



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Lee's Arlington House Open to Public After Six- Year Restoration

By Scott C. Boyd, *Civil War News*

ARLINGTON, Va. – Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial, reopened April 20 after being closed six years for renovation.

"Arlington House is now stronger, prettier and safer – both for its museum collections and for its staff and volunteers," said, National Park Service (NPS) site manager Brandon Bies at the reopening ceremony.

During the past six years, the restoration project included adding modern museum features, including fire suppression and climate management systems. It took two years to remove the many layers of paint on the walls, leading to the discovery of graffiti left by Union soldiers who occupied the house.

Arlington House furniture, comprising 3,300 of the more than 41,000 artifacts in the collection, was stored at Friendship Hill National Historic Site near Point Marion, Pa. Museum curator Kimberly Robinson said everything was back in place for the reopening.

NPS Director Jon Jarvis and local Congressman Jim Moran were the keynote speakers and cut the ribbon tied to two huge portico columns. Federal City Brass Band, conducted by Jari Villanueva, played a Civil War-era version of "The Star-Spangled Banner," (not adopted as the national anthem until 1931).

"Having been part of the six-year process and watching what had to be done to restore it, it's just been absolutely amazing," said Merle Schneider, acting chairperson of Save Historic Arlington House, the site's friends group.

"It is truly extraordinary," said park ranger Matt Penrod. "This house was, in many ways, our nation's first memorial, first presidential memorial, first monument and first historical museum dedicated to honor the memory of the founding of this country and the ideals behind that."

George Washington Parke Custis, George Washington's step-grandson, built Arlington House from 1802-1818. Raised by Washington as if he were his own child, Custis is considered the country's first presidential son, Penrod explained.

Custis lived at Arlington House for 55 years, dedicating his life "to memorializing the memory of that great man."

Custis' oldest daughter, Mary Anna Randolph Custis, who was born at Arlington House in 1808, played with young Robert E. Lee as a child when the Lee family visited.

That childhood friendship blossomed into something more as they grew older. Mary Custis was courted by many young men, including Tennessee Congressman Sam Houston. She married Lee, a U.S. Army lieutenant, in the Arlington House parlor on June 30, 1831.

They lived in the Custis mansion, sleeping in Mary's childhood bedroom. Six of the couple's seven children were born there.

"Lee said he loved this place more than any other place on earth," Penrod said.

A fateful decision by Lee would forever change his relationship with Arlington House.

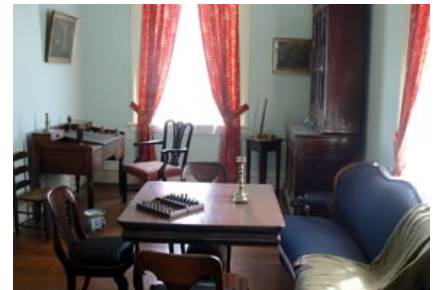
"On this day — April 20 — in 1861, he made the most difficult decision of his life, and one of the most difficult decisions any citizen of any country could ever imagine to make," said Penrod.

"It was a choice of state versus country, but, more personally, a choice to him of family and home versus that nation," Penrod said. "How do you choose between your country and your home? Your country and your family?"

Inviting the crowd to turn around and look across the Potomac River from Arlington into downtown Washington, D.C., Penrod explained how the strategic location of Lee's home meant that Union forces had to control it in any upcoming war.

"We are a cannon shot away from the White House," Penrod noted.

When Lee resigned from the U.S. Army he "sacrificed this home that he loved so dearly, and his family loved so dearly. It broke his heart in many ways."



This office and desk are where Robert E. Lee wrote his letter of resignation from the U.S. Army, according to a letter from one of his daughters. (Scott C. Boyd)

Union troops occupied Lee's home on May 24, 1861. In January 1864, the U.S. Government legally purchased the property at an auction. By August 1864, some of the land was appropriated as a military cemetery that evolved into Arlington National Cemetery.

Following the war, the Lees moved to Lexington, Va., where he was president of Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) until his death in 1870.

"In 1925, Congress unanimously voted to restore the home to honor



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Robert E. Lee," Penrod said. "It remains the only time the U.S. Government dedicated a national memorial to a man who fought against it."

The memorial was dedicated to Lee for his role after the war in promoting national reconciliation.

"He challenges us to consider what it means to be an American," Penrod said.

During tours of the house after the ceremony, Penrod related the traditional story of how Lee paced his bedroom before sitting in a writing chair to pen his resignation.

