



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

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### Judge awards \$4 million to owners of razed battlefield tower

PHILADELPHIA – AP, May 1, 2006 - After years of legal wrangling, a federal judge has ordered the National Park Service to pay \$4 million to the owners of an observation tower that once stood near Gettysburg National Military Park.

The federal government took the land by eminent domain in 2000 and demolished the steel structure as part of a campaign to restore the area to the way it looked during the Civil War. "This is a tremendous relief for me, I don't even care about the money anymore," said landowner Hans Engrenn, 77, of New Oxford. "My wife and I could have had a lot of fun with that money 10 years ago. Now, we don't even buy green bananas."

U.S. District Judge Sylvia Rambo set the award at about \$4,035,000 in a ruling this month, after an appeals court ordered her to reconsider her previous \$6.6 million ruling.

Government lawyers once argued the tower and its souvenir store were worth only \$2.5 million. Appraisals on the tower varied between \$3 million and \$11.1 million.

Creator Thomas R. Ottenstein called the 393-foot National Tower, which opened in 1974 and afforded tourists an aerial view of the historic battlefield, a "classroom in the sky."

But historians and preservationists considered it an ugly modern intrusion, and started the campaign to have it removed. Ottenstein died a month after the demolition.

Rambo's order calls for an arbitrator to split the award between the Engrenns and Overview Limited Partnership, which was principally owned by Ottenstein.

"We remain saddened and thunderstuck," said Ottenstein's lawyer, Irwin Aronson, who took the last ride to the top of the tower.

Engrenn, a Swedish immigrant, sees the long court fight as an indictment of the American judicial system.

"It's unfair that the government can do this do you constantly, constantly, constantly," Engrenn said. "It delays your life, so to speak."

To park Superintendent John Latschar, the case symbolizes his agency's uphill fight to preserve the historic battlefield.

"We're satisfied to have this chapter closed and pleased with the number of projects we've been able to complete on battlefield rehabilitation since we started it off with the tower demolition," Latschar said.

### Gettysburg Friends Group to Merge With Visitor Center Foundation

April 24, 2006- CWi- Two of Gettysburg National Military Park's primary partners today announced plans to merge their operations, creating the Gettysburg Foundation. The new organization, a private, nonprofit educational organization, will continue to work in partnership with the National Park Service to enhance preservation and understanding of the heritage and lasting significance of Gettysburg. The merger of the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg and the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation becomes official June 30, 2006. However, the two organizations already have begun to combine their operations. The Museum Foundation is relocating its offices to space adjacent to the site of the new Museum and Visitor Center

at 1195 Baltimore Pike. Until the new Museum and Visitor Center opens in early 2008, that will serve as the headquarters for the Gettysburg Foundation. Some Foundation staff also will be located at and continue to manage the Rupp House on Baltimore Street.

In joining together, the Friends and the Museum Foundation combine very distinct strengths in support of a common mission. These strengths include thousands of volunteers, a variety of on- and off-site educational programs, a successful track record of fundraising at the five-, six- and seven-figure level among corporate, foundation and individual donors, and an established grassroots fundraising network.

"Friends of Gettysburg" — the thousands of members who have, since 1989, contributed their time and their talent in support of the park's preservation and educational missions — will continue to be the face of the organization.

"Together we can ensure that these national treasures at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site are preserved and remain unimpaired for future generations," said Park Superintendent John Latschar of the merger. "I look forward to many more years of rolling up our sleeves together to build fences, protect the land, preserve monuments, teach the young, raise awareness and all of those things we have done so well. I very much look forward to working together to build and operate a new Museum and Visitor Center, and remove modern intrusions from and rehabilitate the Union battle line at Cemetery Ridge."

Museum Foundation President Robert C. Wilburn will assume the duties of President and Chief



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Executive Officer of the new Gettysburg Foundation. Wilburn, who has served as president of the Museum Foundation since October 2000, noted that the new Gettysburg Foundation not only will be able to enhance and expand existing programs, it also will create new ones. Supporters will enjoy a greater variety of opportunities to become engaged in programs and activities that benefit the park.

