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Gettysburg battlefield boss announces retirement

National Military Park Superintendent Bob Kirby said he will retire at the end of this year.

By MARK WALTERS, Hanover Evening Sun, September 5, 2013

After 40 years of service with the National Park Service, Bob Kirby, superintendent of the Gettysburg National Military Park, is retiring at the end of the year.

Kirby made his announcement at Thursday night's Gettysburg National Military Park Advisory Commission semiannual meeting.

Kirby, who took over at Gettysburg in March 2010, will leave after accomplishing a litany of long-term projects including the demolition of the old Cyclorama building, selling the Electric Map and the acquisition of the Gettysburg Armory.

Kirby said he would define his tenure at Gettysburg as being the guy who worked with a brilliant group of people. He simply was smart enough to get out of their way, he said.

"My predecessor did a great job helping get this place built," Kirby said of the museum and visitor center. "He got a lot of great stuff started. It was the logical step to smooth out the rough spots and keep a lot of that going."

Kirby, a 64-year-old Freedom Township resident, said he intends to stick around an area that he loves.

"This place has everything I'm looking for and I've lived all over the country," Kirby said.

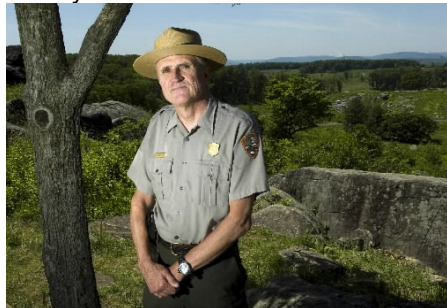
With the sesquicentennial of the Gettysburg battle approaching as he took over the superintendent position, he anticipated the challenge, he said. "This is the Cadillac of cultural parks," Kirby said. "Coming here was a

combination of challenge and ego and just a love for this stuff."

Some have considered the superintendent at Gettysburg as the pinnacle of national park ranger positions and a dream job to take as one nears retirement. Kirby said that is part of the ego aspect.

"You spend a career climbing a ladder and to say you ended your career at such a great place that is the premier cultural landscape park," Kirby said.

Kirby, who has worked at a plethora of other parks around the country, said that while some took longer than others, he and his staff was able to achieve the goals he established each year.



Bob Kirby, superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park, announced Thursday he plans to retire at the end of this year. Kirby has worked with the National Park Service for more than 40 years. (THE EVENING SUN -- FILE)

The Cyclorama, Kirby said, took two years.

"That's part of the process," he said. "These are process-laden things that take a huge amount of work."

He said he is still hopeful the federal government can find a way to pass legislation that would bring the Lincoln Train Station on Gettysburg's Carlisle Street within the boundary of the national park by Nov. 19, the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address.

"It's hard to say what's going to happen," Kirby said. "Congress is always distracted but it's a noncontroversial piece of legislation supported by (Pennsylvania) Congressman Scott Perry and Senators Pat Toomey and Bob Casey."

Katie Lawhon, spokesperson for the National Park Service, said taking on so many projects and being a part of the Civil War 150th commemoration is fantastic, but that it is especially fun with a great leader like Kirby.

"His commitment to community relationships was the best example he set for me and for anyone," Kirby explained that since the park service intends to appoint his successor as soon as he leaves at the end of this year, the process of finding a new superintendent is already underway.

"It's like any job vacancy with the National Park Service," Lawhon explained. "The vacancy was announced but the regional director will appoint the new superintendent."

Norris Flowers, executive director of the Gettysburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, said he will do everything in the next four months to convince Kirby to not retire.

"It was an honor to work with Bob and the park service staff," Flowers said.

Daniel Bringman, chief financial officer of the Gettysburg Foundation, noted completion of burying the power lines at Devil's Den among Kirby's many accomplishments at Gettysburg.

"Bob was the first superintendent to start after the completion of the new museum and visitor center," Bringman said. "During that time, the senior leadership of the Gettysburg Foundation and the national park service experienced transition. Bob's leadership to not only the National



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Park Service but also to the Gettysburg Foundation was exceptional."

Kirby, often soft spoken and never one to bask in the limelight, said it took a lot of hard work and persistence in tackling what him and his staff was able to accomplish.

"Part of it is you have to keep patient and you have to keep pushing," Kirby said. "You can't stop pushing for a minute.

