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Dr. Craig Symonds named Lifetime BCWRT Member

Baltimore Civil War Roundtable President Don Macreadie announced at the June meeting that the BCWRT Board of Directors has decided to name Dr. Craig Symonds an Honorary Lifetime member of the BCWRT in honor of his contributions to Civil War Scholarship and his continued close ties to the roundtable and its membership.

In the past, other worthy individuals have been named Lifetime BCWRT members, including Ed Bearss, Dennis Frye and Rev. John Schildt, among others.

Board OKs Manassas Battlefield Bypass

Peter Bacque, Media General News Service, June 18, 2006

MANASSAS - The Commonwealth Transportation Board approved the route for a bypass around the Manassas National Battlefield Park on Thursday.

The new northern Virginia road would allow the closure of U.S 29 and state Route 234 in the 4,600-acre Civil War site, which the two heavily traveled roads now cut through. The board selected the 8.6-mile loop around the park's north and west sides known as Candidate Build Alternative D.

Under the conditions of the state board's approval, the federal government must pay for the bypass, officials said, as well as improvements to handle the road closures' traffic effects on Prince William and Fairfax counties.

However, the federal government does not have the estimated \$265.5 million to build the loop around the park's north and west sides, said

Jack Van Dop with the Federal Highway Administration.

Conceived by the federal government in 1988 as a historic preservation measure, the bypass plan has drawn opposition from environmental groups.

Though the National Park Service backed the new road, environmentalists said the bypass would open the fast-growing area to more development and traffic.

"This development will forever destroy the historic context of Manassas Battlefield," said Stewart Schwartz with the Coalition for Smarter Growth in Washington.

Fairfax sends Civil War remains home to Mass.

By Stefan Cornibert, Fairfax County Times, June 23, 2006

The burial of six Civil War-era skeletons unearthed in Centreville is fueling a controversy among historical researchers.

Discovered by chance in 1995, the bones represent some of the earliest casualties of the Civil War. Archaeologists believe the six men died during the Battle of Blackburn's Ford on July 18, 1861, in a skirmish that preceded the Battle of Bull Run.

The remains, thought to be Union soldiers from the First Massachusetts regiment, were re-interred at a military cemetery in their home state two weeks ago on June 9.

But exactly who they were is a mystery, one that has researchers and archaeologists feuding over whether burying them was the right move.

"It doesn't prevent identification," said Michael Johnson, a senior archaeologist for Fairfax County. "I'd like for there to be a DNA identification. All you'd need is a court order and the next of kin and you

could exhume the bodies." Identifying the men is a task that had Dalton Rector, member of the Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association, devoting countless hours to research.

"By processes of elimination, I was able to determine the possible groups of soldiers they could belong to," Rector said. "The First Massachusetts lined up very well. The only thing lacking was DNA testing."

Rector said he wanted more time to locate the men's next of kin and arrange for DNA tests. "They just went back into the ground, unknown," Rector said. "I really have mixed emotions. I am very disappointed."

The men ranged in age from 16 to 18 years old. Rector believes he has already found the name of the youngest, Albert Wentworth, after combing archival documents, searching for a 16-year-old soldier who would have served in Northern Virginia at the beginning of the war.

"His selection of who they were is a theory," said Johnson, who defended the decision to re-bury the soldiers with military honors.

"I just didn't feel right about leaving them in a box any longer," he said.

The site of the three-day excavation that brought the six bodies to the surface is now a McDonald's on Lee Highway. The bones might have stayed in the ground, had the fast-food chain not sought to build on the property.

Although finding the remains offers little new information about their time period, Johnson said it does provide a small window into the days following the outbreak of the Civil War.

"It's a piece of history that you can read as a narrative," Johnson said.



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The Battle of Blackburn's Ford, according to a history from the Fairfax County Park Authority, began when Confederate troops arrived at Union lines on a reconnaissance mission. The rebels were repelled with an artillery barrage, but there were casualties on both sides. The Union troops were taken to Centreville, where several buildings were used as makeshift hospitals.

There is evidence to suggest, Johnson said, that the men were buried around the time Union troops began to fall back after their defeat at Bull Run. The graves, he explained, are misaligned in places, an indication the job was done in a hurry. "They had time to bury them but not unlimited time," he said. The bones stayed underground for more than 130 years until Kevin Ambrose, a relic hunter, found them with a metal detector. Ambrose summoned the authorities, and the excavation was under way. "We probed the ground, and right away we knew there were at least five and maybe six graves there before we started digging," Johnson said.

