

THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Excavation of Possible Confederate Graves Set at Gettysburg's Lady Farm

May 14, 2003 - Courtesy CWI Premium - Even 140 years after the Battle of Gettysburg, rumors, research and old records indicate that some of the victims of the great fight never made it home, either in the land of the living or the dead. An investigation is underway this week to see if two of them, both Confederate soldiers, linger in unmarked graves on the Daniel Lady Farm in Straban Township.

The Lady Farm was a field hospital for Confederate forces, records show, and nine men who died of their wounds were buried on the farm land, according to the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association which owns the land.

Seven of the dead were exhumed ten years later and the remains shipped back to the South for permanent interment in family or community graveyards, said Kathi Shue, GBPA's official in charge of the Lady Farm. The other two, as best as is known, were never moved and lie in Pennsylvania soil to this day. The group knew about the burials at the time the farm was purchased to keep it safe from development, Shue said, but they intentionally never revealed the site of the graves to keep them from being disturbed by vandals or relic hunters. It took time, she added, to arrange for a proper team of scholars to excavate and study the site.

A team of volunteers is working along with students and experts from George Washington University on the

excavation project. Two participants who could be classified as either experts or volunteers are Eagle and Duke, who are known as "recovery" dogs who have been trained to detect the scent of human remains. Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) searches of the area where the burials are said to have taken place have also shown anomalies in the ground at the site, Shue said. "We rely on as much data as we can and to be as objective as we can before we dig," Professor James Starrs, forensic scientist and law professor at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., told The Gettysburg Times.

"This is a 140-acre farm, so we have to have some idea where to look," Starrs added.

The bodies are most likely those of enlisted men, Starrs said, because those are the soldiers who were taken to the Lady Farm for treatment of wounds. Officers were supposed to have been taken to another home nearby at the time of the battle. The work earlier this week had to be conducted under shelter due to driving rain and wind that was plaguing the area at the time. Under the tent, a series of trenches just over two feet deep was dug in an area approximately 15-by-36 feet.

Dr. George Stevens, of the George Washington University Geology Department, pointed out that the 15-inch trenches show gradation, or successive stages. At the deepest point, the ground was a lighter muddy brown, toward the surface, the ground was a deeper, darker brown. According to the professor, this proved that the area has not been disturbed by digging.

"Once the two materials get mixed and back-filled, it takes thousands of years (to) separate again," said

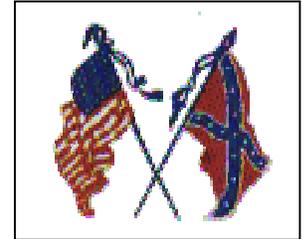
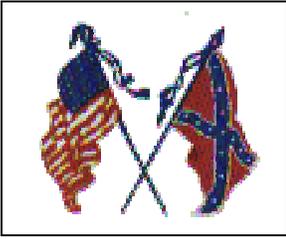
Stevens. Even if the gravesites can be located based on disturbance of the ground, it is uncertain what could be expected in the way of remains. Archaeologists and forensic scientists note that decomposition can be very rapid in some types of soil conditions and very slow in others, depending largely on the chemical composition of the earth and the moisture level at the burial site.

Hunley Crew Burials Postponed to Next Year

May 15, 2003 - Courtesy CWI Premium -The burial ceremony for the last crew of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley, originally planned to take place this November, has been pushed back to an undetermined time in 2004, officials of the Friends of the Hunley group have announced.

The reasons cited for the delay include a combination of factors, including a need for further study and identification work on the remains found in the sunken vessel as well as a realization that more planning was needed for the ceremony itself. The remains will still be interred at Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston, Friends chairman Warren Lasch told the Charleston Post & Courier, and burial will be done with full military honors. A march from The Battery at Charleston Harbor to the cemetery will take place with large numbers of reenactors in uniform and other participants in period dress. Spectators for the event are anticipated to be in the thousands, possibly tens of thousands, Lasch said.