That story has a tenuous provenance, according to Penrod. Southern romance novelist Thomas Nelson Page wrote it decades after the Civil War, based on an account from a chaplain in Lee's army, who said he got it from Mrs. Lee, but never wrote it down.

Penrod said archival research by Lee biographer historian Elizabeth Brown Prior uncovered a letter from Lee's oldest daughter, Mary Custis Lee, with an account of what really happened.

She wrote that Lee came downstairs to his office early on April 20, 1861, wrote his resignation letter, sent it to Washington, and then gathered the family to announce his decision.

Visitors will learn all of this history when they visit the house, which is about 8,000 square feet. It is fully furnished, though some areas can only be visited when enough staff are present. An exhibit case in the house holds Lee's Bible and sword.

Outside are an elaborate garden, slave quarters and a modern building with exhibits.

Arlington House is open every day, except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, from 9:30 to 4:30. For information go to

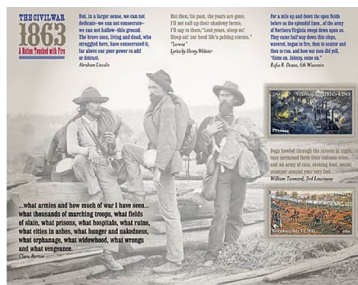
www.nps.gov/arho/index.htm and www.arlingtonhouse.org

A Postal Service event in Gettysburg features a descendant of rebels in a famous stamp photo

By Tom Barnes / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, May 23, 2013

Ever since 1949 -- when he was only 10 years old -- Clate Dolinger of southwestern Virginia has known that the three Confederate soldiers in a famous Civil War photo taken in July 1863 were his ancestors.

"The soldier on the right is Andrew Blevins, and he was my granddaddy's granddaddy," he said in a cell phone interview Wednesday. "The one on the left is his son, Ephraim Blevins, and the one in the middle is my grandmother's great-uncle, John Baldwin."



Confederate soldiers, from left, Ephraim Blevins, John Baldwin and Ephraim's father, Andrew Blevins, stand for a portrait by Mathew Brady during the Civil War.

Mr. Dolinger spoke to a reporter while making a six-hour drive from his home in Pembroke, Va., to Gettysburg, Pa., where today he will speak at a news conference held by the U.S. Postal Service as it unveils a new postage stamp honoring the battle of Gettysburg and, in particular, a part of it called Pickett's Charge, fought July 3, 1863.

The stamp shows Southern forces under Gen. George Pickett trying unsuccessfully to dislodge Union forces from a hilltop stronghold.

On the back of each sheet of Gettysburg stamps will be the photo taken by famed Civil War photographer Mathew Brady, showing the three Confederate soldiers related to Mr. Dolinger. They were taken prisoner on the battle's last day. The photo shows them carrying extra bedrolls but without weapons. They shuttled to various prison camps and often were put on burial detail.

"Humiliated and knowing they would be transferred to a POW camp, they collected extra clothing and blankets from the dead, to prepare for their internment," Gettysburg officials said in a news release. The three Southerners weren't released by Northern officials until after the war ended in April 1865.

Mr. Dolinger said he stopped into his local post office a couple weeks ago and saw a sheet of the new Pickett's Charge stamps, with the photo of his family members on the back.

"I told the postal clerk that I wanted five sheets of these stamps," he said. "She said why, and I said, 'Because that's my kin.' She said, 'The men in the photo are your people?' and I said yes. They were drafted into the [Confederate] army and they had to go."

The Virginia postal official called Washington, D.C., and told them about Mr. Dolinger, and he was invited to speak at today's stamp ceremony.

Mr. Dolinger, now a 73-year-old barber, is stillcutting hair every day for only \$4 a head.

"I don't want to be greedy," he said. His grandmother, in 1949, showed him an album of family photos, and



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the one with the three Confederate soldiers was in it.

"It was raining one day and she said let's look at the family pictures," he said. "She'd tell me stories also, about how they were captured and sent off to prison for the rest of the war. [Northern officials] turned them loose in Richmond, Va., after the war ended and they had to walk hundreds of miles back to Pembroke. Sometimes they would catch a ride in a wagon, my grandmother told me, and at night they bedded down by the side of the road. Sometimes they were lucky enough to catch a rabbit or possum to eat."

At a family reunion in 1999, he was given a copy of the Brady photograph. He said he wants the five copies of the new sheet of Gettysburg stamps, with his three ancestors on the back, "for my children and grandchildren."

He said he's also taking a sword that his "granddaddy's granddaddy" used in the war, as well as a canteen.

