



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Note from the Editor:

The September meeting will be our third annual "Show and Tell" meeting. This is the opportunity for our members to demonstrate the aspects of Civil War study that most interest them. If you have anything to show to the Roundtable, please contact me and let me know. The "Show and Tell" meeting last year was a tremendous success, with a wide variety of fascinating displays. With your participation, this year will be even better. So bring in your treasures, any and all. No topic or display is too small, if it interests you.

Park Service to cut down more trees on Gettysburg battlefield

By MEG BERNHARDT, Hanover Evening Sun, July 17, 2006

Bill Burkett drove slowly along Confederate Avenue in the Gettysburg National Military Park, listening to a guided tape with his wife Natalie and their three kids.

The family from Orlando, Fla., were passing through the area Thursday and hoped a visit would teach their children about the important Civil War battle fought here. So they got the tape and started touring.

And, like most tourists driving on this stretch of Confederate Avenue, they were completely missing the importance of what happened right there on Seminary Ridge.

"Right now, it's just a tunnel of trees with a bunch of tablets and no one can understand it," said Senior Historian Kathy Harrison.

The National Park Service will begin to remove more than 50 acres of trees Monday, near the ridge and to the east of it. Then, they will replace them with two orchards totaling 700

apple trees, grasses and a shrub buffer along Stevens Run.

The ridge was the line of Confederate artillery during the second and third day of the battle. From there, Confederates fired on Cemetery Hill, an important Union position.

Now, the road marks the ridge, and cannons, complete with original barrels, are lined up, facing into thick woods. The tip of Cemetery Hill is just visible over the tree tops.

"This is where a cannon was," said park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon. She pointed from a cannon barrel out into the trees. "Can you see much to fire at?"

As a result, the tape used to guide families like the Burketts through the park don't even make mention of the ridge, or the McMillan House still standing there.

"We know nothing about Gettysburg but what we're hearing on this tape," Natalie Burkett said. "It hasn't directed us to stop and look at anything on this road."

They saw the cannons, and kept driving.

Lawhon hopes visitors will be drawn out of their cars and up to the markers when they can actually see the battlefield and important terrain once this area has been rehabilitated to its 1863 appearance. Instead of towering trees, there will be spaced-out apple trees, with trimmed branches so visitors can see underneath them.

Opponents say the rehabilitation project, which in total will cut down 576 acres of trees, is not necessary. Visitors on their three-hour visits do not plan to learn the tactical minutia of the battle.

And if the changes aren't factored into the tapes, visitors likely won't notice, the Burketts said, since that's

how they are guided through the huge park.

Lawhon said there are no plans to change the tapes immediately, but she anticipates eventually they will be updated. She said the Park Service will offer new interpretive programs when the work is completed.

The total rehabilitation project, which could take about five to six years to complete, also includes fence and trail restoration, removal of non-historic structures like the National Tower and Fantasyland, restoring trails and replanting trees and orchards.

Pennington Tree Experts of Orrtanna won two bids to remove about 260 acres of trees, costing more than \$900,000.

The work includes cutting down the trees, grinding down the stumps, smoothing out any ruts in the disturbed land and planting grass, Lawhon said. Pennington also has special restrictions to minimize soil disturbance because of environmental and archeological concerns.

The Park Service estimated the cost to cut down the 576 acres of trees at \$2,332,800, \$900,000 of which has been funded by taxpayers. So far, 147 acres have been cut down.

It's well worth it, Harrison said.

"You lose that whole concept of the significance of the battle movement with the trees there," Harrison said.

Preservation of Maryland Civil War history advances with state grants

By Katherine Mullen, Gazette.net, July 20, 2006

Projects to preserve and expand the scope of Civil War history in Frederick



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County received help from state grants following a vote on July 13 by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

The authority awarded more than \$80,000 in construction and educational grants to the Catoctin Center for Regional Studies at Frederick Community College, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick and the Catoctin Aqueduct Restoration Fund. The authority is an independent government organization that oversees the state's "heritage areas," regions that have a distinct sense of place embodied in their historic buildings, neighborhoods, traditions, and natural features, according to the Maryland Historical Trust.

Frederick County and portions of Carroll and Washington counties were newly certified as a Civil War "heritage area" by the authority on July 13.

According to Liz Shatto, the director of the heritage area, Maryland's role as a border state makes it an ideal place to tell the story of the Civil War. With certification, the region can now move forward, she said.

"This is what we really wanted to do and really get into the work of being a heritage area," Shatto said.

The certification allows nonprofits and businesses within the heritage area to apply for construction grants that match 50 percent up to \$100,000, and educational or social grants that match 50 percent up to \$50,000.

In total, seven grants were approved for the entire heritage region, including money for the development of a downtown sidewalk café district in Hagerstown and streetscape plans in Taneytown.

The Catoctin Center for Regional Studies, a research organization dedicated to studying Frederick

County's history and culture, will use its grant to research and design a Web site.

According to Dean Herrin, co-coordinator for the Catoctin Center, the historical content of the site will go beyond the military campaigns to include "home-front issues," like African American and women's rights and civil liberties.

"A lot of [the home-front issues] hasn't been examined, and that's where I think we're going to make a big contribution," Herrin said.

Herrin expected the Web site to be completed by spring 2007, and said it will be a useful tool for tourists to access additional information in the heritage area.

"The border area is really a microcosm of the Civil War. The issues get played out here," Herrin said. "It's also going to be a great resource for tourism. We're going to be including a map of sites of interest."

