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Editor's note:

The monthly meeting of the BCWRT Roundtable is now held at the Parkville VFW, 8123 Harford Rd. Baltimore.

The Parkville VFW will be providing a buffet dinner prior to the meeting. The buffet begins at 6:00 pm and costs \$10. Menu: Tossed Salad, Meat Loaf, Fried Chicken, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert

NPS plants trees on Culp's Hill

*BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER,
Gettysburg Times,
April 28, 2010*

Missing woodland is being replanted this week in the Culp's Hill area of Gettysburg National Military Park, as the National Park Service continues its efforts to convert the battlefield landscape back to its Civil War era appearance.

Crews are planting five acres of trees that have "disappeared" over the last 147 years, since the Battle of Gettysburg.

Additionally, the park is replanting two historic orchards in early May along Taneytown Road: 56 orchard trees were donated, as part of the Frey and Patterson farm projects.

The projects were made possible by a donation from the Apache

Foundation to the Gettysburg Foundation, the non-profit fundraising and management arm of the park. According to GNMP spokeswoman Katie Lawhon, the value of the Apache grant was \$17,000. Lawhon explained that the park is "planting trees sparsely" just south of Spangler's Spring near Culp's Hill, so "it looks more like a grove, which is what it looked like in 1863." The grant is also providing more than 3,000 native hardwood trees to replant woodland that was present in 1863, but now gone.



Kevin Fitzpatrick, of Friendship Farms, plants a tree near the Culp's Hill area of Gettysburg National Military Park. (Darryl Wheeler/Gettysburg Times)

Also, the park intends to remove dozens of acres of non-historic trees near that same area, to open up the viewshed from the hill to the Baltimore Pike. The work is part of a long-term plan to restore major battle action areas throughout the 6,000-acre park.

Since 2000, the park has replanted about 110 acres of orchards at 35 historic sites atop the Gettysburg Battlefield. A goal of 160 acres has been set.

Also, the park has replanted 43 acres of historic woodland at eight

locations, including Oak Hill and East Cavalry Field, and is aiming for a goal of 115 acres.

National Archives Opens Civil War Vaults In DC For Exhibit As Nation Marks 150th Anniversary

WASHINGTON (AP), April 27, 2010
Beyond the famous battles of the Civil War, there was chaos.

The governor of Kansas was frantically pleading for ammunition to quell guerrilla warfare, citizens in Missouri were appealing to Army officials when a U.S. flag was ripped from a church rooftop, and citizens in Virginia were asking the governor for arms to fight Union sympathizers. Stories like these emerge from documents that go on rare public view Friday at the National Archives in Washington as the nation prepares to mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Filmmaker Ken Burns took an early look Tuesday and said the lesser-known details and evidence of the war will prove far more compelling than dry dates and facts from history books.

"Most of the way we tell our history is from the top down - we see American history ... as kind of a succession of presidential administrations, punctuated by wars," Burns said. That begins to change, he said, when people see original records and photographs.

"When we can touch their diaries or touch their records, then they connect to us in a way that all that other homework doesn't," Burns said. The exhibit draws from millions of Civil War records, letters and photographs at the archives. Many documents on display are



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reproductions, though some originals also are on view, along with touch-screen interactives. They are arranged by theme to tell such stories as secession and slavery, international connections to the war and how some women fought disguised as men.

It's too much to display all at once. The second half will open in November, exploring the war's consequences.

Next year, the 6,000 square-foot exhibit will begin touring nationally during most of the anniversary years of the war, with stops in Michigan, Texas and Nebraska.

There were no declarations of war or peace treaties to display from the Civil War. The Union never recognized the Confederacy as a separate nation.

One of the most significant documents on view is Virginia's original ordinance of secession. Virginia initially refused to join seven states that seceded after President Abraham Lincoln's election but passed the measure in April 1861. Other documents show how Lincoln reacted, how the Confederate States were organized and how both sides grappled for international support. Leaders who lined up on opposite sides of the battlefield often had close connections before the war. Exhibit designers created social networking pages like Facebook to show how Union Gen. George McClellan once was a protege of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, for example.

As for the sensitive issue of slavery, curator Bruce Bustard said they want the documents to speak for themselves.

A comparison of the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of the Confederacy demonstrates their

remarkable similarity, he said, except for a reference to God, a six-year presidency and an explicit right to hold slaves as property. "We want people to look at the documents, read the documents, ask questions about them and then ultimately make up their own minds," Bustard said.

