



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

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### Rare Jeb Stuart Reenactment Coming to Hanover This Summer

Apr 25 2008—Cwi -- The date of General J.E.B. Stuart's ride to the Battle of Hanover will not be historically accurate, but nearly everything else will be.

The cavalry will spend the night on the grounds of the Union Mills Homestead south of Littlestown, get up in the morning to a breakfast of flapjacks, then saddle up under the leadership of the general for a ride to Hanover, where they will engage Union forces.

On July 3, 2008, 145 years after the original ride, the rebels will cross the Mason-Dixon line. Instead of heading to downtown Hanover, they will ride cross country to the farm of Sharon and Peter Sheppard on Westminster Road near the Long Arm Reservoir.

The ride will benefit the Land Conservancy of Adams County (LCAC). All proceeds from ticket sales will help the Conservancy in its mission to preserve the rural lands and character of Adams County, PA. Dick Mountfort, LCAC President, said the event offers an exciting opportunity for the Conservancy. "So many people come to Gettysburg each year for the battle reenactments. They get to enjoy our beautiful countryside, and some of them have joined us in our work to preserve the land and the rural way of life. We hope that they will find J.E.B. Stuart's Ride to be an interesting introduction to the other three days in Gettysburg."

In late June 1863, during the Gettysburg Campaign, J.E.B. Stuart completed one of his famous rides around the Federal Army. His trip to Hanover – and subsequent delay in arriving in time to help Confederate

forces in Gettysburg – played a significant role in the Union victory at Gettysburg. Without the cavalry, the forces of General Robert E. Lee were left vulnerable during two days of fighting

This year, the troops re-enacting that ride and the following battle will bivouac at Union Mills Homestead the evening of July 2.

The cavalry will head to Hanover at 9:30 a.m. on July 3. The gates to the Sheppard Farm will open at 11 a.m., with the Battle Re-enactment scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Prior to the battle, ticket holders will be able to walk through the picketed camps located in the woods above the battlefield, adjacent to the long Arm Creek Reservoir.

On the morning of July 3, visitors are invited to join the cavalry at the Union Mills Homestead with a pancake breakfast. Breakfast will be served from 7 to 11 a.m. at a cost of \$6 per person. It features all-you-can-eat pancakes made from the stone-ground flour from the historic mill, sausage, applesauce, coffee, and juice. For more information on the Union Mills Homestead, call 410-848-2288 or visit [www.unionmills.org](http://www.unionmills.org).

All proceeds from the breakfast benefit the Union Mills Homestead. Tickets for the Sheppard Farm re-enactment are available from the Land Conservancy of Adams County. They can be purchased by calling 717-334-2828 OR ONLINE at [LCACnet.org](http://LCACnet.org). Admission is \$10 for adults (over 18), \$5 for students (ages 12-18), and free for children under 12. Advance ticket sales are encouraged since tickets could be limited on the day of the event. Tickets are not refundable, and the event will be held rain or shine.

All proceeds from ticket sales for the re-enactment will benefit the Land Conservancy of Adams County, a member-supported nonprofit land trust with the mission of preserving the rural lands and character of Adams County.

### Short-term lease for President Street Station

By Edward Gunts, Baltimore Sun,  
April 7, 2008

Preservation planners in Baltimore have found a temporary occupant to reopen the historic but shuttered President Street Station this spring, while the city seeks a long-term tenant.

The office of Mayor Sheila Dixon has offered to lease the former train station to the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, a three-year-old advocacy and service organization that needs work space near the downtown shoreline.

The Waterfront Partnership will use the city-owned building at 601 President St. as its headquarters and base of operations for nine safety guides and 11 hospitality guides who patrol the harbor promenade, according to managing consultant Laurie Schwartz.

The partnership also is prepared to open the building free of charge at certain times to tourists and others who would like to look inside and learn about the role it played in Maryland history.

Schwartz said the organization could move in by mid-month if a lease and other details are approved in time.

"It's in move-in condition," she said. "We feel humbled to be in there."

The move is intended to give the mayor's office time to identify a long-term tenant for the building, which dates from the 1850s and is the oldest surviving big city railroad terminal in the country.



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President Street Station was a stop on the Underground Railroad used by slaves fleeing to the north, and it played a role in the first fatalities of the Civil War. It housed a Civil War Museum from April 1997 until November 2007, when the Maryland Historical Society closed it because it was losing money.

The mayor's office disclosed last year that the city would issue a request for proposals from groups interested in taking over the property, now part of the Harbor East renewal area. Local preservationists cautioned that city leaders should be careful to not let the building be demolished or over-commercialized.