"The attraction is that it truly may be the last Confederate burial," said Warren Lasch, chairman of Friends of



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the Hunley. Other Civil War graves may be uncovered from locations around the country, Lasch said, but this may be the last time in the nation's history that victims killed in the war are laid to rest from off the battlefield.

Similar rituals were held in 1999 and 2000 when the remains of about 30 Civil War soldiers, Marines and earlier Hunley sailors were buried. Those remains, which were recovered from beneath The Citadel's football stadium, were carried through the city on horse-drawn carts. Re-enactors and women in mourning dress marched with them while thousands lined East Bay Street to watch.

The stadium had been built over the site of a pauper's cemetery decades after it ceased to be used and after records of the burials were forgotten or overlooked. The category of "paupers" often included sailors who had little in the way of either money or ties to family, or who could not be identified.

Civil War re-enactors, submarine veterans and history buffs from around the world will be invited to attend the 2004 ceremony, officials said, and considerable planning will be required to allow the city to host such a large gathering, The State newspaper reported in Columbia. The remains of the third crew of Hunley sailors are being kept in a morgue at the Hunley conservation lab in North Charleston. The only crew member positively identified at this point is the commander, Army Lt. George Dixon, who was carrying a number of distinctive items including a bent gold coin that had been struck by a bullet at the Battle of Shiloh. Other crew members of the Hunley were not so farsighted as to carry tokens of identification. Records of

the names of the seven men who turned the crank that powered the boat are incomplete and different accounts are contradictory.

The Hunley was lost on the night of Feb. 17, 1864, after it rammed an explosive charge into the hull of the Union blockade ship Housatonic. It was discovered four miles off Sullivans Island by a dive team funded by adventure author Clive Cussler in 1995, and raised in August 2000.

One of those already buried in Magnolia Cemetery is Horace L. Hunley himself, who provided the funding to design and build the boat and took an intense interest in its progress. He died in the second of three sinkings of the vessel while it was undergoing testing in Charleston Harbor.

Stephenson's Depot Developer Tries New Tack After CWPT Turndown

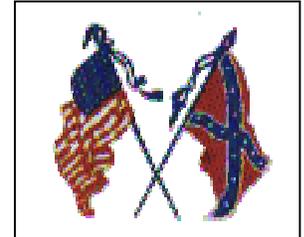
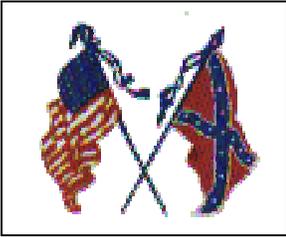
May 9, 2003-Courtesy CWI Premium-A developer trying to construct a 2800 unit residential project on the site of the Battle of Stephenson's Depot near Winchester, Virginia, has presented a "preservation" offer for some of the battlefield land to a new group after the last one they tried it on turned them down flat. The Civil War Preservation Trust turned down the proposal from The Shockey Companies that would have involved the developer "donating" around 110 acres of what they call "core battlefield land" on the condition that CWPT contribute nearly a million dollars for a conservation easement on an additional 98 adjacent acres. When rejecting the donation offer,

CWPT President James Lighthizer said: "We are interested in saving the battlefield, and just as interested in insuring that the character of the community won't be dramatically altered."

Local residents have been fighting the Shockey Cos. development proposals in the area for several years, arguing that such massive projects would not only destroy historic sites but change the character of life in the area. Roads and water supplies would be overburdened, they say, and taxes would rise to fund new schools, emergency and fire services, sewers and other infrastructure.

Now Shockey is making essentially the same offer that CWPT turned down, to the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation instead, the Winchester Star reports.

A Shockey division called Stephenson Associates has offered to donate the 108 acres fronting both sides of Milburn Road to the SVBF, foundation Executive Director Howard J. Kittell wrote earlier this week in a letter to Frederick County Administrator John R. Riley Jr. Kittell said that the easement area proposed for donation is not in an area covered by a rezoning request that would allow the large residential development with commercial components to move forward. If the project becomes a reality, an access road would cut across a small portion of battlefield land, he said. SVBF wants to receive the 108-acre conservation easement and the 98-acre easement, but it will need the help of Frederick County to act as a fiscal agent for the nonprofit battlefields group, Kittell said. The group is not asking for any money from county taxpayers, he said, but only that they act as a conduit for a



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grant the SVBF is seeking from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. For the SVBF, preservation is the mission "regardless of what [The Shocky Cos. are] doing on other land," said foundation Resource Protection Program Manager John D. Hutchinson.