Although two Southern governors - Bob McDonnell in Virginia and Gov. Haley Barbour in Mississippi - recently seemed to downplay the role of slavery, Burns said there is no question it was at the root of the conflict.

"We just have to distinguish between what's history and what's the manipulation of history," Burns said, referring to Confederate History Month celebrations that neglect to mention slavery. "The great ennobling outcome of Civil War was not just the end of a secessionist movement but the liberating of 4 million Americans who happened to be owned by other Americans."

Vanishing history at Arlington Cemetery

*Congress ordered a restoration of
black Civil War veterans'
graves. Now hundreds seem
to have disappeared*

By Mark Benjamin, Salon.com, April 8, 2010

Almost 20 years ago Congress ordered Arlington National Cemetery to preserve history, after one of the oldest parts of the burial grounds had fallen into disrepair. That forlorn group of several thousand graves, called Section 27, holds the remains of thousands of Civil War troops, including African-Americans who served with the U.S. Colored Troops, as well as thousands of freed slaves. But when then-congressman and African-American history buff Louis Stokes began to visit there around

1990, he found headstones there were falling apart and overgrown with weeds. Prodded by Stokes, in 1992 Congress ordered Arlington to replace the crumbling headstones and organize and preserve the historical burial records for Section 27 so vital history about those buried there would not be lost forever.

Superintendent John Metzler told Congress the cemetery was on the case. Arlington replaced the old, crumbling headstones in that section with new, shiny white marble markers. The cemetery also told Congress that burial records for the area got straightened up and preserved. (Metzler is still the superintendent at Arlington).

A Salon investigation shows that 17 years after Metzler's commitment, the cemetery's cosmetic fixes did little to preserve the history of the dead there, and instead appear to have made matters worse. Salon obtained thousands of internal cemetery burial records for that section, along with the cemetery's own internal grave-by-grave map of the section completed in 1990 just before the cemetery's overhaul began, as well as copies of the old, handwritten burial register of the former slaves interred there back in the mid-1800s. Salon discovered that an unknown number of those new, perfect-looking headstones in the historical section have the wrong names on them or are wrongly marked "Unknown." And at least 500 graves, listed as occupied in the cemetery's own records, have no headstones at all today.

It's impossible to judge the scope of the mess in Section 27 because Arlington's own internal paperwork remains badly jumbled. Salon has uncovered similar burial and record-keeping troubles in newer sections of the cemetery, where veterans and



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their families are still being buried. The continued problems in Section 27 raise questions about whether the cemetery can adequately address rampant burial problems on its own. Using those materials, here is just a sample of the kinds of problems in Section 27 two decades after Arlington supposedly fixed it:

--- A significant number of graves are unmarked today, according to the cemetery's own records. Salon has obtained the cemetery's own meticulously detailed burial map for that section and for another nearby section, Section 49, drawn up in 1990 just before Metzler started his cleanup attempt in Section 27. All of the headstones in Section 49 are in the ground in the right place as they appear on the map. In Section 27, however, hundreds of graves shown as "occupied" on the map are unmarked today. That map, in fact, shows 5,816 occupied graves in Section 27. There are only 5,303 headstones today. (Salon counted.)

--- Some of those buried have lost their identities. According to cemetery records, Robert Taylor died on March 26, 1866; Robert Griffin passed on July 24, 1865; M. Beverly died on May 3, 1865; Lewis Russell passed on April 23, 1866; Pvt. Frederick Armon died on May 30, 1864; and John Jackson passed on June 9, 1866. Their graves are easy to find using the cemetery's own records. The headstones above their graves, however, now read "Unknown."

--- One person appears to be buried in two places. If you believe the headstones, James Harris is buried twice, side-by-side. Records show one of the Harris headstones is actually above the remains of Moses Ludley, who died on June 27, 1866.

--- Some graves are missing headstones entirely. Meredith Hudnell

died on Sept. 7, 1864. There is only empty grass above her remains.



While the headstone reads "5 Unknownns," cemetery records say Robert Griffin is buried here - Salon/Mark Benjamin

Stokes said he was disappointed in what Salon had uncovered there now. "There is still, evidently, a great deal of neglect or even incompetence," Stokes said about the current management of that part of the cemetery. Stokes said he hoped things would improve as a result of this article.

