



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

From the Editor:

A few facts about the BCWRT Newsletter

Each hard copy issue we mail contains 5 sheets of paper. 9 of the 10 surfaces are copied. It costs \$.095 to copy each surface.

\$.095 X 9 = \$.855 Copy costs/issue

1 First Class Stamp - \$.44 (This will probably be going up in the near future.)

Total = **\$1.295/issue**

We currently send 50 copies of the newsletter via the US Mail each month.

50 X \$1.295 = **\$64.75/month** X 12 months = **\$777.00/year**.

In the past we were able to get the copying done free and postage was lower. That changed three years ago. The Roundtable simply cannot afford to continue this annual outlay. It reduces the amount available for speaker's expenses and leaves us with almost nothing to donate to preservation at the end of the year.

At last month's meeting several options were discussed.

1. Go to an all-electronic version of the newsletter to be delivered by email and/or posted prior to the monthly meeting on our website. (As is done now) This would eliminate all costs. However, it would put the onus on those without a computer to make arrangements with a relative, friend or neighbor to print out the newsletter for them. Another option would be for them to go to the local branch of their library and printout the newsletter there.

2. Charge a subscription fee for those members who request copies of the newsletter mailed through USPS. This would be in addition to the annual dues. It currently costs the Roundtable \$15.60/year for each issue to be mailed. The actual

subscription costs would have to be determined

3. Send a postcard in lieu of a full newsletter via USPS notifying members that request it the date, time, subject and speaker for the upcoming meeting. This would reduce but not eliminate copying and mailing costs.

We can take any of these actions or a combination of all three depending on each member's wishes. We welcome your suggestions. Please let a board member know your thoughts on this subject. We do not want to deprive any member of access to the newsletter but we must address these costs. We will take no action until the end of the calendar year. Any changes will take effect with the January 2011 issue of the BCWRT Newsletter.

Earle Hollenbaugh, Editor

Hundreds at hearing speak for, against proposed Gettysburg casino

By Angela Coulombis, Philadelphia Inquirer, September 1, 2010

GETTYSBURG - After two days of impassioned testimony, the state Gaming Control Board on Wednesday wrapped up a public hearing on whether to open a casino near the historic Gettysburg battlefield.

Developer David LeVan, a longtime Adams County resident and onetime Conrail Inc. chairman, has proposed putting a casino in an existing hotel and conference center a half-mile from the boundary of Gettysburg National Military Park and two miles from the Mason-Dixon Line.

Just shy of 400 people, from preservationists and historians to veterans and farmers, had registered to speak about the proposal. In the

end, 256 people signed up to speak - or to have someone speak on their behalf - during the two-day hearing, according to officials with the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. Their testimony focused the public spotlight on how deeply the issue has divided the community.

Many residents believe a casino would rejuvenate the area's recession-ravaged economy. Many others consider it tasteless and a sign of disrespect for the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers who fought there over three days in the summer of 1863.

LeVan, a businessman who lives across from the park's visitor center and who has invested \$4 million in the Gettysburg battlefield and other local preservation projects, was turned down by the gaming board in 2006 when he tried to build a larger casino near the battlefield.

This time, he and other investors are competing against three other bidders to snag the last of the state's two resort licenses. Those licenses allow 600 slot machines - as opposed to 3,000 at larger casinos - and 50 table games.

The gaming board is expected to make a decision before the end of the year.

After the hearing Wednesday, LeVan said that he was pleased with the number of people who showed up to support his proposal and that he believed reports of how a casino would polarize the community were "overstated."

"We heard that in 2005 and 2006 . . . but when the decision was made then, I moved on," he said. "There were no hard feelings as a consequence. I remained active in the community, and I think the same thing will happen this time."



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Georgia archaeologists find Confederate POW camp

By RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press
August 18, 2010

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Preserved for nearly 150 years, perhaps by its own obscurity, a short-lived Confederate prison camp began yielding treasures from the Civil War almost as soon as archeologists began searching for it in southeastern Georgia.

They found a corroded bronze buckle used to fasten tourniquets during amputations, a makeshift tobacco pipe with teeth marks in the stem, and a picture frame folded and kept after the daguerreotype it held was lost.

Georgia officials say the discoveries, announced Wednesday, were made by a 36-year-old graduate student at Georgia Southern University who set out to find Camp Lawton for his thesis project in archaeology.

He stunned experienced pros by not only pinpointing the site, but also unearthing rare artifacts from a prison camp known as little more than a historical footnote on the path of Gen. William T. Sherman's devastating march from Atlanta to Savannah.

"What makes Camp Lawton so unique is it's one of those little frozen moments in time, and you don't get those very often," said Dave Crass, Georgia's state archaeologist. "Most professional archaeologists who ever thought about Camp Lawton came to the implicit conclusion that, because people weren't there very long, there wouldn't be much to find."