The Catoctin Center is working with local researchers to develop the Web site's content, and George Mason University's Center for History and New Media for its design, Herrin said.

Also shifting the focus away from the Civil War's military history, the Catoctin Aqueduct Restoration Fund is raising money to reconstruct a 19th century aqueduct in the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

According to George Lewis, the fund's president, Confederate and Union troops used the Catoctin Aqueduct for transportation, commerce and communication.

The Catoctin Aqueduct Restoration Fund is a grassroots effort by the Community Foundation, National Park Service and other business partners to reconstruct the 1832 Catoctin aqueduct at the canal's 51.5-mile mark.

Located between Brunswick and Point of Rocks, the aqueduct is near Lock 29 along the canal. The grant will be used to design and restore the aqueduct, Lewis said.

Over time the aqueduct deteriorated and crumbled in 1973, and a temporary steel pedestrian bridge stands in its place. Engineering firm McMullan & Associates has plans to redesign the aqueduct as it once appeared. The yearlong reconstruction is expected to begin in spring of 2008, Lewis said.

The National Museum of Civil War Medicine will also expand its presentation of Civil War history through a lecture and concert series this year at the Pry House Field Hospital Museum at Antietam National Battlefield.

According to Janet Bucklew, the museum's development officer, the state grant will fund a conference on early banjos in October and lectures during the year by staff and special guests.

Maxwell pays first full measure

by TARA REILLY, Hagerstown Herald-Mail, July 20, 2006

HAGERSTOWN - Director Ron Maxwell has made a first payment on the \$300,000 he owes Washington County after being unable to begin production of the Civil War movie "The Last Full Measure," Commissioners President Gregory I. Snook said Tuesday.

Snook said Maxwell's first payment was made two or three weeks ago and was just less than \$20,000, part of a series of payments he is to make over the next five years.

Commissioners Vice President William J. Wivell prompted the discussion at Tuesday's County Commissioners meeting by



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questioning whether Maxwell had begun paying back the money.

The previous board of commissioners agreed by a 4-1 vote in October 2002 to lend the money to Maxwell to shoot much of "The Last Full Measure" in the county. The money was to be used for screenwriting and other preproduction costs. The commissioners used money generated by the hotel/motel tax for the loan.

Snook and Wivell were on the board at the time of the vote. Snook voted for the loan. Wivell voted against it.

According to the promissory note between Maxwell and the commissioners, Maxwell had until December 2005 to begin production of the movie or he would have to pay back the money.

The agreement states Maxwell will pay back the \$300,000 at 4 percent interest in quarterly payments over five years.

Snook said Tuesday that Maxwell still hopes to produce "The Last Full Measure."

The movie would be based on the third book in a trilogy of Civil War novels by Michael Shaara and his son, Jeff Shaara.

The other novels, "The Killer Angels," and "Gods and Generals" have been made into movies. The film version of "The Killer Angels" was "Gettysburg." "Gods and Generals" was filmed largely in Washington County. The movie tanked at the box office.

Jeff Shaara states on his Web site that the poor box office results caused media mogul Ted Turner to drop plans to finance filming "The Last Full Measure."

An 'amazing find' in Allentown

Letter written by President Lincoln seeks governors' support on legalizing slavery.

By Daniel Patrick Sheehan, The Morning Call, July 20, 2006

Seven score and five years ago, Abraham Lincoln wrote to all the nation's governors, seeking support for a 13th amendment to the Constitution — one that would enshrine slavery as the law of the land.

That's right: The president remembered for abolishing slavery was willing to preserve that institution if doing so would preserve the union.

It didn't work, as the half-million dead of the Civil War prove. And most of the 1861 letters didn't survive. Until Tuesday, only three were known to exist. Then a Lincoln researcher from Illinois stopped by the Lehigh County Historical Society in Allentown to review its Lincoln-related holdings and found a fourth letter, addressed to "His Excellency the Governor of the State of Florida."

"It's a very cool document," said the researcher, 39-year-old John Lupton, sounding a bit more like an excited skateboarder than a sober scholar as news photographers snapped their shutters over the yellowed page bearing Lincoln's loopy signature. The document, dated March 16, 1861 — less than a month before war broke out — was hiding in plain sight among the society's 3 million documents.

Society Director Joseph Garrera, himself a Lincoln scholar, knew the archives contained a letter signed by the 16th president, but wasn't overly excited about it. Lincoln documents, he said, "are a dime a dozen," held in museum collections all over the country. Besides, no one on staff was

sure if the document was the real thing. And Garrera, who came on the job only a few months ago, had more pressing matters.

On Tuesday, Lupton and his colleague, Erika Nunamaker, were at Moravian College in Bethlehem, scanning its Lincoln holdings onto a computer as part of a project to put all of the president's documents on the Internet.

They asked school officials if they knew of any other local institutions that might have Lincoln memorabilia, and were directed to the historical society at the Lehigh Valley Heritage Center.

There, Lupton and Garrera had a reunion of sorts — they know each other from the Lincoln studies field — and took a close look at the letter, which had been donated to the society years ago. They plugged its details into a computer database and realized at once it was a major find. Not only is the letter one of just four on the topic, it is the only one addressed to the governor of a Southern state. Make that a former state — Florida had seceded two months earlier.

The letter was part of the ratification process for the amendment, which Congress had adopted during the term of Lincoln's predecessor, James Buchanan.

