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Point Lookout descendants want to mark prisoners' graves

By JESSE YEATMAN,
SoMdNews.com. July 7, 2010

Another battle has broken out over the federal memorial for Confederate soldiers who died at Point Lookout during the Civil War.

"Since last August we've been trying to get the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs] to mark the mass burial plot," Jim Dunbar said. Dunbar has ancestors who died at the prison camp at Point Lookout. He is a member of the Descendants of Point Lookout Prisoners of War Organization.

Due to erosion, the remains of more than 3,000 people were moved from their original resting places to a burial trench where a federal monument was constructed in 1910, located just outside Point Lookout State Park. While there is an 80-foot granite obelisk marking the site, the actual boundaries of the pit are not marked, Dunbar said.

Archaeologist James Gibb of Annapolis connected with the group and offered to do a dig for free to determine the burial trench's boundaries. However, the National Cemetery Administration, which oversees the memorial and grave site, denied his request.

Gibb wanted to dig between one dozen and two dozen "shovel test pits," or small holes up to a foot deep to discover and mark the boundaries of the burial pit, which is believed to be about 20 by 20 feet and located behind the federal monument.

"They do not know where the remains are within" the fenced area of the monument, Dunbar said.

Knowing exactly where the pit is could have benefits for the government, Gibb argued, including helping during renovations to be sure the burial trench is not disturbed. "Oral history is nice, but as a rule it's off by 100 feet," he said.

Gibb said that it would be a low level of effort and that it would not disturb remains. "If [the remains] are less than a foot deep, than we're the least of their problems," Gibb said. "I've worked on cemeteries like this a lot ... there's no risk here."

He sent in the application in May 2009. "It was a long delay" for a reasonable request, Gibb said.

A letter last October from Steve Muro, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration's acting undersecretary for memorial affairs, denied the request.

"NCA's mission is to honor veterans with final resting places and provide tributes of their service," said Michael Nacincik, a spokesperson for the National Cemetery Administration. The NCA by policy will not disturb the remains of buried soldiers unless necessary.

"Veterans' remains could be disturbed" based on Gibbs' request, Nacincik said.

"We also believe that the burial site is appropriately marked," he said.

Nacincik said that it is not common to mark the actual boundaries of burial trenches, unless markers were put in specifically when the burials occurred. "We think there are multiple burial trenches on that property," he said.

The NCA is currently doing a study on all Confederate plots, including Point Lookout, and developing interpretive signs and plaques. The NCA's own history department, along with the help of the contractor hired to

design the signs, will determine what information is portrayed.

Nacincik said it is possible that information about the exact location or locations of any burial trenches be included on the interpretive signs. "I'm sure the plaque will be representative to the best of our knowledge what really occurred at Point Lookout," Nacincik said.

"We're not interested in their interpretation of our history," Dunbar said of the plans for those signs.

Nacincik said he realizes that some people are upset about the decision, but the NCA is trying to accommodate them. An offer for the archaeologist and the preservation group to use ground-penetrating radar was declined.

Gibb said it would cost several thousands of dollars to hire someone with the right equipment.

Gibb said if permission were granted to determine the specific site, the corners of the burial trench would be marked with small marble markers, similar to those used in family plots.

Nacincik said the NCA may not have allowed any markers placed on the grounds regardless. "That would be a whole different issue," Nacincik said.

Gibb said the federal government has lost the opportunity to create a public/private partnership with the preservation group.

A disputed history

The fate of the Confederate remains at Point Lookout has never been clear-cut or without controversy. The bodies of those buried at Point Lookout were moved three times because of shoreline erosion.

Point Lookout's use as a prison camp began after the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg, Pa., in July 1863. Between 1863 and 1865, more than 50,000 prisoners passed through the



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prison camp, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

within the enclosed fenced area of the federal memorial.

Mark Wade and Natalie Caruso of Washington, D.C., search for some of Wade's ancestors who appear on the Point Lookout federal memorial monument, which is undergoing a \$250,000 renovation. A preservation group wants to mark the actual burial trench of the Confederate remains that lie near the monument but was denied permission from the National Cemetery Administration. photo by JESSE YEATMAN



The Commission for Marking the Graves of Confederate Dead, made up of former Confederate soldiers, operated from 1906 to 1912. Members of the commission made recommendations to the secretary of war suggesting an appropriate memorial be erected to honor the thousands of Confederates who died at Point Lookout prison.