Since then, two city divisions have been working to prepare the formal request for proposals - the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation, part of the Planning Department, and the Baltimore Heritage Area, an arm of the mayor's office that promotes the city's heritage. The preservation commission also has recommended that the building be designated a local landmark to protect it from demolition. Kathleen Kotarba, division chief of the preservation commission, and Jeffrey Buchheit, director of the heritage area, said they are working to issue the request for proposals this spring and that it could be six months to a year before a long-term user is identified.

In the meantime, they said, the city learned that the Waterfront Partnership was interested in occupying the building on a temporary basis. City officials invited the partnership to lease it temporarily for a nominal fee, so the building wouldn't stand empty.

"As a nonprofit organization charged with creating a vibrant, attractive, clean and safe waterfront

promenade, the partnership is well-suited to assist the city in ensuring the building is well-protected and the remaining portions of the museum are kept available to the public," Buchheit said.

In addition, "this will allow us the time to thoughtfully complete the [request for proposals] process," he said.

The Waterfront Partnership's staff and members will be "the eyes and ears of the building," Kotarba said.

President Street Station was built as the southern passenger terminal for the old Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore rail line, later part of the Pennsylvania Railroad. On April 19, 1861, 700 members of the 6th Massachusetts Regiment arrived there on their way to Washington and were attacked by an angry mob, resulting in the first fatalities of the Civil War. The station stopped operating as a passenger terminal in the 1880s, stopped operating as a freight terminal by the late 1960s and was converted to a museum at a reported cost of \$1.3 million.

Created in 2005, the Waterfront Partnership works to promote and maintain Baltimore's waterfront promenade, from the Rusty Scupper restaurant on Key Highway to Bond Street Wharf in Fells Point. The waterfront became a business improvement district in 2007 - a counterpart to the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore. Owners of 98 properties pay additional taxes to fund the Waterfront Partnership's work.

Although the safety and hospitality guides spend much of their time on the promenade, Schwartz said, they also need a place to report before work and lockers where they can store belongings. The group has been using third-floor space at Scarlett Place, a condominium and

office building at Pratt and President streets.

Buchheit and Kotarba said the city's law department is preparing a lease that will enable the partnership to take occupancy. On a long-term basis, Kotarba said, the city wants to see the building occupied by a group that will preserve the building and provide access to the public. She said the city does not want to sell the building. "That's not an option."

Ralph Vincent, treasurer of the nonprofit group The Friends of President Street Station, said members want to work with the Waterfront Partnership to greet visitors and tell stories about the building's history. He said he has been invited to serve on the committee that will review redevelopment proposals and is optimistic about the interim arrangement and the emphasis on preservation.

"It's a lot more positive than when they first announced that they were just going to put it out for general development," he said.

### **National Park Service says 'dramatic' battlefield tree cuts are over**

BY SCOT PITZER, Gettysburg Times, April 29, 2008

A multi-year plan to ax non-historic trees from the Gettysburg Battlefield has reached a milestone.

"The dramatic phase of our landscape rehabilitation plan is about done," announced Gettysburg National Military Park Supt. Dr. John A. Latschar at a recent battlefield advisory panel session. "Through the rest of the year, the contractor will be working in up to 20 areas, all involving limited health cuts or



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removal of non-historic trees from smaller, less dramatic areas."

The battlefield rehab project — which officially began in the summer of 2000 — is intended to reshape the 6000-acre park to its 1863 Civil War appearance. In the 145 years since the Battle of Gettysburg, the battlefield landscape has changed significantly, evidenced by the growth of new trees, alterations in field sizes, and the gradual eroding of farm lanes, orchards and fences.

"We're not cutting all of the park," GNMP spokeswoman Katie Lawhon said previously. "We're focusing on the areas that saw major battle action."

So far, about 30 percent of a planned 576-acre goal has been cut.

"We'll be working in smaller areas, as our funding allows," said Latschar. Pennington Tree Services, of Orrtanna, has been handling the work. The project, spread out over 15 years, is estimated to cost \$2.3 million, with about a third of the cost being financed by taxpayers.

Witness trees — those present during the Battle of Gettysburg — aren't hacked.

"One of our bio-technicians goes out and looks for witness trees," explained Jim Johnson, chief of GNMP's resource planning division. "We want to make sure that they're not cut, so they're marked with a do-not-cut ribbon. One of the fortunate things is that we have so many photos that were taken right after the battle to help us map this whole thing out."

After an area is cut, the work doesn't necessarily end.

"We're always going back to those former woodlots, and maintaining them with chemicals," said Dr. Latschar.

Critics of the project believe the tree removal is unnecessary, but park officials disagree.

"The feedback from the vast majority of battlefield constituents continues to be unqualified praise for the new fields of observation and fire that has been opened up," wrote Dr. Latschar in an April 24 battlefield project report.

