

THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Civil War Museum sounds alarm on leaving Philadelphia

By Edward Colimore,
Philadelphia Inquirer, July 28,
2009

Uniforms with gold braid and neat rows of buttons once stood at attention in display cases, as if gathered for a reunion. Great commanders, the likes of Ulysses S. Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman, and George Gordon Meade, wore wool frock coats as they plotted strategy and rode to the sound of the guns.

Here, too, was the bloodstained sash worn by Union Gen. St. Clair Mulholland, a Philadelphian wounded at the Battle of Spotsylvania in Virginia. And here was Mulholland's Medal of Honor and a watch fob decorated with a Confederate minie ball that had struck him.

One of the most eye-catching items was a gold-plated sword with diamond chips and semiprecious jewels presented to Meade, who lived in Philadelphia.

For history lovers, the Civil War Museum on Pine Street was a pantheon for 86 years, filled with relics found nowhere else, relics with distinct Philadelphia connections.

Since the museum's closing a year ago, 3,000 artifacts have languished at an undisclosed city storage facility, awaiting funding for a new home.

Now, this priceless history may be lost to Philadelphia.

If money isn't secured in two weeks, preparations will be made to move the collection, said Sharon A. Smith, president and chief executive officer of the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia.

The decision, she said, has been forced on the museum because it's

quickly running out of operating funds for its four-member staff and storage for the collection.

"We're close to the end of our rope," Smith said. "We will have to find another home."

The prospective move follows the Rendell administration's refusal to provide \$8 million to \$10 million in promised capital funding. That prompted the loss of the museum's planned new location at the historic First Bank of the United States in the heart of Independence National Historical Park.

"We understand the trepidation caused by the possible loss of the museum, but we are constrained by fiscal reality," Rendell spokesman Chuck Ardo said this week.

Museum officials have sought funding from the legislature, but with so many competing interests across the state, their pleas haven't received the needed traction.

Smith said another location - less expensive than the First Bank building to convert - had been found in the historic district, but funding remains an obstacle.

"If we got it," she said of the money, "it would be close to a miracle, but miracles happen."

Otherwise, the museum is ready to partner with an undisclosed institution outside the city, Smith said.

"It would be a tragedy not having this collection on exhibit in Philadelphia," she said. "It is full of wonderful stories of the important role this region played in 19th-century history."

"We don't recognize how important that history is because we don't have a way of telling that story. You need an anchor."

Former Union officers established the museum in 1888, and with their families donated artifacts and memorabilia over the years until a

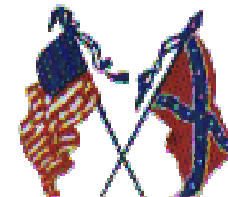
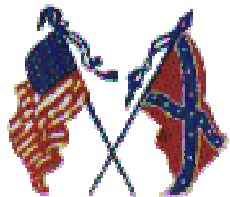
house was purchased in 1922 in the 1800 block of Pine Street to display the collection.

Now in crates, bubble wrap, and archival boxes, the materials - regarded by historians as some of the finest from the Civil War - await their fate. The collection "tells history in a way that words can't," Smith said.



Swords from the Museum collection packed for storage – photo courtesy Phila Civil War Museum

There are Confederate President Jefferson Davis' ornate smoking jacket, taken when he was captured in 1865; plaster casts of Abraham Lincoln's face and hands; one of the first wanted posters for John Wilkes Booth; the flag that flew over Meade's headquarters at Gettysburg; a pike from John Brown's ill-fated raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859; and muskets and swords, including a gold- and silver-plated presentation sword given to Grant after his victory at Vicksburg. Each one - even a simple watch - tells a story: One hundred forty-five years ago, Army Capt. John Foering of the 28th Pennsylvania was shot during fierce fighting at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain in Georgia. The



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minie ball struck his vest pocketwatch, and his life was spared.

"We are on the verge of losing the entire collection, and the responsibility rests on Ed Rendell," said State Rep. James R. Roebuck Jr. (D., Phila.). "I can't tell you how disappointed I am in his actions.

"The governor pulled the rug out from underneath us. I can't understand the logic of it," added Roebuck, who has worked to keep the museum in Philadelphia. "This is a city that prides itself on history and tourism. It's a tremendous collection. Without the Civil War, you have an incomplete history of what it is to be American."