Camp Lawton imprisoned more than 10,000 Union troops after it opened in October 1864 to replace the infamously hellish war prison at Andersonville. But it lasted barely six

weeks before Sherman's army arrived in November and burned it.

The camp's brief existence made it a low priority among scholars. While known to be in or near Magnolia Springs State Park outside Millen, 50 miles south of Augusta, the camp's exact location was never verified.

That task last year fell to Georgia Southern student Kevin Chapman. The state Department of Natural Resources offered Chapman a chance to pursue his master's thesis by searching the park grounds for evidence of the 15-foot pine posts that formed Camp Lawton's stockade walls.

The work started in December. By February, Chapman, his professor and about a dozen other students had dug up stains in the dirt left by rotting wood and forming a straight line — remnants of the stockade wall. About 1/4 mile away, on adjacent land owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, they used a metal detector to find something else: a pre-Civil War penny about the size of a half-dollar. They were surprised nobody had beaten them to it.

"We thought, holy cow, in order for us to find an artifact like this, this site has to be undisturbed," Chapman said. "To find a Civil War site that hasn't been looted is extremely rare." Other artifacts soon followed. The tourniquet buckle was stamped with the name of a New York company that manufactured surgical equipment in the 1860s. The clay pipe bore the name of its maker in Glasgow, Scotland.

There was a literal half-penny — a coin cut in half to buy things costing less than 1 cent — and three other coins including a German-made game token stamped with George Washington's profile.

"It illustrates a lot about the life of the prisoners," said John Derden, a history professor at East Georgia College who spent years researching Camp Lawton for an upcoming book. "The significance of Camp Lawton is it really presents in microcosm almost every aspect of the Civil War POW experience, both good and bad."

"Of course, Andersonville was a hellhole and is more important. But Andersonville is pretty archaeologically sterile."

In 1864, the Andersonville camp in southwest Georgia was overcrowded with more than 30,000 war prisoners. Thousands died from a lack of food and medicine.

The Confederate army built Camp Lawton to handle the masses Andersonville couldn't. It sprawled over 42 acres — about 1/4 mile on each side, nearly twice Andersonville's size.

Confederate Gen. John H. Winder noted Camp Lawton could easily hold at least 32,000 prisoners. "It is, I presume, the largest prison in the world," he wrote.

Prisoners arriving in October 1864 had no living quarters. They built crude huts with scraps of pine left over from construction of the stockade. Records show that Camp Lawton held 10,229 Union troops by early November. Despite the camp's brief existence, at least 685 prisoners died there.

Derden's research uncovered personal accounts by Camp Lawton's prisoners recounting how they set up a black market to sell tools and molasses candy, killed alligators for food and bribed doctors for passage on trains carrying away the sick.

Chapman and the professor overseeing his work, Sue Moore, say they've excavated just a tiny fraction of the camp's interior.



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"People say, 'How long are you going to keep doing this?'" Moore said. "A short answer is years and years, because there is so much we hope to discover there."

South Mountain Land helps tell story of battle

By Karen Gardner, Frederick News-Post, August 26, 2010

MIDDLETOWN -- Frostown Gap might not be one of the most well-known sections of the Battle of South Mountain, but the Maryland Department of Natural Resources hopes to change that by its purchase recently of the 97 acres that formed a key spot of the Civil War skirmish.

This little parcel between Frostown Road and Mount Tabor Road, which offers a panoramic view of both the Middletown Valley and Myersville, and to the south, the peak of Sugarloaf Mountain, will help historians explain the battle to visitors, said John Miller, a seasonal park ranger and Civil War expert based at Washington Monument State Park.

"Historians researching Frostown Gap realized it was the parcel we were seeking," Miller said. "That was the ultimate right flank of the Union army, and the ultimate left flank of the Confederate army." The two armies stretched 12 miles along South Mountain from Frostown Gap to Crampton's Gap near Burkittsville. Fox's Gap, Turner's Gap and Crampton's Gap also saw action.

The land, which is being purchased with Program Open Space money, has been farmed since the 1862 battle. It will become a part of South Mountain State Battlefield, which, like Gathland and Washington Monument state parks, is under the umbrella of Greenbrier State Park. Much of the battlefield is still in private hands, but parts of it are accessible from

Gathland and Washington Monument state parks. The new parcel is a couple of miles from Washington Monument State Park.

"The topography here played a crucial role," Miller said. Troops moved along the steep slopes, which were heavy with corn and other crops. There were few trees along South Mountain at the time.

"This is also a great spot to interpret Civil War communications," Miller said. Visitors will be able to get a feel for how the units signaled each other. The area may also be a good spot for future living history demonstrations, if logistics can be worked out.