A forensic pathologist from the Smithsonian Institute later examined the bones, determining the ages of the men when they died. The remains were kept at the Smithsonian until their burial in Massachusetts. Johnson is certain the men died in combat.

"One was shot in the head," he said. Unearthing the bodies took three days with the help of 50 volunteers. Among them was Fairfax County Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully), who also arranged for police protection of the site.

"I worked at uncovering a femur, and I could already see the skeleton from his waist up to his skull. As I'm

working on it, he was just looking right up at me the whole time," Frey said.

The excavation, he added, brought him closer to the county's history. "We know they were young men," he said. "You just have to wonder who were they, what happened to them and what sent them into the war." Before the decision was made to bury the men in Massachusetts, Frey also tried to have them interred at a local church. Although reluctant to see the remains leave the county, Frey said letting them go was the right thing to do.

"On one hand, there was a little disappointment," he said. We had hoped they would be re-interred here. They have spent 130 years here. But, we know they were sons of Massachusetts."

Fairfax County's landscape is dotted with historic Civil War sites, according to parks department spokeswoman Judy Pedersen. Grave sites, fortifications and other pieces of history are often uncovered in the area, but the county keeps the location of many of them under wraps.

"We don't really tell the public where they are because we feel the sites would be in danger," she explained.

Recalling the battle before Gettysburg

By ELLIE BAUBLITZ, BALTIMORE SUN, JUNE 18, 2006

A 5-foot-tall, 3-ton, boulder-style memorial to the 1863 Battle of Westminster, known as Corbit's Charge, was unveiled at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 24 at War Memorial Park on Court Place as part of the Corbit's Charge Commemorative Weekend.

"It's the only memorial we have to this battle that impacted the Battle of

Gettysburg," said Tom Legore, local historian who has spent more than 40 years researching the Main Street skirmish.

"It's a tribute to not just the men on both sides who fought here but to the citizens of Westminster who opened their homes to care for the wounded afterward," Legore said.

The monument, surrounded by a concrete walkway provided by the county, will be unveiled by six descendants of Union soldiers from the 1st Delaware Cavalry who fought in the hourlong battle, Legore said.

The story starts 143 years ago, in late June 1863, as Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia headed north to Gettysburg. The morning of June 29, Stuart and nearly 6,000 men entered Carroll County, tearing up the railroad tracks at Hoods Mill and Piney Run to try to cut off communications between Washington and the Army of the Potomac.

Shortly before noon that day, about 90 men from 1st Delaware Cavalry Companies C and D arrived in Westminster to guard the rail and road junction in town. Capt. Charles Corbit and Lt. Caleb Churchman were company commanders.

Stuart and his troops entered Westminster about 4 p.m. On hearing of the Confederate approach, Corbit gathered his men and marched toward Washington Road. The Union soldiers were surprised by the size of the Confederate Army but attacked anyway.

An hour later, four men - two Confederate officers and two Union soldiers - lay dead, while many were wounded and Corbit and Churchman, among others, were captured.

The battle, though a small victory for the Confederates, delayed Stuart's



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getting to Gettysburg long enough to affect the outcome of that battle and turn the war to the Union side, said Legore, who wrote Just South of Gettysburg: Carroll County, Maryland, in the Civil War, which details Carroll's involvement.

"If it weren't for Corbit's Charge, we'd all probably be speaking Southern," said Stan Ruchlewicz, administrator for economic development for the city of Westminster, a co-sponsor of the event, along with the Civil War Pipe Creek Roundtable.

A historical sign on Main Street at Washington Road describes Corbit's Charge, and one of the dead Confederate soldiers is buried at Ascension Episcopal Church as a reminder of the skirmish.

Lt. John William Murray, 31, of Company E, 4th Virginia Cavalry, died several hours after the battle on the steps of the Union Meeting House, which was being used as a hospital, Legore said.

His family was too poor to come claim his body to take back to Virginia, so he remains buried at the Church of the Ascension, his grave shaded by a large sycamore tree. It was thought that burial in an Episcopal Church would ensure that his grave would be protected, Legore said.

And it has been. Legore put a new footstone on Murray's grave years ago. The original one misspelled Murray's name. Legore also has placed a tribute on Murray's grave every year on the anniversary of the battle.