The commission, which was led by William Elliott, a Confederate colonel, signed off on the current federal Point Lookout cemetery, including the obelisk memorial, Nacincik said.

The federal memorial was built in 1911 by the Van Amringe Granite Co. at a cost of \$22,104, according to NCA records. This included the obelisk memorial, name plates and the decorative iron fence that encloses the property. Later, in 1938, a separate state monument that had been erected earlier was moved from its location closer to the point and set

A \$250,000 renovation to the 80-foot-tall federal monument is under way. In addition to the mortar work, the 12 bronze plaques bearing the known names of Confederates who died at the Point Lookout prisoner depot will be cleaned, waxed and buffed.

The preservation group several years ago had tried to hold ceremonies at the federal monument site but speeches, sometimes "fiery," were censored by the Veterans Administration, Dunbar said.

On the group's Web site, the former Point Lookout prison camp is described as "a genocidal, ethnic cleansing, concentration camp filled with federal atrocities that housed over 52,000 Southerners, with a death count of over 14,000."

The group also wanted to fly a Confederate battle flag over the federal monument 365 days a year. However, a Supreme Court ruling shot down that idea, based on the

belief that the rebellion states of the Civil War identified themselves as a separate country and that, based on U.S. regulations, only the American flag is flown over national cemeteries. Another point of contention is the alleged lack of names on the federal monument.

The late St. Mary's historian Edwin Beitzell, author of "Point Lookout Prison Camp for Confederates," said the number who died there was at least closer to 4,000. Other estimates range as high as 14,000.

The federal monument contains the names of 3,382 Confederate soldiers and sailors and 44 civilians who died there, according to the NCA. An NCA historian acknowledged there probably are people who died at the prison camp whose names did not make it to the memorial tablets.

Records of those who fell in battle during the Civil War were sporadic. Some estimates show the total number of those killed during the Civil War was around 600,000, including 258,000 Confederates. About 9 percent of those fatalities occurred at prison camps.

National Park Service Sends \$1.2 Million To Battlefields

National Parks Traveller, July 11, 2010 - 1:42am

The National Park Service is handing out more than \$1.2 million to battlefields around the country to help with their preservation. The funds come from the agency's American Battlefield Protection Program.

"These grants will help safeguard and preserve American battlefield lands," said Park Service Director Jon Jarvis. "These lands are symbols of individual sacrifice and national heritage that we must protect so that this and future generations can walk



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these places and understand the struggles that define us as a nation."

The grants fund projects at endangered battlefields from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Civil War, World War II, and Indian Wars. Grants were made to projects in 17 states and territories to support archeology, mapping, cultural resource survey work, documentation, planning, education, and interpretation.

Projects a statewide comprehensive GIS database of Civil War sites that will include 38 battlefields in Tennessee; a preservation plan for the U.S. Dakota War of 1862 Woodlake Battlefield in Minnesota; and development of a new battlefield preservation, and planning website in Virginia for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District.

Priority was given to the preservation of nationally significant battlefields. The majority of grants were given to battlefields listed as Priority I or II sites in the National Park Service's Civil War Sites Advisory Commission **Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields** and the **Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States**.

Federal, state, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions are eligible for the battlefield grants that are awarded annually. Since 1996, more than \$12 million has been awarded by ABPP to help preserve significant historic battlefields associated with wars on American soil. More information is available online at

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/abpp>.

Among the Year 2010 Grants are:
Arkansas State Parks, Department of Parks and Tourism.....\$82,000

The Civil War Battle of Prairie Grove (1862) was the last time two armies of equal strength fought for control over northwest Arkansas. With archeological investigation and GIS mapping, this project will delineate the locations and extent of major battlefield features within Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park.

LAMAR Institute (Georgia).....\$40,000

In December of 1864, the Confederacy suffered a devastating loss at the Battle of Monteith Swamp. Union troops broke through the Confederate defenses and took Savannah. This project will conduct archeology fieldwork to identify and document the battlefield as well as foster public outreach.