Climber gets stuck in Devil's Den rocks

By LILLIAN REED, Hanover Evening Sun, September 02, 2013

A man in his late 20s was stuck in a Devil's Den crevice for an hour on Labor Day before rescue teams were able to pull him to safety.

The man slipped between the rocks at Devil's Den in Gettysburg National Military Park on Monday evening and dislocated his left shoulder, preventing him from climbing out of the crevice, emergency officials said.

At least 19 people, including members of the Gettysburg Fire Department, Park Service and bystanders, helped pull the man to safety.

South Mountain's Bradley Scruggs was spending the day with his father Jerry at Devil's Den when he witnessed the man slip while climbing the rocks.

"His hand stayed where it was but his body moved," Scruggs said. Officials confirmed the shoulder had been dislocated.

The 19-year-old attempted to help the man find a way out of the crevice but was unable to aid him without causing pain to the man's shoulder.

"I told him I know all kinds of ways out of here but I've never tried to do it

with a dislocated shoulder," Scruggs said.

Accidents where people become stuck between the rocks of Devil's Den are not uncommon, Gettysburg Fire Chief Hurshel Shank said.

"I've been working 38 years and been here a dozen times or more," Shank said. "Even though it looks complicated, it was one of the easier rescues. It wasn't as bad as it could have been."

After treating the man's shoulder, rescue crews discussed various strategies for pulling the man to safety. Eventually, he strapped to a stretcher, which was lifted out of the crevice. With the help of many hands, the stretcher was slid along a ladder, creating a smooth passage to the ground.

Officials did not release the name of the man, but he was taken to Gettysburg Hospital where he is being treated for injuries, Shenks said.

Civil War General Joshua Chamberlain's Medal of Honor discovered at church sale

By JT LEONARD, Brunswick Times Record, September 10, 2013

After being discovered in the back of a book in Duxbury, Mass., the original Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to Col. Joshua Chamberlain has taken a long and circuitous route back to Brunswick.

In July, shortly before the town's annual Chamberlain Days celebration, the Pejepscot Historical Society received a small package from a donor who said he wished to remain anonymous. Inside the envelope was the medal, with the

donor's wish that it be returned to Brunswick and authenticated "in honor of all veterans."

Historical society director Jennifer Blanchard was skeptical.

After all, she knew that Chamberlain's Medal of Honor — redesigned in 1904 and re-issued to Chamberlain in 1907 — was safely displayed just up the hill in the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections and Archives at Bowdoin College.

However, after several months of scrutiny by state and federal historians, the Smithsonian, Library of Congress, and the U.S. Army, the anonymous medal has proven to be the real deal.

"All of the experts we've consulted believe it to be authentic, and we are tremendously honored to return the medal to Chamberlain's home in Brunswick," Blanchard said.

According to display etiquette proscribed by the Medal of Honor Society, when the medal was redesigned its recipients had the option of returning the original in exchange for new, or keeping both original and redesigned.

The stipulation is that only one could be worn on display at a time, never both.

Chamberlain apparently kept his original medal, bestowed Aug. 11, 1893, by U.S. President Grover Cleveland, in recognition for heroism at Little Round Top during the Battle of Gettysburg 30 years earlier.

After Chamberlain's death in 1914, the medal found its way through generations to his last living descendant, granddaughter Rosamond Allen.

Upon her death in 2000, the contents of her estate were donated to the First Parish Church of Duxbury. Later, the medal's anonymous benefactor bought several books



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during a church fundraising sale and later discovered the medal inside the pages.

The donor actually tried to send it to Pejepscot twice — the first attempt was misaddressed and returned by the postal service.

Chamberlain, the former college president, professor, soldier and state governor, took great pride in the medal, Blanchard said.

"There is photographic evidence that Chamberlain was very proud of the medal, that he wore it quite often," she said, gesturing at the 120-year-old accolade perched on the corner of her desk.

Pejepscot Historical Society now has ownership of — and display responsibilities for — the medal.



Joshua Chamberlain, wearing his Congressional Medal of Honor - Pejepscot Historical Society

Made of brass, the medal is dulled by time and wear, and its suspension ribbons — both the 1893 original and the 1896 re-issue that covers it — are slightly ragged. But the thought of such history on the corner of her desk awed Blanchard.