Pushing the amendment "was kind of a carrot to the Southern states," said Lupton, associate director of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln Project of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. "But even by that point, it was too late. By that time, the Southern states felt Lincoln's election was an affront."

Garrera said the letter shows Lincoln to be "a pragmatist and a realist. He always hated slavery, but did not believe he could end it in his



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presidency."

Once the union fell apart, Lincoln changed course, drafting the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 that declared freedom for slaves in Confederate territory. After the war, in 1865, 27 of the 36 states ratified the 13th Amendment — the version that abolished slavery.

Garrera, who called Lincoln "the central figure in American history," said he will consult with the society's board of directors to determine the best way to display the document. The society also is trying to figure out exactly who donated the letter. "That really is an amazing find," he said.

Fairland, IN woman claims to have historic Gettysburg Address copy

By Kevin Rader, wthr.com, July 4, 2006

A Fairland, Indiana woman is celebrating a birthday along with her country Tuesday. Mary Montalvo is doing more than honoring her nation's birth. She may also be adding to its history - with a connection to Abraham Lincoln.

Mary Montalvo has a lithograph copy of the Gettysburg Address. She claims President Lincoln commissioned the use of the Bliss copy, the only autographed copy of his famous speech, to raise money for a new soldiers' hospital.

"I believe I have one of those copies," Montalvo said.

The story begins - oddly enough - on the 2300 block of North Talbot. There, she found an old trunk full of memorabilia in the attic of an old boarding home that has since been torn down.

It included the framed copy of Gettysburg Address and some glass negatives which show Ward Hill Lamon, Lincoln's personal body guard, and his slave Bob who drove the President's carriage.

"So I realized now I had something. For the last two years I've been on a quest, researching boy Bob, researching Warren Hill Lamon, researching about the document, researching the ink in the document," said Montalvo.



Ward Hill Lamon, Lincoln's personal body guard (L), and his slave Bob, who drove the President's carriage.

Iron used in the ink during the 1800's, according to Montalvo, is the reason her copy has turned such an odd color. She turned to an expert from the University of Idaho for help.

"He dropped some chemical on the corner and he had this neon light and he said it was definitely from the 1800 period. He is not authorized to give me anything in writing but he wants to buy it. He's offered a large amount of money for it," said Montalvo.

But how could the document turn up in Indianapolis? That takes us back to Talbot Street, where a man referred to only as Pops resided prior to his death. He often told people his grandfather used to drive President Lincoln's carriage.

"It could be worth a hundred million dollars. It could be worth nothing but the history of it. The research. That is priceless," said Montalvo.

It's another interesting chapter to Lincoln's lore.

The Lincoln Museum in Springfield, Illinois has asked if Montalvo might be interested in donating the article. Montalvo says she'd rather sell it. Before she can do that, she needs to determine what the memorabilia is worth.

PA Legislative Session ends, minus Gettysburg casino ban

Lawmakers left for the summer with the bill stuck in the Senate.

By RICHARD FELLINGER, Harrisburg bureau, York Daily Record, July 2, 2006

Lawmakers recessed for the summer Sunday without voting on a bill that bans casinos near Gettysburg, casting doubt on whether the ban will ever become law.

With the bill stuck in the Senate, the power to hand out slots licenses in every part of the state remains with the state Gaming Control Board. The seven-member panel hopes to begin awarding licenses in December, and a Gettysburg-area slots proposal will compete with others in the Poconos, Lehigh Valley and suburban Philadelphia.

Even if senators take up the bill, the ban on Adams County slots parlors might be removed by amendment. In weekend talks about the slots bill, senators questioned the constitutionality of the ban and discussed removing it.

The ban is in an omnibus slots bill that cleared the House in March. It is aimed at blocking the Crossroads Gaming Resort & Spa, a proposed



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slots parlor at routes 15 and 30 by a group of investors led by Gettysburg businessman David LeVan.

The Crossroads plan has sparked sharp debate, with opponents claiming a casino should not be built near the battlefield and would threaten the historical tourism industry.

Crossroads has claimed the jobs and tax revenue would be a boon to the local economy.

The omnibus slots bill was tabled early Sunday after a dustup in the Senate connected to the state budget.

Democrats led by Sen. Vince Fumo, D-Philadelphia, stalled the budget for two hours in the hopes of moving the gaming bill, but Republicans who control the chamber refused to bend to the tactic and tabled the slots bill.

Several slots issues, including the Gettysburg ban, need to be ironed out before the slots bill advances.

Leading issues are how to handle zoning oversight for slots parlors in Philadelphia and whether to cap the number of machines a single manufacturer can supply to casinos.

Erik Arneson, chief of staff to Senate Majority Leader David J. Brightbill, R-Lebanon, said it was wise to delay a vote because the amendments were complicated and amounted to more than 40 pages.

Senators should have time to "digest it, review it and understand it," Arneson said.

The Gettysburg ban raises constitutional questions because of a constitutional prohibition on special legislation, which are laws made for individual places or cases.

Crossroads attorneys have said the ban appears to be special legislation, and LeVan raised the possibility of a lawsuit earlier this year when he led a rally in the Capitol against the ban.

The ban was attached to the slots bill in the House by Rep. Stephen Maitland, R-Gettysburg.

The language bans a stand-alone slots parlor in a sixth-class county with a population between 91,000 and 92,000, and Adams is the only county that qualifies.