According to officials at the Gettysburg Foundation, a nonprofit that helps run the Gettysburg National Park and is sponsoring today's stamp ceremony, Andrew Blevins served in the 30th Infantry Regiment from North Carolina; John Baldwin served with the Virginia 50th Infantry; and Ephraim Blevins was with the North Carolina 37th Infantry. Since 2011, the Postal Service has been issuing stamps honoring Civil War battles. The sheet of stamps marking the Battle of Vicksburg, Miss., won by the Union on July 4, 1863, will also have the Dolinger ancestors on the back.

Building comes down for Chancellorsville restoration

BY CLINT SCHEMMER, THE FREE LANCE-STAR, April 11, 2013

Usually, people try to restore castles. But in Spotsylvania County, the "castle"—as some call a local fixture on State Route 3—is being demolished.

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust is razing the old "Stars and Bars" military surplus store on the Chancellorsville battlefield.

The massively built structure—with twin turrets, battlements and a façade of brick and block—stands in the way of restoring the land to its May 1863 appearance.

That's when it was overrun by Confederate Lt. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's stunning sneak attack, an against-all-odds surprise that rolled up the Union army's exposed right flank.

CVBT's demolition project, which began last week, drew honks and waves from motorists as its contractor—J.K. Wolfrey of Spotsylvania—struck the first blows against the east turret in the castle's 60-yard-long front.

The work will cost the nonprofit group, based in Fredericksburg \$30,000 it hadn't anticipated.

Last year, the trust paid \$475,000 for the 13 acres between Route 3 (the Orange Turnpike, historically) and Orange Plank Road, just west of Wilderness Baptist Church. The acreage fronts on both roads near their intersection, and includes commercially zoned land.

"We were able to get federal and state grants to help buy the property, but the demolition is all coming out of our own pocket," CVBT Executive Director Jerry H. Brent said Thursday

as the "castle" began to come down. "So we're asking people to please send money to help beautify the flank attack."

Once the 8,000-square-foot Stars and Bars building is gone, the land will start to complement the National Park Service acreage on the north side of Route 3—a frequent destination of visitors to Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

What CVBT calls the Partain Tract, after its previous owner, will tell part of the Chancellorsville story most people don't understand—that Jackson's men swept down the turnpike, and on both sides of the road, as they crushed the Army of the Potomac's unsuspecting 11th Corps.

Until now, there was no opportunity for public access to the flank-attack area on the south side of Route 3.

Arranging safe access is a hope of the trust, but more clearing and restoration must be done first. The site's location, in a dip with sight-distance issues on the busy highway, may prove a challenge, Brent said.



Central Virginia Battlefields Trust contractor Ken Woolfrey began demolishing the brick-and-block castle-like facade of the Former Route 3 relic shop, Stars and Bars, a familiar sight to motorists. The parcel, which was purchased last year by CVBT, was part of Stonewall Jackson's flank attack route.

The Partain Tract is one pearl in a necklace of contiguous properties that CVBT and the Civil War Trust have strung together south of Route 3, creating a 77-acre wedge west of State Route 621. Civil War historian



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Robert K. Krick has called the tract's purchase "a spectacular preservation achievement," CVBT's most important exploit in years.

Krick, a prolific author who lives in Fredericksburg, recently filmed a YouTube video for CVBT explaining the demolition project.

"Just about exactly 150 years ago, the attention of the whole world was focused on this corner of Spotsylvania County, where about 200,000 men fought one of the crucial battles of the Civil War," he says to the camera, standing on the oak-topped knoll opposite the old curio shop.

Krick, who serves on CVBT'S board, explains how Confederate Brig. Gen. George P. Doles' Georgia Brigade attacked across the Talley farm, down onto the land that CVBT sometimes calls the Rodes-Dole Tract.

Twenty years ago, he noted, none of the flank-attack area along Route 3 was preserved.

But now, the National Park Service, Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and the Civil War Trust—partnering with the commonwealth of Virginia—are working to save acreage there that will enable visitors to better understand and appreciate what Jackson and his troops did.

"We're saving this land, we're removing intrusions, and we intend to leave it for posterity as hallowed ground," Krick said.

Nationally, Civil War battlefield landscape restoration is rare. It has happened most notably in Franklin, Tenn., and Gettysburg, Pa., and locally at the Wilderness in Orange County and the First Day at Chancellorsville battlefield preserved 10 years ago after a fierce fight by the Civil War Trust.