"To succeed, we must connect with our visitors, both on- and off-site. We have to do more than preserve the past. We also must find ways to use the memorials — the battlefields, the monuments and the artifacts — to excite and inspire and spark a desire to know more," Wilburn said. "Together, we can help to ensure that Gettysburg's programs and exhibits invite exploration of all of the issues related to the Civil War, its causes and consequences. We can enhance our ongoing efforts to preserve and restore, and expand the successful programs that promote learning, because an important element of our battlefields and museums is the emotional response that sparks the desire to know more." "The Friends, as the multi-purpose park partner, has been committed for 17 years to its mission to honor, support, protect and enhance the resources associated with Gettysburg and its national parks," said Barbara J. Finrock, Friends' chair of the board. "This is an opportunity that will allow the Friends to do even more to meet that commitment and expand our support to the park, while at the same time enhancing opportunities for our members. This is absolutely the best step that we could take to ensure that Gettysburg and its valuable lessons and resources are preserved for future generations."

Finrock will be vice-chairman of the board of the Gettysburg Foundation. Robert A. Kinsley, currently chairman of the Museum Foundation's board, will chair the new Foundation board. The Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg has more than 25,000 members and supporters all over the world. Since its establishment in 1989, it has donated more than \$6 million in goods and services in support of Gettysburg National Military Park mission-related projects related to land preservation, monument preservation and cannon restoration, education, battlefield rehabilitation and museum artifacts. The Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation, established in 1998, has been working in partnership with the park to raise the necessary funds to build a new Museum and Visitor Center, preserve an extensive collection of Civil War-era archives, objects and artifacts, conserve the massive Gettysburg Cyclorama painting and return portions of the battlefield to their 1863 appearance.

### Harford County weighs purchase of Booth home

*Theater museum possible in building where assassin lived*

BY JUSTIN FENTON, BALTIMORE SUN, APRIL 18, 2006

Harford County officials are looking into buying the spruced-up childhood home of Abraham Lincoln's assassin and turning it into a theater museum. But owning a piece of history won't be cheap.

When Tudor Hall was on the auction block in 1999, preservationists urged local officials to acquire the Bel Air property, for fear it could be razed for development. The winning bidders instead gave the once-decrepit house a \$400,000 facelift worthy of Extreme

Home Makeover, a rehabilitation that sent the price soaring.

#### Renowned actors

Listed at \$925,000, the home failed to sell at auction two weeks ago. That renewed hope among theater buffs, who note that the home's greater significance lies not in its connection to John Wilkes Booth, but to the acting accomplishments of his brother and father, who were renowned Shakespearean actors.

County Executive David R. Craig, a former history teacher, said he would like to see the county acquire Tudor Hall through grants and establish a nonprofit group to oversee theater-related events at the site.



Tudor Hall – Baltimore Sun photo

The purchase would ensure the future of the home, whose past prospective buyers have considered everything from dismantling it to turning it into a bed and breakfast. "It's probably one of the three or four most historic sites in the county," Craig said in an interview last week. "It should be protected in the public domain."

In 1999, Harford Community College set aside \$200,000 toward the purchase of the home, hoping to develop a museum for study of the Civil War era and Shakespearean theater in America. The offer was rejected.

Dinah Faber, a volunteer with the



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Harford County Historical Society, recently contacted Craig about getting the county involved again and was pleasantly surprised by his response.

"I went there expecting to make a very hard sell and make a big case, but as it turned out, I was preaching to the choir," Faber said. "He seems totally on board."

### 'Creative options'

Aimee C. O'Neill, the Realtor overseeing the home's sale, confirmed she had been contacted by Craig and that the county office of procurement wanted to discuss "creative options" for purchasing Tudor Hall after the Easter holiday. Craig said grant money could come from the state's housing and community development and economic development departments.

### Lincoln statue losing its place on square

The Evening Sun, Hanover, PA

By MEG BERNHARDT, April 20, 2006

A statue of Abraham Lincoln and a 20th century tourist some locals insist looks like sweated crooner Perry Como will be moved from its long-time home on Gettysburg square.

The National Park Service will be moving the life-sized bronze statue further away from the historic Wills House and out of the middle of the sidewalk to a spot 20 feet south in the next few weeks.

Currently, Lincoln and the man are posed in the middle of the walkway, where tourists are often surprised by it.

Lincoln points his black top hat at a window in the Wills House where Lincoln stayed the night before giving his famous Gettysburg address. The house is currently being restored to its 1863 appearance by the park

service and will be transformed into a museum commemorating Lincoln's speech.

