



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Confederate monuments taken down in Baltimore overnight

By Sean Welsh and Colin Campbell, The Baltimore Sun, August 16, 2017

Confederate statues in Baltimore were removed from their bases overnight, as crews using heavy machinery loaded them onto flat bed trucks and hauled them away, an end to more than a year of indecision surrounding what to do with the memorials. The action comes after Baltimore City Council approved a plan Monday night to remove four statues linked to the

Confederacy from public spaces in the city, after a national conversation was renewed following a deadly act of terror during a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va. on Saturday.

Mayor Catherine Pugh said Wednesday morning crews working for the city began removing the four Confederate monuments at 11:30 p.m. Tuesday and finished at 5:30 a.m.

"It's done," she said Wednesday morning. "They needed to come down. My concern is for the safety and security of our people. We moved as quickly as we could."

Pugh said she personally watched as monuments were taken down.

As she did on Monday, Pugh again said she was surprised more hadn't been done on the process of removing the statues before she took office. She said the city is still lining up plans on what to do with the monuments now that they've been taken down. But the quick overnight action was designed in part to avoid violent conflicts over their removal like what Charlottesville experience.

Johns Hopkins University as the sun came up.

Derek Bowden came from home, minutes away in Guilford, to take pictures of what was left of the Lee & Jackson Memorial, a vandalized stone platform devoid of the two generals.

He agreed with the city's decision, but said racism and white privilege run deeper than could be addressed solely by the removal of a few statues.

"It's major in its own right, but it's small when it comes to the bigger battle," the 59-year-old photographer said. "It's a bigger battle. This is a small victory. There's a larger issue we have to look at, with being Americans and upholding the Constitution, ... to protect all people."

Joules, a 31-year-old artist who declined to give her last name, said she had been riding her bicycle past Wyman Park Dell about 3:20 a.m., when she noticed cranes and Bobcats taking down the monument and putting it on a flatbed truck as police watched.

"Way to be, Baltimore, sneaky style, and do it in the middle of the night," she said.

The Charles Village resident said she wants to know where the statues were taken and what will be done with them.

"I feel like it's a deep issue. They're accurate, archived documentation of the position and rank of these two



The Confederate Women's Monument sits on a flat bed truck after it was removed by workers from its location on West University Parkway in North Baltimore. (Jerry Jackson / Baltimore Sun)

"I did not want to endanger people in my own city," she said. "I had begun discussions with contractors and so forth about how long it would take to remove them. I am a responsible person, so we moved as quickly as we could."

On Tuesday, activists in the city had vowed to tear down the statue in Wyman Park Dell — similar to how monuments in other cities have been destroyed this week — if Baltimore officials didn't act swiftly.

It happened in the middle of the night. Television news crews and a handful of police officers milled about at the Robert E. Lee & "Stonewall" Jackson Monument at Wyman Park Dell near



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men. ... But I'm not hee-hawing the Confederate flag," she said. "Maybe it belongs in a Confederate cemetery." Other statues being removed included the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Mount Royal Avenue, the Confederate Women's Monument on West University Parkway and the Roger B. Taney Monument on Mount Vernon Place.

Diane Lee has been catching the bus at the Mount Vernon bus stop for about a year. Each day, she looked over and saw the Taney monument before starting her morning commute. It made her think of hatred.

When she saw the empty pedestal Wednesday, the 47-year-old Baltimore resident breathed a sigh of relief.

"Thank goodness," said Lee, who is black. "It's about time they took that down. Nothing but a blasted eyesore."

Governor Hogan calls for Taney statue at Maryland State House to be removed

Pamela Wood, The Baltimore Sun, August 15, 2017

Gov. Larry Hogan joined a groundswell of opposition to Confederate-linked monuments on Tuesday, calling for the removal of a statue of the Supreme Court chief justice who wrote an 1857 decision that upheld slavery and denied citizenship to black Americans.

The statue of Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, a Calvert County native and author of the infamous Dred Scott decision, has stood on the front lawn of the State House in Annapolis since 1872, withstanding multiple efforts to remove it.

Hogan's announcement probably ensures that the bronze likeness of Taney will be removed from its prominent perch in the state capital. Hogan acknowledged the statue may send an inappropriate message in a country that continues to struggle over civil rights and equality.