"We don't have the opportunity to do this very often," said Jim Campi, policy director of the 55,000-member trust. "But restoring battlefield landscapes is an essential element of our mission."

Incinerator would tower over historic Monocacy battlefield

Visibility of 270-foot smokestack puts park on state group's 'endangered' list

by Sherry Greenfield, Gazette.net, April 25, 2013

The Monocacy National Battlefield has again been identified as one of Maryland's most endangered historical sites because of its proximity to a planned incinerator in Frederick County.

In 2008, the Civil War Preservation Trust, a nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of Civil War battlefields, named the park an endangered site because of how close it would be to the proposed "waste-to-energy facility" that will burn trash to produce electricity.

This time, Preservation Maryland — a nonprofit organization founded in 1931 to advocate for historic sites, neighborhoods and landscapes in the state — has also recently named the battlefield one of the state's most endangered historical sites because the incinerator's 270-foot smokestack will be visible from across the battlefield.

Louise Hayman, spokeswoman with Preservation Maryland, said the battlefield was selected by a panel of preservationists and is among more than a dozen historic sites in the state considered endangered.

In its seventh year, the list named sites in 11 counties and Baltimore City, including Belward Farm in

Montgomery County, Fort Carroll in Baltimore County, and the Locust Grove School and Fort Frederick School in Washington County.

The 14-member panel assessed the level of threat, historic and architectural importance and community support for preserving each site, Hayman said.

The National Parks Conservation Association, which advocates for the protection of national parks, recommended the battlefield to Preservation Maryland when the group was compiling the list of endangered sites.

The list primarily is to bring awareness to the public and political leaders of the importance of each site, Hayman said.

"It also offers confirmation that this is an important site on a statewide level [not just a local level]," she said.

Any one of the sites could also receive funding from Preservation Maryland to help preserve it, she said. The maximum funding available from the organization is \$5,000.

"I wouldn't be surprised if any one of these receives funding," Hayman said.

Preservation Maryland also plans to organize tours and events at each property to help bring awareness, she said.

"One of the issues for us essentially is that the smokestack is visible from everywhere," said Rick Slade, superintendent of the Monocacy Battlefield. "You don't think you will ever end up on an endangered species list. But the reason they have the list is to draw attention to specific places like this."

The battlefield is managed by the National Park Service. Funding for it comes through that agency's spending, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior's budget



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submitted to Congress each year for review and approval.

The Frederick battlefield on Md. 355, also known as Urbana Pike, has preserved 51 sites and a variety of archaeological and historic features used by both the Confederate and Union soldiers during the Civil War battle on July 9, 1864.

That summer, Gen. Jubal Early led Confederate forces toward Washington, D.C. He was threatening to capture the city, but Union troops under Gen. Lew Wallace stopped Early's troops on the banks of the Monocacy.

The endangered listing distressed Del. Michael J. Hough (R-Dist. 3B) of Brunswick, who has opposed the incinerator from the beginning, not only because of its \$527 million price tag, but its location.

Hough said he thinks the site is a poor choice for its proximity both to the battlefield and heavily-traveled Md. 85 or Buckeystown Pike.

"My concern is that it is next to the battlefield, residential housing and Route 85," said Hough, whose state legislative district includes the area. "You're just adding more traffic to Route 85."

The planned incinerator, which is a partnership with Carroll County, is slated to be built on 11 acres at the McKinney Industrial Center, south of the city of Frederick and next to the county's wastewater treatment plant off Buckeystown Pike.

It is estimated to cost \$527 million to build the facility, with Frederick's share at \$316 million — about 60 percent — and Carroll County picking up the remainder.

The facility would be big enough to burn 1,500 tons of trash per day. As it burns trash, the plant will produce 45 megawatts of electricity, which the county will sell to power 45,000

homes. The facility is expected to open in 2015.

Site offers savings

It was the 2006-10 Frederick County Board of Commissioners that made the decision to build the incinerator at the county-owned McKinney Industrial Center. Jan Gardner, who had concerns over the site, served as president of the board at the time.

In 2011, the current board reaffirmed that decision because the incinerator would be located next to the county's largest sewage treatment facility. The facility will use a portion of the treated effluent from the plant, reducing the amount of treated wastewater that must be discharged into the Monocacy River.

The county also plans to burn sludge in the facility, so building the incinerator next to the wastewater treatment plant would eliminate transportation costs.

Michael G. Marschner, the county's special projects manager on the incinerator, told commissioners that moving the facility to another site would also jeopardize all terms and agreements with parties involved in the deal.