Madison County (Kentucky).....\$35,000

The Battle of Richmond is the second largest Civil War site in Kentucky and is one of three major battles that are part of the "Confederate heartland offensive" within Kentucky. A preservation plan will address the needs of local government and will suggest ways to partner with the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD), as well as other organizations, agencies, and the community, to develop ways to protect threatened battlefield land.

Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association (Kentucky).....\$35,000

The Civil War Battle of Tebbs Bend was the first major engagement of Confederate General John Morgan's Great Raid, a push into the northern Midwestern states intended to capture supplies and erode support for the Union war effort. Building on the work of a previous ABPP grant, an archeology survey will be

developed for the Tebbs Bend Battlefield.

Northwestern State University of Louisiana.....\$41,000

During the Red River Campaign of 1864, a fierce engagement occurred between Admiral David Dixon Porter's fleet, the Confederate land batteries, and several hundred sharpshooters on Deloach's Bluff Battlefield. This project will identify the location of subsurface resources and the extent of the historic battlefield through a cultural resource survey, GIS/GPS fieldwork, remote sensing, and minimal archeology testing.

Wood Lake Battlefield Preservation Association

(Minnesota).....\$47,000
Wood Lake was the final major battle of the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. Preoccupied with the Civil War, the U.S. Government violated treaties with Minnesota's Dakota Indians, leading to hardships for these tribes. Building on the work of a previous ABPP grant, a comprehensive preservation plan will be developed for the Wood Lake Battlefield.

Frontier Heritage Alliance (Montana).....\$68,800

The final battles of the Sioux Indian Wars were against the Northern Pacific Railroad survey expedition on the Yellowstone River in 1873. This project will identify and document the Stanley-Custer Battles with Sioux Warriors, produce a historical report and a National Register nomination, and educate land owners about the historic significance of their properties.

Coastal Carolina University, Center for Historical Studies (South Carolina).....\$60,000

Horry and Georgetown Counties contain Revolutionary War and Civil War battlefield sites that will be



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identified and documented through this project. The findings of this project will be used to increase the awareness of battlefield sites in these two counties for future preservation planning efforts.

South Carolina Research

Foundation.....\$64,200
In 1865, the Union Army, led by General William T. Sherman, began a campaign to subdue South Carolina. Sherman's army marched across the state fighting battles and skirmishes, disrupting rail traffic, and destroying property. This project will identify and document multiple battlefields, skirmish sites, and camps associated with this campaign to provide the South Carolina Civil War Sesquicentennial Advisory Board with baseline data for preservation.

Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military

Park(Tennessee).....\$32,100
In 1863, the Federal Army ended Confederate control of Chattanooga, a vital transportation hub, after several key battles during the Campaign for Chattanooga. Building on the work of a GIS database developed with funding from a previous ABPP grant, this project will work toward preservation advocacy and consensus building among local planners, landowners, developers, and other stakeholders within the Chattanooga Battlefield boundaries.

Tennessee State Library and

Archives.....\$40,750
This statewide project will take a comprehensive GIS database of 38 Civil War sites and make it available online for federal, state, and local planning agencies and preservation organizations. The geospatial database with economic and demographic overlays will be accessible to the public on the web

through the Tennessee GIS server. Greater access to historical information should lead to increased public interest.

University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost

College.....\$26,000
The Siege of Fort Brown during the U.S.-Mexican War highlighted traditional siege tactics and earthwork construction techniques, and featured numerous men who would assume important military leadership roles in subsequent battles in American history. This project will produce a cultural landscape inventory that will include GIS mapping, a historical overview, military terrain analysis, and an analysis of present conditions on the site.

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields

Foundation
(Virginia).....\$61,500
This project will create a new battlefield preservation and planning website for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District and Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation in preparation for the Civil War Sesquicentennial. The website will build awareness and support for the preservation of 15 battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley and will include a mapping application.

Shenandoah Valley Network

(Virginia).....\$21,500
The goal of this advocacy project is to secure improved local zoning and planning in two Shenandoah Valley counties. This effort will preserve the rural character, agricultural base, and natural and historic resources on which the future of six nationally significant Civil War battlefields depend. The project will include public outreach, GIS mapping depicting the impacts of proposed local ordinances, and technical support for preservation programs.