Video Tour of Hollywood Cemetery now Available

Take a video tour of Hollywood Cemetery, burial place of Presidents, Confederate soldiers and local notables and considered one of Richmond's jewels. Hollywood

Cemetery, 412 S. Cherry St. at Albemarle Street. A garden spot on a bluff above the James River and the burial place for several famous Virginians: Presidents James Monroe and John Tyler, six Virginia governors and 18,000 Confederate soldiers. The tour is available at:

http://www.discoverrichmond.com/ser/vlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD/MGArticle/RTD_DRMGArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1149188201642

Riggs Bank Debates Fate of Historic Checks Since Merger

Inventory Project of Riggs Archive Underway in D.C.

By Michael E. Ruane, Washington Post, June 20, 2006

On Aug. 28, 1861, a month after the Union Army's disastrous defeat at the first Battle of Bull Run, President Abraham Lincoln sat down and wrote out a Riggs Bank check for \$3 to "Mr. Johns (a sick man)."

It is not known who Johns was, where Lincoln encountered him or what prompted the beleaguered president to pause amid the opening weeks of the Civil War to give him a donation.

It is but a tantalizing shard of local history, one of the thousands that reside not in the National Archives or Library of Congress but behind the thick steel door of a 40-year-old basement bank vault in downtown Washington, where the question has become: What to do with them?

The Lincoln check is among a trove of documents gathered over the decades by Washington's venerable and now-defunct Riggs Bank -- which, along with its antecedents, had customers ranging from Davy Crockett to President George H.W. Bush.



Checks such as this one from Abraham Lincoln are among documents written by presidents and other historic figures in the Riggs Bank archive. (Pnc Bank)

The collection includes letters, notes and checks written by, among others, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Theodore Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, Brigham Young and Gen. John Pershing.

Now, Pittsburgh-based PNC Bank, which took over Riggs on May 13, 2005, is in the midst of a project to gather and inventory the artifacts, which include shelves of crumbling ledgers that go back a century and a half.

John Tydings, director of the PNC-Riggs Bank archives project, said last week that PNC has never acquired such a collection. PNC "recognized the need to address this in a much more sensitive way because of the connection of these records to the history of this country, as well as the history of the bank and the history of the city," he said.

The bank hired historian Mary Beth Corrigan, former curator of research collections at the Washington Historical Society, who had worked with the Riggs archive, to comb through the holdings and assess what was there.

Tydings, the retired head of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, said PNC is trying to decide whether to donate, display or store what it has inherited from its historic predecessor. He said it was too early in the process to know exactly what



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to do with any of it or what the best options for donating some of the material might be.

Riggs traced its founding to 1836 and had a long history of close relations with the federal government, Corrigan said last week. The bank helped finance the Mexican War, the construction of the Capitol dome and the purchase from Russia of Alaska -- for \$7 million in gold bullion, she said. Lincoln, among 23 U.S. presidents who were Riggs customers, opened an account shortly after his inauguration in 1861, and Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, closed his, she said.

Theodore Roosevelt's signature card is on file, stating that the president's account was opened Sept. 27, 1901, the year he was inaugurated. Address: "Executive Mansion."

Former president William H. Taft's June 19, 1919, check for \$2.56 to Woodward & Lothrop is there, along with Vice President Richard M. Nixon's Dec. 29, 1958, check for \$66.03 to the Washington Gas Light Co.

Many of the documents were purchased by the bank over the years for their historical value and for marketing purposes, Corrigan said. They also provide intriguing glimpses behind the sometimes dry tomes of history.

Lincoln's "Riggs & Co." check to Mr. Johns, No. 41, is handwritten and signed "A. Lincoln."

There is an account in the bank's lore of another check written by Lincoln in April 1863 for \$5 to a "colored man with one leg." That check is even more mysterious. The recipient's name is unknown, as are the check's whereabouts. "We do not have it," Corrigan said. "We do not know where that check is."

Lincoln was known for his compassion and for his wanderings away from the wartime stresses of the White House.

"He was familiar with the area," Corrigan said. "He was not scared of going outside, even though the danger for him was quite great. I'm assuming [the one-legged man was] somebody that he knew right around the White House and that he saw very often."

The checks prompt other visions: Nixon paying his utility bills (there's also a Nixon check to the phone company) and the dapper, corpulent Taft shopping in a department store.

Corrigan said poring over the documents is fascinating and tedious. Most of the handwriting is good, she said, except for that of famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass, which is awful.

"It's just very exciting to see this stuff get organized and arranged in a way that people can actually begin to use it and have access to it," Corrigan said.

It's also interesting, she said, to see hints of extraordinary figures doing ordinary things: shopping, paying bills, giving to the needy.

But hints also raise questions, such as: Didn't Lincoln carry cash? A logical query, Corrigan said. The answer: "I don't know."