That would include the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, an independent state agency that helps jurisdictions dispose of their trash and will own the facility; the New Hampshire-based company that is designing and building the plant; and Carroll County, a partner in the project.

All documents and information submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment, the agency that will issue the permits on the project, would also have to be redone, Marschner said.

In the face of a flood of responses, the MDE has currently extended the time allowed for people to comment

on the incinerator to the end of May. The agency will review all of the comments before deciding whether to issue the permits.

Commissioners' President Blaine R. Young (R) said he has always been open to moving the incinerator to the old 2,000-acre Eastalco Aluminum Co. site in Adamstown.

That property is zoned industrial and would allow manufacturing, processing and assembly operations. But there is no public water or sewer systems.

"If I could wave a magic wand I would, but the previous board boxed us in," Young said. "I thought the Eastalco site was a good one."

Museum of the Confederacy opens new Gettysburg exhibit

BY KATHERINE CALOS, Richmond Times-Dispatch, May 12, 2013

Eight Confederate battle flags from Pickett's Charge in the Battle of Gettysburg are on display at the Museum of the Confederacy in a new exhibit, "Gettysburg: They Walked Through Blood."

The flags from Maj. Gen. George Pickett's Virginia Division were captured by Union troops in the Confederate assault on July 3, 1863. The 8th Virginia, also known as the Bloody Eighth, lost 74 percent of its men in the attack. Overall, the brigade suffered 50 percent casualties.



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The battle flag of the 8th Virginia is among eight included in the Museum of the Confederacy's exhibit, "Gettysburg: They Walked Through Blood."

Afterward, according to exhibit labels, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee requested that Pickett post his division behind a nearby hill to await a possible counterattack. Pickett replied, "General Lee, I have no division now."

"This is the first time in about 18 years that we've had this many flags from Pickett's Charge displayed together at one time," said John Coski, historian at the Museum of the Confederacy.

In 1994, when the film "Gettysburg" was released, all 11 of the Pickett's Charge flags from Pickett's Division in the museum collection were on display. Thirteen of the fifteen battle flags carried by regiments in Pickett's division were captured in the charge. Flags carried by the 3rd, 7th, 8th, 9th, 18th, 19th, 38th and 57th Virginia Infantry are on display now.

"I think it's safe to say that this new exhibit and the 1994 exhibit represent the largest displays of flags from a single charge since the war," Coski said.

Artifacts on display include a sash worn by Pickett and swords worn by the three brigade commanders: Brig. Gens. James L. Kemper, Richard B. Garnett and Lewis A. Armistead. All

three were wounded, and only Kemper survived.

On display for the first time is a recently donated letter and ambrotype of Sgt. Edward Estes of Pittsylvania County and a copy of a photograph of Callie Hill Estes, who was his black cook and body servant. Callie Estes remained in service until the surrender at Appomattox and received a Confederate pension, said Sam Craghead, museum spokesman. A copy of the New Testament owned by C.O. Robey has a hole where it stopped a bullet. "This book was wounded Gettysburg 3rd day of July" Robey wrote on a back page.

The exhibit will be on display until September 2014.

A soldier's long-lost Civil War ring is returned to his family in Pennsylvania

By Michael E. Ruane, Washington Post, April 09, 2013

Who knows how Pvt. Levi Schlegel lost his identity ring?

The finger ring bearing his name, company and regiment — a Civil War version of a dog tag -- was found near Fredericksburg, a place Schlegel had only passed through on his way home a month after the war ended.

Did he misplace it in camp there? Or discard it — divorcing himself at last from the butchery he witnessed in the closing weeks of the war?



On Tuesday, 148 years after the war ended and 81 years after he died at the age of 91, the ring that married him to the conflict was returned to his family in a modest ceremony at his grave in Reading, Pa., where he had lived.

It was handed over by John Blue, 40, a heavy equipment operator and veteran relic hunter from Manassas, to Ernest Schlegel, 49, a candidate for Reading City Council, who believes he is a distant cousin.

"To know what this person went through and get back here...and to know what he went through in battle ... it's an amazing feeling to have this right here in my hand," Ernest Schlegel said when Blue gave him the ring.

Blue, who was wearing a ball cap and T-shirt bearing the name of White's Metal Detectors, said, "No matter where you walk, you could be walking on all kinds of history."

Blue, who grew up in Manassas and learned relic hunting from his father and grandfather, said he found the ring in 2005 with a metal detector but didn't try in earnest to track down the soldier's relatives until recently.