In 1863, following the Battle of Gettysburg, there were 898 acres of woodlands and woodlots on the battlefield. Studies from 1993 show that the wooded areas covered 1,974 acres. By comparison, after the three-day battle, there were 160 linear miles of fencing — in the 1990s, linear fencing totaled just 43 miles. In 1863, there were 230 acres of battlefield orchards, but in the mid-1990s, there were only 18 acres of orchards.

The rehab project, in addition to the tree cutting, includes the addition of 115 acres of woodlands that were present in 1863, but disappeared over the years; the repair of 9.8 miles of historic lanes and roads that were present in 1863, but are now missing or overgrown; the restoration of historic field patterns by adding 39.1 miles of field boundaries, using fencing, vegetation patterns and hedge-rows; the rehab of 160 acres of orchards so that they reflect their historic sizes; and the replanting of 65 acres of thickets at the general height they were during the battle.

### **CWPT closer to purchasing key piece of Brandy Station battlefield**

By Rob Humphreys, Culpeper Star-Exponent (VA), April 12, 2008

The Civil War Preservation Trust is one step closer to purchasing a key

piece of the Brandy Station battlefield.

The Washington, D.C.-based group recently announced it has signed a contract with Whitney Pound to buy 26.2 acres on the northeastern slope of Fleetwood Heights, site of the war's largest cavalry battle.

Clark "Bud" Hall, who writes a Civil War column for the Star-Exponent and works closely with the CWPT, calls the site — and an adjoining 23-acre parcel purchased in December — "the most important acreage on the entire battlefield."

"We wanted Fleetwood Hill for many, many years," Hall said, "and now we can report, thanks to the Civil War Preservation Trust, we have secured it for many generations to come."

Spokesman Jim Campi said CWPT will pay \$785,000 for the land, using private donations and federal money from the American Battlefield Protection Program. Per the contract, the funds must be raised by mid-September.

The trust now owns 1,013 acres at Brandy Station, located about five miles northeast of the town of Culpeper near the Rappahannock River. The battle, a narrow Confederate victory, is considered the opening action of the Gettysburg Campaign.

According to Hall, the newly acquired property holds significant importance for military and historical reasons.

"It was on this ground," he said, "that the 12th Virginia Cavalry charged" Union horsemen in the late morning hours of June 9, 1863. "This charge precipitates extraordinarily heaving fighting on top of the slopes of the hill as well as the sides of the hill."

Herring's Spring

The site is home to Herring's Spring, where, to this day, water still bubbles from the earth a short distance from



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Fleetwood Heights Road, known during the war as the Carolina Road. "Soldiers who were wounded during the battle were taken to this ground to be tended to for their wounds," Hall said, adding that troops from both sides found comfort in the spring's water. "A lot of guys were buried on that sight."

Interestingly, Hall added, the spring is the genesis of how Brandy Station — originally called Crossroads — got its name.

During the Revolutionary War, soldiers had grown accustomed to buying brandy from Isaac Herring, who owned a house nearby. Where did the water come from to distill the brandy? Herring's Spring, of course.

"On one occasion," Hall said, "he didn't have any in stock, and the soldiers wrote 'brandy' on his house. That's the anecdotal story, at least, and I believe it's true."

### Curiosity reignites over Lincoln flag

BY DAVID SINGLETON, MEGAN REITER, CitizensVoice.com, April 7, 2008

Milford - Thomas Gourlay reached out and grasped the first thing he touched to cradle the head of a dying man.

The American flag, hastily yanked by the actor and part-time stage manager from a balustrade in a Washington, D.C., theater 143 years ago, would become a cherished family heirloom, passed from generation to generation.

Now the bloodstained relic hangs in a tall glass case tucked in a dim corner of an obscure museum in a tiny Pocono Mountains hamlet, little noted by the world.

How it came here, a national treasure amid the stuffed birds, antique gowns and other eclectic artifacts in the collection of the Pike County Historical Society, is not in dispute. But can that ruddy stain truly be the blood of Abraham Lincoln? On the cusp of the bicentennial celebration of the 16th president's birth in 2009, and with the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War looming in 2011, the keepers of the so-called Lincoln flag are anticipating a new wave of interest, and steeling for a fresh round of scrutiny.

"You can dismantle history anytime you want to, but at some point you have to believe the evidence," said Lincoln scholar Joseph E. Garrera, executive director of the Lehigh Valley Heritage Museum in Allentown and president of the Lincoln Group of New York.

Today, Garrera is one of the staunchest advocates of the flag's authenticity. He started out an unabashed skeptic, viewing the flag as a misidentified fraud at best, a preposterous hoax at worst. "I said, 'That is absolutely ridiculous. It couldn't be,'" Garrera recalled of his reaction to learning of the flag's existence in the 1990s. "I was convinced the flag was not authentic. The biggest thing is it was just too good to be true. How did something like this wind up in a little county historical society run by amateurs? You expect it to be in the Smithsonian."