Stafford County

(Virginia).....\$77,700
The Battle of Aquia Creek was one of the first naval engagements in the Civil War. Union vessels and Confederate batteries exchanged roughly 1,000 rounds over Aquia Landing, which was a pivotal gateway between the capital cities of Richmond, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. This project will conduct an archeological survey that will include underwater archeology, and will produce a National Register nomination application.

Brandy Station land protected

By CLINT SCHEMMER,
Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, July 26, 2010

Property owners and preservationists are stringing together two new gems on the necklace that is Culpeper County's Brandy Station battlefield.

Soon, the only thing that will be left to do is pay for the jeweler's setting.

The two conservation easements on the sprawling battleground--site of the world's largest cavalry engagement--add 782 acres to the 1,000 acres preserved there since 1987.

"It's quite extraordinary. This helps us in a very dramatic way to better interpret the battlefield," historian Clark B. Hall said of the landowners' donations of development rights for the two tracts.

The deals, arranged by the Civil War Preservation Trust and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, save two quite different Civil War landscapes--each with interesting stories to tell, Hall said in an interview yesterday.

Together, they form the biggest preservation victory at Brandy Station in years.

The 349-acre northern tract, which includes nearly a mile of Hazel River



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frontage, is where Union Brig. Gen. John Buford's cavalry fought Confederate troopers led by W.H.F. "Rooney" Lee, Robert E. Lee's middle son. Its easement was donated by Beauregard Farms LP.

The southern tract, comprising 433 acres southwest of Culpeper Regional Airport, includes land where Union Col. Thomas Devin's Federal cavalry repeatedly clashed with Confederates led by Gen. Wade Hampton. Its easement was donated by brothers Chuck and Pete Gyory. Hall and Kathleen Kilpatrick, director of the Department of Historic Resources, praised the landowners for their gifts to the state.

"This new opportunity would add enormously to the great conservation and battlefield-preservation successes the commonwealth has recently experienced," Kilpatrick said. "These are just phenomenal properties. To have this much land in one area placed voluntarily under easement is really heartening."

Not counting the newest Brandy Station deal, Kilpatrick said, owners have recently donated more than 1,500 acres in Culpeper County and around the Rappahannock Station battlefield in western Fauquier.

When a landowner donates an easement, he retains his property but forfeits development rights in return for tax credits. Future owners are bound by the rules.

Three years ago, before the real estate market deflated, the Gyory property was proposed for a development eclipsing Fredericksburg's 2.2-million-square-foot Central Park. The biggest venture in Culpeper history, 3.4-million-square-foot Willow Run called for 300 condominiums, a 2,500-seat multiplex, a lighted golf course, a

water park, a four-story hotel, offices and an equestrian center.

To help save the two tracts' open space, the Civil War Preservation Trust was asked to pay some of the landowners' closing costs, about \$67,000.

At \$85 per acre, CWPT President Jim Lighthizer called it "one of the better and more innovative bargains we have ever struck." The trust must often pay \$5,000 to \$10,000 per acre to buy land outright.

On the open market, the properties would be worth in the millions of dollars.

Now, to recoup its investment, the CWPT has mounted a fundraising campaign for Brandy Station.

Willow Run would have gravely compromised the integrity of the 1,014 acres the trust had already saved there, Lighthizer said.

"Can you imagine the destruction that might have been inflicted upon Brandy Station had this gargantuan development come to pass?" he said.

"Can you imagine what we would have had to pour into the battle to try and stop it? Now, however, the outlook is much brighter."

Hall, president of the Brandy Station Foundation, said the Gyory tract is "one of the most marched-upon pieces of ground in American history." Federal and Confederate forces crisscrossed it as they tried to seize Fleetwood Hill for most of that 12-hour day.



Union cavalry assaults the St. James Church area between Rooney Lee's knoll and the Gyory tract--now preserved.

"Securing this ground goes a long way toward protecting the historic viewshed from Fleetwood Hill toward the Rappahannock," he said. "It represents the plains of Brandy Station, the reason that this place became 'cavalry central' in 1863."

The northern parcel, he said, provided the crucial defense for the Confederate commander confronting Brig. Gen. John Buford, later one of the Northern heroes of Gettysburg. They stared at each other from atop hills 1,200 yards apart.