U.S. Army to Drop Green Uniform, Return to Blue

June 15 (Bloomberg) -- The U.S. Army plans to eliminate the green uniform worn by its soldiers for more than 100 years and switch back to traditional blue worn by those fighting the Revolutionary War.

Everyday-wear uniforms will include a dark blue jacket, light blue trousers and grey shirt, the Army said. Formal occasions will require a white shirt;

soldiers' dress uniforms are already blue. Soldiers will begin wearing the new garb by the middle of next year and all soldiers must have it by the end of 2011, the Army said.

The change will simplify the uniform, Army Chief of Staff General Peter Schoomaker said when announcing the decision earlier this month. The blue was ordered for the Continental Army by General George Washington to contrast with the red of the British and help distinguish friend from foe on battlefields obscured by smoke.

"We have all these variations of uniforms -- green, blue and white," Schoomaker said in a statement. The new uniform "reflects simplicity, quality, utility and tradition," he said.

Some soldiers already have these uniforms, though the fabric and fit will be improved to give them a more tailored look, the Army said. The Army doesn't plan to change the recently adopted combat uniform, which has a camouflage pattern in grey, green and tan hues. The all-white uniform rarely used by soldiers also will be eliminated, the Army said. A date for eliminating the green uniform hasn't been set.

Union soldiers wore blue uniforms during the Civil War and the Indian Wars. When the cavalry arrived at the last minute in movies about the old west, they rode up in blue.

Green and Khaki

The development of smokeless powder and changes in weapons and battle tactics made bright uniforms a liability, so armies switched to green and khaki, making soldiers less visible to the enemy.

Since 1902, the U.S. Army has worn a standard uniform that was khaki or some version of green. In World War II and Korea, soldiers wore olive drab uniforms or "pinks and greens," a uniform of pinkish gray trousers and a



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dark olive-drab jacket or blouse. The army switched to the current green uniforms in 1954.

Kenneth Preston, sergeant major of the army, said he had talked with soldiers about their preferences for a uniform.

"It was always about 85-90 percent of hands that showed support for the Army blue uniform," he said in a statement.

The King has Rebel Roots

By MEG BERNHARDT, Hanover Evening Sun, June 13, 2006

The King of Rock and Roll is famous for his blue suede shoes, but a local woman wants him to be remembered for his relatives who sported gray.

Barbara Lee Rowe, who says she's a fourth cousin of Elvis, recently opened a store on Steinwehr Avenue commemorating Elvis' Confederate cousins and uncles who served at the Battle of Gettysburg.

The store is something she hopes won't get people all shook up, but will just bring another dimension to Civil War history. She thinks her cousin can bring excitement and interest to the stodgy history of the battle.

"I hope the store will bring Elvis into American history where he belongs," Rowe said. "He is a present day figure who had roots in the Civil War. I'm hoping it will help them find more of an interest."

The store is small for now, but Rowe said it's doing great business so far.

Elvis DVDs, decorative plates, candle holders and T-Shirts are strewn across the walls and on the shelves. Rowe also has a section for POW and MIA products, to commemorate Presley relatives who were prisoners of war.

She also sells framed photographs taken by Ed Bonja, Elvis' official photographer.

Rowe has always been interested in history. It's part of the reason she moved to Gettysburg three years ago, she said.

She thinks of Gettysburg as a living classroom and thinks Elvis' popularity will fuel Civil War scholarship.

Rowe started doing intense research on her genealogy after her father, William Harrison Rowe, passed away in 1992. He knew they were related to Elvis but didn't want the family to get too involved in the hype, Rowe said.

Since then, Rowe has contacted Elvis' other cousins and participated in DNA tests to prove the link between them. And she started tracing the Presley family back as far as she could.

Rowe says Elvis is related to Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood, who lost use of left arm when he was wounded at Gettysburg. Hood was the cousin to Elvis' grandmother, Rowe said.

In a black binder with shiny silver text saying "Elvis' Family," Rowe has pages and pages of enlisted Presley kin from the Civil War. But she's proven Elvis' connection to only some of them, like Darlin Presley of the 26th North Carolina, who fought in Pickett's Charge and was taken prisoner. He later died at Point Lookout Prison in Maryland.

Horton Presley, of the 55th North Carolina infantry also served at Gettysburg and is related to Elvis.

"Confederate Americans are Americans too," Rowe said. "He knew he had Confederate ancestors and he was proud of it. But he was also proud to be an American. He would have put it in the proper perspective." Famous for his sideburns, slicked-back hair and gyrating dance moves, it's hard to imagine Elvis' forebearers with bayonets and beards. But Rowe said many Presleys shared his

characteristic blue eyes and brown hair, a family trait.