"I'm just thrilled that it is what it appeared to be," she said.

The hardest part was keeping her secret while 150 years' worth of Chamberlain revelry swirled around her this summer, she said.

"Of course, we had to withhold the announcement until we could finish the authentication process," she said. Congress redesigned the medal in 1904, and Prof. Chamberlain

received his in fall 1907. That medal currently resides in the campus library's special collections, where it can be seen Monday through Friday, said curator Richard Lindemann.

Chamberlain was recommended for the medal by 1857 Bowdoin graduate Thomas H. Hubbard, and for whom the school's Hubbard Hall is named.

Hubbard petitioned Congress on Chamberlain's behalf.

"Chronologically Hubbard would have been a student of Chamberlain's," Lindemann said, although he added that no records exist to confirm the tutelage.

Hubbard also served as a member of college overseers and trustees, and donated the plaque in Memorial Hall that lists the names of Bowdoin men who served in the Civil War.

"Our gratitude to the donor who discovered this treasure and knew of its importance to us and to the State of Maine knows no bounds," Blanchard said.

Civil War tour of Va. capital for mature visitors

WTOP.com, September 13, 2013

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) -- The Richmond National Battlefield Park typically doesn't need a rating system for its Civil War programs.

That's not the case for an upcoming program called "Harlots and Hooligans." Park rangers will lead tours through the streets of Richmond to explore what the Park Service calls the Civil War's "darker impacts" on the city.

Because of the content of the tours, the Richmond National Battlefield Park is advising visitors that the program may not be suitable for young children.

During the Sept. 21 tours, rangers will explore how the former capital of the Confederacy adapted to a flood of refugees, soldiers, con artists and spies during the war. Each tour will lead visitors through the "most historically sordid" sections of the city.

Woman finds Civil War monument in cemetery

By Jamie Ostroff, local8.com, Aug 26, 2013

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho -

A local woman found a special treasure hidden in Idaho Falls.

"I was looking for my great-great grandfather. He was a corporal in the Civil War," said Elaine Johnson, who makes frequent visits to Rose Hill Cemetery.

What she discovered in December was especially breathtaking.

"There was this big old tree," Johnson described. "I could see just the corner of a stone peeking out from inside the tree, and I wondered, 'Who's in there and do they know who's in there? Maybe he's lost, too.' So I pulled back the branches to look and I saw the inscription."

The inscription read, "GAR, dedicated to the veterans of the Civil War, 1911."

"I was astonished," Johnson said.

Cemetery management didn't know the monument was there. Crews have since removed the tree and monument from their original spot, and moved the monument to a safer place before it gets restored.

Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War is the organization that can legally claim ownership of the monument and others like it. Veterans from GAR, or the Grand Army of the Republic, placed



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monuments throughout the West after the Civil War.

"The veterans) were looking for a place where they could settle down, far removed from the battle that was horrific in their life," said Eric Richhart, a member of the SUVCW in Utah.

Richhart said this is the only known GAR monument in eastern Idaho.

"It should be honored," he said.

Richhart visited Idaho Falls to see the monument. He and the SUVCW hope to restore it by Veterans Day. It will sit in its original location, next to the headstone of Johnson's great-great grandfather.

Hunt Targets 2,800 Deer at Civil War Battlefields in Md., Va.

MANASSES, Va, September 3, 2013 -- There is a new invasion at three local Civil War battlefields and sharpshooters may be the only way to fight back.

The National Park Service says it wants to kill more than 2,800 white-tailed deer at three Civil War battlefields in Maryland and Virginia to reduce damage to forests and other vegetation.

"There's somewhere around 1,300 across the 5,000 acres," says Ed Clark, superintendent of the Manassas National Battlefield Park. "In reality, a healthy population size might be somewhere in the neighborhood of 160."

Clark says the park service is working on a plan to cull the population, possibly with the use of National Park Service sharpshooters.

The marksmen will be used to curb the growing deer population at Manassas, Antietam and Monocacy

battlefields in Maryland and Virginia over a four-year period. Manassas would see the biggest slaughter, with more than 1,600 animals targeted.

The meat would be donated to food banks..

Some non-lethal methods are also being considered, including deer birth control. That would involve shooting the deer with dart guns carrying a birth control drug.

"The only predator we have are motor vehicles," says Clark. "Forest regeneration can't occur when everything is always being eaten."