Race is central to the story of Section 27. Stokes said the cemetery neglected Section 27, in particular, because African-Americans are predominantly buried there. "I should not have had to have taken the action I did. That was a part of their responsibility," he said about the cemetery leadership. "The only reason that we know of why they did not take the proper responsibility towards that section was because these were black people."

The continuing problems in Section 27 are also important because the cemetery is about to try to fix a whole new set of burial problems exposed by Salon over the past year. The Army inspector general is conducting a sweeping investigation of burial errors in newer parts of the cemetery -- where people are being buried today -- that were exposed since last summer in a series of Salon articles.

Those articles showed unknown remains showing up in supposedly empty graves, accidentally burying one service member on top of another, failure to report problems to families, arbitrarily burying remains as unknowns, etc.

The fact that Section 27 is still far from fixed 20 years later raises serious questions about whether the cemetery can or will fix these new burial problems as well.

Civil War Preservation Trust Hosts Summit for Educators in Historic Hagerstown, Maryland

CWPT Press Release, May 4, 2010
This summer, two hundred elementary, middle and high school teachers from around the nation will converge in Hagerstown, Md., to take part in the Civil War Preservation Trust's (CWPT) annual Teacher Institute. The three-day summit will offer educators an opportunity to meet and discuss the successful tactics they employ in their classrooms, as well as participate in workshops and attend lectures by top historians.

The ninth annual CWPT Teacher Institute will be held July 16-18, 2010 in Hagerstown, Md., with scheduled speakers James I. "Bud" Robertson, director of the Virginia Tech Center for Civil War Studies, Professor Gary Gallagher, the John L. Nau, III, Professor in the History of the American Civil War at the University of Virginia, and Jeff Shaara, bestselling author of *Gods and Generals* and *The Last Full Measure*. Workshop sessions for this year's institute include: Scott Hartwig, supervisory historian at Gettysburg National Military Park, discussing the



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Battle of Gettysburg in history and memory; Dr. George Khoury, demonstrating the use of role play in the classroom; Dr. Sharon Shaffer, Director of the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center, exploring the power of objects in a museum setting; Garry Adelman, vice president of the Center for Civil War Photography, giving a 3D glimpse into some of Gettysburg's most iconic images; and Richard Sprecher and Gail Fribush providing hands on activities that will allow students to take a virtual tour of a battlefield.

On Saturday, teachers will travel to Gettysburg to explore the visitor center, view the newly restored Cyclorama and tour the National Cemetery where Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address. Three battlefield tours will also be available: Little Round Top with Park Service ranger Scott Hartwig, Pickett's Charge with ranger Matt Atkinson, and "Gettysburg Then and Now in Photos" with historian Garry Adelman.

A limited number of spaces remain for this unique continuing education opportunity, but interested educators must register by June 30, 2010. The Teacher Institute is offered free of charge to teachers, but they or their school districts must pay for lodging and transportation to the event. Applications are available for stipends to defray these costs.

For more information, please visit www.civilwar.org/teacherinstitute.

Research Restores Credit for DC Engineering Feat

Cheminfo.com, April 21, 2010

Carved in stone on a Civil War-era bridge - a world-class feat of engineering that stands a couple miles northwest of Washington - are

the names of builders and officials of the day.

A key name, however, is missing.

New research shows that Virginian Alfred R. Rives led the design and construction of the Cabin John Bridge. Also called the Union Arch Bridge, the aqueduct and roadway reaches 220 feet across Cabin John Creek in a single span - the world's longest single-span masonry bridge for nearly 40 years and the nation's longest still today.

Rives had the training and knowledge to design and build such a span, and records, drawings and structural analyses show he did the work, say Dario Gasparini, a professor of civil engineering at Case Western Reserve University, and David A. Simmons, a bridge expert at the Ohio Historical Society. Their research is published in the new issue of the American Society of Civil Engineers' *Journal of Performance of Constructed Facilities*.

"This is a unique bridge in the United States that no one before 1850 and no one afterward had the audacity to try," said Gasparini, who studies structures and the history of structural engineering. "Rives had a unique set of theoretical skills and construction skills that no other engineer in the U.S. had at that time."

After digging through records in Washington, Virginia, North Carolina, and France, "We don't have any smoking gun but all the documents point to Rives," Simmons said. "The reason the bridge is there is Rives suggested it... and had the knowledge to actually do it."