"While we cannot hide from our history — nor should we — the time has come to make clear the difference between properly acknowledging our past and glorifying the darkest chapters of our history," Hogan said in a statement. "With that in mind, I believe removing the Justice Roger B. Taney Statue from the State House grounds is the right thing to do, and we will ask the State House trust to take that action immediately."

Hogan previously supported keeping Taney in his spot at the State House, and in 2015 called removing monuments to the Confederacy "political correctness run amok." Hogan did recall more than 100 Sons of Confederate Veterans commemorative license plates that year.

A spokesman said Tuesday that the governor was moved to change his mind following the weekend events in Charlottesville, Va., where white supremacists held demonstrations and one woman was killed and others injured when a car plowed into a crowd of counter-protesters.

"The governor was disgusted by the events in Charlottesville and rightly concluded that these memorials had become a rallying point for white supremacists and bigots," Hogan spokesman Doug Mayer said. "Their presence on prominent public land was sending a confusing and ultimately inappropriate message."

Following the violent and disturbing events in Charlottesville, officials

around the country have re-examined their statues and memorials to Confederate figures.

Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh has pledged to take down four Confederate-inspired monuments in the city, possibly moving them to Confederate cemeteries elsewhere in the state. The memorials include the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument on Mount Royal Avenue, the Confederate Women's Monument on West University Parkway, the Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson Monument in the Wyman Park Dell and a Taney monument on Mount Vernon Place.

Under former Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, a commission recommended getting rid of the Taney and Lee-Jackson statues, while adding signs with more historic context to the others.

Following the violent and disturbing events in Charlottesville, officials around the country have re-examined their statues and memorials to Confederate figures.

In Frederick, city officials removed a bust of Taney and another of Thomas Johnson, the state's first governor and a slaveowner, in March. The busts had flanked the entrance of Frederick's City Hall.

In a news conference at Trump Tower in New York, President Donald J. Trump defended the cause of those who gathered in Charlottesville to protest the removal of a statue there honoring Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Confederacy. He suggested that removing such monuments could lead to others coming down, too.

"Was George Washington a slave owner? So will George Washington lose his status?" Trump said. "What do you think of Thomas Jefferson? Do you like him? ... You're changing history. You're changing culture."



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In Maryland, it's up to the State House Trust to officially decide the fate of the Taney statue in Annapolis. It wasn't clear Tuesday when the group would next meet or how long it could take to move the statue.

The Trust oversees the historic building and its grounds and has four members: Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford, who is Hogan's appointee; House of Delegates Speaker Michael E. Busch; Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller and Charles L. Edson, who is chairman of the Maryland Historical Trust's board of trustees.

Busch offered his support on Monday for getting rid of the Taney statue, while Miller said he preferred to keep the statue but would not block its removal if that was the governor's wish.

Busch and Miller previously supported keeping Taney in his place, and pointed to the installation of a statue of Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American Supreme Court justice, in a visible and heavily trafficked spot on Lawyers Mall on the other side of the State House, as a counter to the Taney statue.

Busch, Miller and Hogan have also offered support for installing statues of abolitionist leaders Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass inside the State House.

Edson could not be reached for comment.

Busch said once the statue is removed, Hogan should set up a group to figure out what to do with it, such as destroy it or display it elsewhere.

"I'm not an expert on where the statue should go, but I don't believe when you have a State House as historic as ours, you have Taney on the front grounds," said Busch, an Anne Arundel County Democrat.

Even when lawmakers considered spending money on the Taney statue in 1867, there was disagreement. Some preferred the statue, sculpted by artist William Henry Rinehart, to be put in Frederick, where Taney was buried, instead of Annapolis.

Various lawmakers over the years have sponsored legislation that would have required the statue to be moved or destroyed, but the bills have never advanced in the General Assembly. The state's Department of Legislative Services estimated last year that it would cost \$77,000 to remove the statue and another \$5,000 per year to store it.

Hogan's office said the administration would find the money necessary for the statue's removal.

An online petition asking the state to remove the Taney statue gathered nearly 850 signatures by the time Hogan announced his support for the removal.

Patrick Murray, a spokesman for the group Our Maryland, which launched the petition on Sunday, said Hogan was slow to act.