Gettysburg Ghost Tours Torment Residents

By Meg Bernhardt, Hanover Evening Sun, June 21, 2006

Ghost tours are haunting Gettysburg's Baltimore Street homes with noise and litter, two residents told the Gettysburg Borough Public Safety Committee on Monday.

Gettysburg officials, who don't have any regulatory ordinances in place to control the ghoulish guides, are struggling to ensure a growing number of companies follow a voluntary compliance policy.

Many ghost tour companies are also complaining that their competition is giving them all a bad name.

Larry Weikert, who lives at 328 Baltimore St., told the committee he can't pull his car into the alley behind his home when large groups of tourists are gathered to listen to the guides.

"They look like deer in headlights," he said about the groups of 20 to 30 people who gather near his home two or three times an evening.

The loud voices keep his grandchildren up at night and make it impossible to watch television or leave the door open, he said.

And the tourists often litter, leaving behind soda cans, paper trash and dropped ice cream. He wasn't sure which tours go by, though. He said when he asked, the guides were rude to him.

A Baltimore Street neighbor sat quietly next to him at the meeting, nodding. And the committee also read a letter from a church asking the police to enforce trespassing laws when ghost tours go onto church property.

Public safety chairwoman Holly Giles said some companies work with the



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borough and wear safety vests and identifying name tags. They don't trespass and try not to disturb their neighbors, she said.

But the borough now has 14 different companies operating ghost tours in the streets, and complaints haven't stopped since the policy was agreed upon.

The borough is also worried about guides walking around in dark outfits with small candles, making them almost impossible for cars on the road to see.

"Somebody's going to get hit, and it's going to be a pedestrian struck," said interim Borough Manager John Lawver. "It's going to be ugly because they're going to come back and say (the borough) allowed this. We haven't regulated it but we've allowed it."

The ghost tour owners aren't jumping for regulations, but they do wish they weren't plagued by a few bad apples, some said Monday.

Cindy Codori Schultz, owner of Sleepy Hollow of Gettysburg, has been overseeing tours for 10 years.

"I'm as concerned as anybody because they told us that if everybody voluntarily complied, they wouldn't have to pass a bunch of ordinances," Schultz said.

Her guides all wear nametags identifying themselves and she tells them to be respectful of people's homes.

"I don't have to know everyone on the route to know they are my neighbors," Schultz said.

When she hears a complaint, she said, she responds personally, even if it's not her tour company.

She said she hopes people will realize that 10 percent of ticket sales go directly to the local government through an amusement tax. And, she

said, the tours bring jobs and money to the town.

Mark Nesbitt, owner of Ghosts of Gettysburg Candlelight Walking Tours on the corner of Baltimore and Breckenridge streets, has worked with borough officials in the past to try to improve neighborhood relations.

"There's no real control over any of that and I really don't know how to solve the problem," Nesbitt said.

He's owned the business since 1994 and says it's the oldest ghost tour company in Gettysburg. He's written six books on ghosts and describes his business as well-established and legitimate.

Over the years, he said, he's worked hard to reduce complaints, but he's been frustrated as other, smaller companies come in and disregard policies. Lately, he said, companies have been setting up on card tables. He doesn't know where they get their stories or whether they follow the policies.

He tries to make it as obvious as possible who's with his group. Everyone wears a bright orange sticker.

"Most of our guides warn our customers don't come back here at night and peek in the windows," Nesbitt said. "People live in these houses; they're our neighbors."

Although the guides stay off private property, the sidewalks are public property and the guides are allowed there, he said. And he acknowledged the motorcycles and trucks on Baltimore Street makes it necessary for the guides to speak loudly in order to be heard.

Schultz said as more companies pop up, turf wars start to form between the supernatural specialists. Her tour has already had to change course a few times so they wouldn't be overlapping with other businesses.

"We're just trying to do the best we can," she said.

Gettysburg, PA Loans Cannon to Sister City in South Dakota

American News, June 21, 2006 - Gettysburg, SD - A Civil War cannon from the Gettysburg National Military Park in Gettysburg, Pa., is on display at the Dakota Sunset Museum in South Dakota's own Gettysburg.

The cannon is known as a Blakely Rifle. It is part of a very rare collection of Civil War weapons housed at the national park. The two communities are sister cities. The Blakely gun and carriage are on loan for a five-year period.

The Blakely was the first rifled cannon used in the United States by South Carolina. It fired on Fort Sumter from Morris Island on April 12, 1861.