In the quarterly park advisory commission meeting Thursday, Gettysburg National Military Park superintendent John Latschar said the reason for the move is to protect the statue from damage by pedestrians and to avoid people hurting themselves on its sharp edges.

But, Latschar added, "It will be a 1860s house and a 1950s statue just didn't quite fit there."

Actually, the statute was dedicated in the early 1990s, even if the tourist's garb seems more Eisenhower era.

The man has bronze skin and black hair and is dressed in a cream colored sweater over a collared shirt and nutmeg brown slacks. He gazes at the Wills House window while holding a copy of the Gettysburg Address.

Many locals affectionately call the statue Perry, after the singer.

But according to Paula Stoeke, director of The Sculpture Foundation, any resemblance to Como or anyone else is coincidental.

"He is not supposed to look like anyone identifiable as he is to represent all of us, of these generations, who can read the address and relate to Lincoln as a man and as a statesman both," she said.

The statue, titled "Return Visit" was sculpted by Johnson for the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania. It was installed in its current location and dedicated Nov. 19, 1991. Johnson approved the move, said Stoeke, who added the statue will shine in the new location.

"We are confident that the people of Gettysburg are very respectful of this artwork," Stoeke said.

"Throughout the moving process we have been cooperating with all parties involved to assure that the artist's original intention for the sculpture is honored."

When moved, the statue should still point in the direction of the Wills House window, but will not be in sight of the house, Latschar said.

The move has been approved by the Lincoln Fellowship and the borough government.

### Area students scrub their way through Antietam history lesson

by TIFFANY ARNOLD , Herald-Mail.com, April 26, 2006

Two rows away from where three seventh-grade girls were hunched, scrubbing a marble tombstone at Antietam National Cemetery, was a curious grave with the name of Henry Struble on it.

But Henry Struble's body isn't buried there, the girls explained as they pointed to the tombstone.

When the body was buried, military officials believed the man was Henry Struble because that was the name etched on his canteen. The dead man was a Union soldier who had fought in the Battle of South Mountain in 1862, days before the Battle of Antietam.

"(Struble) actually survived," said Brittan Altomari, a 13-year-old who attends Middletown Middle School. "But he gave his canteen to a Union soldier standing next to him. That guy died."

And that man is buried in the grave marked with Struble's name.

The scrubbing of thousands of tombstones Monday was a service-learning activity for 320 seventh-graders from Middletown Middle. The students were also getting the park



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ready for Memorial Day, said Gordie Thorpe, park ranger and education coordinator for the National Park Service.

But it was also a unique history lesson, Thorpe said.

Brush- and pail-toting students circulated the stories of the tombstones, like the one about the lady who disguised herself as a Union soldier in order to fight. Or the one about Struble, and how he discovered his marked grave in 1867 and placed flowers on the site every Memorial Day until he died in 1912.

"There's a story for every tombstone here," Thorpe said. "It's such an honor because students don't get to do this very often."

The tombstones are cleaned every eight years, Thorpe said, because the soft marble can't sustain anything more.

"We don't want to lose the writing and the numbers," she said.

After eight years, a different school scrubs the graves. Boonsboro Middle School students were there last, Thorpe said.

Fifth-graders from Sharpsburg Elementary School will place flags at the cemetery just before Memorial Day, Thorpe said.

Middletown Assistant Principal Steve Welty said the students would incorporate the day's activity into history lessons back in the classroom.

"Middletown's just over the mountain," Welty said. "A lot of people don't realize how close we are."

During the Civil War, Middletown was "very Union," said Thorpe, who used to teach at Middletown Middle. "Many of these students had relatives, great-grandfathers who fought in the war," Thorpe said.



Victoria Sottek, 12, left; Molly Garst, 13, center; and Rebecca Hiller, 12, seventh-grade students at Middletown High School, clean a gravestone Monday at Antietam National Cemetery. More than 300 students worked in the cemetery as part of their student service learning project. (Photo by Richard T. Meagher)

Brittan and classmates, Kelly McLister, 12, and Taylor Greene, 13, said they weren't thrilled when their teacher announced that they'd be scrubbing tombstones.

"We thought it was going to be disgusting," Kelly said. "We thought we'd be on our hands and knees scrubbing."