The essential structure was complete when Rives, a government civil engineer, resigned to join the confederacy. While the name of then-Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, who left the government to become

president of the confederacy, was removed and later restored to the bridge, Rives has not received the same recognition.

His absence among the names reflects a deeply personal rift created by the war, the researchers say.

Rives was a graduate of Virginia Military Academy. With the help of his father, William Cabell Rives, the U.S. minister to France, he was the first American admitted to the Ecole des Pont et Chausees, the world's leading structural engineering school in the 19th Century. He graduated at the top of the class of 1854.

Lieutenant Montgomery C. Meigs, a West Point graduate and member of the Corps of Engineers, hired Rives in 1855. Meigs was the chief engineer of the Washington Aqueduct project to supply Washington, D.C., with drinking water from the Potomac River at Great Falls, Md.

He had planned a six-arch bridge over Cabin John Creek, and Rives quickly showed it could be done with five arches. Rives, according to records of a colleague in the engineering department, then suggested a design based on the Grosvenor Bridge, a 200-foot single span bridge in Chester, England.

Meigs wrote in his journal he'd like to build "such a one."

Meigs and Rives worked together on a design that called for granite from Quincy, Mass., for the main arch. The researchers found that Rives drew plans for the 131 wedge-shaped stones, called voussoirs, that support the arch. These were detailed down to one-one thousandth of an inch, requiring the stones be finished on a rubbing bed as was done for some of the stonework for the Capitol. More documents show Rives' conceptual design, calculations and structural



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analyses, and detailed designs of the single span.

Rives was put in charge of construction in 1857 and wrote with pride to family members about the progress made that year and the next, when the keystone, or the central voussoir, was installed to complete the arch and make the span stable.

Over the next four years, funding interruptions and the change to the Lincoln administration put construction on hold. With a small amount of funding, Meigs and Rives began to collaborate again; some of the sandstone walls and interior brickwork were completed, and on March 18, 1861, Meigs issued an order for an inscription that included both their names.

But, Virginia seceded April 17, 1861 and Rives resigned and left for home, where he eventually served as acting chief of the Engineer Bureau of the Confederate States.

Meigs served as quartermaster general of the Union Army. He shunned his former assistants who joined the South and his feelings were hardened when his son, John Rodgers Meigs, a recent West Point graduate, was killed in the war.

During the war, the Department of the Interior took over the bridge project, which began carrying water to the Capitol in 1864.

Instead of Rives' name, Civil Engineer Esto Perpetua's name was inscribed along with Meigs' on the east bridge abutment.

After the war, Meigs refused to see Rives. When challenged on his claims that he designed and built the bridge, Meigs vehemently argued that others played nothing more than a draftsmen's role.

Historians who have given Meigs credit for the design and construction

of Cabin John Bridge relied heavily on Meigs' journals alone, the researchers say. Gasparini, a veteran professor of bridge engineering, and Simmons, who has been reviewing historic bridges for decades, find that Meigs sketched the bridge, but the records show Rives suggested the design, did the structural analysis as he learned in France, oversaw or did the detailed designs himself and led the construction of the structure that continues to carry water to Washington nearly 150 years later.

Links to a bygone era: Fewer than 100 kids of veterans of conflict remain

By Matt Lakin, Knoxnews.com, April 17, 2010

Jim Brown grew up in the Civil War's shadow, listening to stories of the fighting from a father who lived it.

"He was in it from the beginning at Manassas to the end at Appomattox," Brown said. "He'd be amazed to see the changes today."

At 98, Brown's part of an exclusive group - the surviving children of Civil War soldiers, removed by a single generation from the nation's bloodiest conflict. Records show fewer than 100 sons and daughters of the blue and gray veterans remain nationwide. Historians hope to see members of that club hang around long enough to help celebrate the war's 150th anniversary, which begins next year.

"As you might imagine, they're going away pretty quickly," said Ben Sewell, executive director of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. "We know of 32 Confederate real sons across the country, and we're losing them at the rate of about five to nine per year. But a number of these fellows who are remaining have birth dates as late as 1923 or 1924. So there's a pretty

good chance of having a few remaining for the sesquicentennial." Brown, who lives in Tellico Village with his son, plans to be here for the celebration.

Jim Brown was born in 1912 to a 71-year-old father who survived battles from Gettysburg to the Siege of Knoxville. Brown knew his father for the next 11 years, until the veteran's death at age 82.

