



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Virginia town prepares to unveil restored coat owned by the only woman Confederate captain

By Frances Hubbard, Daily News, July 18, 2016

Mathews, VA — Sally Louisa Tompkins' long gray woolen paletot coat is currently hidden in a veil of mystery.

The Civil War-period garment worn by Tompkins — a nurse from a prominent Mathews County family who some believe was the only woman to be commissioned as a captain in the Confederate Army — has recently been restored. Its new condition will be revealed on Saturday, two days shy of the 100th anniversary of Tompkins' death.



Capt. Sally Louisa Tompkins's CSA coat prior to restoration. The restored coat will be unveiled in a ceremony on July 23. Photo courtesy of Mathews County Historical Society

The coat was nominated last summer for the Virginia Association of Museums' Top 10 Endangered Artifacts program, but finished 11th in the voting. The program allows the public to rank endangered relics nominated by organizations across the state and make donations to help preserve the items.

Tompkins' coat was nominated by the Mathews County Historical Society. According to Reed Lawson, the historical society's archivist, it still attracts attention.

"We received donations to have the coat restored from a variety of groups and individuals," Lawson said.

Costume & Textile Specialists of Richmond was able to repair moth damage; replace damaged or missing buttons and button holes; repair crumbling seams and stitching; and replace the black silk lining in the garment. The company, Lawson said, was recommended by Colonial Williamsburg.

"We have very few of Sally's possessions in the county," Lawson said. "It's a precious artifact and we needed to do the best we could by it."

The coat, once revealed, will remain on display at Tompkins Cottage. It stands this week under cover until Saturday. A special form was made for the coat to hang on, along with a period pattern dress to go under it. Lawson said they are considering a special protective case to store the coat.

According to the historical society, the cottage, located on Brickbat Road, is one of the oldest frame structures in the courthouse area of Mathews County. It is named for Christopher Tompkins, a prominent 19th-century planter, merchant, sea captain and ship owner and builder. It houses items collected by the historical

society and has a room dedicated to his daughter, Sally.

Sally Louisa Tompkins lived from 1833 to 1916. She grew up in Mathews, lived in Norfolk and moved to Richmond where she became involved in St. James Church. At the start of the Civil War, she opened the Robertson Hospital to care for the wounded.

She was commissioned as a captain on Sept. 9, 1861, by Confederate President Jefferson Davis, recognizing her hospital.

According to the historical society, she is called the "Angel of the Confederacy." The hospital she operated is said to have had the lowest death rate of any Confederate or Union hospital.

After the war, she stayed in Richmond and worked at St. James Church. She lived her last days at the Home for Confederate Women, which is now the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' Pauley Center, according to the historical society. She is buried at Christ Church Cemetery in Mathews County.

"She was such an ambassador of caring and concern for people," Lawson said. "Not just the wounded she nursed but her family and the servants on her property. We have stories in the archives about the loving relationship she had with everyone at Poplar Grove. She seemed to have been such an unusually gentle, considerate and compassionate woman."

Sally Tompkins is one of 12 Virginia women proposed to be honored with a bronze statue in a Virginia Women's Monument in Richmond, according to the Women's Monument Commission.

The restored coat will be revealed at 11 a.m. Saturday at Tompkins' Cottage on Brickbat Road in Mathews.



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The event is free and will include a presentation about Sally Tompkins with a reception to follow. For more information visit the historical society's website at mathewscountyhistoricalsociety.org.

Arson destroys Louisiana governor's mansion from Civil War

Associated Press, July 21, 2016, NEW ORLEANS — Arson destroyed an antebellum plantation house that served as the governor's mansion for nine months during the Civil War and damaged a museum less than a mile away on Thursday, the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office said.

The Old Governor's Mansion burned to the ground, but the fire at the Louisiana Orphan Train Museum apparently burned out fairly quickly, said Brant Thompson, chief deputy for the fire marshal's office.