"Rooney Lee saves the Confederate bacon from this piece of ground," Hall said. "He held it for six hours, from 4:30 a.m. until 10:30 on June 9, and if he hadn't, the Federals would have rolled up the Confederate line and won the Battle of Brandy Station."

The tract, adjoining the CWPT's land, includes a low stone wall behind which Lee's 1,500 troopers deployed. In the series of Union attacks on these four regiments, many Union men were killed and wounded in front of the wall, which is still there, Hall said.

"Today, you can stand on John Buford's knoll or Rooney Lee's knoll and you don't see anything but the landscape as it existed in June 1863. You don't see a T-shirt stand, you don't see a Sno Cone stand, or even



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a monument. And that's a remarkable achievement."

Environmental Assessment for the Gettysburg Cyclorama building to begin soon

CWi, July 21, 2010

– In response to a U.S. District Court decision in the lawsuit regarding the Cyclorama building at Gettysburg National Military Park (NMP), the National Park Service (NPS) is preparing to begin an environmental assessment (EA) planning process. The environmental assessment will describe and evaluate alternatives regarding the future of the Gettysburg Cyclorama building, a National Register listed structure located on North Cemetery Ridge.

The NPS is responding to the March 31, 2010, decision of the United States District Court directing the NPS to undertake a "site-specific environmental analysis on the demolition of the Cyclorama" building and to consider "non-demolition alternatives" to its removal, before "any

implementing action is taken" on the building; to implement the 1999 Final Gettysburg General Management / Environmental Impact Statement by rehabilitating the landscape of the 1863 battle on North Cemetery Ridge; and to improve visitor understanding of the battle action and commemoration that took place on North Cemetery Ridge.

"The NPS will decide the future of the Cyclorama building using the National Environmental Policy Act process identified by Judge Hogan," said Bob Kirby, Gettysburg NMP Superintendent.

At issue in the lawsuit was whether

the NPS had complied with National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act and their respective regulations in its decision to demolish the Cyclorama building at Gettysburg NMP, in order to rehabilitate the historic landscapes of the battle line of the Union Army on North Cemetery Ridge.

The Cyclorama building was designed by noted architect Richard Neutra and construction by NPS was completed in 1962. In 1999, the NPS approved a General Management Plan for Gettysburg NMP that called for (among numerous other actions) the demolition of the Cyclorama building in order to provide for the long-term preservation of the Cyclorama painting (a National Historic Object) and the rehabilitation of the historic landscapes of the battlefield. During the general management planning process the NPS consulted with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer, the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, numerous interested parties, and the public. The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer and the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation both approved the demolition of the building in order to rehabilitate the 1863 battlefield, as did the majority of the public comments received.

The NPS plans to launch this planning process as soon as possible. To be added to the mailing list and for more information about how to participate, contact GETT_Superintendent@nps.gov or call 717/ 334-1124 x3351.

60-acre property near Antietam battlefield approved for easement

Hagerstown Herald-Mail, July 28, 2010

ANNAPOLIS — A 60-acre property near Antietam National Battlefield has been approved for a conservation easement by Maryland's Board of Public Works, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources said in a press release Wednesday.

The easement, part of the state's Rural Legacy Program, will preserve the historically significant land, known as the Meyers Property, for future generations, the release said.

"By protecting this land, we are not only supporting an ecologically important area, but preserving an important piece of our State's history," Gov. Martin O'Malley was quoted as saying in the release. "This acquisition ensures that our rich heritage and our great outdoors will be protected for future generations of Marylanders."

The easement will be held by Washington County.

The Meyers Property is historically important due to its role in the Civil War, the press release said.

During the Battle of Antietam, Miller's Sawmill Road, which runs along the property, was used by A.P. Hill's Light Infantry Division to fortify Robert E. Lee against Burnside's division, thereby preventing the destruction of Lee's Army, according to the press release.

Not only did this property witness the flanking of Lee's army, it also provided encampment following the Battle of Antietam for the Union soldiers, the release said.

The easement will also extinguish 47 development rights in the viewshed of



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Anetietam Battlefield, the release said.

The easement will support wildlife conservation and pollution control, as the protected land includes prime agricultural soils and 1,125 feet of grassland riparian buffers along streams that feed into Antietam Creek, it said.