James Henry Harrison Brown joined the 8th Georgia Infantry's Company K at age 20 when war erupted in 1861. Records show his regiment saw action from the war's first major battle at Manassas, through the cornfields of Antietam, Md., in 1862 and across the bloody ground at Gettysburg, Pa., in 1863.

The father followed Gen. James Longstreet to East Tennessee in the fall of 1863 for the Confederacy's attempt to recapture Knoxville. He returned to Virginia for the last days of the war, all the way to the surrender at Appomattox on April 9, 1865.

Most of his stories dealt less with glory and honor than with hunger and hardship.

"He'd talk about what he endured," Brown said. "He'd talk about marching barefoot through the snow in the East Tennessee winter and leaving bloody tracks behind."

Gettysburg Monument Repair Funds are Available

BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER,
Gettysburg Times, April 26, 2010

The dispute over monument repair funding at Gettysburg National Military Park has been resolved, with the park now able to access the money set aside by a battlefield preservation group.



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Gettysburg Battlefield Supt. Bob Kirby announced that there are "several plans in the works" to address damaged monuments throughout the 6,000 acre park, using a portion of a \$300,000 reserve fund to underwrite the work.

The funding was raised over an eight-year period by a group led by state Rep. Harry Readshaw, D-Pittsburgh, to repair Pennsylvania monuments at Gettysburg. But controversy evolved last year, when the group accused the park - led by former Supt. John Latschar - of misappropriating the money, and ignoring the repairs. Kirby, who took over in March, thinks the ordeal was mostly a misunderstanding. The new battlefield boss was able to rectify the situation with a visit to Adams County National Bank, where the funds are being held in an escrow account.

"We didn't really know how to access those monies. We do now," explained Kirby.

According to park leaders, there were restrictions placed upon the funds, resulting in confusion over how the money could be used, and which monuments were eligible for repairs. "We straightened it out," said Kirby. Readshaw said Monday morning that he was hearing the "good news" about the repair fund for the first time, and wondered why the situation wasn't rectified under the previous park administration.

"We wanted to start off our relationship with the new superintendent by getting him off on the right track with a friendly relationship," said Readshaw, adding that the reserve fund is designed "for the betterment of the park." Park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon noted that Kirby made it a "priority" to clear up the misunderstanding with Readshaw's group. Three different

agencies have donated funds to the park over the past decade to repair Pennsylvania monuments, creating confusion over how the funds should be spent.

"It was a priority of the superintendent to clear the roadblock to accessing the funds, and fix the monuments, so he met with the bank," she said. There are 141 Pennsylvania monuments out of about 1,400 total memorials located throughout the Civil War battlefield. The park has a maintenance staff of only three people, but the staff is effective, per officials. For example, the park worked on 187 monuments from all states over the past 12 months. Initially, the park intends to use the funding to repair the battered 90th Pa. Infantry Monument, located near Oak Ridge. A bronze canteen and several life-size ivy leaves are missing from the tree-shaped monument.

Civil War Trails marker dedicated in Littlestown

Dedication of Civil War Trails marker brings area officials, local students. By TIM STONESIFER, York Daily Record/Sunday News, April 14, 2010 The 22 Littlestown High School drama students in Civil War uniforms and long dresses stood on the square Tuesday around the town's newest attraction -- a Civil War Trails marker commemorating Littlestown's involvement in the build-up to the Battle of Gettysburg.

The high-school students were part of a dedication ceremony for the marker, which was delivered earlier this month and paid for by a joint venture between the Adams County borough and the Gettysburg Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Representatives from both of those organizations gathered with the local students around the 3-foot-tall marker on South Queen Street to hear comments about the project, and about Littlestown's part in the Civil War.

"Littlestown is now part of program that gives the true, honest, entire story of the Civil War," visitors bureau President Norris Flowers said of the Civil War Trails program, which has more than 1,000 markers in six states telling the story of the Civil War.

The Littlestown marker is the third in Adams County, he said.

Littlestown's marker tells the story of the lead-up to the Battle of Gettysburg, during which 30,000 Union soldiers passed through Littlestown on the way to the fight. The marker notes the Union XII Corps camped east of town on the night of June 30, and the VI Corps marched through on July 2, the second day of the three-day battle.

North Carolina Civil War Reenactment Gone Wrong

WITN.com, April 24, 2010

What was meant to be a reenactment of the Civil War on Saturday in Plymouth turned dangerous after a cannon exploded prematurely, injuring two.