More than anything, it is the flag's provenance — its putative journey from Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865, into the historical society's possession almost a century later — that bolsters its credibility, Garrera and others said.

"The provenance on this flag is more than most artifacts carry with them as far as being identified as true to what they say they are," said Lori Strelecki, director of The Columns, the historical society's museum on Broad Street in Milford.

It starts with Thomas Gourlay, she said.

On the night of Lincoln's assassination, Gourlay and two of his daughters were in the cast of "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theatre. Daughter Jeannie, a 20-year-old whose name was misspelled "Jennie" on the playbill, had a major role. In the society's account, amid the chaos after John Wilkes Booth fired his fatal shot, Gourlay frantically made his way to the State Box with lead actress Laura Keene. She sat on the floor and held Lincoln's head in her lap while two young doctors tended to him until she and Gourlay were asked to leave.



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"They didn't think it was appropriate to drop the president's head on the floor so he (Gourlay) grabbed the nearest thing to cushion it, which was the flag," Strelecki said. Researchers believe the 36-star woolen flag, measuring 156 inches by 104 inches, would have been draped as bunting across the railing on the left side of the State Box as seen from the stage, she said. It was one of at least five flags that adorned the box that night.

Gourlay apparently retrieved the flag after Lincoln was moved from the theater to the Petersen House, where the president later died. In 1885, the flag passed from Gourlay to his daughter, known then by her married name of Jeannie Struthers. She moved to Milford three years later. Before her death in 1928, she gave the flag to her son, V. Paul Struthers, who donated it the historical society in 1954 along with dresses and other possessions of his mother. The stain on the flag covers an area roughly 14 inches by 4 inches, with a couple of darker spots. Two independent tests, in 1968 and in 1992, confirmed the stain was human blood, Strelecki said.

The Lincoln community became aware of the flag in the 1960s after Dr. Edward Steers Jr. published an article about it. Steers said he stumbled across the flag "quite accidentally" when he stopped at the historical society while visiting his parents, who lived at Lake Wallenpaupack.

He would later verify the red dye used in the stripes was natural, not synthetic, which made the claims about its background at least plausible.

"I had never heard of it. It wasn't part of the Lincoln story," said Steers, a now-retired research scientist who lives in Berkeley Springs, W.Va., and is a recognized expert on Lincoln and the assassination. "I said, 'If this is true, you people have a tremendous relic here.' That sort of got the ball rolling."

The flag received a defining shot of respectability in 1996 when Garrera wrapped up a yearlong independent study of the flag. The one-time naysayer's findings, published in a 125-page report, concluded the flag was the genuine article. Garrera said his verdict was based on the convergence of an overwhelming body of circumstantial evidence, but if he had to pick his eureka moment, it came when he examined the bloodstains.

Using the principles of bloodstain pattern analysis — a science that did not exist in 1865 — he documented that the stains were "contact stains" consistent with the fabric being placed in direct contact with a bleeding wound, which is in turn consistent with the oral history, he said. It is highly unlikely that a 19th-century forger would have had that level of foresight.

### ***Petition seeks to remove Texas Confederate statue***

By DEBBIE DENMON, WFAA-TV, April 28, 2008

DENTON - While to some the statue of a Confederate soldier that stands before the Denton County Courthouse represents a piece of history, others say they believe it just represents hypocrisy.

That stand has incited two University of North Texas students to start a petition for the removal of the historical landmark, a statue of a Confederate soldier holding his gun to represent the South in the Civil War.

"It's really very frustrating that so many people would look at this and clap," said Aron Duhon, one of the students behind the petition.

Duhon said the statue, with its two separate fountains, is a standing ovation to racism. The two fountains were originally made separate for whites and blacks.

"A confederate soldier who took up arms in defense of a regime based on slavery is the farthest thing from a hero possible," Duhon said.

The word "HERO" was etched in the memorial nearly 90 years ago.

"We live in a diverse population," said Jason V. Waite, another student behind the petition. "We have the University of North Texas here. We have lots of foreign students, lots of commuters and this only puts a damper on entrepreneurial interests in Denton."

Denton County Judge Mary Horn said the students' petition is the third time the confederate statue issue has caught the attention of the Commissioner's Court.

"We did take it up with the Texas Historical Commission and their



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feeling is it is part of history and it does need to stay," Horn said. The UNT students say they will collect signatures now and throughout the summer to try to convince the Texas Historical Commission to remove the statue. In the past, the Commission has stood firm on keeping the memorial standing on public ground.