Museum workers found fire damage when they arrived for work Thursday morning, he said.

"We don't know whether there's any connection between the two fires. But certainly we'd not rule that out," Thompson said.

He said investigators do know both were arson. He wouldn't give details because the investigation is continuing.



The old Governor's Mansion, in Opelousas, La., is a total loss following an early-morning fire Thursday, July 14, 2016. Fire officials are still investigating the cause of the blaze. Westbrook/The Advocate via AP

The Louisiana Orphan Train Museum commemorates the trains that brought abandoned or homeless children from New York to rural homes from 1854 to 1929, and the children who rode on them. Opelousas, about 55 miles west of Baton Rouge, was among the places to which such children were sent from the New York Foundling Hospital.

Opelousas was Louisiana's capital for about nine months in 1862 and 1863, after Union troops seized Baton Rouge. When the Union Army captured Opelousas, the capital moved again, to Shreveport in northwest Louisiana.

Gov. Thomas O. Moore lived in and had his headquarters in the mansion. The dwelling was built about 1850 and bought soon thereafter by Lastie Dupre, whose father had been governor briefly in the 1830s. Lastie Dupre bought the mansion for his daughter, whose husband became lieutenant governor during the Civil War, said James Douget, president of Preservationists of St. Landry Inc.

"When the capital moved to Opelousas, Gov. Moore needed a place to stay, so they opened the house to him," Douget said.

Laws passed while the governor and Legislature were in Opelousas included the conscription law allowing Louisiana's Confederate government to draft men into its army.

Douget said the mansion had been vacant during renovations for about two years, and had been occupied by various families before that.

Douget said he'd been to the Old Governor's Mansion a week ago and again on Wednesday, and had been excited by the progress of renovations.

"It looked like it was going on fast-forward, and I was hoping it would be opened up fairly soon," he said.

On Thursday, Douget said, "I saw one of Louisiana's treasures in ashes."

Fort Sumter coming apart as more visitors press in

By [Bo Petersen](#), Charleston Post and Courier, Jul 3 2016 10:00 pm

Tim Stone spreads his hands defenselessly on top of the wall of Fort Sumter that faces the Charleston shipping channel. This wall withstood cannon bombardment from Fort Moultrie and offshore warships, a landmark of American history.

"It could fall as we stand here right now," the fort's National Park Service superintendent said.

National parks, like state parks, are understaffed and consequently underfunded, falling behind in maintenance, pressured by government leaders to pay for themselves to operate.

The three national parks near Charleston — Fort Sumter, Fort Moultrie and the Charles Pinckney National Historic Site — are cumulatively more than \$10 million behind in maintenance. The backlog statewide is more than \$235 million.

In 2015, the three sites attracted 887,707 visitors and brought in more than \$5 million in revenue on a total \$2 million budget, according to Department of Interior figures. They had a \$64 million impact on the local economy.

"What folks in government don't do very well is differentiate investment from consumption," said U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C. "We have to be careful not to give away the farm. Everyone has to take part — concessionaires, users. It can't be just the taxpayer. (But) we have to



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reinvest. This is stuff that, in some cases, if it's gone, it's forever gone." There's been some new attention amid the anniversary celebrations. The Charleston-area forts technically aren't parks; they are historic sites. U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., just introduced a bill that would combine the two into the Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Park, which could draw more funding.

Stone rode out to Sumter recently on a filled-to-capacity ferry, which returned them to the launch and a capacity number of tourists waiting for the next trip.

The fort is in dire need of a breakwater, he said. The granite boulders set up at the fort as riprap during earlier channel work were piled against the wall, trapping seawater and threatening to undermine it.

The wall very well could fall once the harbor deepening is finished and larger containership traffic brings larger wakes crashing into the riprap. The breakwater cost would be \$3 million.

That's not all. A tonnage-size chunk of the bricks underpinning one of the cannon casemate arches recently collapsed into the parade ground, just one section of a gun emplacement wall where bricks regularly are coming loose and tumbling.