Will Confederate Museum Sell Out?

by Melissa Scott Sinclair,
Styleweekly.com, July 13, 2006

After receiving only \$50,000 of the \$700,000 it requested from the state legislature, the financially struggling Museum of the Confederacy is going to have to do something to stay afloat. The question is what? "In the absence of state support, our alternatives could be extremely painful, including the sale of part of the collection or the curtailment of critical programs and shortened hours of visitation," Executive Director S. Waite Rawls III wrote to museum supporters in November. Since the state budget was announced June 20, the museum has cut at least one staff member, although the museum will remain open on a normal schedule for now, Rawls says.

The budget crisis caps a tough fiscal year for the museum. In the fall, the museum came under fire from its former treasurer and trustee, David H. Rankin Jr., and former director of finance and human resources, Nancy Witt — both of whom alleged financial mismanagement by Rawls. Rankin accused Rawls of inflating budget figures "out of thin air" and subsequently resigned as the museum's treasurer.

Museum officials are reluctant to discuss the possibility of selling part of the museum's collection. "I'd rather not speculate on what those options

are," museum board chairman Carlton P. Moffatt says. The museum's executive committee will meet July 12 to decide what to do, he says.

The museum is known nationwide for its "irreplaceable collections," says Conover Hunt, executive director of the Historic Richmond Foundation. Unlike other Civil War museums, the Museum of the Confederacy received many of its artifacts directly from veterans and their families, Hunt says.

"I would be shocked if they even considered [selling]," says Ben C. Sewell III, executive director of the international Sons of Confederate Veterans.

A "peer review" of the museum is under way. Led by H. Nicholas Muller III, retired president of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, a group of museum professionals is examining the museum's exhibits, policies and problems.

But the review will be cut short because of funding, Rawls says. In September the museum's board will meet to discuss the findings of the shortened review, Rawls says, and in October it will seek to have the museum included in the governor's budget amendments.

The Museum of the Confederacy attributes its declining visitor numbers to the recent growth of VCU Medical Center. Because of it, Rawls and the board led a public campaign seeking to move the 188-year-old White House of the Confederacy to a more accessible location. Preservationists protested, however, and the museum shelved the effort last year.

Visitation this summer, typically the busiest season for the museum, has been lower than last year, Rawls says, and more than half of visitors make "unsolicited negative



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comments" about how difficult it is to find the place and park.

Carroll County scores Civil War heritage area designation, eligibility for state funds

Kelsey Volkman, The Examiner, Jul 14, 2006

Carroll County - Carroll County's designation as a Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area on Thursday is more than a name — it serves as a ticket to millions of dollars in state tourism funds, tax credits and grants aimed at luring more visitors and their pocketbooks.

"Welcome to the family," Richard Hughes, administrator for the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, told representatives from Carroll, Frederick and Washington counties, the last three in the state to gain heritage status.

Under this program, Baltimore City, Anne Arundel and Harford counties have been tapping state funds for heritage tourism — which focuses on history, culture and nature — for years.

The authority, which meets at the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development building in Crownsville, comprises state planning, economic and tourism officials who designate heritage areas.

The General Assembly tripled funding for the state's heritage areas this year, allocating \$3 million, the largest amount since its inception a decade ago, said Barbara Beverungen, manager of Carroll's Office of Tourism.

And that's most likely a result of state legislators realizing what a boon heritage areas can be: For every dollar the state invests, the payback

in local and state tax revenues is about \$4.61, according to a 2003 Maryland Historical Trust report.

Elizabeth Shatto, who will serve as director of the Civil War Heritage program, said several challenges exist for coordinating tourism efforts among the three counties:

- » Overlapping tourism programs
- » Targeting enthusiasts through new brochures

- » Establishing the Civil War Heritage Area as a multi-day destination.

Carroll does not have historic battlefields, unlike Frederick and Washington counties, but it will highlight its trails and historic sites along the path some 60,000 troops traveled on their way to the Battle of Gettysburg, Pa.

"The heritage traveler tends to stay longer and spend more," Beverungen said.

Klan Group Files for Permit to Protest, Demonstrate at Gettysburg Battlefield

July 3, 2006-Courtesy CWi-An organization known as the World Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) has applied for and received a special use permit to conduct a protest and demonstration at Gettysburg National Military Park on September 2, 2006 between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Activities will take place on the east lawn area of the Cyclorama Center.

The KKK requested the permit under the first amendment of the United States Constitution which grants all citizens the rights to freedom of speech. The group's activities are inflammatory, controversial, and will undoubtedly create an emotional response in many of the park visitors and our community.

However, it is important to note that the National Park Service mission in preserving and protecting the historic resources at Gettysburg includes making them available to all Americans, even those whose views are contrary to the majority of the American public. The United States Constitution guarantees everyone the right to speak freely and to assemble peaceably, regardless of the content of their message. As custodians of land owned by the American people, the National Park Service has a responsibility to make that land available for exercising those rights. National parks host hundreds of first amendment activities each year, the majority of which take place in our nation's capital. Some, like Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial, reflected the prevailing mood of the American people, while others deliver a more controversial message whose validity is ultimately judged by the American people. The one constant of all of these assemblies is the professionalism of National Park Service and its staff in administering these activities.

The Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 2.51), the Director's Orders on Special Park Use, and the Management Policies of the National Park Service all provide clear guidance on First Amendment activities in the parks. Gettysburg NMP staff will be working to ensure that park resources and visitors will not be adversely affected by this event or by activities that may be conducted by counter-demonstrations under additional permits. Additional law enforcement agencies will assist the park to make certain that all experience a safe atmosphere on the day of the event.