### **Perryville rejects development plan near Civil War battle site**

The Associated Press, April 8, 2008  
Civil War re-enactors helped thwart a development that would have put dozens of new homes near Kentucky's largest historic battlefield. The Perryville City Council voted down the new subdivision proposal 4-1 Thursday night. The plan was criticized by Civil War re-enactors and preservationists who feared a rezoning would open for development more central Kentucky farmland around the 1862 battlefield. They say Perryville remains relatively unspoiled and appears as it would have during the war. The developer, Marion "Pete" Coyle Jr., had wanted to develop a portion of his farm on U.S. 150 just west of downtown Perryville. His plans included 53 homes, an assisted-living center and two businesses on 34 acres. "I'm upset right now," Coyle said as he left City Hall. Officials say City Hall had received 169 telephone calls, many from re-enactors who opposed the development. "We have to continue to protect this land, because if we don't there's a strong possibility it may rear its head again," said Union re-enactor Chad Greene of Perryville.

The Civil War Preservation Trust, a nonprofit group in Washington D.C., recently placed Perryville on its Top 10 list of endangered battlefields last month.

Council member Georgeanne Edwards said Coyle had failed to demonstrate a need for the rezoning. "Also, the development is not compatible with the efforts to preserve the Perryville battlefield, and the historically significant land surrounding the battlefield," Edwards said.

Council member Sheila Cox, who voted in favor of the development, said the battlefield's supporters "have got to give and take (with the city) in order to survive."

"I would hope to think that the soldiers that lost their lives for rights and freedom did not intend for us not to grow and make progress," Cox said.

### **Judge dismisses suit over Confederate flag at Texas High School**

By JEFF MOSIER, The Dallas Morning News, April 23, 2008  
A federal judge has dismissed a case by current and former Burleson High School students who were forbidden from carrying purses bearing the Confederate battle flag on campus. The ruling released Tuesday by Judge David C. Godbey ends the more than year-long lawsuit about the place of Confederate symbols in public life. School district officials said the symbols could be disruptive because of the racial overtones. The defendants and the Southern Legal Resource Center, which represented them, said the school's decision violated their rights of free express, due process, equal protection and right to express their heritage.

Ashley Thomas and Aubrie McAllum, both juniors at the time, were told by the Burleson High principal in January 2006 that they couldn't bring the Confederate purses to school. In February 2007, the Southern Legal Resource Center, which has fought similar bans throughout the country, filed a lawsuit on behalf of the girls. Ms. Thomas' younger sister, then a sophomore at Burleson High, was later added to the lawsuit.

The school district noted in court filings that soon after the publicized dispute in 2006, profane and racist graffiti – featuring the "N" word and a swastika – was scrawled on the wall of a Burleson High restroom, and someone raised a homemade Confederate battle flag at the school flagpole.

Apparent supporters of Ms. Thomas and Ms. McAllum distributed a pro-Confederate flag flier at school saying: "Your ignorance isn't a reason for our heritage to be hidden." The flier also said that the "Civil War" wasn't fought over slavery, the flag represents a pro-American and pro-Constitution position, and that slavery was legal under the U.S. flag.

### **Battle Reenactment "At High Tide, Gettysburg 1863" Scheduled for June 28-29, 2008**

CWi, April 21, 2008 - At High Tide, Gettysburg 1863, a reenactment to commemorate the 145th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, will be held June 28-29, 2008 at the Shields Farm at 865 Pumping Station Road just south of the original Gettysburg battlefield.

The event will be open to ticket-holders from 9am to 5pm on Saturday, June 28, and from 9am to 1pm on Sunday, June 29. Tickets to the event must be purchased in



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advance; there will be no ticket sales on location.

At High Tide, Gettysburg 1863 is hosted by the Western Maryland Heritage Foundation (WMHF), a volunteer organization dedicated to historical education and battlefield preservation. At High Tide is an all volunteer effort, with all proceeds going to the Land Conservancy of Adams County (LCAC).

WMHF has hosted many events in the past, including the "Summer of '62" Reenactment in 2005, the 140th Anniversary Reenactment of Monocacy in 2004 and "September Storm," the 145th Anniversary of the Battle of Antietam, 2007.

"This event is different than previous Gettysburg reenactments in that it is a non profit event, with a higher focus on authenticity and education," S. Chris Anders, the event organizer said. "There are no for-profit groups involved, and the spectator fees are far less because of this, with tickets going for \$10 per person for adults. This makes it affordable for a family of four to come out and enjoy the day.

The Reenactment is scheduled to take place on the Shields Farm, just south of the battlefield on Pumping Station Road with public hours from 9am to 5pm Saturday and 9am till 1pm Sunday. There will be special public demonstrations both days, including cavalry actions, battle reenactments, medical displays and other educational programming.

There are 1,000 public tickets available by pre purchase only at the web site, [www.wmhf.org](http://www.wmhf.org). The limited number insures all who attend the best viewing possible. The Western Maryland Heritage Foundation is based out of Boonsboro, Maryland, and can be reached at [www.wmhf.org](http://www.wmhf.org) or 301-432-0103.