"Speaker Busch was out front on this issue, while Governor Hogan led from behind," said Murray, who used to be director of the Maryland Democratic Party. "The governor should be embarrassed that it took two days and collective action by 848 Marylanders to get him to do the right thing."

The likelihood that the Taney statue would be moved spurred mixed emotions in Kate Taney Billingsley, a New York woman who is descended from the chief justice.

Billingsley and her family have worked over the years to understand their ancestor's actions and connected with Dred Scott's descendants in an effort toward reconciliation.

Representatives from both families visited the Taney statue at the State House together in March to promote a plan to place a statue of Scott next to Taney. Over the weekend, as demonstrations took place in Charlottesville, Billingsley took part in a panel discussion in St. Louis with Scott's descendants.

Billingsley said she wasn't surprised by the momentum to remove the Taney statue and said she understood the reasons behind it. She said she won't oppose the statue's removal.

"If the community wants it gone, then it should be gone," Billingsley said.

Still, she worries the focus on statues may distract from the broader work that Americans need to do to improve race relations and justice. Besides statues, there are roads, bridges, schools and even towns named for Taney and other figures from the Civil War era. It may be politically expedient to remove statues and symbols, Billingsley said, but much more difficult work needs to be done.

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The Civil War Salt Wars

By Rick Beard

On Christmas Eve 1863, the Union steamers *Daylight* and *Howquah* set out from Beaufort, N.C., with volunteers from the 158th New York State and Ninth Vermont onboard. Their destination was Bear Inlet, where they were to join the warship the *Iron Age* to destroy local salt works, as well as a cargo of salt offloaded by a Southern blockade runner that had been captured the previous day. Arriving at low tide, the steamers were unable to land their troops until Christmas morning. Once onshore, the federal forces set about destroying three Confederate salt works, as many as 400 sacks of salt and dozens of empty turpentine barrels. By 5:30 that afternoon, the expedition had returned unscathed to Beaufort.

No detailed record of this particular

raid survives, but descriptions from other expeditions tell of sailors and soldiers armed with sledge hammers, awls and axes coming ashore to break up the brick furnaces, cast iron boilers, caldrons and drying pans. Often many of the boilers and vats could be destroyed only by using explosives or a small howitzer. Salt supplies that could not be carried off were most often ruined by mixing them with sand or dumping them into the ocean.

All of this seems a lot of effort to destroy something that modern people take for granted. But the raid on Bear Inlet was one of dozens of similar actions carried out throughout the Civil War by Union naval and military forces along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. Their frequency speaks to an easily overlooked factor in the Union's eventual victory: the ability of federal forces to deprive the Confederacy of the basic necessities of life. As one anonymous rebel soldier reportedly remarked, "C.S.A. stands for corn, salt and apples." Of these three staples, salt was almost certainly most important. The ease with which today's shopper can purchase a round blue container of salt for less than a dollar a pound obscures the mineral's central importance to 19th-century Americans. Before refrigeration, when the meatpacking and food processing industries were in their infancy, salt was the primary means of preserving meat and fish for future consumption. It took two bushels, about 110 pounds, of salt to cure 1,000 pounds of pork, and 1.25 bushels to cure 500 pounds of beef. And salt was useful in myriad other ways, from tanning leather to fixing the dyes in military uniforms and feeding livestock. Americans in the mid-19th century annually consumed about 50 pounds

of salt per capita, far more than Europeans did. Salt production in the United States was concentrated in the North, where in 1858 New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania produced 12 million bushels. That same year Virginia, Kentucky, Florida and Texas together produced only 2.4 million bushels. In 1862, the 6,000-acre Onondaga salt works in New York, which employed 3,000 workers, produced 9 million bushels alone, worth \$30 million.

The antebellum South used approximately 450 million tons of salt each year, most of it imported from Britain and her Caribbean islands. Between 1857 and 1860, the port of New Orleans unloaded about 350 tons of British salt a day, much of it arriving as ballast in vessels plying the cotton trade. At the Civil War's outbreak, a 150-pound sack (about three bushels) of Liverpool salt sold for 50 cents in New Orleans. The dramatic rise in salt prices after the war's outbreak reflects the effectiveness of the Union blockade: By the fall of 1862, a sack cost 12 times as much in Richmond, and by January 1863, 50 times as much in Savannah.