Unless it's shored up, it could start a cascade of already weakened bricks coming apart and spilling out, dropping the arch and eventually the entire gun-emplacement wall.

"The structures are certainly ruins. However, it's going to become a complete ruin with this underpinning missing," said park service historic mason Petey Bender. Emergency repair to the underpinning alone could easily cost \$100,000.

Those are among critical needs. But the fort's maintenance backlog extends to the lifts carrying visitors from one level to another, which haven't been usable for three years. The visitor walkways are cracking. They were built from the 1960s through the 1980s, and haven't been funded for significant work since. Crews shored them up with spot repairs and patch them with sand.

Then there's vandalism, a lot of it just careless visitors yanking on something they shouldn't, like the loose bricks.

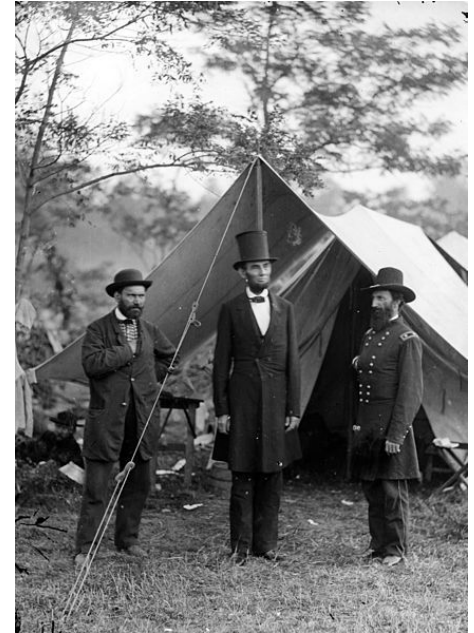
"We're at that point where we're struggling," Stone said. "We don't want to cry poor. But at some point, if you lose Fort Sumter, what do you have left?"

The Pinkerton National Detective Agency & Lincoln's personal security during the Civil War

The Vintage News, July 16, 2016

Long before the emergence of FBI, when the idea of Sherlock Holmes was being conceived by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a Scottish immigrant businessman in Chicago was on his way to fame and immortality using his detective skills. Allan Pinkerton founded the Pinkerton National Detective Agency in the early 1850's with a whole spectrum of operational capabilities, no different than FBI or any federal agency for that matter. The scope of influence that 'Pinkertons' (as they were normally referred as) exercised spanned from Old West Outlaws, train robbers all the way to intelligence operations and even the President's security. Pinkerton also played a part as a management muscles for many employers during labour strikes. Following is a short list of little-known facts about the agency that gave rise

to a whole new perspective on law enforcement.



Allan Pinkerton, President Abraham Lincoln, and Major General John A. McClernand

Allan Pinkerton was an accidental Detective

After immigrating to Chicago from Scotland in 1842, Allan Pinkerton had no motives of associating with any kind of law enforcement activity purely because he was a businessman by nature. Soon after his arrival Pinkerton started his own barrel-making factory and had a pretty decent start and made his name in the business circle for the next five years. His journey towards the 'Pinkertons' started when he embarked on a private mission of surveillance on a counterfeit gang operating from an island in the Fox River. The information Pinkerton gathered during his solo operation helped the local police to apprehend the culprits giving Pinkerton recognition among the law enforcement as well as the local



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community. Soon people started approaching him for advice on a number of crime related matters. Pinkerton soon landed a job as a small town sheriff and was later hired as Chicago's first police detective. Around 1850's Pinkerton materialized his vision of forming a Detective Agency to help him solve more crimes and spread his operations outside Chicago, he named the agency the 'Pinkerton National Detective Agency'.