South Mountain State Battlefield will be joining with other area Civil War attractions to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the battle in two years. Antietam and South Mountain will both observe 150th anniversaries in 2012, and Gettysburg will celebrate its 150th anniversary a year later.

"This is going to be a wonderful addition to the 150th," Miller said.

"During the Maryland campaign, this was the important spot." Confederate troops hoped to attack Union troops in Maryland, reasoning that the attack would pressure residents of Northern states to favor an end to the war.

The battle at Frostown Gap was at about 3 p.m. Sept. 14. "Only one of the Confederate lines was broken through," Miller said. A small contingency of Confederates held Union troops until darkness, he said.

"Both sides claimed victory," said Dan Spedden, superintendent of Greenbrier State Park.

Spedden said the park is grateful to Miller and other seasonal park rangers at Washington Monument for discovering that the land on Frostown Road was for sale last summer. Program Open Space money happened to be available and

approvals came about at the right time. The state is buying the 97-acre parcel for \$904,000. Settlement on the deal is expected in the next few weeks.

Program Open Space funding is derived from transfer taxes on real estate sales.

Gettysburg Park to get country club land

By TIM PRUDENTE, Hanover Evening Sun, August 5, 2010

The Cumberland Township Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday evening to approve a subdivision plan that opens the door for the National Park Service to purchase 95 acres of the Gettysburg Country Club.

The property saw significant fighting during the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg. Since Susquehanna Bank foreclosed on it over one year ago, the Park Service has been interested in acquiring the property and adding it to the Gettysburg National Military Park.

The supervisors voted 4-1 to approve the plan. Supervisor Debi Golden voted against the subdivision plan. She said that was because the township would lose as much as \$150,000 in annual property taxes if the Park Service acquired the land.

"It's tough (to do) when people are coming in to complain about their taxes," Golden said. The plan divides the country club property into two tracts, one of which would be about 15 acres and contain the developed portions of the property, with facilities such as the clubhouse, tennis courts and banquet hall. The other would be 95 acres and consist of the golf course and other undeveloped portions.

Golden said she also voted against the plan because of some questions regarding easements on the property



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and whether the remaining 15-acre lot will meet township code.

"I like to treat applicants equally and if this was an issue not related to the Park Service it may not have passed," she said, after the vote.

With the decision, The Conservation Fund plans to purchase the property from Cumberland Club Investment LLC., the current owner, and then sell the property to the Park Service.

"We'd like to have it for as little period of time as possible," said Todd McNew, Pennsylvania State Director of The Conservation Fund. "It will maybe be 90 days before the Park Service gets it."

Likewise, Cumberland Club President Martin K.P. Hill said the company plans to sell the property to The Conservation Fund "as soon as possible."

Before the vote, Hill said if the plan was not passed he would pursue development opportunities for the property, which is zoned as residential and could include as many as 3.5 housing units per acre.

"Dollar for dollar that would be the way to go, but we're most interested in seeing this become battlefield," Hill said.

In fact, Hill said the Park Service had previously expressed interest in purchasing 100 acres of the property, but township ordinances for open space, among others, required the remaining tract be at least 15 acres. The remaining lot will continue to function in its current state, meaning the pool and tennis courts will still be available for use, according to Hill.

Cumberland Club purchased the property in April of this year for \$1.45 million. Prior to the sale, the club had fallen into financial distress and Susquehanna Bank ultimately foreclosed on the property. It went up for sale at a sheriff's auction for a

minimum of \$2.79 million in February 2009, but no one placed a bid so the property transferred back to the bank. At the time the Park Service had expressed interest in the property but a long-standing legal covenant on the land had prevented its purchase. The covenant - which stated no hog farming could take place on the land - proved a legal and bureaucratic hurdle for the federal government, according to Hill.

"That was probably what prevented Susquehanna Bank from selling to them," Hill said. "We could go to settlement in 45 days but the Park Service has to go through the Department of the Interior and they got no word from Washington."

In fact, Hill said the Park Service had offered the bank more money than his own company but it would have been unable to close the deal in the necessary time frame.

Although the covenant caused problems for the Park Service in the past, Hills said the issue has been resolved and the Park Service is now able to purchase the land.

"The contract has been sent to their attorneys for final review and we're expecting to reach an agreement in a week," he added.

Preservation groups have taken such an interest in the property because it proved the site of substantial fighting during the Battle of Gettysburg.

On the first day of the battle, the famed Iron Brigade attacked across Willoughby Run, onto what is now the golf course, driving back a Confederate brigade and capturing its commander, Gen. James Archer. Later in the day, Confederate Gen. James Pettigrew's North Carolina brigade advanced across that same ground to attack the Iron Brigade near the run.