"Washington County is pleased to partner with the State on this important conservation easement that will protect prime agricultural land within a historically significant area," Eric Seifarth, Land Preservation Administrator for Washington County, said in the release. "We are glad the Governor has such an interest in the history of the Mid-Maryland Washington Rural Legacy Area, and the desire to protect this area."

Man's Roundtable bequest benefits battlefields

By CLINT SCHEMMER,
Fredericksburg Free Lance-
Star, July 28, 2010

Karl M. Lehr may have departed this Earth, but his passion for history lives on.

The veteran of World War II's Normandy invasion entrusted his estate to the Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pennsylvania.

Yesterday, the group announced it is donating Lehr's bequest--with interest--to three separate efforts to save four Virginia battlefields.

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, based in Fredericksburg, will receive \$53,000 to help preserve 93 acres of the Wilderness battlefield in Spotsylvania.

Another \$53,000 will go to the Richmond Battlefields Association toward purchase of 13 acres at Fussell's Mill and 4 acres at the Malvern Hill battlefield.

The Civil War Preservation Trust, based in Washington, will get \$22,000 for 10 acres at Manassas.

"Karl's legacy of honor, commitment and generosity remains," said Jeff Gates, the round table's spokesman. A native of Allentown, Pa., Lehr was a 30-year member of the round table who fought to save Grove Farm at Antietam and contributed to other preservation efforts.

As a technical sergeant during War War II, he took part in U.S. forces' landings at Sicily, Salerno and Normandy. He was later a staff member of the U.S. Army University in England, and taught history in New Jersey and Illinois for 42 years.

Locally, Lehr's gift will apply toward what CVBT calls Wilderness Crossroads, otherwise known as the Atkins property, near State Routes 3 and 20.

The 93-acre tract figured in both the battles of Chancellorsville in May 1863 and the Wilderness, a year later. It abuts the Wilderness portion of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

"We are tremendously grateful for this bequest and will use it, as instructed, to preserve dirt and grass. We cannot say enough good things about the Civil War Round Table of Eastern Pennsylvania," CVBT President Erik Nelson said.

"Even before this donation, these Pennsylvanians have provided more support to the CVBT mission than any other Civil War round table in the nation. They are superb!"

The Virginia trust still needs to raise about \$225,000 toward the property's \$950,000 purchase price.

The trust moved swiftly last year to buy the farmland when Orange County approved a Walmart Supercenter less than a mile away.

The CVBT tract is crossed by the old Germanna Plank Road, a route that Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Union forces used to reach Spotsylvania Court House after the Battle of the Wilderness.

Julie Krick, president of the Richmond Battlefields Association, said the group was "thrilled" by the contribution toward its work in Henrico County.

"The Richmond Battlefields Association is extremely grateful to the Eastern Pennsylvania Civil War Roundtable, and to the late Mr. Lehr, for being so committed to the principle of Civil War battlefield preservation, and for having such confidence in our all-volunteer, grassroots organization," Krick said.

"We will convert this tremendous gift into more preserved battlefield land in the very near future."

The Eastern Pennsylvania round table said it selected the three nonprofit groups because of their "proven track record," efficient use of donations and the way they multiply the effect of private contributions with matching funds. The CVBT, for example, will match Lehr's donation at a ratio of 3-to-1.

"Because of those matching grants, Karl's gift to the round table has grown to \$463,000," the Pennsylvania group said. "We can think of no better way to remember and honor Karl Lehr than to preserve and protect the historic legacy of our nation for future generations."

Lincoln Library obtains key collection

Associated Press, July 30, 2010
SPRINGFIELD, Ill.-The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has obtained hundreds of books from the estate of Pulitzer Prize-winner David Herbert Donald. The collection includes six editions of



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the Harvard historian's Lincoln titles and approximately 30 books about the Civil War, slavery and other history the facility did not previously have.

In 2005, the museum and library gave Donald the only lifetime achievement award it has ever awarded. The award is now named for the Mississippi native who earned a doctorate at the University of Illinois. Donald won Pulitzers for a 1961 book on Charles Sumner and a 1988 biography of Thomas Wolfe. Many experts laud his 1995 best-seller "Lincoln" as one of the best-ever biographies of the 16th president. He died last year at age 88.