservation rather than destruction. Residents of the nearby neighborhoods of Brightwood and Takoma celebrated the sale at a ceremony last week.

Money will change hands in a few weeks, which nobody feels is too long to wait, considering that the National Park Service has been trying since the 1930s to link the four remaining earthen forts around Rock Creek Park.

Developer Proposes Donation of Winchester Battlefield Land

April 24, 2003-courtesy CWI Premium-Stephenson's Depot is known as the battle where Union general Robert Milroy surrendered to Confederate soldiers in June 1863. Now it may become known as the place where preservationists wrestled a major developer to at least a draw over the same land.

In a recent letter to the Civil War Preservation Trust, a Washington, D.C., based nonprofit battlefield preservation group, the Stephenson's Associates LC, a division of The Shockey Cos., offered to donate 108.5 acres, provided that CWPT matches Stephenson's Associate LC offer. CWPT staff and officials are attending a seminar in Richmond this week and were not available to respond to Shockey's offer. The company has been battling with local environmental and slow-growth



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groups as well as Civil War preservationists over the Stephenson's Depot site for a number of years. "This is 100 percent of the core battlefield on our property," John Good, treasurer of Shockey, told the Winchester Star. "There is nothing left."

Under the proposal, Good says his company expects the CWPT to put up at least \$1 million to purchase the conservation easements for 98 acres of core battlefield land from neighboring landowners. The rest of the funding, Good hopes, would come from a competitive federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant aimed at protecting battlefields.

Although Good emphasized that taxpayer money would not be used in the project, the Frederick County Board of Supervisors will have to participate in the deal, serving as the fiscal agent to secure the federal grant.

The Shockey division Stephenson's Associates LC wants to construct Stephenson Village, a "planned community" housing approximately 6,000 residents, near the core battlefield land, over the next 25 years.

"Confederate Memorial Day" Observers Shunted Aside at Stone Mountain

April 25, 2003-courtesy CWI Premium- You would think that people out to observe Confederate Memorial Day would have first choice of locations at a place like Stone Mountain, Georgia, whose claim to fame is huge carvings into the mountainside of Rebel icons Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson.

The Georgia Society of the Military Order of Stars & Bars and the Sons of

Confederate Veterans have instead been told that they must confine their observances to a secluded spot on the far side of the mountain known as the "Confederate flag terrace." Park officials said that to allow the groups to use more public areas of the park would interfere with the rights of other users of the site. The flag terrace is located on a plateau a short distance up a trail that leads to the top of the mountain, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported. The groups had asked to use the area known as "the lawn" which is the most heavily used part of the park, located directly below the carvings of the Confederate icons.

A spokeswoman for Stone Mountain Park said the kind of service the groups want to hold at the carving would violate policy by "interfering with the general use of the park."

"If you're here with your family . . . you shouldn't have to be bombarded with something you didn't pay to come in to see," the spokeswoman, Leslie J. Breland, said last month.

Stone Mountain Park is run by a state authority, the Stone Mountain Memorial Association. Herschend Family Entertainment Corp. is a private company that manages the park's attractions, primarily amusement-park type rides, as well as administering the lawn area. The park was created by the Georgia General Assembly in 1958 as a Confederate memorial and a place of public recreation. Park officials told the heritage groups that they could only use the lawn for an early

morning moment of silence before the park's attractions open. They suggested last month that they use the flag terrace, where several Confederate flags are flown, or rent the park's special events meadow.

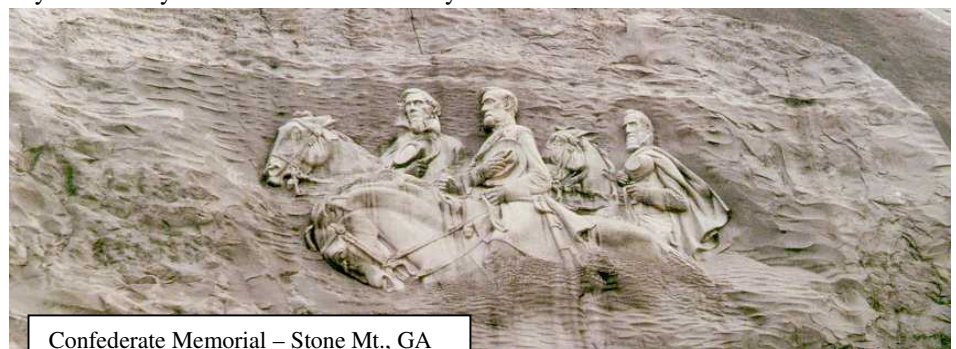
The Confederate Memorial Day observances will consist primarily of songs and speeches honoring their ancestors, organizers said.

Woody Highsmith, adjutant general of the Stars & Bars group, said he thinks the park's position is "a slap in the face to the state of Georgia because Stone Mountain is a Confederate memorial."

"According to the Constitution, music and speech and the spoken word are the same thing," Highsmith said. "If they allow musicals on the lawn, then they should allow a Confederate memorial service on the lawn."

The groups were also restricted to the "flag terrace" area for the same observances last year. Some 225 people attended that service, which was marked by heavy rain. The two Confederate groups jointly claim about 4,000 members in Georgia.

Highsmith and other group officials said the park's denial violates their constitutional right to free speech, and said they will file suit against the park after the memorial service. He added that some members may picnic on the lawn when their service ends. "If they decide to stake a flag up on the lawn, I don't think that violates any ordinances," he said.



Confederate Memorial – Stone Mt., GA