Gettysburg Electric Map loaned to Foundation

BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER, Gettysburg Times, August 25, 2010
After sitting in storage for two years, the iconic Electric Map at Gettysburg National Military Park has been loaned to the park's fundraising and management partner, the Gettysburg Foundation.

Park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon reported Tuesday that the 12-ton map, which hasn't been on display since 2008, was "placed on a long-term loan" to the foundation in May and the foundation is now exploring possibilities of "creating a new Electric Map show in the future."

Lawhon noted that the map was donated to the foundation, created in 1999-2000 to raise funds for the park, at no cost.

The park pulled the plug on the 47-year-old map in April 2008, coinciding with the opening of a new \$103 million Battlefield Visitor Center. Months later, the old Visitor Center along the Taneytown Road was razed, but not before the map was cut into four pieces, and transported to a storage facility along the Hanover Road.

Pamela Jones, a descendant of the Rosensteel family that created the map, wasn't happy to hear that the map was donated to the foundation.

"I'm sorry, but the foundation should not have gotten it," Jones said Wednesday night. "There were other organizations out there that should have received the map."

Jones recounted the previous 10 years of map negotiations, pointing out that GNMP Supt. John Latschar "didn't want anything to do with it, and we thought it would sit there and decay." The map was not included in the park's long-term General Management Plan of 1999.



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"They could have cared less what happened with the map," said Jones, the granddaughter of Angela Eckert, whose brother Joe created the map in 1963.

"A lot of people told me that they miss it, that it was a good tool before they went on the battlefield, and a lot of people are missing it - they really are," said Jones. "But it's over and done with now, I really don't know what's going to happen."

Pamela's husband, Walton Jones, disagreed and believes that the foundation will "store the map for future generations and preserve it."

The foundation now operates the new Visitor Center along the Baltimore Pike, on behalf of the park, and the map remains on the minds of the park's annual 1.2 million tourists.

"Visitors do still ask us about the map, and it remains stored in sections," said Foundation spokeswoman Dru Anne Neil.

Created by the Rosensteel family, the map entertained millions of tourists over the years, when it was the park's primary attraction. It used 625 flashing Christmas bulbs to illustrate the movement of troops during the Battle of Gettysburg. But the map and its technology were viewed as obsolete the park, with parts no longer available, and the map was not included in the park's long-term General Management Plan in 1999.

Last year, the foundation explored filming a presentation of the map, but those plans did not materialize. Neil declined to disclose the current location of the map, citing security reasons.

Lawhon recounted the history of negotiations with non-profit groups about the map, pointing out "that there was definitely some interest...even with some local groups." The most recent agency to

express interest in the map was Historic Gettysburg Adams County last year, when the group was interested in launching a "map museum" along Steinwehr Avenue.

The map weighs more than 12 tons, according to the park, and is covered with friable asbestos, resulting in an "engineering challenge" for the Park Service. Over the past two years, Lawhon explained that the park committed to "carefully removing the map" from the old Visitor Center before demolition, and "carefully storing it for some future use, or possible transfer to another non-profit organization for educational use."

Gettysburg Review Board opposes chapel application

BY RICK FULTON, Gettysburg Times, August 18, 2010

The Gettysburg Borough Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) voted Tuesday evening to recommend the borough council deny a certificate of appropriateness application filed by the U.S. Christian Commission (USCC).

The USCC was seeking a certificate of appropriateness for their "Civil War"-style chapel located on Chambersburg Street.

The USCC appeared before the board as part of an effort to bring the 112 Chambersburg St. structure into compliance with borough regulations.

A letter was recently sent from the borough informing the U.S. Christian Commission, owners of the property, to bring the building into compliance with zoning and other rules.

Prior to HARB's decision, USCC Director John Wega presented the board with a brief history of the function and methodology of the Civil War Period USCC.

Wega showed the HARB members various photographs and lithographs depicting Civil War tents and hardwood structures that served as field and camp chapels.

Although the board generally agreed with the mission of the modern day USCC, the general consensus was that if the "chapel," as built were to come before the board as new construction, it would likely have been unanimously recommended for denial as well.

The USCC previously appeared before HARB in 2006 when the organization pursued permission to erect a fence and walled platform on the site. At that time, the re-enactors elected to employ a tent to hold period services and discussions within.

HARB member Peggy Gustafson stated that she would have a hard time voting on the requested affirmative recommendation to council because other boards, such as the planning commission, could mandate that other changes be made which could alter the existing appearance of the chapel.

"I'm not sure we as a board can act upon this. It's like trying to hold egg whites in my hand," she stated.

"We don't have a report from zoning. We don't have a report from planning," she said. "You never came to us to do this (erect a wooden structure)."