Trimming the herd is also necessary to keep the deer free of disease.

The National Park Service is also dealing with problem deer populations at the Antietam and Monocacy battlefields and is considering the same solution.

It's unlikely any deer kills will take place this year. The park service is seeking public input first since they are often controversial.

Public input sessions will be held in all three locations:

Antietam National Battlefield Visitors Center, Tuesday, Aug. 27 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Monocacy National Battlefield Visitors Center, Wednesday, Aug. 28 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Manassas National Park Visitors Center, Thursday, Aug. 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Hampden Twp., PA history for sale as Civil War-era log farmhouse hits market

By John Luciew, Patriot News, September 10, 2013

Long before its still-sturdy logs were covered by a sheath of white siding,

the two-story farmhouse at 5550 Smith Drive in Hampden Twp.'s Signal Hill neighborhood witnessed history as Union and Confederate troops fought a skirmish during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Built in 1793 and one of the oldest residences in Cumberland County, the farmhouse sits on a little more than five acres. At one point it was part of a 250-acre farm that has since been subdivided to build the adjacent high-end homes that typically sell for \$500,000 to \$1 million.

The property lists for \$485,000 and includes a separate summer kitchen, barn and several out buildings. The listing firm, RSR Realtors, says the five-plus acres of land could be divided into two lots.

"A buyer interested in building new homes on the property could easily subdivide it without having to do any development work other than the engineering," says RSR founder Bill Rothman, the listing agent for the property. "But somebody could also buy the house and say this is what I want."



5550 Smith Drive in Hampden Twp., Patriot-News photo

Rothman noted the logs – rare American chestnut – are valuable in their own right. A buyer interested in developing the property could harvest the wood, which is highly prized by artisans. The American chestnut tree



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was all but wiped out in the 1950s by blight.

"We always think the value is in the land, but his is such an historic property and it is possible it could be restored," Rothman says. "Maybe every five or eight years you'll run across a property like this, but to find five acres like this is very unusual."

Rothman, a history buff and member of the Harrisburg Civil War Round Table, explained that the area around the house was the scene of a skirmish between Union and Confederate scouts that were roaming the countryside during the Gettysburg battle.

The owner, Alice Smith, who used to help farm the land with her late husband John until much of the property was sold off in the 1980s, said they found two cannonballs while tilling the fields. In the house, the family found old records, such as one listing the payment of 6 cents to a worker who shucked corn for a week that gave a glimpse of what life was like more than 100 years ago.

"If she could talk, just imagine what she could tell us," said Smith, who has lived in the house for 45 years. While the vinyl siding covers the outside, inside the hand-hewn logs give a sense of stability. In the attic, the notches used to hold the logs together instead of nails are clearly visible.

"When you walk in, you just feel secure," she said. "It's just a good, solid home."

Monument to area Civil War nurses planned for City Park in Reading, PA

Reading Eagle, August 30, 2013

The Reading Planning Commission has approved a request to place a monument in City Park recognizing

the efforts of nurses during the Civil War.

Carol Kerstetter presented the plan Tuesday night on behalf of the Kutztown University chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, an honor society for nursing students. The plan calls for a 24-inch-by-16-inch monument to be erected in City Park to honor the services of nurses who worked in the Fairgrounds Field Hospital from 1862 to 1863. The hospital, which was located in the park, treated the wounded from the Battle of Antietam. The monument is expected to cost approximately \$1,200. Sigma Theta Tau International was disbanded at Kutztown after the university discontinued its nursing program in 2010 due to budget cuts. The school awarded its final nursing degrees in May. The group plans to expend its remaining treasury on the monument.

Planners Chairman Ermete Raffaelli voted against the proposal stating he could not support the unabated development of monuments in the park. He suggested a marker be placed on the comfort station. The Reading Historical Architectural Review Board approved the plan at its meeting last week. The plan will now go on to City Council which will approve an appropriate location for the marker.

From a secret barrel, a family's forgotten Civil War history

By Michael Kelly, Omaha World Herald, August 27, 2013

His name is Bond.

James Bond.

The Omaha man loves his name, and doesn't mind when people make note of it, as almost everyone does.

James, 47, wasn't named for the iconic Ian Fleming character. And unlike his fictional Cold War namesake, he is no secret agent.