Photo courtesy NPS

### A primer on the new Gettysburg Visitor Center

**Here's what you need to know about the museum and center.** York Daily Record/Sunday News, April 7, 2008

With the opening of the new Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center, people may wonder why a new one was needed and what will happen to the current place.

Here are answers to your questions:

#### **What was the problem with the site of the current visitor center?**

It sits directly on the battle line of the Union Army where heavy fighting took place and 900 soldiers were killed, wounded or captured, park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon said. The new center and museum is still close to the Union battle line and well-known features, such as Meade's headquarters, but a major battle was not fought there.

#### **What will happen to the electric map?**

The 30-foot square map will be cut into four pieces in order to take it out of the building. It will be wrapped and

placed in storage "until we find some future use for it," Lawhon said.

Films for each of the three days of fighting as well as exhibits and a 22-minute feature film, "A New Birth of Freedom," help to do the job of the electric map.

Some people do not want to see the electric map disappear. Jon DeKeles of Post Falls, Idaho, has started the Web site [savetheelectricmap.com](http://savetheelectricmap.com).

#### **Who designed the center, and who built it?**

The architect was LSC Design Inc. of York, Neil said.

Kinsley Construction managed the more than two dozen contractors on the job, she said. The company did the work at-cost; it did not make a profit.

#### **Why did the cost of the project escalate from \$40 million to \$103 million?**

Some of the work, such as the conservation of the Cyclorama painting, cost more than anticipated, Neil said. The original estimate for the painting was \$1 million, but it increased to \$15 million. That price tag includes the conservation and hanging of the painting, the three-



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dimensional diorama and the light show for it.

They also made additional investment in the museum exhibit galleries and to make the building environmentally sustainable, according to a news release.

The foundation has raised more than \$100 million of the ultimately \$125 million needed so far, Neil said.

Beyond the building, the money will go toward the rehabilitation of Ziegler's Grove, where the current visitor center is, other preservation projects and an endowment.

### **Will the new center be visible from the battlefield?**

For the most part, it can't be seen from the battlefield, Lawhon said. It's located in a low spot in the terrain, so it's only visible from the tower on Culp's Hill and in winter from Hancock Avenue.

### **Can visitors look up ancestors who served in the Civil War?**

Yes. There is a research room where visitors can consult a U.S. Soldiers and Sailors database for the Civil War.

"You can look up that ancestor you've always heard about and try to figure out, were they in the Civil War, what regiment," Lawhon said. "Then you can check with the database -- is there a monument to that regiment or any big fight?"

### **What will happen to the old visitor center and Cyclorama?**

The buildings will be torn down, and the site will be restored to its 1863 appearance, which included two orchards and open fields, Lawhon said.

Seven monuments or markers, such as the 88 Pennsylvania Regiment Marker, will be moved back to their original positions, Lawhon said. That work is expected to start next year.

### **High-tech equipment helps build Civil War cannons**

By Charlotte Weber, The Herald-Dispatch (Huntington, WV), Apr 26, 2008

The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) has worked with all types of manufacturers since its inception in 1990. They never thought they would be helping build Civil War cannons, however.

But that's just what they've been doing for the past few years.

The Steen Cannon & Ordnance Works of Ashland undoubtedly is RCBI's most unusual client, leasing time on some of the world's most technologically sophisticated manufacturing equipment to produce weapons from an earlier time.

Marshall Steen went into the 19th Century field artillery business in 1993. Seems he wanted a cannon to decorate the yard of a historic home he had acquired in Ashland. He soon found that original Civil War cannons were far too expensive. He couldn't find reproductions of the quality he wanted, so he decided to build his own.

Thus was born in his garage what has become a thriving small industry. Steen Cannon & Ordnance Works now is considered the country's top manufacturer of full-scale, fully-functional reproduction field artillery.

Steen's grandest achievement to date is a 30-pounder Parrott cannon, the largest fully functional Civil War reproduction cannon in the United States. The 4,200-pound weapon was fired for the first time in April 2007 at its new home, Fort Pulaski National Monument in Georgia. Steen's cannon easily eclipsed the next largest functional reproduction

cannon in the U.S., a 1,750-pound Parrott. Using visitor fees, Fort Pulaski paid \$50,000 for the big gun and has a demonstration firing every Saturday.

The National Park Service, which has original and reproduction cannons at its sites throughout the country, has become Steen's best customer, particularly for gun carriages. An integral part of the cannon, the Civil War gun carriages were made of wood, which deteriorates over the years. Steen uses iron or aluminum made to look like wood to build replacements for sites throughout the National Park Service system.

In a radio interview last year, Steen said the average price for one of his iron cannons, including carriage, ranged from \$16,000 to \$18,000. Bronze versions were priced up to \$45,000. Of course, the skyrocketing prices for metal are pushing costs ever higher.