Chairman Gary Shaffer abstained on this application, and turned the chair over to Elwood W. Christ, who stated, "You knew HARB was here. You built it (the wooden chapel) anyway." Shaffer has worked with the USCC and appeared before the borough planning commission Monday on the group's behalf.

The building itself is not harmonious with the streetscape," Christ stated.



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"The tent blended in with the background. This is not appropriate for the downtown...(This is not an) appropriate site for this type of structure."

HARB voted unanimously, Shaffer abstaining, to recommend denial to the council.

Civil War vet done in by drug-store's soda

By Van Craddock, Longview (TX) News-Journal, August 22, 2010

Charlie Butts survived four years of Civil War battles, from Missouri to Georgia, only to be done in by a lethal drug-store soda.

Charles Montgomery Butts, a Georgia native, worked as a night policeman in 1895 for the city of Longview. Butts "had a key and was allowed access to Sparkman's drug store and soda fountain," reported Texas newspapers Aug. 12.

At 4:30 a.m., Butts "made a soda drink using three teaspoonfuls of tincture of aconite root and two flavors," thinking he was using three teaspoonfuls of syrup.

Butts apparently had an agreement with the owner of the downtown drug store. In return for checking the security of the establishment, the policeman could quench his thirst by mixing sodas while making his nocturnal rounds.

Some physicians once prescribed the aconite plant's extract in liquid form as a sedative and to treat pain and circulation problems. The usual dose was only "five to eight drops." That's because aconite, also known as wolfsbane, is a poisonous plant containing toxic elements. (The ancient Greeks used aconite as a poison, and the Chinese used it to make poison arrows.)

Unfortunately, the aconite bottle "was found among the soda flavors ... The aconite bottle's usual place was

about five feet away from the syrup flavors and plainly labeled in white and black."

It didn't take long for the poison to act. Butts exited the drug store, "went to the beef market, and immediately fell in a spasm. Dr. O'Brian reached him 15 minutes later." His wife, Ida, was called. She was by his side when he died at 6 a.m. He was only 48 years old.

As a young man, Charlie Butts had left Georgia for East Texas, settling in northern Rusk County. In July 1861, with the outbreak of the Civil War, he joined the Third Texas Cavalry, which had 1,094 men from a dozen East Texas counties.

The Third Cavalry saw plenty of action, participating in battles in Missouri, Mississippi, Georgia and Tennessee. The Third suffered major losses at luka, Miss. An epidemic at Corinth, Miss., killed another 43 men. By war's end in 1865, the Third Texas Cavalry only had 207 men left.

Sons of Confederate Veterans Donate to preserve Georgia flag

City of Kennesaw press release, August 24, 2010

The Southern Museum acquired the flag in February of this year and is beginning the conservation process in order to prepare the flag for exhibition.

The flag, tattered with 41 different bullet holes and still bloodstained, is in relatively good condition considering it saw much action during the Civil War, including the entire Atlanta campaign. "Technically, the flag has been in the vicinity of our Museum before," said Mike Bearrow, curator at the Museum. "From here, the flag ended up being issued to the 65th Georgia Infantry Regiment up in

Dalton, where it then went through the Atlanta campaign and up into Tennessee." The flag was carried into the heat of several battles, including the Battles of Resaca, New Hope Church/Dallas/Pickett's Mill, Kennesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek and Atlanta. It's the only known surviving example of an Army of Tennessee flag that has both the unit and state designations sewn onto both sides.



Southern Museum photo

After taking ownership, The Southern Museum began seeking out donations for the expense of preserving the historical artifact. Last week, the Museum received half of the required funds for the preservation from the Georgia division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Martin K. O'Toole, current member and former Judge Advocate of the Georgia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, explained the organization's interest in the preservation of the flag. "This particular battle flag was used in the tragic Confederate assault at Franklin, Tennessee and is actually stained with the blood of the color bearer. The 65th Georgia fought valiantly and their Brigade Commander was one of the six Confederate generals killed that day.



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President Street Station Friends Open Baltimore Depot Weekends

By Kathryn Jorgensen, (August 2010 Civil War News)

BALTIMORE, Md. — President Street Station, the historic rail depot that figured in the Baltimore Riot of April 19, 1861, has been reopened. Volunteers from the Friends of President Street Station (FPSS) are welcoming visitors from 10-5 Saturdays and Sundays until Thanksgiving weekend.

The City of Baltimore owns the 1849-50 building and sought commercial development bids after the station's Baltimore Civil War Museum, operated by the Maryland Historical Society, closed in 2007. In view of next year's 150th anniversary of the riot, "the city seems now committed to the 150th and President Street Station as the main Civil War attraction for the new Baltimore National Heritage Area" says FPSS Vice President Robert Reyes.