"We're talking about millions of dollars in land value here," Hutchinson said.

Hutchinson told the Star that the combination of development and preservation is occurring more frequently, and the SVBF is using a recent project near Manassas as a model. A fact sheet he provided on the Manassas project, Bristoe Station, notes that it allows the developer to build up to 520 houses, and 175,000 square feet of office and commercial space on 214 acres of a 341-acre tract.

The remaining 127 acres of land is being ceded to the CWPT for a historical park. Saving the battlefield land is the important thing, Kittell said, and the foundation's board feels it's appropriate to work on a deal that is also "helping to leverage more preservation."

If all the donation is accepted and the easements can be purchased, "more than 300 acres of land along Milburn Road in the core area of the Second and Third Winchester battlefields will be protected under the easement in the project," Kittell wrote. The request for Frederick County to act as a fiscal agent for the grant will appear at the Board of Supervisors' May 14 meeting. The NPS grant application must be submitted by June 1.

State Donation to New Gettysburg Visitor Center Put On Hold

May 19, 2003-Courtesy CWI Premium-It happens frequently in politics. An outgoing governor showers a benevolent rain of money onto worthwhile projects around the state. The incoming governor decides this represents an excessive drain of revenue from the state money bucket and hastily puts a cork in the whole thing until it can be examined by the new administration.

This has now happened in Pennsylvania. New governor Ed Rendell has frozen about \$350 million in state grants previously approved by old Gov. Mark Schweiker for scores of local construction projects across Pennsylvania, pending a review of their economic worthiness. One of the grants in question is a \$10 million contribution to the construction of the new Visitor Center and museum complex at Gettysburg National Battlefield Park, the Associated Press and local media report. Also halted was a grant to help with the restoration of the Majestic Theater project of Gettysburg College.

"This review is necessary in order to ensure that the limited available commonwealth capital funds are targeted to those projects that have the highest potential for improving Pennsylvania's economic outlook," Budget Secretary Michael Masch wrote.

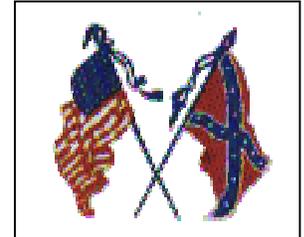
The loss of the state grant, if it stays cancelled after Rendell's review, would be devastating, or at very least monumentally embarrassing, to the foundation raising the money to build the proposed Visitor Center &

Museum at Gettysburg. The \$10 million was by a considerable margin the largest single contribution the project has so far received. "We're very comfortable that we'll be able to answer any concerns" about the economic impact, said Bob Wilburn, president of the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation. "We're talking about tens of millions of dollars of additional impact on the economy of Gettysburg."

According to the last statement issued by the group, they have so far raised \$26.6 million towards the project. Of that, \$10 million was the State of Pennsylvania grant, and \$5 million is a contribution from the Federal government towards the restoration of the Cyclorama painting. Of the individual gifts, the largest contribution came from the Kinsley Family Foundation donation of \$5 million. York developer Robert Kinsley is engaged in a public-private partnership with the National Park Service forged to construct a new visitors center and museum complex. Foundation president Wilburn said the the remainder included 10 corporate donations totaling \$2.6 million, 8 gifts from foundations totaling \$1.75 million, and individual contributions amounting to \$7.2 million.

A list of corporate donors was not released, Wilburn said, because they need permission to do so. He added when the figures were released last month that a list will be released at a later date.

The Washington, D.C.-based group originally said the new center would cost around \$35 million. Recalculations after completion of architectural studies had the total cost for the project at one point up to \$95 million, although the foundation now



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cites \$83 million as the amount it hopes to raise.