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"Old Abe and the 101st Airborne Division

Courtesy Wikipedia

A legendary eagle veteran of more than 30 combat engagements and two battle wounds during the Civil War provided the inspiration for the Screaming Eagle insignia of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

The 101st Airborne Division Association, whose veterans and active duty members have worn the Screaming Eagle shoulder patch in every major conflict from World War II to Iraq, proclaims it "the most recognized division insignia in the world."

The patch, with its white eagle's head and a gold beak on a black shield topped with a crescent-shaped "Airborne" tab, made its official debut in 1942, but its origins are rooted in Wisconsin history.

In 1861, Chief Sky of the Chippewa tribe captured a young bald eagle along the Flambeau River in northern Wisconsin. He sold the bird for a bushel of corn to a local citizen who, in turn, sold it to the commanding officer of a militia company that became known as the "Eau Claire Eagles."

When the Eagle militia unit entered Federal service, it was designated Company C, of the 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Eventually, the Company's mascot became the Regiment's mascot and the 8th Wisconsin was nicknamed the "Eagle Regiment."

The soldiers named him "Old Abe" in honor of President Lincoln and assigned him as a member of the

regimental color guard. A 1982 reprint of a 1942 "Army Times" article in the 101st Association magazine describes his behavior:

"History records that he never once disgraced his name or his position. His perch was the American shield and a Sergeant carried him between the Stars and Stripes and the regimental standard. Soldiers fed him with chicken and it is reported that he was not particular when it came to whether or not they were cooked.

"During battle, he would fly into the air as far as his tether would permit, screaming and screeching above the battlefield and encouraging the unit."

"Old Abe" - Courtesy Wisconsin Historical Society



Although Old Abe was wounded twice, E. B. Quiner writes in his 1866 "Military History of Wisconsin" that those injuries were not serious. "The bird has been more than once the mark for rebel bullets, but luckily has escaped unharmed, with the exception of the loss of a few feathers shot away," he notes.

Following the inactivation of the Eagle Regiment in 1865, its veterans

gave Old Abe to the people of Wisconsin. His last years were filled with travels across the country to appear at veteran reunions, patriotic events, fairs, and conventions

Sales of his photograph at the 1865 Chicago Fair realized \$16,000, a sizeable sum in today's dollars. He appeared as an "honored guest" at a Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R) encampment with General U.S. Grant and attended in 1868 the convention

that nominated Grant for the presidency. He was a celebrity whose presence is still manifest in monuments, pamphlets, and Internet websites.

One statue sits atop the 122-foot Wisconsin Memorial at the Vicksburg (MS) National Military Park. Others are located about the nation. In June 2005, an honor guard from the 101st Airborne Division participated in the dedication of a new monument featuring Old Abe at Fredericktown, MO, the site of the Eagle Regiment's first Civil War engagement. The 101st Association has proclaimed him as "The Original Screaming Eagle" and lists him among the seven former members honored in memoriam that include Generals William C. Lee, Maxwell Taylor, and Anthony C. McAuliffe.

In Madison, he had quarters in the basement of the Wisconsin State Capitol where he died in 1881 from the fumes of a small fire near his room. He was stuffed and placed on exhibit in the Capitol building until a fire destroyed his body in 1904. However, replicas of Old Abe are still on display in the room where the Wisconsin State Assembly meets and at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.





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'Civil War nut' gives \$25,000 to Mosby Foundation fund

By: Don Del Rosso, Fauquier Times-Democrat, 07/11/2006

On and off for the last few years, Ricky L. Brown considered making a donation to the nonprofit group, which plans to open a Civil War and local history museum at 173 Main Street, Warrenton, in the fall of 2007. The museum will occupy an 1859, two-story Italianate home where Mosby, an infamous Confederate colonel, lived for an indeterminate, though probably brief, period. "I've been thinking about helping out some," Brown, a big Mosby fan and Civil War buff, said at his 80-acre spread on Route 211 about a mile west of Warrenton. "I never got a chance to. I didn't know who to contact."

Until about six weeks ago, that is, when he read a Fauquier Citizen story about Kay McCarron, the center's new executive director. Brown got to know McCarron about 15 years ago through her husband, Brian McCarron, who owns a construction management company in New Baltimore. So Brown figured he'd phone his friend with an offer. The call took Kay McCarron by surprise.

"Ricky said he was interested in anything dealing with the Civil War and said, 'I'd like to know how I could help,'" the executive director recalled in an interview at her temporary office in a trailer behind the Mosby house. "He said, 'I'd like to make a contribution. What do you think?'" Absolutely, McCarron thought. "He said, 'How about a donation of \$25,000?'" McCarron recalled. "I said that would be wonderful ... I said, that's very sweet."

Initially, it's hard to absorb that kind of news, the executive director said. Had she been standing when learned of his contribution she immediately would've taken her seat, said McCarron, laughing. "It was overwhelming that somebody would step up like that with such a large amount, as an individual," she said. Indeed, Brown's contribution represents the largest single individual donation in the foundation's seven-year history, McCarron said. However, Mark Ohrstrom of The Plains personally, and his family's foundations combined, have given the Mosby Foundation more than \$200,000 since 1999, she said. Brown decided on \$25,000 because it seemed like a nice, round number. "I didn't want to do something that would waste anybody's time, like \$100," explained Brown, an affable man of some means who said he generally prefers to maintain a low profile. "But I didn't want to break the bank."