But he has spent the past two years unearthing, for him, a fascinating secret. A Civil War secret.

His father's secret.

In a dry-goods barrel that his dad kept private before he died, James found a treasure trove of diaries and letters to and from his Yankee ancestors, three of whom fought for the North.

One received the Medal of Honor. Another saw John Wilkes Booth two days before he assassinated Abraham Lincoln and then saw the conspirators hanged.

"Just to hold the letters in my hand, it was pretty awesome," James said. "This was my family. It was pretty special."

In the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, a mystery remains: Why didn't his father want anyone to see the letters and diaries, which he stored in a 19th century oaken barrel?

James Bond's father, Milton Bond, who died in 2010, was a renowned folk artist in a medium called reverse-glass painting.

For much of his life he was a New England oysterman and sailor, so he began painting nautical and coastal scenes on clear glass in the 1960s. In 1998, the governor of Connecticut declared a "Milton Bond Day."

Milton was 47 when James was born, and father and son didn't develop, shall we say, the closest bond.

"My dad was a different kind of guy," said James, an Air Force veteran who has restored many Omaha homes and is now restoring ornate moldings at the Orpheum Theater. "I don't know why he didn't share what was in the barrel."



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In fact, Milton downplayed it, saying it was nothing.

"When I would ask," James said, "he was overprotective about it. He made it sound boring — just a bunch of old letters and receipts. He had told me to stay away from it."

When his father's estate was settled, though, James took possession of the barrel and found the diaries and 393 letters, mostly to and from a family of five brothers and three sisters.

The paper on which the diaries and letters were written has survived well, he said, because it is linen-based and was stored in a cool basement.

Even before shipping the barrel and its contents to Omaha, James began reading and sorting letters, laying them out on a bed in his motel room in Connecticut.

"Whatever was in the barrel was special to my dad, and now it was special to me," he said. "And I'm kind of a history geek."

James stayed up until 3 a.m. that first night, riveted by what he read.

Once he got it all back to the Elkhorn-area home he shares with his wife, jazz singer Susie Thorne, James began cataloging and scanning.

He keeps the originals in a bank vault but displayed them at his home for me and a World-Herald photographer.

His great-grandfather, Frederick Curtis, wrote to a brother from New Harpers Ferry, Va., on Oct. 23, 1864, after being taken prisoner — and escaping.

"My horse is now doing duty down in Dixie for some Johnnie Reb," he wrote. "I was the only one out of (45) men that escaped."

His boots were in pieces, he wrote, and he had no stockings. His feet hurt so much that on every step, he could cry. He had no clothes except what he wore.

"It is so cold that I can hardly write. You have no idea how I have suffered. ... But I am thankful that I am alive and am not in the hands of the Rebels."

There is much more. Diaries contain firsthand references to Abraham Lincoln, including the future president's March 1860 visit to Bridgeport, Conn.

After his speech there, the Curtis brothers helped give Lincoln a torchlit send-off at the Bridgeport railroad station.

Among other Lincoln references:

» Frederick's brothers, Maj. Elliot Curtis and Medal of Honor recipient John Curtis, saw Lincoln at several military reviews.

» Elliot wrote that he had sat at a table in a restaurant across from John Wilkes Booth two days before the assassination. Booth, he said, had been "nervously fiddling with his fork."

» Maj. Curtis received a letter informing him of the president's death. It came from an Army captain, William McKinley, a future wartime president (Spanish-American) who himself would be assassinated in 1901.

» Elliot and his troops were put on guard duty over the assassination conspirators. After their hangings, he wrote: "Justice had been done when they swung off into eternity."

Much has been written about the Civil War, but after reading everything from the barrel, James felt he had something important — to his family, yes, but maybe to others, too.

He has consulted with publishers and other experts, and he believes that the documents could be the basis for a book, a documentary or, if he gets the material in the right hands, a screenplay.

Bill Christen, an author and a Civil War re-enactor, visited Omaha with his wife to see James' collection.

"We were just amazed at all the stuff he had there," he said this week from his home in the Detroit suburb of Warren, Mich. "It was more than I expected to see."

Trenton, NJ celebrates 150th anniversary of Civil War cannon "Swamp Angel"

By Kelly Johnson, The Times of Trenton, August 24, 2013

TRENTON — Flanked by Civil War re-enactors and a city official, a symbol of American history was honored and rededicated in the city's oldest park on Saturday.