Southerners felt the shortage of salt almost immediately, and suffered all the more from the maneuverings of speculators and the South's inadequate transportation network. In November 1861 *The Daily Vicksburg Whig* complained that "all the salt in New Orleans and elsewhere is now in the hands of speculators. ... Something must be done," continued the editorialist, for "we are not willing for them to suck the very life blood out of the people." Gov. John Gill Shorter of Alabama lamented that "there is scarcely any misfortune which can befall us which will produce such wide-spread complaint



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and dissatisfaction" as a salt famine. As shortages grew, Southerners resorted to a variety of increasingly desperate measures. They brushed off grains of salt on salted meat for reuse, or boiled the brine used in pickling to make salt. "Some inventive person discovered that by taking up the dirt out of the meat houses, and leaching it — a fair article of salt could be made," wrote Joshua Frier of the First Florida Reserves, Company B. "A piece of pork liberally smeared with it had the appearance of being wallowed in the mud." Such initiatives were at best stopgap measures that did little to alleviate salt famines. By the war's end, the Confederate States Almanac, published in Macon, Ga., offered the following advice: "TO KEEP MEAT FROM SPOILING IN SUMMER: Eat it early in the Spring!" Even when the mineral was readily available, intrastate train lines often charged exorbitant tolls for out-of-state shippers using their rails. A North Carolina merchant calculated that it would take 12 days and cost \$24,000, or \$10 per bushel, for one eight-car train to carry 2,400 bushels of salt the 200 miles between Saltville, Va., and Danville, N.C. By the fall of 1862, one exasperated North Carolina farmer, noting that "we have a large supply of hogs ... and there is thousands of bushels [of salt] at Saltville," threatened "to go and take it by force if the owners of it won't let us have it for a fare price." Moaned another disheartened planter, "Blessed are they that have no hogs." The Southern states possessed many of the resources needed to alleviate these shortages, and relied on three primary means to produce salt — extracting it from saline artesian wells, boiling off water from the ocean or inland salt lakes, and mining deposits

of rock salt. Five major salt-producing areas fell within the Confederacy: the Great Kanawha River near Charleston, Va.; Goose Creek near Manchester, Ky. (at times under Southern control); salt wells near Mobile, Ala.; New Iberia in northern Louisiana; and artesian wells in southwestern Virginia near Saltville. In May 1862, Confederate "prospectors" also discovered a major rock salt deposit on Avery Island, a swampy area in southern Louisiana. Finally, salt works sprang up along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of Florida in numbers "as plentiful ... as blackbirds in a rice field." Both the central and state governments of the Confederacy sought to solve the salt shortage. Richmond exempted the superintendents, managers, mechanics and miners involved in salt production, who were invariably white, from military service. Coastal states leased salt lands or seaside plots to planters and entrepreneurs from the interior regions of the Confederacy. Slaves, and in some cases Quakers seeking an alternative to military service, labored in these areas to produce salt, transporting seawater or sinking wells to locate salty water, gathering rocks to build a furnace and chopping wood to fuel the furnaces. The work was exhausting and dangerous, with accidents and diseases claiming hundreds of lives. Yet as many as 5,000 men labored along the Florida coast, most of them on the western shore between Saint Andrews Bay and St. Marks, where they boiled salt water and all the while kept a sharp eye out for the Union Navy. Another 500 to 600 men worked at Wilmington, N.C.; 5,000 more on Alabama's Gulf Coast and along the Tombigbee River, north of

Mobile; 1,500 in northern Louisiana at Lake Bisteneau; 3,000 in Texas; and 400 to 600 men at New Iberia in Louisiana.

Responsible for providing salt to their civilian populations, individual states created an array of administrative procedures for distributing the essential mineral within their borders. In Georgia, for example, heads of families could purchase a half-bushel of salt for \$2.50. If a widow had a son in the Confederate Army, the price dropped to \$1; if her husband had died fighting for the Confederacy, she paid nothing. States also began to embargo shipments out of state, prohibit monopolies, and go into the business of purchasing and manufacturing salt. Although trade between North and South did not cease with the outbreak of hostilities, it became far less frequent as the war progressed. Considered contraband of war after July 1862, salt became the particular target of aggressive action by both the Union Army and Navy. In late October of that year, federal troops destroyed the salt works in Kentucky, and a month later those in western Virginia's Kanawha River Valley. In 1863 Union forces raided salt-producing facilities in Texas, and in July they captured the recently discovered salt deposits at Avery Island. After four unsuccessful attempts, Union troops finally captured Saltville in late December of 1864, setting off a two day "orgy of destruction" and effectively ending most of the salt making in the South. The Union Navy matched the Army's aggressiveness. Four ocean fleets — the North Atlantic, South Atlantic, East Gulf and West Gulf — carried out raids on a regular basis from 1862 until the end of the war. One such expedition against St. Andrews