Inventors of Private Eye

The term synonymous to detective work was actually coined by the Pinkertons which was also a logo for the agency. In the early periods of Pinkertons, the agency helped providing security to railroads and assisted law enforcement hunt down Outlaws by covertly gathering information about the miscreants' whereabouts and their operations. With the growing influence, company adopted a logo of a large unblinking eye with an underlined slogan 'We Never Sleep', this gave birth to the famous detective shorthand of 'private eye' which is now a household term for detectives all around the world.

Pinkertons Hired Country's first Female Detective

Despite the very limited role of the women in 19th century America, Pinkertons hired a female as a leading detective to help conduct special operations. Initially Allan Pinkerton was hesitant taking on board a woman for a job which had the potential of getting fatally injured or even killed, however the determined Kate Warne convinced Allan of a female's critical requirement and the tasks a woman could perform much effectively than a man. Allan Pinkerton got convinced with her arguments and immediately

hired her, a decision he always hailed all through his career. Kate Warne undertook a number of operations and helped gather significant volumes of information about many dangerous criminals.

The Pinkertons may have saved Abraham Lincoln from an Assassination attempt.

In March 1861, Allan Pinkerton was on a train journey towards Baltimore on an assignment to help the railroads securely conduct their operations. The southern sympathizers were hatching a plot to sabotage the rail construction site and Pinkertons were called to secure the parameters. However Pinkerton received a tip that a secret cabal is plotting an even bigger attempt to destabilize the nation, by assassinating Abraham Lincoln. He instantly switched trains and headed towards Baltimore to unfold the plot and alarm the president-elect of the impending assassination. Pinkerton tracked down Lincoln and informed him of the news, he then came up with a plan to disguise Lincoln as Warne's brother and with the help of some other agents, transported Lincoln through Baltimore undetected. President-elect securely reached Washington, however his opponents and some of his party associates criticized the act as cowardly and even raised questions on the credibility of Pinkertons. To this day no one really knows who tipped Pinkertons and that who plotted against Lincoln leaving space for speculation and doubts.

Active and Critical Role in Civil War

Operating under the name E.J Allen, Pinkerton helped the Unionists against the rebels by conducting a multi-faceted operation of information gathering and in some cases

attempting sabotage. Teaming up with General George B. McClellan, Pinkerton formed a special intelligence force to help McClellan's army mount surgically effective attacks. The agents were spread out throughout the nation, some operating from behind the enemy lines while others keeping an eye on the southern sympathizers in the North. A special investigative unit was assigned the duty to conduct interviews of the escaped slaves to formulate an informed understanding of the confederacy. Pinkertons were not on the dot all the time; misinformation from the agents in the south suggesting that the confederate troops were twice as much as McClellan had thought turned out to be a mistake and contributed to McClellan's belief that he was always outnumbered.

Major auction of Civil War guns, swords and other historical items ends August 3

ST. LOUIS, July 21, 2016 , PRNewswire/ -- A virtual arsenal of Civil War muskets, pistols, swords, knives and other military and war relics is being sold in an online auction, which St. Louis auctioneer Rob Weiman called "a major event for civil war collectors."

"This liquidation of a major collection is a rare opportunity for military collectors and museums to obtain pieces of genuine historical significance, primarily from the Civil War but also including later items such as M1 Carbines and a mint M-1 Garand that has never been fired," said Weiman.



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Bidding will run through Wednesday, August 3, at www.moundcityauctions.com.

"You could practically outfit a museum with some really rare items, such as an 1855 musket with a carbine stock, or even a pristine Civil War drum well as a photo of the Union Soldier playing it. In all my career, I've never seen anything like it. It's amazing when you consider that virtually all of these items were collected by one person," said Weiman.

This auction includes swords from Ames, Horstman and Tiffany.

Prospective bidders may examine the items from 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 2, at 4109 Old Highway 94 South, St. Charles, Missouri. Winning bidders may pick up items from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5.

Mound City Auctions, based in St. Louis, Missouri, is one of the nation's leading auctioneers of military memorabilia, collectible comics, firearms, personal property and other items. The company has set more than 600 world records for prices on collectibles.