He succeeded with the help of a friend, Margaret Binning, who is a genealogist and volunteer at the Manassas Museum. She tracked Levi Schlegel to the Reading Public Library, where Ernest Schlegel is on the board, he said.

Blue said he believes it may be the first time that such a recovered Civil



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War object has been returned to a soldier's family.

"It's a great story for Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania, and the Schlegel family all at the same time," Ernest Schlegel said. "Because when you read the kinds of battles that this man went through, and he came back and he lived a successful life...it's amazing, absolutely amazing."

Hagerstown monument to honor black Civil War vets

WTOP.com, May 3, 2013

HAGERSTOWN, Md. -- The city of Hagerstown says it will erect a monument to black Civil War veterans 90 years after white veterans of the war were similarly honored.

Hagerstown-Washington County Visitors Bureau President Tom Riford said Thursday that the monument is long overdue. He says it will be dedicated in September at Rose Hill Cemetery.

The granite obelisk will honor members of a local, African-American chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic. The GAR was a national organization for Union veterans of the Civil War.

Riford says a monument to a local post for white veterans was placed in the cemetery in the 1920s. But he says there was no monument dedicated to the black veterans.

Riford says organizers are seeking donations for the project.

Franklin battlefield preservation marches on despite national funding cuts

BY Kevin Walters, The Tennessean, April 12, 2013

FRANKLIN — Buying back Franklin's Civil War battlefield has taken federal

grants, national support and the legwork of local supporters to pull off.

Going forward, battlefield supporters must lean even heavier on local sources for money because sequestration-related cuts in the U.S. National Park Service's federal battlefield preservation program would remove about \$560,000 total this year from battlefield land purchases.

The American Battlefield Protection Program, a division of the National Park Service, has contributed at least \$1 million toward Franklin's battlefield reclamation work in recent years, ranging from buying the 110-acre former Country Club of Franklin to last year's purchase of the three Columbia Avenue parcels including the Domino's Pizza.

However, battlefield supporters don't see the cuts slowing down Franklin's momentum. Since buying the three Columbia Avenue tracts for \$2.2 million in grants and donations, Franklin's battlefield supporters are speaking to prospective sellers about adding three more tracts, though they're not sharing details yet.

"I don't think it will put a damper on the effort," said Julian Bibb, Franklin's Charge board member. "It will mean we're going to have to work harder to raise the money."

Some projects won't get funded

Since 1998, the American Battlefield Protection Program's grants have helped buy land at 75 Civil War battlefields in 16 states. Bibb said having the program behind the Franklin's Charge efforts lent local work greater importance among other donor groups.

Today, the program faces 5 percent cuts in both its battlefield land and planning grants programs, which means the loss of around \$500,000 in the land acquisition program and

about \$60,000 in its preservation planning grant program, the agency said.

The cuts will not affect grants that have been announced.

Despite the cuts, the grant program will have \$8.5 million for battlefield purchases and \$1.14 million remaining for preservation planning this year, though the effect of the sequestration cuts hasn't been finalized

"That \$500,000 could be 10 or more small projects that don't get funded," said Mike Litterst, National Park Service chief spokesman.

The cuts have created other issues for the Park Service. Staff vacancies caused by a hiring freeze mean it now takes staffers double to triple the time to complete technical reviews, while cuts in noncritical travel funds mean the agency can no longer provide education and technical assistance to local communities, Litterst said.

Civil War Trust partnership at risk

Locally, the sequestration cuts cast doubt on a proposed partnership between the city and the Civil War Trust, the nation's largest nonprofit Civil War battlefield group.

Last year, the trust had proposed to raise \$250,000 in donations from its members, if Franklin allocated \$250,000 in city money. Together, that money would be paired with \$500,000 in federal battlefield grant money to buy more of the Franklin battlefield.

Franklin had planned to include \$250,000 in its upcoming budget for the partnership. Whether the sequestration cuts affect the plan remains to be seen.

"If part of the formula falls through, I'm sure the city will have to look at it," said Alderman Mike Skinner.



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Excitement builds as anniversary nears

As the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin nears — Nov. 30, 1864 — there's excitement among supporters about the city reclaiming its Civil War past.

Once the Domino's site is torn down, supporters want to raise money to recreate the 1800-era cotton gin that was owned by the Carter family on the property. The land was the scene where Union and Confederate forces fought, leaving more than 8,500 casualties.

Archaeological work on the Domino's site and surrounding area must also be finished.

In the meantime, an access road into the former country club is being completed by the city. A 12-pound Civil War-era cannonball was recently discovered on the battlefield.