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Bay by the East Gulf Squadron on Dec. 10, 1863, illustrates their destructive nature. Over the course of a single day, Union forces burned over 350 buildings, 27 wagons and five flat boats; destroyed over 600 steam boilers and 2,800 kettles; and ruined over 2,000 bushels of salt, supplies of corn meal, bacon, syrup and other food stuffs. Contrabands assisted in this orgy of destruction, showing Union troops where kettles had been buried. The superintendent for some of the works considered the destruction of the salt industry in St. Andrews Bay "a greater blow and more severely felt than the falling of Charleston."

The war over salt was ultimately just one small part of the Union's strategy of economic starvation against the South. But its extent and viciousness demonstrated the extent to which many Union officers and soldiers – not just those on the hills of Georgia or eastern Virginia – were willing to grind the South into submission. Rick Beard, an independent historian and exhibition curator, is co-author of the National Park Service publication "Slavery in the United States: A Brief Narrative History."

Women's Mourning Customs in the Civil War

by Maggie MacLean,

CivilWarWomenblog, July 12, 2017

Mourning is the process of grieving the death of a loved one. During the Civil War, Americans observed an elaborate set of rules that governed their behavior following the death of a spouse or relative. After the loss of a husband, the widow was not to leave home without full mourning garb and weeping veil for one year and a day.

Mourning Etiquette

During the 19th Century, most funerals were held in the home. In

preparation for visitation and funeral services, the home of the deceased would show the community that there had been a death in the family. Draping the front door in black fabric was the most common practice. Inside the home, anything reflective or shiny would be covered, such as mirrors and glass of any kind, including picture frame glass.

People believed that when a person died time stood still and a new realm of existence began where the concept of time did not exist. Therefore, pendulums on clocks were stopped at the hour of the deceased's death. To permit the clock to continue marking time was synonymous with inviting the spirit of the deceased to haunt the home.

Widow's Weeds

The custom of wearing black after a death in the family has been observed for centuries, possibly to draw less attention to the mourners to avoid becoming Death's next victim. A woman donned what was known as "widow's weeds" within twenty-four hours of her husband's death. Black crepe or crape typically referred to a silk or wool fabric with a distinctively crinkled or pebbled texture that was specifically used for mourning clothing.

Dyeing and Mourning

During the Civil War, especially in the South, fabric and ready-made clothing were extremely scarce. Therefore, women dyed their clothing at home in large wash tubs in the backyard. The dyeing agent was often created by boiling walnut husks, which created a pungent odor that permeated the air for miles. A Virginia woman noted in her diary in 1864, "the entire town smells of the dye pots."

Stages of Mourning

The length of a woman's time of mourning was dictated by the relationship of the deceased. For the loss of a husband, the mourning period lasted no less than two years and most often lasted two and a half years. A woman mourned the loss of her husband in three stages: deep mourning, full mourning, and half mourning, with gradually loosening requirements of dress and behavior.

Deep Mourning

While in deep mourning a widow wore all black clothing; while in public, she also wore black gloves and a long black veil over her face. She wore bonnets covered in black crepe rather than hats. She did not wear jewelry for the first few months and thereafter, jet jewelry was permitted. Black glass and India rubber were also used to make mourning jewelry which consisted of rings, broaches, bracelets, lockets, and earrings. Mourning rings served as keepsakes. Depending on the specific practices of her community, a widow did not leave her home and did not receive any visitors for specific periods of time, during which she spoke only to her family and closest friends. She could then send out black edged cards advising friends and family that her time of deep mourning had passed and she could now receive visitors. Parties, weddings, and other social affairs were forbidden during the first two stages of mourning.