### **67 Bodies Secretly Exhumed From NM Cemetery**

By MELANIE DABOVICH, AP, April 9, 2008

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Working in secret, federal archaeologists have dug up the remains of dozens of soldiers and children near a Civil War-era fort after an informant tipped them off about widespread grave-looting.

The exhumations, conducted from August to October, removed 67 skeletons from the parched desert soil around Fort Craig — 39 men, two women and 26 infants and children, according to two federal archaeologists who helped with the dig.

They also found scores of empty graves and determined 20 had been looted.



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The government kept its exhumation of the unmarked cemetery near the historic New Mexico fort out of the public's eye for months to prevent more thefts.

The investigation began with a tip about an amateur historian who had displayed the mummified remains of a black soldier, draped in a Civil War-era uniform, in his house.

Investigators say the historian, Dee Brecheisen, may have been a prolific looter who spotted historical sites from his plane. Brecheisen died in 2004 and although it was not clear whether the looting continued after his death, authorities exhumed the unprotected site to prevent future thefts.

"As an archaeologist, you want to leave a site in place for preservation ... but we couldn't do that because it could be looted again," Jeffery Hanson, of the Bureau of Reclamation, told The Associated Press.

The remains are being studied by Bureau of Reclamation scientists, who are piecing together information on their identities. They will eventually be reburied at other national cemeteries.

Most of the men are believed to have been soldiers — Fort Craig protected settlers in the West from American Indian raids and played a role in the Civil War. Union troops stationed there fought the Confederacy as it moved into New Mexico from Texas in 1862.

The children buried there may have been local residents treated by doctors at the former frontier outpost, officials said.

Federal officials learned of the looting in November 2004, when Don Alberts, a retired historian for Kirtland Air Force Base, tipped them off about a macabre possession he'd seen at

Brecheisen's home about 30 years earlier.

Alberts described seeing the mummified remains of a black soldier with patches of brown flesh clinging to facial bones and curly hair on top of its skull. Alberts said the body had come from Fort Craig.

"The first thing we did was laughed because who would believe such a story," Hanson said. "But then we quickly decided we better go down and check it out."

Weeks later, Hanson and fellow archaeologist Mark Hungerford surveyed the cemetery site and found numerous holes — evidence of unauthorized digging.

While records show the cemetery had been disinterred twice by the Army in the late 1800s, it wasn't known how many bodies remained. Hanson said ground-penetrating radar revealed the Army left behind about one-third of the bodies.

A lack of funding and various federal procedures delayed the excavation until last summer.

Brecheisen's son told authorities where the mummified remains from his father's home were, and a person who hasn't been publicly identified handed over a more-than-century-old skull packaged in a brown paper bag. Alberts said that skull, which still had hair attached, was the one he'd seen years earlier.

Investigators believe Brecheisen did most of his looting alone, but they also know he dug with close friends and family at the Fort Craig site. Some who accompanied him led authorities to the grave sites, Hanson said.

Investigators believe he also dug up grave sites in Fort Thorn and Fort Conrad in southern New Mexico as well as prehistoric American Indian

burial sites in the Four Corners region.

Hungerford said they also believe he may have taken the Fort Craig burial plot map, which is missing from the National Archives.

The criminal case against Brecheisen was closed upon his death and there are no plans to investigate his family members, assistant U.S. Attorney Mary McCulloch said.

### **Family digs up a grave, finds its roots**

Descendants, local historian recover remains of a forgotten Civil War officer

By Andrei Blakel, Baltimore Messenger.com, April 9, 2008

For the longest time, local historians and descendants of Lt. Col. Ephraim Anderson, a forgotten Union soldier from the Civil War, thought that his crypt was buried in a wooded lot in Hanover, near Elkridge.

But no one knew for sure if Ephraim's burial vault -- which was part of his funeral in 1877, which cost \$161.40 -- and was rumored to include Anderson's remains, uniform and sword, was really there.

On March 29, a team of professional grave diggers poking long steel probes into the clay-like soil on the Hanover lot found what they believed to be Anderson's tomb.

Now, the suspense is over.

On April 2, the family confirmed the tomb was Anderson's when the team opened the coffin and found human skeletal remains, ivory buttons, and the handles, window glass and reddish pieces from the casket.

Records from Anderson's funeral stated that he had been buried in a rosewood-colored coffin.

Although no scientific tests were conducted, family members said they were satisfied the tomb was that of Ephraim Anderson.



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"It matches as much as we can see, the description from the funeral home bill," said David Cheslock, of Chambersburg, Pa., a great-great nephew of Ephraim Anderson.

"I didn't have any doubt. The description (from the bill said) that he was buried under the church steps -- and that is where he was found."