Academics were equally horrified by the prospect of losing the museum.

"You are dealing a serious blow to the history community if anything dire happens," said Andy Waskie, a Civil War historian, author, and Temple University professor who teaches languages and history.

"This is the finest collection of Union Civil War artifacts in private hands. It belonged to the residents of this city. This is priceless, unique, a legacy of the Civil War in Philadelphia. It cannot be lost."

Waskie said he'd "like to be optimistic and think things can be solved with the proper attention - from the political side and foundation side."

"Attention has to be riveted on this, consciousness raised so that it's put before the public," he said. "It's unthinkable that the collection would not be in the city."

Lacking the funding, though, Smith said, the museum will have to do the unthinkable and move it.

"It's so distressing that everything is so iffy," she said. "But if we don't have the resources, we have to start down the road to finding an appropriate home for the collection."

A Civil War Piece, Put in Its Set

By Tracey Woodward
Washington Post Loudoun Extra (VA), July 30, 2009

The Battle of Aldie during the Civil War erupted at the site of Mount Zion Old School Baptist Church and then progressed west toward Aldie Mill.

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, which owns the grist mill, has planned to bring the battle to life with historical interpretations, said its executive director, Paul Gilbert. But until last week, the park authority was missing one element in its historical narrative: the Mount Zion church.

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors voted July 21 to give ownership of the seven-acre church property to the park authority.

"The Mount Zion church and Aldie Mill kind of make bookends to the Battle of Aldie," Gilbert said. "We are in a good position to kind of interpret that whole battle since it goes . . . right by or through two of these historic sites."

During the Civil War, Union troops lived at Mount Zion, along Route 50, and used it as a hospital and a burial place for soldiers.

The park authority also will take over Mosby Run, an 88-acre parcel across the street from the church now owned by the Mount Zion Church Preservation Association.

Gilbert said the property was at risk of foreclosure because the preservation association fell behind on its payments for a state loan it used to buy the property a few years ago.

Together, Mosby Run and the Mount Zion church will form a regional historical park.

Mount Zion reopened to the public in May after the county closed it for two years and spent \$788,000 for its restoration.

The county, which usually appropriates \$716,000 annually to the park authority, will be credited for the investment it made in the church, Gilbert said.

In the agreement, the county also transferred 147 acres of the Beaverdam Reservoir property to the park authority. The authority hopes to turn the property into a second regional park with "passive recreation," including a trail network and water access, Gilbert said.

The transfer of the properties will go before a public hearing scheduled for Sept. 8.

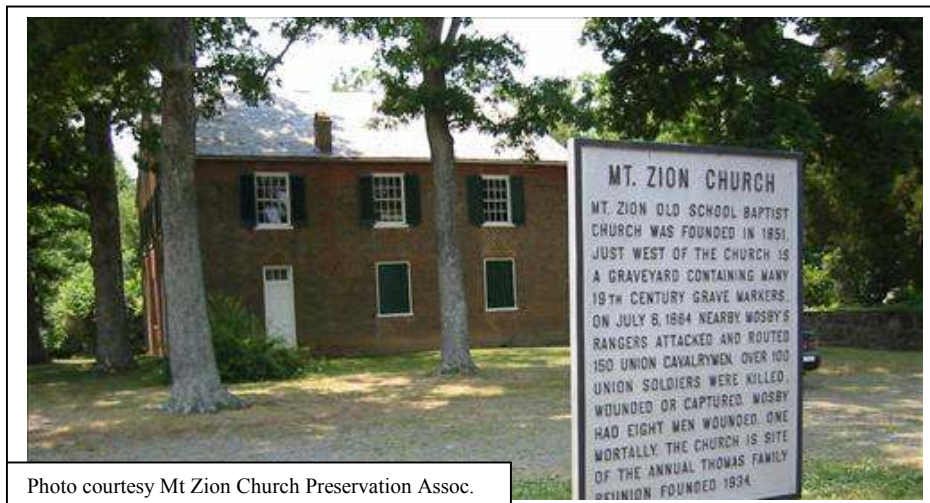
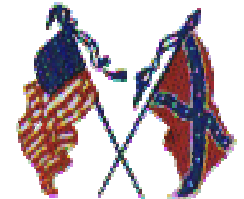


Photo courtesy Mt Zion Church Preservation Assoc.