The massive, eight-ton cannon named Swamp Angel was memorialized in celebration of its 150th anniversary and a new marble plaque was unveiled at Cadwalader Park by members of the Camp Olden Civil War Round Table and Museum, Abraham Lincoln Camp 100, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and North Ward councilwoman Marge Caldwell-Wilson.

"This is an amazing day," Caldwell-Wilson said. "With all the trouble we are going through in Trenton, there are amazing things going on."

The story of Swamp Angel was told by David Martin, past commander of the Lincoln Camp and vice president of the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association, to a crowd of people who gathered on the lawn in front of the cannon.

This is an amazing day. With all the trouble we are going through in Trenton, there are amazing things going on.

During the siege of Charleston, S.C., in August 1863, Swamp Angel was



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stationed in spongy marshes and opened fire on the town for three days, Martin said.

On August 24, 1863, the cannon fired its 36th shot and its breech exploded, knocking it from its carriage and making it unfit for further use. Swamp Angel then became scrap metal, according to Martin, and was purchased by Phoenix Iron Works in Trenton.



Bruce L. Sirak, President, Camp Olden CWRT, speaks during the rededication of the Swamp Angel Monument at Cadwalader Park, August 24, 2013. (Mary Iuvone/For The Times)

A soldier who served in Charleston recognized the cannon and saved it from being melted down, Martin said. Swamp Angel originally served as a monument at the corner of Clinton and Perry Streets before being moved to its current location in Cadwalader Park in 1961.

"We are pleased to see it here and see everyone here enjoying its presence in Cadwalader Park," Martin said.

Bruce Sirak, the president of Camp Olden and commander of Lincoln Camp, said He believes the cannon is overlooked at its current location in the park.

"I would prefer it being in front of the statehouse where it's much more protected and I feel a lot more visible," he said. "A park is a great place of course — but they probably drive right by it and don't think twice about it."

Sirak said the monument has been the target of vandalism and theft. The cannon's bronze plaque was stolen about a year ago, which is why a new plaque had to be dedicated to the monument.

There are no plans, however, to change the location of the cannon again, Sirak said.

Controversy has also surrounded Swamp Angel being in Trenton, Martin said, noting three former mayors each proposed sending the cannon back to Charleston as a symbol of reconciliation with the South, but never followed through because of resistance from citizens and Civil War enthusiasts.

Martin recited a poem written by a city resident in 1961, when the first proposal was made to send the cannon back to the South.

"So don't send me back to Charleston as a prisoner of war. Just keep me here in Trenton, where I can help much more," its last lines read.

Civil War era soldier laid to rest at Cantonment, FL home

WearTV.com (Pensacola, FL), August 23, 2013

CANTONMENT, FL -- A Civil War era soldier was laid to rest in the backyard of a Cantonment home. The man's bones were tangled in the roots of a tree that was damaged during Hurricane Ivan in 2004. When the homeowners started removing the tree in 2011, they found the bones. When UWF Anthropology professor, Dr. Joanne Curtin brought them the box with the bones inside, it was the moment Rita Rose and Phil Fischler had been waiting for since they discovered the bones.

"I've been out here 40 years and we never knew this was here you know"

said Rita Rose, homeowner. Excavating the bones proved to be challenging for UWF Archaeological students. "The tree grew up around and on top of the burial and the roots grew down and around and encased the skeletal remains" said Dr. Joanne Curtin, UWF Anthropology Professor. After years of research, the UWF Anthropology department believes the remains are of a soldier from the 1800s. Buttons found near the bones are believed to have come from a uniform made during that time period. By studying the skull and teeth, they believe he was in his late 20s to mid-40s when he died.

"I went ahead and dug a hole about this big around, basically right where you all found it and the stump and what's left of the tree that's still there, I haven't touched anything out there" said Phil Fischler, homeowner. Rita and Phil have come across several old artifacts on their property over the years, but none has touched them more than the soldier they discovered. They now hope the soldier they discovered can finally rest in peace once again.

"He needs to be at his resting place, where we found him and like Phil said he's at peace" said Rose. The remains were placed in plastic bags, then sealed in a cardboard box. The cardboard is expected to decay over the years, but the plastic the bones are wrapped in will last much longer.