By contrast, a widower was expected to mourn his deceased wife for only three months, simply by displaying black crepe on his hat or armband. A man might wear a black cockade on his lapel as well. Because the family depended on his financial support, he returned to his occupation as soon as the deceased was buried.

lora Stuart remained in deep mourning for fifty-nine years after the death of



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her husband, CSA Cavalry General J.E.B. Stuart in May 1864. She wore black and remained in seclusion until her death in 1923.

Full Mourning

Full mourning followed deep mourning and lasted nine to twelve months. During this time, a widow could wear white collars and cuffs, add lace to her wardrobe and shorten her black veil. She was allowed to wear gold and silver jewelry, as well as pearls and gemstones.

The final stage of a widow's mourning ritual was called half mourning and lasted three to six months. During this stage she was allowed to add more elaborate fabrics with touches of lilac, lavender, violet, mauve, and gray. Subtle prints in any combination of these colors were also allowed. Bonnets were white, lavender silk or straw.

In general, a woman completed the mourning process for a deceased husband in two and a half years. With each stage she slowly became part of society again. Once the three stages of mourning were complete, a widow could store her mourning clothes and begin wearing normal clothing as she slowly joined society again.

Changes in Mourning Customs

During the Civil War Although women had always played prominent roles in mourning rituals, the enormous number of casualties brought on by the Civil War necessitated significant changes in mourning customs. During the first year of fighting, Confederate women maintained the rituals of dress and behavior that accompanied death.

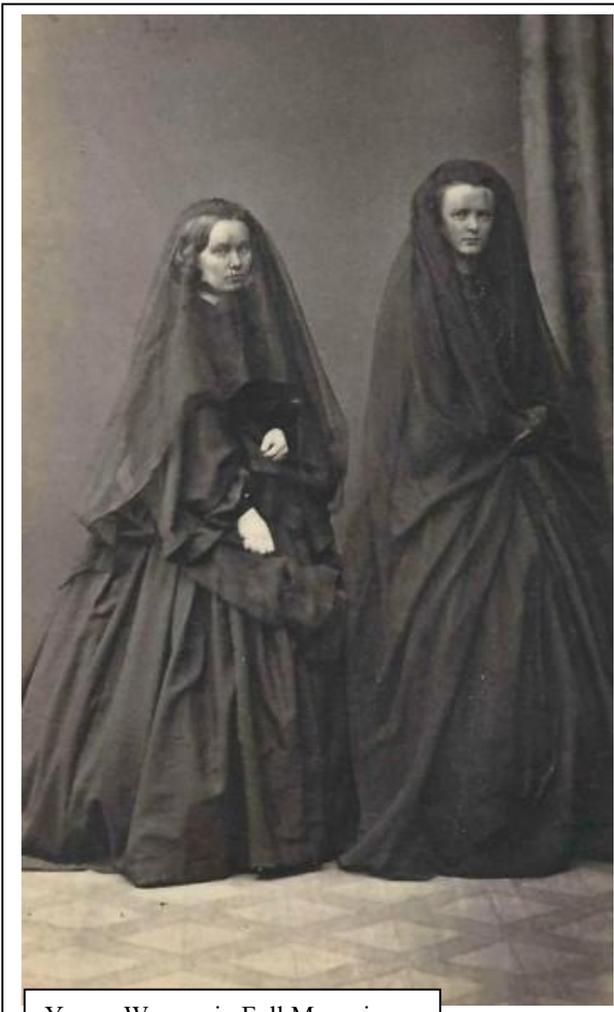
However, as the war and increasing economic hardships progressed, many Southern women simply could not afford to abide by mourning etiquette. With the death

were thrown into a perpetual state of mourning and were often forced to abandon rituals of dress and self-imposed seclusion.

On April 30, 1864, five-year-old Joseph Davis, son of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and First Lady Varina Davis, who broke his neck when he fell from a balcony at the Confederate White House in Richmond. When the First Lady went into mourning for her son, she wore a black dress of inexpensive cotton, in lieu of the lush black fabrics that were no long available.