As historic flags age, civil war brews over preservation

More than 80 Civil War flags, some tattered, some stained in blood and ripped by bullet holes, capture the attention of visitors to New Hampshire's State House

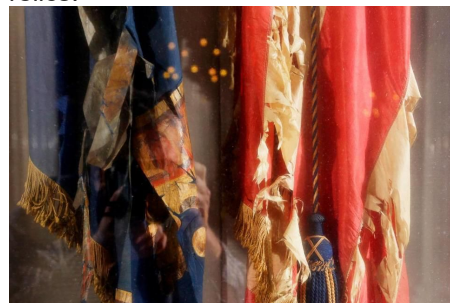
By KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press, June 14, 2016
CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Eighty-eight Civil War flags, some tattered, some stained in blood and ripped by bullet holes, capture the attention of visitors to New Hampshire's State House.

Since the 1860s, the banners have hung in the Hall of Flags at the state Capitol's front entrance. New Hampshire men once carried the flags as they marched into battle from Pennsylvania to South Carolina.

Flags from the Spanish American War, World Wars I and II and Vietnam joined the collection over the years, bringing it to more than 100 battle flags.

"The old standards, pierced by shot and shell, dyed with the blood of our bravest and best, and hallowed by associations with the glorious fields and the noble dead, are priceless relics of the great contest," New Hampshire's adjutant general wrote in 1864, adding that the flags should be permanently displayed for all to see.

But as time wears on, lawmakers and historians are debating the flags' futures: If left as they are, how long will they last? And what can be done to preserve them without removing them from public view? Statehouses, museums and libraries nationwide are grappling with similar questions as they seek to preserve historical relics.



In this photo taken Wednesday Oct. 21, 2015 historic flags beginning to disintegrate are seen at the statehouse Concord, N.H. An effort is being considered to properly preserve them for centuries to come.(AP Photo/Jim Cole)

Maine moved flags from its Capitol to the state museum about a decade ago, placing the flags on special

panels for preservation. Rhode Island is now exploring flag preservation and Connecticut recently completed a project.

"Many states in our country have these collections, they've very challenging," said Gwen Spicer, a conservator who has restored flags across the country and created a preservation plan for New Hampshire's flags.

But New Hampshire has been slow to act. A legislative historical committee scrapped Spicer's plan several months ago to sew the flags to netting to keep them from falling apart. Republican House Speaker Shawn Jasper opposed it, and said he wants the Hall of Flags to remain as is until after the State House celebrates its bicentennial in 2019. He is skeptical of any plan that would remove the flags from the State House. His great, great grandfather marched in battle under two of the flags now on display. "That's pretty moving and pretty meaningful," Jasper said.

Advocates for preservation say leaving the flags as they are could accelerate deterioration. State Rep. David Welch, a Republican, has served on a committee on flag preservation for two decades. Money was initially an issue; the latest proposal to put the flags on netting would cost \$20,000 to \$40,000 each, Spicer said. The sale of New Hampshire-themed bottles of vodka at state liquor stores brought in nearly \$90,000 since 2013 and is expected to bring in about \$70,000 more.

Perhaps greater than money is the fear of potentially damaging the flags or changing the current display. The Hall of Flags is the first stop for thousands of New Hampshire fourth graders touring the State House each year, and lawmakers say seeing the



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real flags in their original condition make the lessons more compelling. "They see real blood stains on there, real smoke, real bullet holes, and then they hear the story and they're absolutely thrilled to see them," Welch said.

But Spicer, the conservationist, cautions against doing nothing. She says the way the flags hang now creates stress on the old material, and that the silk and cotton will eventually deteriorate by exposure to light and temperatures. But more than that, Spicer says key historical facts are missing if the flags remain as they have been for more than a century. Removing the flag and spreading them out — even if it means displaying them outside of the Statehouse — could show new battle honors or other tidbits of information that tell a richer history.