Besides the cost of the new complex itself, the foundation has guaranteed to raise the money needed to remove the old Visitor Center and Cyclorama Complex and restore the portion of the battlefield on which they sit to its 1863 condition. The fundraising also includes several million dollars intended to be used as an endowment for future expenses.

Richmond Boy Scout Group to Drop "Robert E. Lee" Name

May 15, 2003-Courtesy CWI Premium-The central Virginia group that has been known as the "Robert E. Lee Council of the Boy Scouts of America" will drop the name of the Confederate general from its title and insignia. A new name has not yet been chosen, but the group's executive council, which voted unanimously to make the change, suggested that something geographical might be selected. The council serves a 24 county area in Virginia centered roughly around Richmond. The area includes some 22,000 Scouts and 7500 leaders, according to council executive Robert A. Tuggle. "We want a name that is more geographically descriptive," Tuggle told the Richmond Times-Dispatch, "so that when we market ourselves outside of this area--particularly our camps--people will know what part of the country we're in."

The executive council has 70 members, of whom 43 were in attendance at the meeting in which it was decided to change the group's name. The vote for the proposal was overwhelming, Tuggle said. The board meant no disrespect

towards Lee, members said, but hoped that the name change would encourage minority, particularly African-American, boys to feel welcome in the Scouting movement. They "acknowledged Lee as an outstanding man, leader and influential person in our country's history," Tuggle said, and "changing the name has nothing to do with [Lee's] character or opinions." The council has held the Robert E. Lee name since 1942, although media accounts did not indicate what any previous names might have been or why the Lee name was adopted at that time.

"If there is one boy that doesn't join Scouting, or one qualified leader that doesn't volunteer because of that [Lee] name," Tuggle said, "shouldn't the organization's leadership examine that?"

The change was not prompted by any particular campaign and came as a surprise to a local NAACP member contacted for comment.

"I'll tell you, it's a surprise," said King Salim Khalfani, Virginia director of the NAACP. "But it is something whose time has truly come. [The Lee name] has been a sticking point for many in the African-American community and many in the progressive, non-Confederate-loving whites and others."

Khalfani, himself a former Scout from Cleveland, agreed with the board that the change would help encourage minority boys to join the organization. "Taking that barrier down would lead me to recruit [new members]," Khalafi said. "I think it's a very positive step and I want to applaud them for their forward thinking."

Virginia Commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Bragg Bowling was not at all impressed with the decision and accused the Scout

council of bowing to "political correctness."

"American history has very few people who have represented honor and integrity such as General Lee," Bowling said in prepared remarks for the Richmond media. "His fame is worldwide. Everything which General Lee stood for are virtues which all people should subscribe to." Bowling called the Scout council decision "shameful."

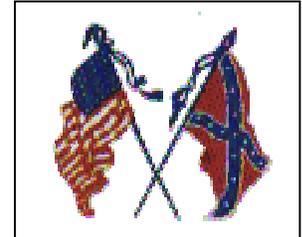
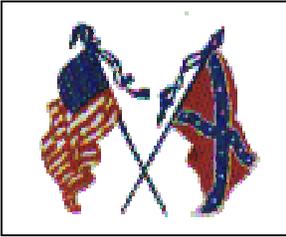
The board plans to solicit suggestions for a new name for the council over the coming months, and have the new name in place by June of 2004.

Gettysburg May Get Town Guides to Join Battlefield Experts

May 8, 2003-Courtesy CWI Premium-The test to become a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park is said to be one of the most fiendishly difficult ever devised, tough enough to send those who breezed past the ones for "Jeopardy!" contestants screaming into the sunset. But those who pass it can answer just about any battle-related question visitors can dream up.

Now a proposal is in the works to create a group of townspeople to provide a similar service to visitors who may know all about the 1863 version of the town but have no idea how to find modern-day necessities like an ATM machine, the local hospital, or the city's only liquor store. For several months, a committee organized by Main Street Gettysburg has been establishing guidelines for Certified Gettysburg Town Guides, a voluntary two-tiered certification process, the Gettysburg Times reports.