After John Wilkes Booth assassinated her husband in April 1865, Mary Todd Lincoln wore mourning clothes for the rest of her life. Years later, she recorded her grief in a private letter to a friend:

Time brings so little consolation to me and do you wonder when you remember whose loss. I mourn over that of my worshipped husband, in whose devoted love, I was so blessed, and from whom I was so cruelly torn. The hope of our reunion in a happier world than this, has alone supported me, during the last four weary years. Not until the end of the Civil War in 1865 was the vast human toll realized as the number of casualties became apparent (estimated at 620,000). Most families were affected in some way, especially in the Southern states where so many battles were fought. The devastation to the nation's infrastructure became obvious as whole cities lay in ruin, communication lines were severed, and transportation routes had been damaged. Amongst all this chaos, personal appearance remained a central focus for those women who could gather enough clothing despite the deprivations of war.



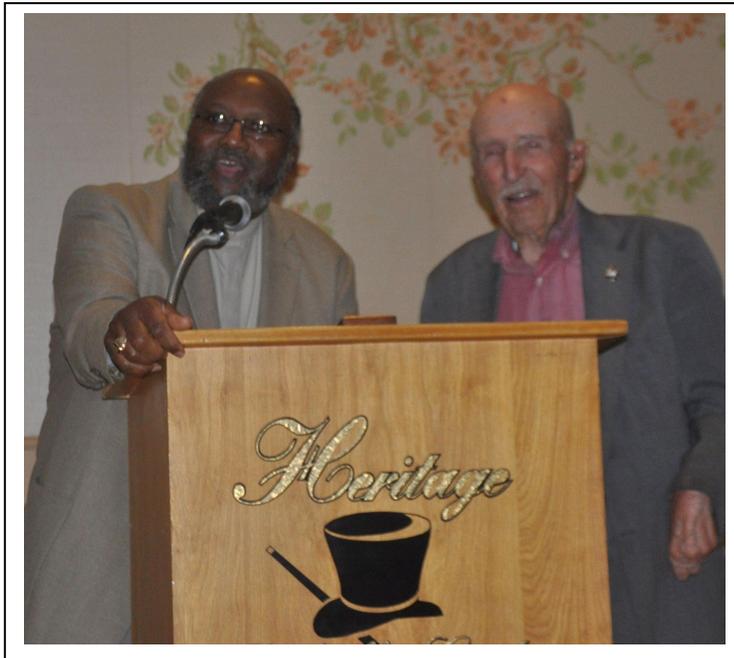
Young Women in Full Mourning

of one out of every four Confederate soldiers, women across the region

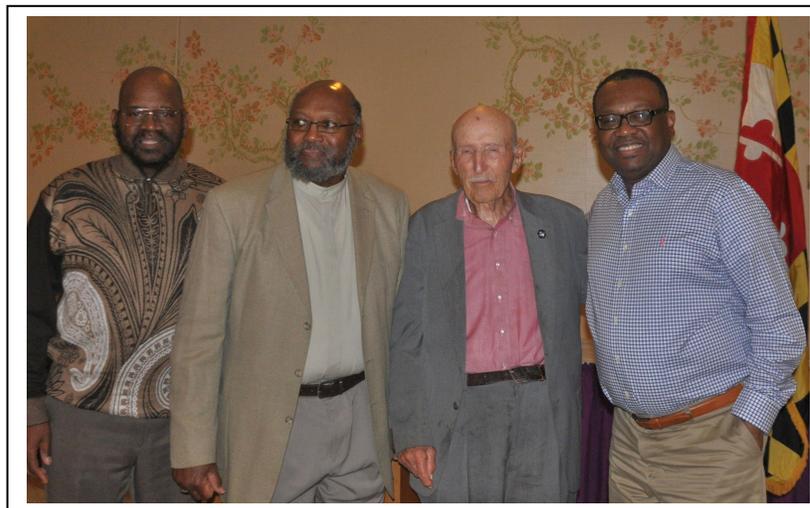


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The Annual Baltimore Civil War Roundtable Dinner was held April 25th at Parkville Heritage Gardens. The Speaker was the honorable and legendary Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, Edwin Bearss. BCWRT President Robert Ford was kind enough to provide these photographs of the event to me.



BCWRT President Robert Ford,
Speaker Ed Bearss



L-R: Louis Carter, President and 1st Sgt. of the 54th Massachusetts Co. B (he brought Ed up From Washington). President Robert Ford, Speaker Ed Bearss, Dr. Michael Hill, BCWRT Board Member and also a member of the 54th, Co.B.