The heritage area, which was created in 2001 and updated in 2007, has a number of themes, one of which is "North of the South — South of the North." Baltimore's rich history as a border city where foreign, free and enslaved intermingled before the Civil War, where Frederick Douglass worked before escaping from slavery, where the Underground Railroad flourished, and where the April 1861 riot occurred will be part of that story.

On April 19 Massachusetts and Pennsylvania soldiers were en route to Washington, answering President Lincoln's call for troops to put down the rebellion after Fort Sumter was attacked.

Seven of their eight rail cars were pulled by horses from President Street Station along Pratt Street to

the Camden Station. The last car was forced to return to President Street Station. Citizens attacked the soldiers as they marched on Pratt Street. Four Massachusetts soldiers and 12 civilians died.

The Friends of President Street Station have long history with the building. Civil War and railroad buffs formed the group in 1987 and pushed for the station's restoration as a museum.

Today the Friends are pressing for the station to be designated as a National Historic Site. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Last year they funded an evaluation study of the station's national significance that would justify inclusion in the national park system. Retired NPS planner Bill Sharp produced a 15-page illustrated report documenting President Street Station's history and significance, including its unique architecture, association with the Civil War and lives of nationally important people, including Lincoln, and its role as a vital transportation link between Washington and the North.

Reyes says the report has been submitted to Congressman John Sarbanes and Senator Ben Cardin. They have been asked to introduce legislation to study the feasibility of designating the station as a National Historic Site.

The Friends continue the April 19, 1861, commemoration that began 30 years ago with Steve Bunker hanging a wreath on the unmarked station. The city stabilized it in 1993. A year later \$800,000 in federal, state and city funds was promised for a renovation that would allow the museum to open in 1995.

In January 1995 Gov. Donald Schaefer announced a \$450,000 matching grant of federal funds from

the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). He credited his Transportation Secretary, James Lighthizer, now president of the Civil War Preservation Trust, for having "the vision, the courage, the guts" to use federal transportation funds in this way.

However, Lighthizer's successor changed the plans in late 1995 after restoration and exhibit cost estimates were \$200,000 higher than expected.

The renovated station opened at last on April 12, 1997. The museum opened the next day. The Friends celebrated with a week of lectures, demonstrations and living history programs.

Their interpretive graphic exhibits, which remain on display for today's visitors, focus on the station's multi-faceted history. Members have loaned artifacts for the display cases.

Volunteers run the shop, which carries Don Troiani art, books, action figures, tapes, CDs and other items. The Friends hope to get Eastern National, the National Park cooperating association, to operate a book store at the museum.

Admission is free and donations are welcome. Week-day and group tours can be arranged by calling (410) 461-9377.

Motorcycle Tour Honors Civil War Dead and Modern Warriors

(I-Newswire) August 27, 2010

Retired Army Special Forces officer Neal Zimmerman is leading hundreds of motorcycle riders on a 130-mile ride through four states and three battlefields during the 7th Annual Battlefield Run, Sept. 18, to raise awareness and funds for the top-rated charity, the Special Operations Warrior Foundation.



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The 7th Annual Battlefield Run benefits the families of fallen and wounded military special operations troops, including Army Rangers, Special Forces soldiers, Navy SEALs, Air Force and Marine Corps special operations forces.

Participants will start their journey in Leesburg, Virginia and will cross historic sites in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland before reaching the hallowed ground of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania where so many brave men perished during the battle that later became known as a turning point in the U.S. Civil War. With years of experience to build on, Zimmerman and his crew have made the Battlefield Run a safe and enjoyable ride as well as an inspiring one. Tributes have poured in year after year: "I thought everything was first-rate and well-organized," says one rider. Another calls it an "awesome ride." For a \$30 registration fee, riders receive a commemorative tee-shirt and a raffle ticket. Registration starts at 9 am. in front of the Best Buy in the MarketPlace at Potomac Station in Leesburg, VA. Kickstands up at 11 am.

William E. Troxell, Mayor of the Borough of Gettysburg, will greet the riders upon their arrival at the Battlefield Harley-Davidson in Gettysburg, PA.

For more information about the 7th Annual Battlefield Run, contact Neal Zimmerman at zman@battlefieldrun.com

For more information about the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, please visit www.specialops.org or call (813) 805-9400.

Evidence casts doubt on claim to Stonewall's birthplace

By JODY MURPHY, Parkersburg (WV) News-Sentinel, August 26, 2010

PARKERSBURG -Whatever claim Parkersburg has as the birthplace of famed Confederate Civil War Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, may finally be put to rest. Shortly after The News and Sentinel's Aug. 15 article renewing the debate of Jackson's birthplace, evidence emerged that casts serious doubt on the city's claim.