He attached no conditions to the donation, such as requiring the foundation to spend it on programs, capital improvements or museum acquisitions.

But Brown does want the foundation to view it as "challenge" money. Over the years, he has donated to favorite charities or causes of friends and business associates. The Mosby Foundation gives him a chance to turn the tables on them, McCarron said.

"Now he wants to be able to go to them to help support this project," she said.

"If they see me do it, they may do it," Brown agreed. "Maybe my buddies will out-do me and belly up to the bar."

Brown was born in Remington and raised in Culpeper. In 1992, he

started his excavation business, which employs about 75. The company does most of its work in Loudoun, Fairfax, Prince William and Culpeper counties. It does some development; for example, it will subdivide 46 acres on Old Busthead Road near New Baltimore into three, two-acre lots and one 40-acre lot. Divorced, Brown moved back to Fauquier in 2000. He and his two sons, Travis, 20, and Dustin, 14, live in a big house he built that overlooks a pond, which he keeps stocked with trout.

He owns 10 horses; 15 Hereford cows (for fun and to qualify the county's land-use value taxation program, which gives big real estate tax breaks to those who keep their land rural); three Harley Davidson motorcycles and a half-dozen vehicles, including a bright orange 1969 Cobra Jet Mustang and a Ford Galaxie 500 painted to look like an "old Andy Griffith" squad car. He acknowledges a weakness for "toys." "Enough to keep me busy," he said, smiling.

Brown is an avid hunter and fisherman who has decorated his home with mounted deer and wild boar heads, a stuffed lynx, a flying squirrel and pictures of President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and failed Virginia Republican gubernatorial candidate Jerry Kilgore.

His interest in the Civil War started the day he learned to read. "I was just fascinated," said Brown, "They always had a big chapter in your history book on the Civil War." He marveled at the resourcefulness of Confederate soldiers.

"I was just fascinated how (the Confederates) took (Union soldiers) with less food, weapons and whatever they could get from the



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Yankees and used it against them," said Brown. "It amazed me how they did so much with so little. They'd have 29 people and run off 500 Yankees."

It galls him that Union forces "had everything they needed and more" to wage war and the South, by contrast, had very little. "They wasted a lot," Brown said of the federal troops. But a poverty of resources compelled Confederate soldiers to be far more creative in battle than their Union counterparts, Brown said.

Group to map sunken Monitor Wreckage

Project will document wreckage on sea floor

Associated Press, July 17, 2006

MYSTIC, Conn. - A group of researchers will travel from Connecticut to North Carolina this week to map the wreck of the USS Monitor, the famed Civil War gunboat that sank in 1862 in a storm during the Civil War.

The mapping, parts of which will be broadcast live at the Institute for Exploration at Mystic Aquarium, starts Monday in the waters off Cape Hatteras.

It is expected to yield some of the most comprehensive information to date on the wreck, which is upside down on the ocean floor.

Dwight Coleman, director of research at the institute, said the details will be valuable as experts determine how to best preserve that wreck and others like it.

"There's not too much information we'll learn archaeologically, but it's nice to document it for the future," he told The Day of New London.

Group used 'coffee wagon' to perk up Civil War troops

By MEG BERNHARDT Hanover Evening Sun, July 14, 2006

A Gettysburg museum owner has heard plenty of guesses about the large contraption parked outside the U.S. Christian Commission Museum on Baltimore Street this week.

Visitors walking by gaze at the wagon equipped with three iron smokestacks towering up and guess a music machine, a cooking appliance or a soup kitchen.

So far, no one's guessed correctly. It's a coffee wagon, museum owner John Wega says proudly.

He's brought in the jolt-giving replica wagon for this year's Civil War battle re-enactment, and the apparatus soldiers once called the "Christian Light Artillery" will be the centerpiece of the Christian Commission display.

The civilian volunteer group was once a division of the YMCA and more than 5,000 volunteers throughout the war helped the Northern troops, giving them food, medical care, Bibles, and, of course, coffee.

The ubiquitous bean had been popular with Americans since their anti-tea colonial days, but during the Civil War it was considered paramount for Union soldiers, raising the cost of beans and spurring the coffee industry into prominence.

"What a Godsend it seemed to us at times! How often after being completely jaded by a night march ... have I had a wash, if there was water to be had, made and drunk my pint or so of coffee and felt as fresh and invigorated as if just arisen from a night's sound sleep!" former Civil War soldier John Billings raved in his 1888 book "Hard Tack and Coffee."

In those days, soldiers had to roast their own coffee beans, and ground them as needed. Company cooks carried coffee grinders and some Sharps carbine rifles were made with coffee mills in the buttstock of the gun so soldiers would have the grinder on hand.

It was only after the war that American companies would develop and mass-produce roasted beans like the ones we drink today.

Union troops were given one-tenth of a pound of green coffee beans in their daily rations. Soldiers drank it while on watch, on the march and even in battle.

Confederates, on the other hand, were out of luck. Union blockades meant the Rebel troops instead drank poor substitutes made from acorns, beans, chickory, corn, cotton seed, dandelion roots, sugarcane, parched rice, wheat, peanuts, sweet potatoes, rye or okra.

The Union-affiliated Christian Commission also carried and prepared coffee for the soldiers, but it was the development of the coffee wagon that allowed them to serve large quantities on the march.