During the Battle of Gettysburg, which took place July 1-3 of 1863, three Blakely cannons were in action. They were on the south end of the battlefield on July 3 and belonged to Hart's South Carolina Battery.

The Blakely Rifle was invented and patented in England by Capt. Alexander T. Blakely. The authentic 700-pound rifle was cast by the Fawcett, Preston & Co. in Liverpool, England, in 1861. The iron tube is 58 inches long and has a bore diameter of 3.60 inches.

The cannon carriage is a reproduction, which conforms to specifications set forth in the 1863 Confederate Ordnance Manual. The 1,000-pound carriage is constructed of seasoned white oak painted olive drab with its iron fitting painted black. It has 57-inch diameter wheels; the length with tail is 105 inches.



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Manning the rails of the replica Monitor are the men who built the new ironclad, apprentices from Northrop Grumman Newport News, while reenactors wait below during the christening of the replica at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News. CHRIS TYREE PHOTOS/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Replica of ironclad Monitor is christened in Newport News

By NICOLE MORGAN, The Virginian-Pilot, June 12, 2006

NEWPORT NEWS - A cannon fired three ground-shaking shots into the air to celebrate the christening of a replica of the Monitor on Sunday.

About 1,500 guests soon left the audience to tour the Civil War ironclad ship at the site of the new USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum.

When the center opens to the public on March 9 next year, visitors will be able to experience what life may have been like for sailors on the Monitor.

They'll see the real turret, where Union sailors fired at Confederates, and a steam engine that actually powered the ship.

The United States built the Monitor, its first ironclad, after hearing about the Confederate ironclad, the CSS Virginia.

A Swedish engineer designed the U.S. ship, hailed for its low profile and revolving turret, which housed two cannons. Before that, entire ships had to move and reposition before aiming and firing, said museum spokesman Justin Lyons.

The ship, which launched from Green Point, N.Y., on Jan. 30, 1862, had been described as "an immense floating shingle," and "a cheesebox on a raft," according to museum officials. It helped change naval warfare, though.

The Monitor and the Virginia battled March 9, 1862, according to the museum. The cannonballs simply bounced off both ships' walls.

"It was the first time two ironclad warships had fought," Lyons said. "So

they didn't know what to expect." Sometimes, he said, the ships actually touched because they were so close.

"Technically, it was a standoff," Lyons said. But, the Union began building a new class of warships.

The Monitor sank off the coast of Cape Hatteras on Dec. 31, 1862. The ship took on too much water and 16 of about 50 men aboard went down with it, Lyons said.

Scientists aboard a Duke University research ship found the Monitor's remains in 1973.

In 1975, the site off Cape Hatteras was named the nations' first marine sanctuary. Between 1977 and 2002, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration worked with the Navy to uncover hundreds of artifacts, including the ship's anchor and propeller.

Lyons anticipates that the center will attract tourists from around the nation, increasing the museum's annual attendance from about 70,000 to about 200,000 the first year.

"This," he said, "will absolutely be a national Civil War Landmark."

Lawmakers name LSU building for Sherman

Shreveport Times, June 15, 2006

BATON ROUGE -- The Louisiana Senate voted Thursday to suggest that the LSU Board of Supervisors name a building after the only former university president not so honored: William Tecumseh Sherman. Sherman left the LSU presidency to join the Union army in the Civil War. Toward the end of that conflict, his army burned a path through Georgia, dividing the South.

Sen. Robert Barham, R-Oak Ridge, said the time has come "to recognize someone who played a major role in developing what became our major university." At the time, LSU was in



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Alexandria.

Barham sponsored Senate Resolution 130, which urges the LSU board to consider naming an appropriate building after Sherman. "When they are considering what would be an appropriate building, I would suggest the LSU fire training center would not be the best choice," Barham said. The Senate voted its approval without objection. "Without objection, reluctantly, it is approved," quipped Senate President Don Hines, D-Bunkie.

Interest in Civil War Leads to Family Reunion

By Alex Hursky, The View, June 15, 2006

You might say that the dice were loaded right from the start. With both of his older sons interested in Civil War reenactments, it was only a matter of time before their father was going to get pulled into it, too. Indeed, it didn't take Ellicott City resident Glenn Fowler long before deciding to become a part of the action himself. "It really looked like fun," said Fowler. "It only took one time; that was it, I was in. It's the first reenactment that I had been to, and it was very

in by the excitement on the field and the easy camaraderie at the campsite.

"I saw it firsthand and knew instantly that I wanted to do it," remembered Sean, who lives in Sykesville. "I think I was about five at the time."