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Historians are winning battle to preserve Civil War site in Shepherdstown

By Brad McElhinny,
WVMetroNews.com, August 13, 2017

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — History buffs are doing their best to make sure the site of a Civil War battle in Jefferson County remains preserved.

"It doesn't have meaning unless we give it meaning," said Dennis Frye, the chief historian at nearby Harpers Ferry National Park and a founding member of the Civil War Trust preservation organization.

"So you need to be able to have access to the site, be able to walk the site, be able to actually experience the battlefield so that the soles of your feet actually can connect to their souls. That's the whole power behind battlefield preservation, is the connection you can actually make on the ground, where they fought and feel that experience as you walk those grounds."

The Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association has been advocating for the preservation of the battlefield and making it more accessible to the public.

So far, about 52 acres of land have been protected from development.

The Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission, which is a branch of county government, announced earlier this month that it took title to 26 more acres of battlefield land

through the assistance of the Civil War Trust, a nonprofit battlefield-preservation group.

And more than \$44,500 in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Interior for the restoration and preservation of more than 14 acres of historic battle grounds in West Virginia was recently announced.

"That's been going on, the effort to preserve the battlefield, for at least 15 years," Frye said. "The active effort to actually purchase this land on the battlefield has been happening in more recent years, within the last five or six years.

"So now they've got more than 50 acres that actually is preserved."

He added, "There's been a lot of interest to not just preserve it but to buy it because that's the only way you can guarantee absolute preservation."

The battlefield site in Shepherdstown is right along the Potomac River.

The Battle of Shepherdstown, also known as the Battle of Boteler's Ford, was fought on Sept. 19-20, 1862, after the Battle of Antietam on Sept. 17, 1862

It was the third and last battle of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Maryland campaign.

"The Battle of Shepherdstown is part of what's known as the first invasion of the North. It was the first time the Confederate Army crossed into the United States, launching an invasion in September of 1862. The Civil War is now 18 months old," Frye said.

"General Lee of the Confederate Army hopes that this invasion

will have a political and diplomatic outcome that will be favorable to the confederacy and ultimately to confederate independence. He will fail militarily in that effort."

The Confederate Army was stopped in Sharpsburg, Md., just a couple miles from Shepherdstown, in the Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest single day in American military history. Overall, there were 22,717 casualties.

The Confederate Army then withdrew across the Potomac River, just down river from Shepherdstown. The Union army pursued.

"The union army attacks General Lee's rear guard in what becomes known as the battle of Shepherdstown that occurs two and three days after the Battle of Antietam," Frye said.

"Lee ultimately will retain the position in a very, very bloody fight there, over 600 casualties in a very short time, and that is the official end of the first invasion of the North."

What remains is historic but also somewhat remote. The two-lane road along the Potomac River is a gorgeous drive, but parking and walking around the battle site is a challenge.

"The core of the battlefield, which is right along the Potomac River, where the heaviest fighting occurred in the aftermath of Antietam, is actually beginning to become well-preserved," Frye said.

"Not all of it, but much of the core battlefield is protected. Not all of it, but what happens next



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is you need to open it up to the public.”

He said more progress remains to make the battlefield accessible.

“At the moment you will see trails. You will see some signage and there are some self-guided trails. But it is not well-developed. Parking is an issue, and the reason is this is a very narrow spit of land between the river and cliffs,” Frye said.

“The battle actually was fought in an area of very steep-faced cliffs. So there’s not much available there currently for parking. That is a problem to be solved, and it’s not going to be an easy problem to solve. You can’t bring a mass number of people or a mass number of vehicles down there presently because it’s just not accessible in that regard.”

At some point, the battlefield may be preserved by the federal government under the umbrella of another battlefield, most likely nearby Antietam.

A 2014 National Park Service study found that a 510-acre area in the center of the battlefield “would be a suitable addition to Antietam National Battlefield because of the close historical and geographical connection between the two battles.”

“Ultimately the administration of the battlefield perhaps can come under the National Parks Service,” Frye said. “That’s going to depend on congressional action. But at some future date this may become part of a national park – not independent but part of a national park here in this area.”

For Frye, the path toward preservation is gratifying.

“We’ve done good work here,” he said. “I’m very pleased with how much success they’ve had. Still more work needs to be done.”