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At the board's meeting, supervisors said they were pleased the Mosby Run and Beaverdam Reservoir properties have found new uses.

"What we get out of this is two large recreational facilities that would be operated and maintained by someone else," said Supervisor James Burton (I-Blue Ridge). "It will be accessible to . . . a great deal of Loudoun residents."

Board Chairman Scott K. York (I) noted that the reservoir property was from a proffer a developer offered the county in a rezoning case.

The creation of a regional park "gives an opportunity to put the property to use," he said.

Confederate Veterans' Group OKs

Jonesborough Boycott

By HEATHER RICHARDSON,
Kingsport (VA) Times-News, July
28th, 2009

The Sons of Confederate Veterans has approved a resolution calling for an economic boycott of the town of Jonesborough.

The group, which is comprised of about 32,000 descendents of Confederate soldiers, held its annual convention last week in Hot Springs, Ark. A resolution drafted and submitted by the Southern Legal Resource Center was introduced during the meeting.

SLRC is a nonprofit organization based in Black Mountain, N.C., which advocates for civil rights in connection with Southern heritage issues.

According to SLRC Executive Director Roger McCredie, the boycott is a reaction to the town's decision to not differentiate between Union and Confederate soldiers on memorial bricks to be placed in the town's Veteran Memorial Park.

After controversy arose from the town's previous policy that did not allow for soldiers who fought for the Confederacy to be memorialized in the park, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen amended the policy. The amended policy allows memorial bricks honoring Confederate soldiers to be placed in the park. The bricks, along with bricks honoring Union soldiers, will be marked "Civil War" rather than differentiating between the two sides — a decision town officials are continuing to stand behind.

According to a news release from SLRC, the organization believes Jonesborough citizens who ordered bricks for Confederate veterans "feel betrayed by the town's action." The resolution approved by the SCV states that the board's decision "violates both express representations made to persons desiring to purchase Confederate veterans' bricks, and also contradicts the precedent already established with respect to Union soldiers' bricks already in place" and that the board "acted in bad faith and out of a cynical and self-serving sense of political expediency and has caused great disappointment and distress to citizens seeking to memorialize Confederate veterans."

Despite those claims, Mayor Kelly Wolfe said the residents he has spoken with who were previously concerned about the park's original policy are satisfied with the amendment.

According to Wolfe, memorial bricks honoring Union soldiers which had been purchased prior to the policy amendment have been taken up and will be replaced. Those bricks were marked "U.S. Army" but will be remade to state "Civil War" to avoid discrimination and inconsistency.

The boycott resolution encourages members of the SCV "to refrain from doing any business of any sort with, or spending any monies whatsoever in, the town of Jonesborough for any goods or services whatsoever and that all SCV members . . . make such boycott known to the general public and encourage all citizens within their respective spheres of acquaintance and influence, likewise to participate in such boycott."

Despite the SCV's boycott, Wolfe said he is comfortable that the resolution reached by the board is in the best interest of the residents of Jonesborough.

"Their decision to have a boycott is unfortunate and I don't believe it is warranted," Wolfe said, adding that "the Board of Mayor and Aldermen consider the case closed."

Editor's note: The following is a opinion piece from the Waltham News-Tribune (MA) and does not necessarily represent the opinions of the BCWRT Board of directors or its membership

Opinion: Let History Ring

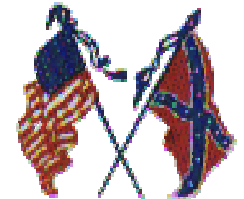
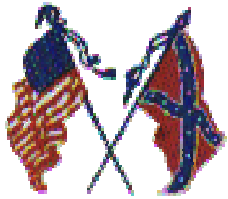
By Rick Holmes
Waltham News-Tribune (MA), July
18, 2009

It's a small building that witnessed a big event.

At the center of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, sits the sturdy brick building where John Brown made his stand. On its roof is a bell tower where once hung a handsome bell.

The bell tower is empty now, and therein hangs a tale.