Until quite recently, however, neither Fowler nor Jeremy even knew that Sean existed. "It's like an Oprah story, really," Fowler said, with a laugh. Jeremy nodded, and added: "I got home from school, and my dad said, 'You have a brother.' I went around the neighborhood shouting, 'I've got a brother, I've got a brother!'" Jeremy, who was in the third grade at the time and an only child to boot, could not have been more thrilled. Explaining that Sean was not a newly arrived baby boy, but a brand new older brother, however, was a bit more complicated.

The decision to meet his biological father was a difficult one for Sean to make. Four years ago, however, at age seventeen, he was ready to do it. "I didn't question my mother at first, out of respect for her privacy. But I got older and I asked her about him. If I had waited 'til I was older, who knows what would have happened,"

he explained.

"I got a letter in the mail," Fowler confirmed. "I could have been mad about it ... but the whole thing has turned out really good. He wanted to know who I was, to at least have a meeting. And that has turned into, well, I talk to him practically every day and see him all the time."

All three enjoy the time they spend together during the reenactment weekends. "It's awesome. We're family, and it's a family event. We get to hang out. It's become a big part of our life," said Sean. Fowler noted that one of the reasons he was drawn to

the reenactments was "the guys who were there are a great bunch of guys, very family-oriented."

But Fowler also warned that the weekends are not for the fainthearted. "The reenactment camping is real hardcore. There's just a canvas tent with no floor on it," he described. The reenactors are careful to keep everything as authentic as possible. "We camp and live the whole lifestyle the whole weekend. They actually get very particular about the campsites: there's no wristwatches, only pocket watches. The uniform is all authentic, down to the material that it's made from: wool or jean cloth," he added.

Even the camp cook fixes all the meals over an open fire. During her tenure, her skill has improved to such a degree that Fowler now jokes about gaining weight while taking part in a reenactment instead of losing it. "She has done whole roasts on a spit over a fire. Even baked pies in what's called a Dutch oven. That's basically a cast iron pot with a cover on top. You put it in the fire and put coals on top and underneath and bake it that way," Fowler described.

The 24th North Carolina was an

impressive. It was at Cedar Creek in Virginia, on the actual battlefield. There were about 8-9,000 reenactors."

Shortly after watching the event, Fowler decided to join the 24th North Carolina Unit, with his son Jeremy. His eldest son, Sean O'Malley, was already a member.

Twenty-one-year-old Sean and thirteen-year-old Jeremy have both been enamored with Civil War reenactments for as long as they can remember. Each had been brought to see the events by grandparents at a very young age, and each was taken

infantry unit, and both Fowler and Sean carry black-powder rifles into mock battle. Their weapons are exact replicas of the rifles Civil War soldiers would have used. Fowler's 1862 Richmond rifle weighs more than twelve pounds. "Try carrying that while marching two or three miles," he said, grinning.

During a reenactment, the weapons are discharged using blanks, but even this carries some risk. "Our unit has an ordinance sergeant that inspects all the rifles and ammunition," said Fowler. Everyone in the battalion offers help to the



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newcomers. "The general feeling is that the overall important thing is safety," Sean added. "Everyone is really friendly, too. They'll keep an eye out there on you."

Jeremy is the unit's drummer. Reenactors must be 16 to carry weapons, but only 12 to be musicians. "So, he took up drumming," said his dad. "Not at first in school, but now that he's gotten into it, he's taking private lessons."

Sean is also drawn to the historical side of the Civil War. "I find that time period so fascinating," he noted. "And we're living in the backyard of so many battlefields. You can drive a short distance and see turning points in the war."

Although the three reenactors have chosen to join a Confederate unit that was based in North Carolina, in an ironic twist, they share an ancestor who was born in the South but became a soldier in the Union army.

John W. Packham, Fowler's great-great-grandfather, was born in Fayetteville, N.C., but left home to join the 34th Ohio Unit. He was even younger than Jeremy when he made the decision to enlist.

"He lied about his age, he was not yet 13, and was supposed to be 16," said Fowler.

Rumor of Graves Holds up Gettysburg Area Housing Development

By Tim Pratt, Hanover Evening Sun, June 15, 2006

Highland Township officials are investigating claims that the site of a proposed 279-home subdivision near the intersection of Thompson Lane and Knoxlyn-Orrtanna Road could contain the remains of Civil War veterans.