The coffee wagon was patented March 24, 1863, by Jacob Dunton, a Philadelphia pill maker, and was touted by the commission through Virginia during the last campaigns of the war.

It is a modified artillery caisson and gun carriage that holds a large chest and three 14-gallon boilers instead of a cannon and ammunition.

"This is a neat, shining example of service to the soldiers," Wega said.

Wega doesn't know how many wagons were made, but he does know there was one at Appomattox when Lee surrendered.

The first act of reconciliation after the surrender was sharing a cup of coffee at the wagon – the first cup



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Confederates had probably had in years, Wega said.

But Wega doubts it was ever at Gettysburg, since there are no reports of it, and the coffee wagon was generally a heralded arrival by the men.

Today, though, when Gettysburg symbolized the heart of the Civil War, Wega thinks the coffee wagon should be here as a reminder of the men who developed and marched with it.

Commission chairman George H. Stewart called the wagon "a most ingenious and beneficial invention" in his book and reported that in each one on a march, 10 gallons of coffee, tea or cocoa could be made in 20 minutes, or 90 gallons an hour.

The replica is being loaned to Wega by the YMCA – Chase and Sanburn Coffee made and donated it to the YMCA during the centennial of the war.

Chase and Sanburn was one of several companies that popped up right around the time of the Civil War. Caleb Chase went into business roasting coffee in 1864. In 1878, he and James Sanborn united and started the company.

Companies like Chase and Sanburn, Arbuckles and J.A. Folger & Co. were dependent on two inventions created during the war to take advantage of the war economy – the durable paper bag, originally created for peanuts in 1862, and the self-emptying roaster invented by Jabez Burns in 1864. The first instant coffees, in the form of liquid concentrate, were also developed during the war, presumably to be marketed to the Army.

By the 1870s, Americans drank six times more coffee than Europeans and earned the coffee-maker a permanent place in office break rooms.

The connection between the Civil War and the development of coffee is not lost on Wega. Outside his museum, an Arbuckle crate sits as part of a display.

But to him, coffee represents something simpler: comfort and enjoyment to soldiers enduring some of the worst times of their lives.

"Many times, it's the simple things that matter," Wega said.

Hunley audit unlikely Legislative Audit Council chief says it would be conflict of interest for agency to probe legislators' spending on sub

By JOHN MONK,
ThePalmettoState.com, July, 7, 2006

The state financial watchdog agency should not investigate how public money has been spent on the Hunley submarine project, according to the agency's director.

Both the Legislative Audit Council and the money spent on the Hunley are under the jurisdiction of the Legislature; thus, it would be inappropriate for the council to audit a program in the same branch of government, council director George Schroeder said Wednesday.

He also has told his five board members of the conflict.

About \$13 million in state and federal money, including other direct public support, has gone to the Hunley submarine project since 1999, according to Hunley records.

"It's a conflict of interest," Schroeder said, speaking of whether his agency could audit Hunley finances. "In the world of auditors, this is a fundamental principle."

Rep. Nathan Ballentine, R-Lexington, and seven other lawmakers called for the audit in May, after a series of articles in The State newspaper about the Hunley's finances.

The Hunley's main promoter, Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, has said an audit is not needed because the Hunley project issues yearly audits. Efforts to reach McConnell on Wednesday were unsuccessful.

John Crangle, director of the citizens' watchdog group Common Cause/South Carolina, said Schroeder's concern about auditing jurisdiction appears to be legitimate.

If the Legislative Audit Council doesn't audit Hunley spending, Crangle said, the wisest course might be to hire an outside auditor.

"That way, whoever did it would be free from retaliation by state politicians if they didn't like the results."

Asked how much a Hunley audit would cost, Schroeder said that question can't be answered without an examination of Hunley records to see how complex and in what condition they are in. He said the average cost of his agency's audits is \$200,000.

Reports by the Legislative Audit Council don't just crunch numbers; they issue judgments on how money has been handled and make recommendations.

Schroeder, who has been Legislative Audit Council director for 30 years, said he could not recall the agency ever considering disqualifying itself from a legislative branch audit. That's because nearly all state spending takes place in executive branch agencies, such as the Department of Public Safety, or the judicial branch, he said.

But spending on the Hunley submarine project is a rare instance of legislators keeping a spending program.

In the General Assembly, federal and state money appropriated for the



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Hunley submarine project has been sent to special accounts in the State Budget and Control Board.

McConnell reviews and approves requests for that money by the Friends of the Hunley, a foundation he helped set up. The foundation oversees Hunley expenses including preservation, which costs about \$800,000 a year.

McConnell chairs the Hunley Commission, a nine-member panel that includes six legislators. He also appoints members of the foundation board after consulting with the Hunley Commission.

Though Friends of the Hunley issues annual audits, they for the most part do not break down revenue and expenses with specificity. For example, in the 2004 audit, the latest available, a category under "expenses" says \$232,379 was spent on "education and membership," but does not describe the programs.

Hunley foundation spokesmen recently said the foundation is in good financial health. But a Clemson University official who inspected the Hunley's financial books last year said in internal university documents obtained by The State newspaper that the Hunley preservation project badly needs Clemson's future yearly contribution — \$800,000.

With McConnell's help, Clemson has made plans to pay for the Hunley preservation and create an 82-acre campus-research park around the Hunley laboratory in North Charleston.

Ballentine said Wednesday he still wants an audit of Hunley spending. He said he would monitor the Legislative Audit Council to see what happens.