But in less than an hour, the girls had scrubbed 20 graves.

"Really, I think it's interesting," Kelly said.

Special Education teacher Paula Lingg said her students were excited about going to the cemetery. She said the mass grave cleanings made her think about what it must have been like for soldiers during the Battle of Antietam.

About 23,000 soldiers were killed or wounded in that battle, Thorpe said.

"To imagine 23,000 people fighting for our country and dying all at the same time, that's really moving," Lingg said.

### Beauvoir, Battered Repository of Southern Heritage, is Caught in an Uncivil War

Lawsuit seeks to define board's new bylaws

By MICHAEL NEWSOM, sunherald.com, April 22, 2006

BILOXI - Revered Beauvoir is at the center of an uncivil war between factions involved in a change of the guard within the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The philosophical tussle is delaying repairs to the hurricane-damaged property.

A lawsuit against the Beauvoir board of directors alleges it is trying to strip control of Jefferson Davis' home from the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans' general membership.

The defendants, a Mississippi nonprofit corporation, believe the suit is the first step by national leaders who have white-supremacist leanings to wrest control of Beauvoir from the nonprofit group. The corporation, made up of members of the Mississippi Division of the Sons of



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Confederate Veterans, owns the museum.

Mississippi members of the SCV have recently seen the group's national charter moved from Mississippi to Texas and have seen many of their members unseated by what they refer to as a new, radical faction.

Now the Beauvoir directors feel the influence has trickled back into Mississippi.

The national SCV named Denne Sweeney of Texas commander-in-chief almost two years ago, and some members of the Mississippi Division were removed.

Sweeney, characterized by some as a new radical, said his organization stands fast against "political correctness."

"All of this political correctness stuff only goes back 20 years; before that, most of these things weren't threatened..." Sweeney said in an August Sun Herald interview that was never published. "A lot of what we are doing is the result of made-up causes, straw-man causes. They are coming from different borders. The NAACP has dreamed up a lot of these things to try and enhance their membership base."

Some view the SCV's actions in flag controversies as a stray from its traditional mission, and they say the group has aligned itself with people who could be considered white supremacists.

The suit, filed in January on behalf of the Mississippi Division, asks that the court define who is now considered a member of the Division, and also who is able to vote in Beauvoir matters under the new bylaws. The bylaws became effective at the first of the year, along with a fee to be a member of Beauvoir's corporation, which is a

separate legal entity from the Division.

A hearing was held in Harrison County on Monday, and Judge Carter Bise is considering a motion by Robert Murphree, attorney for Beauvoir, to have the case dismissed.

Both the plaintiff and the defendant say the case is slowing repairs of the home and its grounds, which were heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina. The Beauvoir board must provide extensive amounts of documentation to federal agencies and charitable foundations to receive grants and relief money.

The defendants - the old guard - say the new, more-radical national leadership is directing the actions of the Mississippi Division.

Court documents filed by the Beauvoir board show communication from the Division to the national headquarters asking how to proceed. The affidavits filed by the Beauvoir board allege members of the national SCV leadership have ties to white-supremacist groups.

Ed Funchess, commander of the Mississippi Division, in an August interview denied any intention of becoming involved in politics and endangering the group's nonprofit status.

"There have been some factions' ideologies that I guess I wouldn't embrace. They certainly are not political in the sense of endangering our 501© status.

There is nothing like that that goes on around here."

Documents filed by the Beauvoir board said Sweeney, in an e-mail, referred Funchess to Kirk Lyon, who is described by many as a "white-supremacist lawyer."

The board of Beauvoir said this is proof the SCV is aligned with white-

supremacist elements. The affidavit also includes a magazine article from Intelligence Report, the Southern Poverty Law Center magazine, which shows a two-page spread from a Neo-Nazi newsletter of Lyons' wedding at an Aryan compound in Idaho in 1990.

The defendants say the assessing of dues in order to be able to vote in matters concerning Beauvoir was needed because the home is in financial difficulties.

Paul B. Johnson III, lawyer for the Mississippi Division and a member of the SCV, said the Beauvoir board overstepped its bounds by requiring the fee.

"We wouldn't have minded coming up with \$40 if they had offered us the opportunity to vote on it," Johnson said. "It wouldn't have become a problem, but it became a problem. In a nutshell, it has to do with the right of the membership to vote on changes in the bylaws."