Around 1:30 pm Saturday, two reenactors were hurt during the demonstration. WITN has confirmed with the Plymouth Police Department one victim was treated and released from the hospital. At last report, the other was still being treated at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. According to Plymouth's Mayor, Brian Roth, that man sustained extensive injuries to one of his hands.

It was reported one of the men was ramming the charge of the cannon,



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and when he was packing it, there must have still been an ember in the cannon from a previous firing. The foil apparently broke and the cannon exploded.

Gettysburg NPS prepares for 150th anniversary

BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER, Gettysburg Times, April 29, 2010

With millions of new visitors expected to visit the area for the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, the National Park Service in Gettysburg is prepping for the celebration.

The park is planning renovations to the historic Patterson, Klingel, Cobean, Snyder, and Warfield properties, as well as the Eisenhower Farm, in anticipation of the 2011-2015 event. Overall, the multi-million dollar effort is being funded with federal stimulus dollars, as well as NPS money.

Carpenters are working at the oldest building atop the 6,000-acre park this week: the Patterson House along Taneytown Road. Portions of the two-story log home date back to 1798, and are in need of replacement. According to GNMP spokeswoman Katie Lawhon, up to 30 percent of the house was failing, so crews disassembled most of it last year.

An "historic structures report" on the Daniel Klingel Farmhouse was recently finalized, and the park is looking to convert the Emmitsburg Road building to its Civil War era appearance. Mainly, the park intends to remove non-historic features from the house, as part of a \$342,000 project, funded by federal stimulus dollars. Preservation work on the timeworn house, located near the Sherfy Peach Orchard, is expected to begin in May, and GNMP Supt. Bob

Kirby predicts that the project should end by the end of the year. "In some cases, small sections of logs will be replaced," said Kirby, noting that crews plan to dismantle post-battle additions to the building. The Cobean Building, located at what is commonly referred to as the Butterfield Farm north of Gettysburg, is scheduled for extensive renovations, in a project valued at \$142,700. Kirby said that portions of the property are "clad in asbestos," and that "shingles are cracked and broken." Overall, the park plans to remove asbestos siding, rehab the exterior of the 1879 Cobean barn, and replace its roof, as wood has deteriorated beyond repair.

"By the end of the year," said Kirby, "this beautiful old barn will be rehabilitated and repainted."

The park is removing two modern brick homes and their foundations - the Philip Snyder house - near Emmitsburg Road and West Confederate Avenue. Lawhon explained that the "little house is empty and no one lives there." "It's not a house that we can modernize," she said.

Two modern houses are scheduled to be razed, as well as a garage and a chicken house, and the land will be returned to its battle-time appearance. The park is completing an "historic structures" study on the land before it moves forward with the demolition plans.

"In short order, you won't even know that houses were there," Kirby said regarding the project.

The park is also completing studies on the James Warfield house, located near the intersection of Millerstown Road and West Confederate Avenue, and the James Blocher Farmhouse, located at 150 Table Rock Road. Non-historic additions are expected to

be eliminated from the James Warfield property, although little is known about the Blocher building. "The National Park Service has limited information about the configuration of the battle-era house," said Kirby.

Major renovation work is planned at the Clem-Redding barn at the Eisenhower Farm, owned and operated by the Park Service. Portions of the barn, including its roof, are rotting and deteriorating. There is no cost estimate for the project, and the park is using materials and staffing that's already available. The park is replacing electrical systems in 13 barns throughout the battlefield, to ensure that the wiring systems are in compliance with state and federal code. One seasonal employee has been hired to help with the \$33,500 project.

Fire suppression systems are being modernized in 51 barns and buildings. Currently, fire detection systems are in place in about 40 buildings, but some damage has occurred over the years, because of lightning strikes and lifecycle issues. The project is valued at \$40,700.

The park aims to replace 16 boilers in battlefield buildings, and is dovetailing the project with other efforts to install modernized oil tanks. Kirby explained that the purpose of the project is to bring heating systems up to modern standards, and "give us the most-efficient systems these historic structures have ever had." Foundations throughout the park are being repaired, in an effort to stabilize and waterproof the groundwork of all buildings. A number of buildings within the park's boundaries have water infiltration issues, so basements are scheduled for sealing treatment. Two seasonal employees were hired to help with the \$144,200



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effort.

Ten park buildings are scheduled for roof replacements, and five seasonal employees have been hired, in a project valued at \$152,000.