Co-chairmen of the committee are



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Tim Smith, a licensed battlefield guide and historian and Mark Nesbitt, author and commercial tour operator in the borough. Nesbitt is best known for his series of "Ghosts of Gettysburg" books, excerpts from which are regularly featured on the History Channel around Halloween. The project is part of the ongoing effort by the Main Street group to encourage tourists to learn more about the town itself in both its modern and historic aspects, president Kevin Trostle says. The guides would be helped to pass along accurate historical information along with the everyday matters which, as local residents, they already know quite well.

Main Street Gettysburg obtained a grant from the Robert C. Hoffman Charitable Endowment Trust to begin the process of establishing the guide program. Like their battlefield counterparts, those who complete the training would receive certification at the end of the procedure. The certification would be broken into two levels, organizers said. Level 1 would include basic information about the history of the town from its founding by James Getty to the modern day. It would include how the town's most notable historic event proceeded as well.

Like New Yorkers who have never been to the Statue of Liberty, or Philadelphians who have never visited the Liberty Bell, the Battle of Gettysburg is something that many local people learned about in school and haven't given a second thought to thereafter.

The project would like to change that, so that town guides can steer people to scenes of important events on the battle's first day, where two armies alternately fled and fought through the streets. Level 2 certification would

go into this greater detail. "There have been 15 folks attending the meetings," said Kevin Trostle, president of Main Street Gettysburg. "It's a great mix of business people and historians." "It's been going remarkably well," he said.

Huge Chunk of Mine Run Battlefield Preserved Thanks to Generous Donor

May 12, 2003-Courtesy CWI Premium-Bill Meadows is a grower by trade, operating 23 nurseries that supply plants to the landscaping companies of northern Virginia. He also owns an 800 acre farm in Orange County, Virginia. On Friday he gave 685 acres of that farm--which just happens to be the site where the Battle of Mine Run took place--to the Civil War Preservation Trust, for a price of about half of what he could have gotten from a developer. "This is something that I wanted to do in my heart," Bill Meadows said, standing with his wife Betty before about 50 people gathered at the property to announce the sale of the land. "We raised our two children here, and now I want to share it with other children."

Preservationists and historians were thrilled with the donation. The Mine Run site has been on "threatened and endangered" battlefield lists for several years, with similar fields nearby starting to sprout crops of houses and strip malls rather than corn or cows.

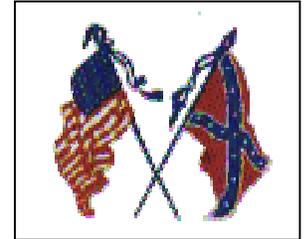
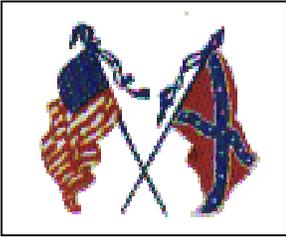
Arrangements with the CWPT were finalized earlier this month, with help from the Piedmont Environmental Council and two federal grants. The group paid Meadows' asking price of

\$1.2 million for the property which is valued at more than \$2 million, the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star reported.

"Thanks to the generosity and community-mindedness of Mr. Meadows historic farmland will be preserved for all Americans to enjoy," said Jim Lighthizer, president of the trust, which has preserved 10,000 acres nationwide since 1999. This is the first time the Washington-based trust has partnered with the PEC, a nonprofit conservation and regional land trust, officials of both groups noted.

"This is an excellent example of a win-win deal," said Christopher Miller, president of the PEC, which will hold an easement on the land along with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. "We were able to leverage private dollars with federal funds, and now have an opportunity to support both battlefield preservation and farmland protection," Miller said.

Those attending the announcement got a thorough tour of the field by one of the premier authorities on the action which took place there. "There are not many opportunities to buy a whole battlefield," said Robert E. L. Krick, a historian at Richmond National Battlefield Park and son of former National Park Service historian and author Robert K. Krick of Fredericksburg. The trust said it plans to protect the land and eventually install interpretive signs and walking trails for the public. Krick pointed out the scene in November 1863 where Union Gen. George Meade tried to strike the right flank of the Confederate Army south of the Rapidan River. Confederate Gen. Jubal Early, in command of Ewell's Corps, marched east on the Orange Turnpike to meet the advancing troops near Meadows'



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land, which was called Payne's Farm. Union troops clashed with the Confederates twice that day. After dark, Confederate Commander Robert E. Lee withdrew to fortified positions along Mine Run.