"We had two different citizens come to us (the Highland Township

planning commission) based on eyewitness accounts of their relatives," Planning Commission member Rob Fergesen said to township supervisors Tuesday. "They gave us letters saying there were bones there in the orchard behind the barn. Two different citizens. Two different accounts."

Fergesen said the planning commission received another letter claiming someone found documentation from 1934 that described the use of the property as a Civil War hospital. The letter also stated the possibility that there might be Confederate Civil War veterans buried at the property.

The supervisors Tuesday voted to send the resident accounts to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for further investigation. Fergesen said he has spoken to the Museum Commission and they recommended an archaeological survey be done on the property. But Fergesen said the Museum Commission does not feel an archaeological survey is enforceable unless other federal permits, such as an Army Corps of Engineers permit, are included.

"Whether or not there is an Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction, I think we need to request that the developer do a full investigation of the site, and if anything is found, as we believe we have some historic evidence indicating that there will be, that they take appropriate measures ... to test the area somehow."

James Hanna, project manager of Empire Homes, said the developers' legal department is now looking into the claims.

"It's in the attorneys' and engineers' hands," Hanna said. "We just received comments on it and we'll act on it accordingly."

The supervisors want a 90-day extension to allow for these claims to be further examined and to review comments on the development from the planning commission and Adams County Office of Planning and Development. Empire Homes must now submit a written request for the extension.

"It seems to me that somebody needs to go out there and find out what's there," Fergesen said.

Digs to continue at Gettysburg property

By Meg Bernhardt, Hanover Evening Sun, June 16, 2006

Gettysburg Borough and the Adams County Housing Authority gave the go-ahead Wednesday afternoon to proceed with further archeological digs at a property on South Washington Street that has turned up thousands of artifacts dating back to the Civil War.

The site was once the home to several free black families during the 18th and 19th centuries. It was later built upon, and the borough acquired it in the late 1990s after condemning a trailer park there.

Since then, the land has been turned over to the housing authority. Authority officials are proceeding with plans to build two duplexes there for low- to moderate-income housing and hope to begin construction by mid-August.

But in order to do so, they need to pass a review by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The borough already completed preliminary digs at the site, but the commission suggested more digs might be beneficial.

And the neighborhood group, 3rd Ward Concerned Neighbors, also demanded that the excavation studies continue, despite borough concerns about funding.



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"There has not been any respect in Gettysburg for the black community that has lived here. It's time to tell our story," said Mary Alice Nutter, co-coordinator of the group.

The site was once the home to several prominent black families, including Clara Diggs, Elizabeth Butler and Richard Monroe.

A free black woman, Diggs left her South Washington Street home before the Civil War came to town.

Monroe was a Civil War veteran and a member of Company B of the 32nd U.S. Colored Troops.

Another part of the site was a blacksmith shop. Both parts of the property date back to the middle of the 18th century.

Wade Catts, associate director of the Cultural Resources Department of John Milner Associates, prepared the report on the initial excavation.

He said the thousands of artifacts found there provide physical evidence of the economic status, personal preferences, domestic economy and behavior of the site's inhabitants during the last quarter of the 19th century into the early years of the 20th century.

The artifacts help tell a story that is devoid of documents, said Jean Cutler, the director of the bureau for historic preservation at the museum commission.

And Nutter, a retired educator, said she believes the artifacts are necessary to give people a glimpse into the history of a well-established black community. She said few people realize there were black home- and business-owners dating back that far.

"The white children did not get this story (in school)," Nutter said. "Even we, the black children, did not get this story in this town."

Nutter hopes the artifacts recovered there eventually will become exhibits in a black history museum in Gettysburg. Her group is hoping it will be able to establish the museum next to the historical Lincoln Cemetery, where many U.S. Colored Troops veterans of the Civil War are buried.

And despite the \$30,000 to \$40,000 price tag on further excavations, the borough and housing authority agreed to do the extra work.

Work will be primarily concentrated at the site of the blacksmith shop, where Catts believes he will find more details about the layout of the site and the methods used by blacksmiths.

Catts will prepare a proposal for the work next week, and the Borough Council and housing authority will meet to figure out funding. Historic preservation officer Walter Powell, council member Dick Peterson and housing authority executive director Ed Jenkins all agreed to proceed with plans for more digs.

There is a time crunch on all this – the housing authority needs to begin construction within a certain period of time so it doesn't lose funding.

And although the site is historic, Nutter and her group believe affordable housing is important and needed in the area. They simply want to make sure building there doesn't erase history, she said.

Nutter believes it is too important to let the opportunity to learn about blacks in Gettysburg go by.

"I hear the voices of my ancestors obligating me to do this," she said.