Georgia Confederate Veterans group accuses church of stealing flags

by Rachel Lane, Times-Georgian, April 27, 2010

Donald Levans replaces a Confederate battle flag on his great-grandfather's grave in the Abilene Baptist Church Cemetery. The flag has been removed twice this month. (Rachel Lane/Times-Georgian)

Confederate battle flags, placed on the graves of Civil War veterans in the Abilene Baptist Church Cemetery, keep disappearing. Church officials and members, who deem the flags offensive, have been removing them. Rev. Gregory Drake, pastor of Abilene Baptist Church, said members of the church have taken the flags down each year for the past 20 years, in part because groups like the Ku Klux Klan have given a negative connotation to the flag.

He said the cemetery, located at 2046 North Highway 113, is across the street from a school and students can be forced to remove articles of clothing depicting the flag or be sent home.

"They're [the flags] not offensive to us personally at all ... but we do know it is offensive to certain people," he said.

The Sons of the Confederate Veterans placed 570 flags on graves throughout the county to celebrate Confederate Heritage Month, said Sam Pyle, chaplain of the group's local chapter, McDaniel-Curtis Camp 165.

"We've been doing this for 20 years

and we've only had a problem one other time," Pyle said.

In 2005, the flags were removed from a different cemetery. Pyle later learned that the pastor of the church was removing the flags. He said that in previous years, all the flags remained up until removed from the cemetery by members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Group member Donald Levans, said on April 12, he was putting up flags in Whitesburg when he decided to drive by his great-grandfather's grave at the Abilene Baptist Church Cemetery. Pleasant S. Levans, a veteran of the Civil War, Company K, 34th regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry, should have had a battle flag on his grave. When Levans did not see it, he contacted various people to discover what happened to the flag. "Within seven minutes, the pastor called me back to say the board of deacons had decided the flags were offensive and had removed them," he said.

Levans said of the 12 Civil War veterans buried in the cemetery, two purchased their plots. The families of six other veterans granted the Sons of Confederate Veterans permission to put the flags on the graves. After several attempts to contact Drake and ask to put a different flag on the graves, Pyle said his group put the First National Flag of the Confederacy, the flag that flew over the capital building, on the graves. Because the group did not have many of the First National flags, Levans placed a second battle flag on his ancestor's grave. It was then removed, placed on the ground behind the marker. He again replaced it.

"They took it down for Confederate Memorial Day," he said. Pyle said several attempts were

made to contact Drake about the issue. Drake said he spoke with one man twice and a second man tried to reach him at the church. The church received a letter from the group on Friday and a response letter was mailed today.

Pyle said when he requested the flags be returned, he was told the church no longer had them. Drake "probably threw them away," he said. "In my words, he stole the flags off the graves."

Drake said he did not personally take the flags down and were instead taken down by members of the church. He said he did not know what the members did with them. "If I can find the flags, they're welcome to have them back," he said. "We understand that people in the south are proud of their heritage." Deacons at the church researched the First National flag and reached a decision on Sunday to allow the Sons of Confederate Veterans to use that flag over the battle flag, known by a blue "X" and 13 white stars denoting the 13 Confederate states. "We are going to allow them to put up the original confederate flag" two weeks before Confederate Memorial Day on April 26 beginning next year, Drake said. "That flag is not offensive."

Pyle said his group was willing to compromise.

When the Sons of Confederate Veterans executive council meets this week, they will decide if legal action should be taken. Section 50-3-9 under Georgia law prohibits the desecration of the American flag, the Georgia flag or the Confederate flag. Anyone in violation can be charged with a misdemeanor.

Pyle said all 12 veterans buried at Abilene Baptist Church Cemetery lived through the war and died as old



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men.

"These veterans were part of this church," he said. "Their descendents are still here."

He said the battle flag was selected to mark the graves because it was the flag used during battles. The First National flag too closely resembled the American flag.

"It was the soldiers' flag," he said. "It was born on the battlefield and it died on the battlefield."

Missouri Judge says Klan can have barbecue at battle site

BY ROBERT PATRICK, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH, Apr. 15, 2010

ST. LOUIS — Missouri officials cannot bar a Ku Klux Klan splinter group from holding an event Saturday at the site of one of the state's biggest Civil War battles, a federal judge in St. Louis ruled Wednesday. Frank Ancona, who identified himself as imperial wizard of the Traditionalist American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, filed suit Wednesday morning for an emergency order to overrule rejection of its application to rent a large pavilion at the Fort Davidson State Historic Site.