The next day Union forces closed in on the Confederates. Fighting was heavy, but no major attack materialized. Recognizing the strength of the Confederate line, Meade pulled back in early December, ending the winter campaign. Casualties on both sides are estimated in the 2000 range. Although Meade was vilified in the press and criticized in Washington for the withdrawal, those under his command were most grateful for his decision.

"I suppose all in the North are surprised at Gen'l Meade's movement, and call him incompetent," wrote Union Maj. Holman Melcher of the 20th Maine. "But he saw that the fruits would be far less than the cost, and was brave enough to withdraw and save thousands of his Army."

Harpers Ferry Chugging Along with Train Station Restoration

May 5, 2003-Courtesy CWI Premium-Superintendent Don Campbell has announced that Harpers Ferry National Historical park is moving forward with plans to restore the historic Harpers Ferry Train Station with the signing of a cooperative agreement between the town of Harpers Ferry and the Park to free up a major state grant for the project. With the CSX Transportation land transfer in 2001, the National Park Service acquired six acres of historic

property along the Potomac River containing the ruins of the 19th century US Armory Yard as well as the 1894 B&O Train Station Depot. Proposed restoration activities include the Train Station Building Restoration and Rehabilitation, landscape improvements, and new interpretive exhibits and furnishings. Campbell said that the cooperative agreement will soon release the West Virginia state grant of \$320,000 that will be used for restoration of the train station. Sen. Robert C. Byrd was able to secure a total of \$1.9 million in a fiscal year 2003 appropriations bill for the project, meaning that the full \$2.2 million the project is expected to require has now been acquired. The NPS and the US Public Health Service are currently in the midst of mitigation studies to identify hazardous materials within the old station. Any materials found will be removed later this summer, according to a news release from the park. Restoration activities are expected to begin by December of 2004 and to be completed somewhere between nine and 12 months later. The NPS is currently undertaking a full-scale environmental assessment of the newly-acquired sites as a preliminary to commencing the actual restoration itself. Such an assessment is required by law for any area open to the public which could potentially contain chemical or other residues, as a train station almost certainly would.

"For decades, the train station has been in an unsightly condition," Campbell said, "and it will now get the attention it deserves." When completed, the fully restored station will serve MARC (the Washington DC regional transit system) and Amtrak passenger railroad service customers. It will also

provide the town of Harpers Ferry with a space to dispense information, as well as holding Harpers Ferry Park exhibits on the railroad history of the town and area.

The public is invited to direct questions, concerns or comments regarding this project to Park Architect Peter Dessauer at (304) 535-6040 or by sending an email to [or by writing to Superintendent Don Campbell, Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, PO Box 65, Harpers Ferry WV, 25425.](mailto:orbywriting@superintendentdoncampbell.com)

Happy Birthday, Ed !!

On the 26th of this month, the internationally famous Civil War historian and battlefield guide, Ed Bearss, will celebrate his 80th birthday. During his nearly 50 years in the Park Service, and in the time since his "retirement", Ed Bearss has done more to preserve and interpret America's Civil War and Indian Wars history and battlefields than anyone in history. He has devoted most of his life studying and sharing his knowledge of America's military history. Over the years, Ed has been a wonderful friend to the Baltimore Civil War Roundtable. He has spoken at our annual Banquet every year for longer than I am able to remember and has guided many truly memorable bus tours.

Won't you join me in sending Ed a heartfelt, sincere wish for a Happy Birthday! as he completes his eighth decade in life and starts his ninth full of vim, vigor, and love for the Civil War and the Indian Wars???

Ed's address is:

1126 17th St. South,
Arlington VA 22202.

And you might want to include a "Hi!" to his wonderful wife Margie.