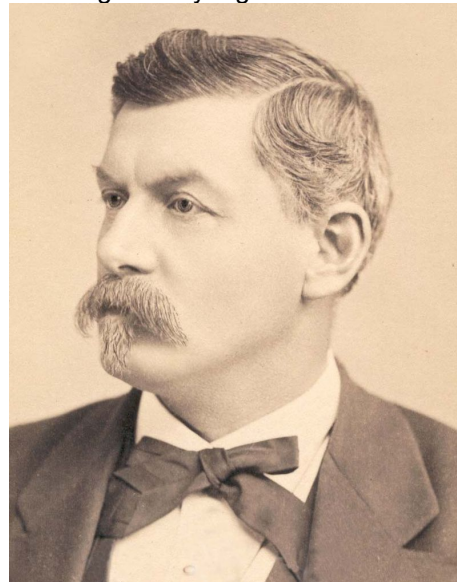
"Part of doing nothing, letting them fall to dust, is that there is no documentation of this collection," Spicer said. "We're not able to actually tell the full story that they have the potential to tell."

"Little Mac's" Final Moments: The Death of George B. McClellan

By William Griffith, The Emerging Civil War.com, July 19, 2016

"The startling announcement was made on Thursday [actually Friday] morning that General McClellan was dead," read New Jersey's *The Orange Journal* on Sunday, October 31, 1885, "...very few knew that General McClellan was in the least ill, and no one but his physician, perhaps, knew of the serious character of the disease that was afflicting him." Less than a week before he had been seen riding in his carriage through West Orange in

what was described as "the picture of perfect health." Only days later, George Brinton McClellan, one of the Army of the Potomac's most beloved and controversial generals was dead at the age of fifty-eight.



George B. McClellan, c. 1880

Several weeks earlier at the beginning of the month, McClellan began complaining of chest pains that were originally diagnosed as nothing more than the effects of dyspepsia. The ailment subsided until October 18, when he called upon his personal physician, a "Dr. Seward," complaining of more pain in his heart region while preparing to depart for business in Boston. Concerned that symptoms of actual heart trouble were now developing, Dr. Seward ordered McClellan to return home and rest so further examinations could be conducted. There he remained, passing the time at home by "reading, writing and conversing, or enjoying a drive in his open carriage through [East and West Orange]." There were no flare-ups of pain during that week and a half, and it was believed that his condition was

improving from the rest and "quiet of the country." Then on Thursday, October 28, things took a turn for the worse.

The following is a description of McClellan's final hours reported by *The Orange Journal*:

On Thursday evening ... he was seized with pains in the region of his heart. The pain passed away and returned again with greater violence at 10 o'clock. At 11 o'clock Mrs. McClellan telephoned for Dr. Seward, and shortly after the Doctor received another telephone call requesting haste, and in thirteen minutes from the receipt of the first call, Dr. Seward was by the side of the sufferer. He was seated in his chair, and remedies were immediately applied which brought relief. The pains returned again, however, and Dr. Seward decided to remain with his patient. When the General felt better he was removed to his bed. The night was damp and foggy, and the windows were all closed, and the atmosphere of the room was somewhat heavy. A person with a heart trouble needs all the air possible, and the General was rather restless under the canopy which was adjusted over his bed to keep out mosquitoes. This may have produced a second paroxysm, for between two and three o'clock the pains returned, for the sufferer was removed to the chair. Mrs. McClellan and [their daughter] Miss [Mary "May"] McClellan were in the room the while, doing what they could. Restoratives were again administered, but the terrible pain only increased in violence, and at ten minutes to three o'clock, without a word of warning, the General placed his hand to his head, and gasping once fell back dead. So sudden was the off-taking that the family of Dr. [Randolph] Marcy were not summoned, and the



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only persons who were present when the General breathed his last were Mrs. McClellan and her daughter, Dr. Seward and two servants of the family.

As is with all famous deaths, last words were said to be muttered before McClellan expired: "I feel easy now. Thank you ..." Whether this is true or not is beside the point, but it certainly adds a flare of the dramatic.^[4]

George McClellan's sudden death can be attributed to coronary heart disease, or at least that is what the American Heart Association states that angina pectoris is predominantly caused by. Whether or not he suffered from chest pains prior to October 1885 is unknown, but it is quite possible that it may have been something he previously shrugged off until it became concerning and unbearable.

The General's funeral service was held in Manhattan at the Madison Square Presbyterian Church on Monday, November 1, 1885. At the request of Mary Ellen McClellan, the funeral "would be as quiet as possible, and there would be no military honors or display whatever." Following the service, McClellan's remains were taken to Trenton and interred in the Riverview Cemetery.

A week following the passing of "Little Mac" the *Monmouth Democrat* published a heartfelt obituary to the deceased general. Their words remind us that despite what is felt by some regarding his tenure with the Army of the Potomac, he was a soldier, but above all he was a man – a husband, father, and friend who was loved by many:

Verily death has claimed a costly sacrifice – but death has not won, for General McClellan was an earnest and sincere follower of the great

Conqueror of Death. The secret of his life – patient, quiet, gentle, trustful, loving – was his trust in the Redeemer of men ... Soldier, patriot, statesman, scholar, Christian – all these he was, and with them all, a man! We knew him and to love him ... There is a void in our hearts, a vacancy in our ranks.

Grave of first male slave freed by Lincoln rediscovered, experts believe

The Guardian - As a young lawyer, Abraham Lincoln won an Illinois supreme court case freeing 10-month-old William Costley's mother from indentured servitude. Researchers believe they have found the grave of a man who could be considered the first black male slave freed by Abraham Lincoln, after tracking his final resting place to the cemetery of a former Minnesota psychiatric hospital.

William Henry Costley was just 10 months old in 1841 when Lincoln, who was still a young lawyer, won an Illinois supreme court case freeing Costley's mother from indentured servitude – a status historians say would have been akin to enslavement for the black woman and child at that time. That was 22 years before Lincoln, as president, issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring slaves in rebel states not under Union control free.

Nance Legins-Costley and her son William were from Pekin, a central Illinois community about 130 miles south-west of Chicago, which is what drew the interest of a local amateur historian, Carl Adams. Adams, who now lives in Stuttgart, Germany, spent years researching her and her children's lives. Last year he

published Nance: Trials of the First Slave Freed by Abraham Lincoln – a True Story of Nance Legins-Costley. In his book, Adams writes that after winning her lengthy legal battle for freedom, Legins-Costley, who had been born to slaves and sold twice before Lincoln took up her cause, lived to a ripe old age in Pekin.

Military records helped Adams retrace her son's steps, but finding his gravesite required the help of a curator at the Abraham Lincoln presidential library and museum in Springfield, Illinois, and a historical researcher in Minnesota.

"We are 99.9% certain that this is William H Costley," Adams said of the gravesite.

William Costley enlisted as a private in the 29th Regiment of US Colored Troops from Illinois in 1864, three years after the civil war started following the election of Lincoln as president.

Costley was wounded during the war, and after Confederate general Robert E Lee surrendered in April 1865, Costley's regiment was dispatched to Galveston, Texas. Adams said he may have witnessed General Gordon Granger's 19 June 1865 declaration there that the state's 250,000 slaves were now free. That date is now celebrated as the holiday Juneteenth. In 1870, an all-white jury acquitted Costley of murder in the fatal shooting of a man considered disreputable in the community. Costley's defense was that he killed him while protecting a woman. Costley moved to Iowa and later to Minnesota, where his health declined. A war wound, a head injury he suffered as a teenager and a case of sunstroke in 1887 eventually left him an invalid. He died in Minnesota in 1888, Adams said.