John Brown was a radical abolitionist determined to free the slaves even if it meant picking a fight with the United States Army. So he raised enough money to equip a platoon of like-minded men. On October 16,



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1859, they seized the sturdy brick federal arsenal in Harpers Ferry and started shooting.

Brown hoped to inspire a slave uprising and start a civil war that would end slavery forever. But his revolution was short-lived. Local militia surrounded the arsenal where Brown and his gang held several hostages. Federal troops under the command of Col. Robert E. Lee and Lt. J.E.B. Stuart - both later became Confederate generals - stormed the building on Oct. 18 and took it in minutes. Seventeen were killed, including 10 of Brown's men.

Brown was captured, charged with murder, treason and slave insurrection, and hanged. But he was hailed as a martyr to the cause, and Union troops marched off to war a year and a half later singing that John Brown's body lay "a-mouldering in the grave, but his truth goes marching on."

Among those troops was Company I of the 13th Massachusetts Volunteers, who marched south from Marlborough in the summer of 1861 to fight for the Union. In August they camped by the Potomac River near Harpers Ferry, a town that had already felt the indignities of war.

As Joan Abshire of Marlborough tells it, the Marlborough men had orders to preserve anything of value to the Union and were also interested in a souvenir of historic Harpers Ferry. Among them were several firefighters who thought it would be swell to take the bell atop the arsenal home to their hook and ladder company.

With some difficulty - the 700 to 800-pound bell broke the rope they were using and chipped when it landed - the soldiers removed the bell, Abshire reports in her short history of the bell. But the Marlborough men had battles to fight, and they couldn't exactly lug

along the bell. So they left it in the hands of a friend they had made in Williamsport, Md., Mrs. Elizabeth Ensminger, from whom they had bought bread while encamped nearby.

Mrs. Ensminger hid the bell in her backyard, at one point burying it to keep it from marauding soldiers, but the Marlborough men didn't return till long after the fighting stopped. Thirty years later, six of the surviving members of Company I traveled to Washington for an encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, the leading organization of Union veterans. On their return, some of them made a detour to visit their old friend Mrs. Ensminger - and were surprised that she still had the bell.

They shipped the bell back to Marlborough, where it was hung on the front of the local G.A.R. post. When the bell started to pull loose from the deteriorating building, the American Legion Post, which had inherited ownership of the bell, built a stone tower on Main Street to hold it. There it sits today, safe from Confederate marauders, but rarely visited by anyone with an interest in its history.

Back in Harpers Ferry, the bell tower above "John Brown's Fort" sits empty. The old building is now the centerpiece of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, where 400,000 to 500,000 visitors each year come to learn the story of John Brown's Raid. They expect even more this year, what with 80 events in four states organized to commemorate the 150th anniversary of John Brown's Raid.

But the visitors don't see the bell and they don't learn the story of the 13th Massachusetts Volunteers who carted it off. And that's a shame.

"For many people, this bell is the equivalent of the Liberty Bell," Dennis

Frye, chief historian for the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park told me. The Park Service would love to tell the story of the two towns, Harpers Ferry and Marlborough, tied together by John Brown's Bell.

Over the years, Harpers Ferry officials have made several attempts to get the bell back, at one point offering a replica of the bell to trade for the real one. Each time, they've been rebuffed by Marlborough.

The basic argument for keeping the bell in Marlborough is simple.

"Tough noogies," Gary Brown, Marlborough's veterans agent, told a reporter last year. "It's ours and it's going to stay ours. Neener, neener, neener."

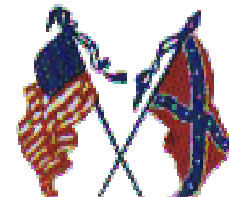
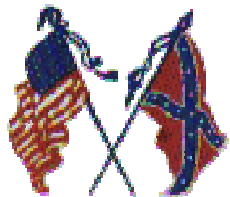
Brown and others who want the bell to stay in Marlborough bristle at the idea that men of Company I stole the bell. The 13th Massachusetts Volunteers were federal agents ordered to seize and protect federal property, they say, which is what they did.

Harper's Ferry changed hands several times during the Civil War. If it hadn't been hidden in Mrs. Ensminger's backyard, Brown says, the bell would surely have been melted down, like almost every other bell in the South.