David Houchin, librarian at the Clarksburg-Harrison County public library, said he was contacted by the members of the Jackson Brigade (a lineage society for Jackson descendants) who provided documents, purportedly written in the general's own hand, that support Clarksburg's claim as his birthplace.

A copy of Jackson's 1846 oath of allegiance submitted to the U.S. War Department, seems to provide concrete proof - at least in the general's belief - of his birthplace.

The first line of the document reads, "I, Thomas J. Jackson, born in Clarksburg, Va."

The document from the Roy Bird Cook Collection at West Virginia University was signed and submitted to the U.S. War Department in August 1846. Trevor Plante, acting chief of reference of the D.C. Building for the National Archive, verified the copy of the oath of allegiance.

"I don't know if this put an end to it, but it certainly should," said Bob Enoch president of the Wood County Historical and Preservation Society.

While most historians agree on Clarksburg as Jackson's birthplace, some descendants of Jackson's

mother, Julia Neale Jackson, claimed the famed general was born in Parkersburg. Willard Jackson, a banker, and distant relative of the general, managed to get a granite plaque anchored to the city's floodwall at Point Park in 1963 proclaiming the site as Jackson's birthplace. The marker also has the endorsement of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The same group - albeit a different chapter - erected a marker in Clarksburg in 1911.

Newspaper articles from the 1960s cite the work of previous historians, including Cook, and Ken Hechler who searched, but never found a contemporary record of Jackson's birthplace. Cook died in 1961. Christy Venham with the West Virginia and Regional History Collection at the WVU Libraries said the document from the war department has been among the Cook papers for more than 40 years.

"Cook's wife worked for archives and history. She was a historian in her own right," she said.

"Cook was a well-known historian. ... I would trust his stuff. He didn't put stuff in his collection that wasn't authenticated," Venham added.

Parkersburg's claim has been greeted with a fair amount of skepticism not just from well-known "Stonewall" Jackson biographers and historians, but also local experts. Enoch said he and others had always been skeptical of the claim.

Jackson's oath of allegiance confirms Enoch's skepticism.

Plante said the oath was filed with the War Department on Aug. 12, 1846. Officials sent it back to Jackson a few days later, indicating the paperwork required Jackson's place of birth. The department got the document again - filled out in ink - Aug. 24.



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Plante said the dates and correspondence between the department and Jackson are listed on the back of the document. He said the original document and the copy e-mailed to him appear to be the same. "There are probably some that will still dispute it," Enoch said.

U.S. Senate committee OKs effort to expand Gettysburg National Military Park

Public Opinion Online, August 16, 2010

The U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has approved a resolution that would revise the boundaries of the Gettysburg National Military Park.

New boundaries would include the Gettysburg Train Station and land along Plum Run in Cumberland Township.

The Department of Interior is to acquire publicly owned property within the area by buying from willing sellers only, if efforts to acquire that property without cost have been exhausted. The government cannot exercise eminent domain.

The bill goes to the full Senate along with several others that would expand the Petersburg National Battlefield, establish another national park in New Mexico and protect a watershed around Glacier National Park.

"With April 2011 marking the 150th anniversary of the beginning of our American Civil War, enactment of these bills is of urgent importance," said Joy Oakes, senior mid-Atlantic regional director of the National Parks Conservation Association.

Reps. Todd Platts and Todd Russell sponsor the House version (HR 4395).

Sponsors of the Senate version (S 3159) are Sen. Arlen Specter, D-

Philadelphia, and Robert Casey Jr., D-Scranton.

Slave Village Discovered On Monocacy Battlefield

FREDERICK, Md. (WJZ), Aug 26, 2010

The Monocacy Battlefield in Frederick is an important touchstone to the Civil War, but beneath the fields, the roots of that war are being unearthed. A French family named Vincendiere built the house in 1798. Unlike most plantations, the family kept its slaves in front of the house, a lot of slaves.

"By 1800, they had 90 slave laborers in their possession, which made them the second largest slave holders in Frederick County at that time, and among the largest in the state of Maryland," said Joy Beasley, Park Service archeologist.

They all lived in six small houses, which the National Park Service found and is currently excavating on the Monocacy Battlefield. As expected, what's being found are the fragments of simple items. A journal from that time remarked on stocks and a torture device called a wooden horse, and a whipping post. And there are records of criminal charges against the family.

"The charges ranged from different kinds of cruel and unmerciful beatings. There was also a charge of not providing proper food and clothing for people," said Beasley. The family fled the slave revolt in what would become Haiti and may have brought the cruelty of Caribbean slavery with them. No human remains have been found in the dig, and none are expected. In Frederick County, a number of slave cemeteries were established away from plantations.