Leading up to that day, the family had received approvals from the Howard County's State's Attorney's office and the current property owner of the lot to open the vault and identify who was inside.

"I was flat-out amazed because me and my kids had been down there a couple of times to clear the area," said Gretchen Anderson, wife of Bruce Anderson, Ephraim's great-great nephew. The couple lives in Virginia. "We thought it was going to be a long shot. We thought we would never find him. It was a shocker."

In the past three years, members of Ephraim Anderson's family along with Joetta Cramm, a local historian, have pieced together the story surrounding his short but accomplished life that ended at the age of 38.

"As family members, we didn't know about this guy until my sister-in-law started doing genealogy about 10 years ago," said William Anderson, also a great-great nephew of Ephraim, who traveled from Luray, Va., after he learned a vault had been discovered.

Ephraim Anderson was born in Bedford County, Pa., in 1839, and eventually moved to Hagerstown, where he studied law, according to an unpublished biography by a descendant of his family, Marvin Anderson, of Anne Arundel County.

Ephraim Anderson joined the Union Army in 1862, at age 23, as did several of his brothers, and eventually attained the rank of

lieutenant colonel, said William Anderson.

However, some cousins, to whom Marvin Anderson is related, joined the Confederacy.

In 1863, Anderson's commanding officer, Charles Phelps, brought court-martial charges against him for disobedience, insubordination and neglect of duty. But Anderson continued in his command and eventually came to Phelps' aid on the battlefield in an unsuccessful attempt to extricate him from underneath a dying horse during the battle of Spotsylvania Court House, Marvin Anderson said.

Ephraim Anderson then continued the charge and was wounded in his left wrist joint, right hand and right thigh on May 8, 1864. He was captured and sent to the Confederate Libby Prison in Richmond, Cramm said.

"I think Ephraim was probably a very altruistic person," said William Anderson, who is Bruce Anderson's brother. "He stood up when push came to shove."

After he received a medical discharge from the prison, Anderson returned to Hagerstown where he would be elected to the Maryland General Assembly as a Unionist Republican representing Washington County.

In the last decade of his life, he purchased land in what is now Hanover and built a small wooden Presbyterian church.

He died in 1877 at age 38 from complications of tuberculosis he had contracted earlier while in prison. He had no children.

Ephraim was first buried at the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C., said Gretchen Anderson, who has studied Ephraim's life in the past three years.

However, five days after his burial, his remains were removed and

transported to the Hanover property he owned, she said. A record from the cemetery confirms that move. The church would continue to stand for nearly a century after Anderson's death before it either crumbled or fell over, say residents who remember the church.

"I used to see the church and then I noticed it was gone in the 1970s," Bill Evans, who has lived in Hanover most of his 66 years and remembers playing in the church as a young child, said at the March 29 dig.

All that remains on the wooded lot is a pile of disassembled stones from the church's foundation and what appears to be a partial outline of the foundation in the dirt.

Prior to the March 29 excavation, members of Anderson's family as well as volunteers from the Greater Elkridge Community Association Inc. spent several weeks bagging leaves and clearing the site.

Mike Bennett, an Elkridge resident and the general manager of Meadowridge Memorial Park, volunteered his services by paying a team of five of his groundskeepers to help with the efforts.

It was Bennett's crew that located the vault on March 29.

In all, Bennett expected to spend thousands of dollars on the project by paying his staff and temporarily sealing the open grave site with concrete slabs and a steel plate.

Two days after finding the vault, Bennett asked interim Howard County's State's Attorney Dario Broccolino for permission to open the casket in accordance with the state's regulations for disinterment. Broccolino quickly responded that he did not object.

Members of the family also received permission from the property owner to dig at the site.



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On the morning of March 29, the crew inserted the probes into the ground to the south and southeast of the old church building's remaining foundation.

The probes would hit soil, rock or a root of some kind. But there was one area to the far south of the church's foundation that was different.

"This ground was softer than the ground over there," Bennett said on March 30 about the area where he found the vault. "Although it's been over 100 years, it wasn't as compact. Then we felt air seep out of the ground."

On March 30, a contractor, hired by Bennett, lay three 850-pound concrete slabs over the site and then put another steel plate on top of the slabs.

"This is amazing how quickly this is unfolding," said William Anderson. "It is almost like it was meant to be."

Anderson's descendants are interested in holding a re-enactment burial ceremony and converting the wooded area into a memorial of some kind, said Gretchen Anderson.

On April 2, Anderson's descendants and Cramm waited as Bennett worked with Meadowridge's forensics team to open the casket and determine for sure if the remains were those of Ephraim Anderson.

"I think it is a marvel that we found him," said Cramm, who is the author of a 1987 book entitled, "Howard County: A Pictorial History."

"I can't believe that he was really here. I was prepared to be disappointed, but I wasn't too disappointed because I knew it was a shot in a million."