But even if that reasoning was sound 150 years ago, it doesn't hold up today. If the bell is federal property, it can now be safely returned to the federal government. The National Park Service won't be melting it down.

Historical arguments aside, the John Brown Bell stays in Marlborough because possession is nine-tenths of the law. The federal government shows no sign of retrieving the bell, either by litigation or armed force.

"The Park Service doesn't want another Civil War," Frye said.



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So I offer a compromise: Let Marlborough keep custody of the bell, but let it be sent to Harpers Ferry for a visit.

In 1903, the keepers of the bell brought it to Charlestown to appear in a parade, sharing honors with the Liberty Bell. They wanted to share their treasure with other Americans who could appreciate its story.

In that same spirit, Marlborough should send the bell to Harpers Ferry, if only for a few weeks in October. Its return to the bell tower above the arsenal could be the highlight of the activities that will mark the 150th anniversary of John Brown's Raid.

Frye said the National Park Service would welcome the bell with open arms, on whatever terms Marlborough wants to set.

They could hang a plaque near it: "On loan from the heirs to Company I of the 13th Massachusetts Volunteers, who preserved this bell from the Confederate smelter and held it safe ever after."

The initiative would have to come from Marlborough, Frye said, and they've been waiting for years for Marlborough to call.

The Harpers Ferry commemoration is the official launch of the nation's Civil War Sesquicentennial events. It is a fitting place to start. As Frederick Douglass, the famed abolitionist leader and a friend of Brown said many years later, "If John Brown did not end the war that ended slavery, he did at least begin the war that ended slavery."

Marlborough should lend its bell to Harpers Ferry, join the commemoration and tell its Civil War story, not stand apart from it. History is meant to be shared, not hoarded.

Easement donated to Gettysburg Foundation

CWi, July 24, 2009

The Gettysburg Foundation today accepted the donation of a scenic, historic and open space conservation easement on property owned by Gettysburg resident David M. LeVan. The 61-acre property is along the Baltimore Pike corridor adjacent to the Culp's Hill area of the Gettysburg battlefield as well as the National Park Service Museum and Visitor Center. The property is within the boundary of the Gettysburg National Military Park.

"The Gettysburg Foundation—as part of its partnership with Gettysburg National Military Park—has a history of land preservation, including the Baltimore Pike corridor," said Foundation President Robert C. Wilburn. "The easement will protect this important parcel of land from future development and will preserve its historical integrity for generations to come."

With this donation, the Gettysburg Foundation has preserved close to 700 acres of land significant to the Battle of Gettysburg.

"I make this gift in honor of my father's vision and commitment to the preservation and conservation of this property," said LeVan. "I'm happy that I am now the one who is able to do this in his honor."

"A gift of this significance that preserves this land forever and ever is not just of local significance; it's of national significance," said Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent John A. Latschar, who read an acknowledgement letter concerning the donation from Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Gettysburg Foundation Chair of the Board Robert A. Kinsley thanked

David and Jennifer LeVan for their very generous gift and for their early and continuing support of the Gettysburg Foundation.

The Gettysburg Foundation is a private, nonprofit educational organization working in partnership with the National Park Service to enhance preservation and understanding of the heritage and lasting significance of Gettysburg. The Foundation raised funds for and now operates the Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park, which opened in April 2008

Franklin's Carnton Plantation Opens New Visitors Center

By Kevin Walters

Nashville Tennessean (TN), July 29, 2009

Today, visitors to Carnton Plantation will get their first glimpse inside a long planned project to bring modern amenities to a site with ties to Franklin's Civil War past.

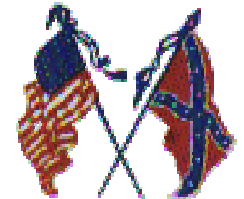
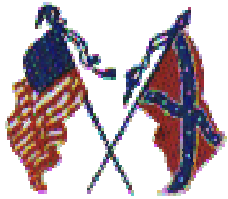
Advertisement

The new, \$1.2 million Fleming Center opens its doors for a soft opening Wednesday that Carnton supporters have been hoping would come for years.

At 7,000 square feet, the new visitors center offers ample event and exhibit space, as well as new restrooms, water fountains and office space for staff. The center will replace the doublewide trailer used at the site for years.