The connection between the attorneys in the case is a strange one. Murphree and Johnson are both grandsons of former state governors. Murphree's grandfather, Dennis Murphree, ascended from lieutenant governor to replace Gov. Paul B. Johnson when the governor died in office in 1943. Johnson's father, Paul B. Johnson Jr., served as governor in the 1960s.

Murphree said the corporation had no bylaws at its inception in 1902, but state law now requires them.

The corporation was created when the widow of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, deeded the estate to the Mississippi Division of the SCV.

"It is unfortunate that a corporation's governing system had to be taken from 1902 to 2006 in one step," he said.



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Murphree said the group had to adopt bylaws and felt it was reasonable for members of the Division to contribute more money to the home. Court documents filed by Murphree said the contribution from the 1,700 Division members' dues of \$2 of each member's \$45 annual dues amounted to less money than was made through the soda machine at the estate.

Murphree and Johnson agree most Division members would have no qualms about giving an extra \$40 to the home each year, but Johnson feels the situation wasn't handled correctly. Murphree asserts each member of the Division was notified about the possible changes to the rules to vote on Beauvoir issues, and given a choice.

"They are complaining because they lost their membership rights, but all they had to do was write a check for \$40 and stick it in the mail," Murphree said.

### **Klan gets OK for rally at Antietam**

by KAREN HANNA, Herald-Mail.com, April 27, 2006

The World Knights of the Ku Klux Klan has received permission to rally at Antietam National Battlefield in June, park superintendent John Howard said Tuesday.

The U.S. Constitution is the basis for the permit that allows the white supremacist group to assemble June 10 at Mumma Farmstead, according to a copy of the document provided by the group's commander, Gordon Young.

"We have a requirement to evaluate applications that are submitted under the First Amendment of the Constitution," Howard said.

According to Howard, the group's application indicates about 100 people will turn out for the rally. The park has identified separate areas where media and protesters would assemble, if necessary, and several law enforcement agencies will be responsible for maintaining order, Howard said.

"We're not anticipating any problems, but we have to have resources available that do two things: First, make sure that Mr. Young and his group can exercise their Constitutional rights, and two, protect all involved," Howard said.

The National Park Service Park Police, Maryland State Police and Washington County Sheriff's Department would provide security at the event, Howard said.

Young said he invited about 300 people, including members of the National Socialist Movement, Aryan Nation, Keystone Skinheads, Maryland Skinheads and Empire Knights.

About 100 police kept order at a World Knights rally in Sharpsburg two years ago, The Herald-Mail reported at the time. Only about 10 supporters of the Knights showed up.

Young said Tuesday that other supporters would have been at the Sharpsburg rally, but they missed a bus.

The Knights canceled a rally in Boonsboro last year.

Howard said Young's permit application requested security for the group.

"He expressed concern for the safety of his group," Howard said.

In his 11 years at the park, Howard said he knows of no other instance in which the park has processed a First Amendment permit, which allows an individual or group to use the park to

exercise Constitutional freedoms such as free speech.

"It would be very difficult to find a reason why a First Amendment permit would be denied," Howard said.

Howard said he hopes people opposed to the KKK will choose not to rally at the park, but he said anyone filing a counter-demonstration permit application would be given the same consideration as Young's group.

Protesters would assemble in a separate area within sight of the KKK, and the groups would be able to communicate, Howard said.

"Does that mean they're going to face one another? Oh no. They would be separated by a safe distance, if such an event were to happen," Howard said.

### **High school bans**

#### **Confederate flag insignia**

ITHACA, N.Y. WSTM-TV, April 18, 2006 - Ithaca High School has banned Confederate flag insignia on clothing, bags or other items brought to school.

Principal Joseph Wilson wrote in a letter to parents that the display of the Confederate flag has caused feelings of ill will and disrupted the education process.

Superintendent Judith Pastel says that starting Monday, students who refuse to remove or cover up images of the flag will be disciplined. The insignia, which appeared most often on belt buckles or T-shirts, have led to arguments and fights.

Pastel said some students are wearing the insignia to annoy other students, and some are wearing them because they watched the 'Dukes of Hazzard' movie.

Ithaca High School previously banned bandanas or other clothing linked to gangs.