Re-enactors to rebuild huts at Madison's Va estate

Associated Press, August 11, 2010
ORANGE, Va. - Confederate re-enactors plan to reconstruct Civil War huts at the country estate of President James Madison.

The soldiers of the Third Regiment of the Army of Northern Virginia will build the structures Sunday in the woods in Orange County where they once stood during the war.

Gen. Samuel McGowan's South Carolina Brigade occupied Montpelier's Civil War camp during the winter of 1863-1864, before the Battle of the Wilderness in 1864. Montpelier's archaeology department located and surveyed five Civil War regimental camps occupied by McGowan's troops and more than a dozen smaller winter camps scattered across the property.

When the huts are finished, they'll serve as a permanent base camp for the reenactors.

NPS taking Cyclorama comments

BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER, Gettysburg Times, August 26, 2010
The National Park Service in Gettysburg has announced that it is taking public comment and holding open houses in September, on the future of the old Cyclorama Center.

A federal judge ruled in March that the park cannot demolish the 47-year-old structure atop Ziegler's Grove, as it planned to do as part of its General Management Plan of 1999. U.S. Judge Thomas Hogan ruled that the park did not follow environmental laws when it decided to raze the structure, designed by nationally-renowned artist Richard Neutra, because it did not consider



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alternatives to demolition that are required by federal law.

The park is seeking feedback on the fate of the building, as it prepares an environmental assessment, under the regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Built in 1962, the Cyclorama was commissioned by a federal government program, and constructed atop land where major battle action occurred in the Battle of Gettysburg.

GNMP Supt. Bob Kirby explained that the planning process will consider a range of alternatives for the building, including keeping the Cyclorama at its current site and "mothballing" it; reusing the building in its current site; relocating the building to a new site; or demolishing the building and returning the landscape to its Civil War era appearance of 1863.

The park is seeking all comments by Oct. 1, 2010. Written comments may be submitted via mail to: Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park, 1195 Baltimore Pike, Suite 100, Gettysburg, PA 17325; via the Internet at www.nps.gov/gett; by e-mail to gett_superintendent@nps.gov; or by fax to 717-334-1891.

According to park spokesperson Katie Lawhon, the environmental assessment "will describe and evaluate alternatives regarding the future of the Cyclorama building," a National Register-eligible cylindrical structure, located on North Cemetery Ridge.

Two open houses are being hosted by park staff, in the classroom at the new \$103 million Battlefield Visitor Center, along the 1100 block of the Baltimore Pike, on Sept. 16-17. Lawhon explained that "interested members of the community can ask questions, learn more about this

undertaking and submit comments." The first open house is scheduled Sept. 16 at 7 p.m., immediately following the business portion of the park's Advisory Commission meeting, up until 9 p.m. Another session is scheduled the following day, Sept. 17, from 2-5 p.m.

Navy's refusal to deliver Medal of Honor irks N.Y. officials

The Associated Press, August 24, 2010

LOCKPORT — Officials trying to obtain an unclaimed Medal of Honor for a Civil War hero from western New York said they've instead been given a letter with a drawing of the medal, a move that one local historian called "an embarrassment." Niagara County officials have been trying since last year to get the medal awarded to Michael Huskey, who died in 1864 without receiving it. Last week, the Navy sent county officials a letter that includes an embossed drawing of the medal.

The letter also contains the citation for Huskey, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions aboard a Union gunboat during a firefight in a Mississippi bayou in 1863.

The Navy has refused to give the county the unclaimed medal or a replica, citing costs and a lack of security at the Niagara County Courthouse, where officials have said they would like to display the medal or a replica.

The 8 1/2-inch-by-11-inch letter sent by the Navy is supposed to be "suitable for framing," County Historian Catherine Emerson said.

"It's an embarrassment."

Huskey's family emigrated from Ireland and settled in Lockport, 20 miles northeast of Buffalo. In March 1863, he was a 23-year-old sailor

aboard the USS Carondelet, a gunboat assigned to a force that attempted to advance up a bayou as part of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's push to capture the Confederate stronghold of Vicksburg, Miss.

He fell ill the next year and died in Tennessee, where he's believed to be buried in an unmarked grave.

Emerson learned of Huskey's story after discovering a file in her office that contained a *New York Times* clipping from 1898 on unclaimed medals from the Civil War. Huskey's name appeared in that article.

New York lawmakers including U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer and Reps. Louise Slaughter, D-Fairport, and Chris Lee, R-Clarence, also have tried to push the Navy to give the medal to the county.

In the meantime, county officials are looking into whether they can buy a replica of the medal.

Emerson said a ceremony is tentatively planned in October to unveil a display honoring Huskey, with the Navy's letter serving as its centerpiece if a medal isn't procured.