The upgrade will improve visitors' trips to the museum and will mean more guests can use Carnton for events like weddings and receptions, said Margie Thessin, plantation interim executive director.

"For us, events are fund-raising," Thessin said. "We really hope that



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people like to come out and take a look."

During the Battle of Franklin on Nov. 30, 1864, the plantation's main house was used as a hospital. It is adjacent to the McGavock Confederate Cemetery, the largest privately held Confederate cemetery.

The center, which sits behind where the trailer is located, is named after Sam Fleming, a Franklin native and Middle Tennessee banker who was a lifelong supporter of the museum. His widow, Valerie Fleming, raised money to build the center and name it after her husband. An official dedication ceremony will take place Sept. 12.

Exhibits planned for the center include a new Battle of Franklin exhibit that will feature relics from the battle, including presentation swords and other artifacts.

In September, the center will host an exhibit focusing on Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood, who was defeated at the Battle of Franklin.

The center will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Sundays, the center will be open from 1 to 5 p.m.

Group to Stage Re-enactment to Save South Mountain Site

By Connor Adams Sheets
Frederick County Gazette (MD), July 23, 2009

On Sept. 14, 1862, the 30th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Ninth Corps of the Army of the Potomac marched pasty Middletown en route to Fox's Gap on South Mountain, where they fought Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in the Battle of South Mountain.

On Sept. 12, 2009, a local group plans to commemorate the 147th anniversary of that epic Civil War

battle by staging a re-enactment of it. Their goal is to protest an energy company's consideration of the historical site as the possible home of a new gas transmission facility.

"There'll be about 80 re-enactors in full Union garb doing a three-hour march from Middletown all the way up to Reno Monument," said Richard Maranto, president of Citizens for the Preservation of Middletown Valley (CPMV). "We want to call attention to the fact that [Dominion Power] has bought a very historic property and they want to change it into an industrial site."

Dominion Power purchased John Fox's Tavern and the 135 acres on which it sits at the intersection of Bolivar and Marker roads on Dec. 29, 2008. The company has identified the location as a preferred site for its planned construction of a \$55 million, 14,000-horsepower station to allow more gas to flow through pipelines transporting natural gas between Pennsylvania and Virginia.

It maintains, however, that it has not selected, nor ruled out, the site for construction of its project.

"We wanted to purchase that property while it was available as a potential site. We moved on the opportunity to buy the property," Dominion spokesman Robert E. Fulton said earlier this year. "In our minds, and in our studies, it was the best location, and so we purchased it in anticipation as a potential site."

The company said last fall that it will not be ready to move forward with construction of the station anywhere in the county for "a few years," but CPMV members want to keep attention on plans for the land.

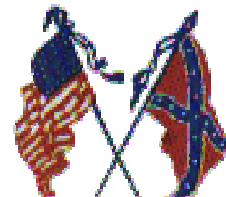
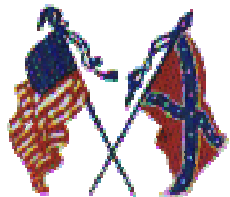
The re-enactors will create a "visual" event that Maranto hopes will keep the intensity of public concern about Dominion's intentions at a steady

level as the company decides on a site. Historians will attend the event and speak about the battle and the site's significance.

In March, South Mountain Battlefield was named to the Civil War Preservation Trust's list of the top 10 most endangered Civil War battlefields, in part because of Dominion's considerations.

High Winds Cut Swath Of Damage Through Shiloh

NPS Press release, August 4, 2009
High winds produced by a thunderstorm passing through the area hammered the northern end of the park on the evening of July 30th. Scores of large trees were toppled in and around historic Chambers field, a half mile west of the battlefield visitor center, temporarily blocking the main park entrance road. The swath of destruction, nearly 300 yards wide, extended northward, slicing through the surrounding forest and into the small residential community located on Hagy Lane, which borders Shiloh's northern boundary. Damage extended for nearly a mile. The park lost electrical service as utility lines located in the Hagy community were toppled by falling trees, but work crews managed to restore service before sunrise the following morning. A number of private residences in Hagy suffered minor damage, but luckily no injuries were reported by park neighbors or park employees residing in nearby government residences north of Pittsburg Landing. Although some near misses occurred, none of the nearly 1,000 commemorative monuments, markers, cannon, and historic structures protected in the 114-year-old park were harmed. (NPS)



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Wal-Mart Hearing Reset in Orange County VA

By Robin Knepper

Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star (VA),
July 29, 2009

After canceling Monday night's public hearing on a proposal to build a Wal-Mart near the Wilderness Battlefield, Orange County officials have been wrestling with how to put the controversial project back on track.