In a memo to Legislative Audit Council board members, Schroeder suggested the audit could be

performed by the state auditor's office, which comes under the executive branch of government.

But first, the Legislative Audit Council members would have to formally decline to perform an audit.

A decision by the Legislative Audit Council on whether to audit Hunley finances could come at the agency's July 25 meeting, council chairman Dill Blackwell said.

"If we aren't going to do it, we ought to make that clear as soon as possible," Blackwell said.

Hunley had a hitch with a hatch

The Associated Press, July 17, 2006

CHARLESTON - Scientists say they may have found an important clue in the mystery of why the Confederate submarine Hunley sank 140 years ago after making history by sinking an enemy warship in battle.

Archaeologists and others working to restore the submarine recovered six years ago from the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Sullivan's Island have found evidence the forward hatch may have been opened intentionally on the night the sub sank.

The forward hatch was one of two ways crew members got in and out of the sub. It is covered in a thick layer of sand and other ocean debris, but X-rays show the hatch is open about half an inch, according to a news release Friday from the Friends of the Hunley.

Earlier reports said rods that could have been part of the hatch's watertight locking mechanism were found at the feet of the sub's commander, Lt. George Dixon.

That evidence leads those working on the sub to think the hatch may have been opened intentionally.

"The position of the lock could prove to be the most important clue we have uncovered yet and offers important insight into the possibilities surrounding the final moments before the submarine vanished that night," said Hunley Commission chairman state Sen. Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston.

If the hatch was intentionally unlocked, there are several possible explanations.

Dixon could have opened it to see if the 40-foot, hand-cranked vessel was damaged when it rammed a spar with a black powder charge into the Union blockade ship Housatonic on Feb. 17, 1864, becoming the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship. Or Dixon could have opened the hatch to refresh the air supply in the eight-man crew compartment or to signal that it had completed its mission.

An emergency also could have led the crew to open the hatch to get out. But because the second escape hatch was found in the locked position, that theory seems less likely. "If the Hunley crew opened the hatch, it must have been for a critical reason," said archaeologist Michael Scafuri. "Even on a calm day, three-foot swells can occur out of nowhere on the waters off Charleston. Every time the hatch was opened, the crew ran the deadly risk of getting swamped."

The Hunley sank three times, killing 21 crew members.

But the reason it sank on the night of its successful mission remains a mystery.

Although scientists said the new discovery could help determine the cause of the sinking, it also is possible that the lock was damaged after the sub sank and the hatch opened while it sat on the ocean floor.



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New Chatham Project Hopes to Document Historic Gardens

An architectural landscape student recently won a fellowship to look at the history of the gardens at Chatham Manor

By Jessica Schonberg, Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, July 20, 2006

The Civil War history at Chatham Manor has been researched and documented by historians many times, but the gardens at the 18th-century plantation home have not received quite as much attention.

Zach Rutz, an architectural landscape master's student at the University of California at Berkeley, is working to change that.

Rutz received the Garden Club of Virginia fellowship to spend the summer researching the garden at Chatham. His goal is to record the current state of the garden in case it is ever restored.

"I'm sort of here to just peel back one layer and look at that," Rutz said.

The Stafford County home, which overlooks Fredericksburg and the Rappahannock River, was built between 1768-71 by William Fitzhugh.

During the Civil War, the house was occupied by Union troops for more than a year. It is believed to have been used as a hospital during the Battle of Fredericksburg.

Daniel and Helen Devore eventually bought and restored the house. In the 1920s, the Devores hired famed landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman to design an elaborate, lush garden.

A series of photographs shows the completed garden at its peak. Rutz is comparing the pictures to what the garden looks like now.

Chatham gardener Joe Ruedi said many of the changes were made deliberately by the home's last private owner, industrialist John Lee Pratt.

Ruedi said the Devores often opened the grounds to the public, and when the Pratts bought Chatham, they were swarmed with requests to visit the garden. When his wife died, Pratt hired someone to design a scaled-down garden.

"He was a private person and he wanted to simplify his life," Ruedi said.

Ruedi said the rose garden and boxed planters were saved, but much of the rest of the garden was done away with in the mid-1950s.

Pratt willed the estate to the National Park Service in 1975. The service began restoring the garden in 1984.

The garden still has many types of flowers and plants. Rutz said he plans to create a map of the location showing the size of everything.

By comparing it to the 1920s photographs, Rutz said he will be able to see what parts of the garden are authentic and what parts have been changed.

Several statues that are believed to be original still stand in the garden, as well as columns covered in sprawling vines.

The Garden Club has sponsored fellows to study private gardens since 1996 and last year added a second fellow to research public gardens. Will Rieley, a landscape architect and the Garden Club member overseeing Rutz's research, said past fellows uncovered interesting information.

"They are leaving a really important historical record of the conditions of these gardens at the time they are studying them," Rieley said. "In addition to that, they are doing historical research on the evolution of gardens over time."

So far, Rutz said he has learned that the brick walls surrounding the garden do not form a rectangle as they appear to, but instead form a trapezoid.

"There's funny little things that people might not see unless they're documented or pointed out to them," Rutz said.

Rutz also said he would like to create a brochure about the history of the garden and landscape history for Chatham visitors. He said he wants the history of the gardens to be preserved in some way.

Rutz said his research could be used by the Garden Club for a future restoration of the garden, but there are no formal plans to do so right now.

"You never know what research will be used for in the future," he said. "Things are forgotten. We take for granted knowledge of today."