It's in Iron County, about 70 miles south of St. Louis. Ancona said in a phone interview after winning the ruling that he's not sure the event will be held, because of financial concerns. U.S. District Judge Rodney Sippel required the group to post a \$1,800 bond and comply with all laws and regulations, including having liability insurance of \$300,000. In addition to a barbecue, a bean bag toss and a duck pond game, the KKK was planning to hang its banner, a U.S. flag, a Confederate battle flag and a Klan insignia, according to the suit and testimony in two hearings Wednesday. Some attendees would

be wearing Klan robes and hoods. They also planned to have a flier on hand, discussing the state's removal of a "Confederate Battle Flag" from the park.

"We only want to draw attention to the plight of our heritage," a letter sent to park official reads. State officials rejected Ancona's request earlier this year, citing historical inaccuracies in the flier, and the park's historical mission to preserve the site. It's where about 1,000 Confederates were killed or wounded in an attack on Union soldiers in 1864's Battle of Pilot Knob. The Klan group is wrong about the flag, Department of Natural Resources general counsel Chris Pieper wrote in a March 23 letter to the American Civil Liberties Union, which represented Ancona. The flag depicted in Klan fliers is the unit flag of the Army of Northern Virginia and was never flown at Fort Davidson; the fort flew the 2nd National flag, he wrote.

Sippel, citing long-established legal precedent, said officials could not bar the group from a public place just because of the content of its speech or message. He said that even if everything the group says is incorrect, "They do have the right to say it."

Discrimination against a group is not allowed, the judge said, even if it holds discriminatory views, or if its views are "repugnant." He continued, "That's the wonderful thing about our country."

Ancona, a self-employed contractor who lives in Washington County, acknowledged that his group is a white supremacist organization, but he said that it is not a hate group and that it bars neo-Nazis.

"This has nothing to do with race," Ancona said, but rather free speech

and "a historic site and a flag that once flew there that was taken down."

University of Alabama Fraternity Cancels 2010 Old South Parade

The Crimson White, UA, April 25, 2010

Kappa Alpha's president says the fraternity has canceled its annual Old South parade a year after the event was charged as racially insensitive following an incident involving a historically black sorority.

Mark Smith said the fraternity will release more details about their decision today.

It was not clear on Wednesday if the move was related to last year's problems or if UA officials asked the fraternity to cancel the event.

The event has traditionally featured members dressed as Confederate soldiers and waving Confederate flags. Last year's parade made a prolonged stop in front of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority's house as the historically black group was holding an event celebrating its 35th anniversary.

The incident upset many of the group's alumnae, some of whom had attended the University during an era of deep racial tensions. Some of the women said it made them think nothing had changed at the University.

Sorority members said they requested an apology from Kappa Alpha members while the trucks were in front of the house but did not receive one. National and local fraternity leaders later apologized.

Following the incident, Alpha Kappa Alpha alumnae sent a letter to UA President Robert Witt asking him cancel all Old South events.



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

"It is our collective belief that a parade of Confederate flags and costumes ... should not be permitted on any college campus that is truly dedicated to inclusiveness," the letter said.

Efforts to obtain comment from UA leadership on Wednesday were unsuccessful. Gentry McCreary, director of greek affairs, declined to comment on the parade's cancellation.

Kappa Alpha chapters hold Old South week celebrations to honor the men who founded the fraternity in 1865 at Washington College in Lexington, Va., according to information on chapter Web sites. Members dress in Confederate uniforms to honor founders who had fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War.

Joyce Stallworth, senior associate dean in the College of Education and a member of AKA, presented the sorority alumnae's letter to Witt. She said Wednesday that she assumed the fraternity members worked closely with officials in the Division of Student Affairs to find a way to celebrate their founders.

"I trust that they are finding a way that commemorates their founders [that] is more in line with a positive campus climate," Stallworth said.

More low-key elsewhere

Other chapters at Southeastern Conference universities have been tweaking how they celebrate Old South week.

Auburn University's chapter of Kappa Alpha cancelled its traditional Old South parade in 1993 after police had to reroute the parade in 1992 to avoid a confrontation with students protesting the event.

At Louisiana State University, Kappa Alpha still holds a parade, but fraternity members wear the gray

Confederate hats instead of a full uniform or jacket.