Last night the Board of Supervisors agreed to reschedule its public hearing for Monday, Aug. 24, at the Orange County High School at 6 p.m., an hour earlier than usual.

The supervisors could vote on Wal-Mart's special-use permit application that night, if time permits, or vote the next night at their regularly scheduled meeting.

But these plans depend on the county Planning Commission rescheduling and completing its public hearing and making a recommendation to the supervisors before Aug. 24.

The Planning Commission is holding a special meeting tomorrow night to consider this. Because of the legal requirements for advertising public hearings (once a week for two consecutive weeks) the earliest the Planning Commission could hold its public hearing would be at its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, Aug. 20.

The Board of Supervisors can't hold its public hearing until the Planning Commission meets and votes, but it can advertise beforehand.

"The Board of Supervisors can ask the Planning Commission to vote," said County Attorney Sharon Pandak, "but can't require it."

Wal-Mart is proposing a 138,000-square-foot supercenter on a 51.6-acre tract a quarter-mile north of the intersection of State Routes 3 and 20.

But the public hearing Monday was canceled after Wal-Mart personnel discovered that the weekly newspaper in Orange County had failed to publish the second of two legally required notices advertising the May 21 public hearing before the county Planning Commission.

Acting County Administrator Julie Jordan said that "out of an abundance of caution," both the public hearings before the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors would be rescheduled.

The Planning Commission last month voted 5-4 to recommend approval of a special-use permit for the store and accompanying retail center.

Preservation groups have consistently opposed the location of the project, saying the supercenter and traffic it would bring would desecrate the battlefield.

A majority of local residents and county supervisors, however, have voiced support for the retail giant and the jobs and tax revenue it would bring.

Wal-Mart officials have consistently said that there is no other location along the Route 3 corridor that meets its criteria for commercial zoning, size and configuration and traffic access.

Those who didn't get the news that the public hearing had been canceled gathered Monday at Orange County High School to voice their opinions.

"There was a steady stream of people coming and going," said Madison County resident Doris Lackey. "There were about a dozen people in Confederate uniforms and two or three people handing out fliers explaining why the meeting had been canceled."

Civil War re-enactors from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and many places in Virginia arrived for the public hearing, according to

Lynn Tuckwiller, a supporter of the Civil War Preservation Trust. In an e-mail yesterday she said the "living history" groups were an "impressive sight, especially when they played taps!"

Sheriff Mark Amos said a deputy was on the scene, but there were no incidents.

Lee Frame, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, said the worst part of the mix-up was that, "We've got to drag this out another month."

John Brown Descendants Head to West Virginia

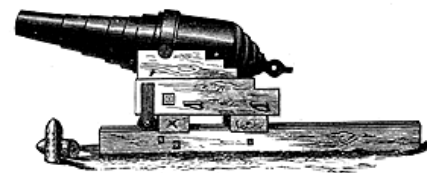
Associated Press, July 29, 2009
Descendants of abolitionist crusader John Brown and others involved in the Harper's Ferry raid have been invited to Charles Town to help mark the skirmish's 150th anniversary.

The Jefferson County NAACP has invited nearly 500 people whose ancestors were raiders, jailers, members of the military who fought in the raid or jurors who convicted Brown of treason.

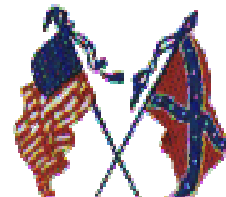
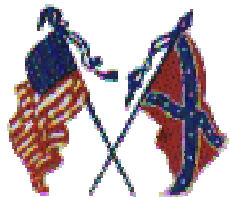
Local NAACP president George Rutherford says people from as far away as Washington state are scheduled to come.

Those include direct descendants of Brown, whose 1859 raid on the armory at Harper's Ferry helped push the country toward the Civil War that erupted two years later.

The gathering is scheduled for Aug. 14.



Armstrong Gun



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER