



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Removal of Confederate Memorials Weighed 150 Years After Civil War

City leaders in Rockville, Baltimore, and Frederick are all discussing whether to remove memorials to the Confederacy.

By Marissa Horn, Capital News Service

The Civil War divided many communities and families in Maryland, according to state historians, and mementos venerating forces for both the South and the North began to appear throughout the state in the early 1900s.

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Now, however, communities around the Old Line State are drawing upon old lines and asking officials to reconsider monuments tied to slavery or the Confederacy exactly four months after the racially motivated killings of nine people at a historic black church in Charleston, South Carolina.

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And the Montgomery County Council plans to meet Thursday night to decide where to relocate the 102-year-old bronze statue of a Confederate soldier standing next to Rockville's Red Brick Courthouse.

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"We need to find out if we will get approval to relocate the statue" and then the county will get estimates to pay for moving it, said Greg Ossont,

deputy director of the Department of General Services.



Officials boxed up the Confederate statue with plywood outside of Rockville's Red Brick Courthouse after its base was spray-painted with "Black Lives Matter" in late July. The council plans to approve a new location Thursday and move it to one of five locations throughout the county at a later date. (Capital News Service photo by Marissa Horn.)

In an effort to determine a new, more appropriate location, Montgomery County residents voted earlier this month on a list of five new locations for the statue. The list included: Beall-Dawson Historical Park in Rockville, Darnestown Square Heritage Park in Darnestown, Callithea Farm Special Park in Potomac, Jesup Blair Local Park in Silver Spring and Edgehill Farm in Gaithersburg. Poll results are expected to be discussed on Thursday.

"We share County Executive Isiah Leggett's view that the statue does



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not belong in the center of government outside the courthouse," said County Council President George Leventhal in a news release. "(We) believe it should be relocated to a site where we are able to tell the full story of Montgomery County's participation in the Civil War from all perspectives."

Baltimore Evaluates Nine Confederate Monuments

In Baltimore, a special commission also plans to meet Thursday at 9 a.m. to re-evaluate and lead community discussions about the city's nine Confederate monuments, continuing the national conversation about the display of racially controversial memorials, flags and other insignia.

In spite of some objections to the monuments, Toomey said, he believes the monument evaluation committee in Baltimore City is unnecessary.

"The monuments are not just the history of Baltimore City, they are just not the history of Maryland, they're American history," Toomey said. "And no one, no mayor has the right to say what part of American history will be remembered and what will be forgotten."

According to Howard Libit, a spokesman for Baltimore's mayor, the review will "ensure that the city stays on the side of respecting history. There is a balance between respecting history and continuing to display items that may be offensive," Libit said.

Memorial to Author of Dred Scott Court Ruling

In Frederick, city leaders are deliberating whether to remove the bust of former U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger B. Taney from in front of City Hall. Taney's opinion in

the Dred Scott v. Sandford case protected slaveholders' rights and excluded African Americans from citizenship.

Despite the city's efforts to remove the statue, there remain other tributes honoring Taney around the city including Taney Avenue, his grave and his house, which is a historical landmark.

This is where the mess of drawing a distinction begins, Toomey said, like which Confederate-oriented statues should and should not be removed. Though he agrees with the decision to not fly the Confederate flag over government buildings, Toomey said, the monuments should remain in place.

"If anyone was a slaveowner ... you would have to take down the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial and blow a path through Mount Rushmore or change the name of the capital," Toomey said. "Where does it stop?"

University of Texas removes statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis from campus

Associated Press, August 31, 2015

AUSTIN, Texas – A statue of the president of the secessionist pro-slavery southern states was removed from its pedestal Sunday on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin, days after a court rejected an appeal from a Confederate heritage group.

Crews were seen removing the statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis from its place near the university's iconic clock tower. Davis

led the Confederacy of southern states during the 1861-65 Civil War. Davis' statue will eventually be displayed in the Briscoe Center history museum on campus, which university officials said is a more appropriate place for it. The Briscoe Center has one of the nation's largest archives on slavery.

The statue has been a target of vandalism as well as criticism that it is a symbol of racism and discrimination. Confederate symbols nationwide are being re-considered following the recent mass shooting of members of a black church in Charleston, South Carolina.

"This is an iconic moment," said Gregory Vincent, the university's vice president for diversity and community engagement, according to the Austin American-Statesman. "It really shows the power of student leadership."

A judge last week ruled against the Sons of Confederate Veterans, which sued to stop the university from moving it.



A statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis is moved from its location in front of the school's main tower the University of Texas campus, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2015, in Austin, Texas. The Davis statue, which has been targeted by vandals and had come under increasing criticism, will be moved and placed in the school's Dolph Briscoe Center for American History as part of an educational display. (AP Photo/Eric Gay) (The Associated Press)

Statues of other Confederate figures — Confederate Gens. Robert



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E. Lee and Albert Sidney Johnston, and Confederate Postmaster General John H. Reagan — will remain in their places on campus.

University officials halted earlier plans to move the Davis statue after the Sons of Confederate Veterans asked a judge to stop them. The Confederate group compared the proposal to relocate the statue to the Islamic State group destroying artifacts in the Middle East.

But State District Judge Karin Crump ruled last week that Texas officials have the authority under state law to decide where the statue should stand.

The Embalmed Soldiers of the American Civil War

by The Surgeon's Apprentice,
August 26, 2015

Thomas Holmes—the “Father of Modern Embalming”—had an unusual way of advertising his services throughout the American Civil War. During one of his many excursions to the front, the surgeon plucked the body of an unknown soldier from the battlefield and brought it back to Washington D.C. There, he washed the corpse and injected it with his patented “safe” embalming fluid, which he claimed was free from toxins. He then dressed the soldier in a fine set of clothes and put him on display in his shop window for all to see.

Prior to the mid-19th century, embalming was used chiefly to preserve specimens after dissection. Surgeons and anatomists often used arsenic when creating dry mount displays from cadaverous remains. Mixtures of arsenic and soap were sometimes used to bathe the insides of a specimen in order to prevent

decomposition and insect infestation. In 1838, the French chemist, Jean Gannal, introduced a new method for preserving human remains which called for arsenic to be injected directly into the carotid artery. This allowed anatomists to dissect corpses or prepare anatomical specimens without worrying about putrefaction or decay. By and large, it worked, though many anatomists suffered arsenic poisoning as a result.

The nature of embalming changed when the Civil War broke out in 1861. Suddenly, there was an enormous outcry for the bodies of fallen soldiers to be returned to their hometowns so that families could say a proper goodbye to the dead. It was during this period that the foundations of the modern funeral industry were laid, and the embalmer—as a professional—began to emerge.



Photo courtesy USAMHI

The trend began when a captain in the Army Medical Corps (and close friend of President Lincoln) became the first Union officer killed in the Civil War. On 24 May 1861, Colonel Elmer Ellsworth was shot while removing a Confederate flag from the roof of a hotel in Virginia. The flag was so large that it could be seen from the White House.

News of the shooting traveled quickly back to Washington. Holmes offered his services to Ellsworth’s family, and the captain’s embalmed body was taken to the White House, where it lay in state in the East Room for several days. Afterwards, his preserved remains were taken to New York City, where thousands lined up to view the funeral cortege. Along the route, a group of mourners displayed a banner that declared: “Ellsworth, ‘His blood cries for vengeance.’”

Lincoln was so impressed with Holmes’s work that he asked the surgeon to train others so that Union soldiers killed-in-action could be safely preserved and sent back home to their grieving families. Setting up battlefield embalming sheds, Holmes trained numerous surgeons in his new technique, and then sold them his “safe” embalming solution for \$3 per bottle. Soon, embalmers were pitching tents close to the front, and performing demonstrations of their methods for soldiers, who were then offered a chance to pre-pay to have their own bodies embalmed should they die in forthcoming battles.

The procedure was relatively simple. Embalmers rarely needed to drain blood from the battered bodies of dead soldiers since most of them bled out when injured in battle. By squeezing a rubber ball attached to a tube, surgeons pumped the corpses full of embalming fluid, typically via an artery located in the armpit. The bodies were then placed in zinc-lined coffins (to prevent further decay), with the names of the deceased and their parents prominently displayed on the lid.

While embalmers offered families a chance to reclaim the bodies of their fallen fathers, sons, uncles and



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brothers, the public in general grew increasingly uncomfortable with the "commodification of the dead." Speaking to a Yankee reporter, one embalmer remarked:

I would be glad to prepare private soldiers. They were worth [sic] a five dollar bill apiece. But Lord bless you, a colonel pays a hundred, and a brigadier-general pays two hundred. There's lots of them now, and I have cut the acquaintance of everything below a major. I might, as a great favor, do a captain, but he must pay a major's price. I insist upon that! Such windfalls don't come everyday. There won't be another such killing for a century.

The high prices weren't the only problem.

Because of the lack of federal regulations governing embalmers, there were several cases of fraud and attempted extortion. For instance, in 1864, Timothy Dwight of New York made an official complaint against Dr Richard Burr (below), a prominent Washington embalmer, claiming that Burr tried to extort money from him by holding his son's body to ransom. Allegedly, Burr took possession of Dwight's son after he died in battle. Without the family's permission, Burr embalmed the body and brought it back to Washington, where he then contacted Mr. Dwight, demanding \$100 for its release.

Dwight wasn't the only person to complain about the nefarious actions of this new breed of funeral professional. On 9 January 1865, General Ulysses Grant responded to the chorus of grievances by withdrawing all embalmers' permits and ordering them beyond the lines. In March 1865, the War Department issued General Order Number 39, entitled "Order Concerning

Embalming," which allowed practitioners to act only under a special license, and made provisions for regulating prices. But by then, the war was nearly over.

Holmes's continued to offer his services till the bitter end. By the time General Lee surrendered at Appomattox on 9 April 1865, the surgeon had embalmed approximately 4,000 soldiers. The war—or more accurately, the terrible death toll of the war—had made Thomas Holmes a very rich and famous man.

Ironically, before his death in 1900, Holmes requested that his own body would not be embalmed.

Ottawa, Canada regiment sends 'priceless' Civil War sword home

By Peter Robb, Ottawa Citizen, September 1, 2015

An Ottawa-based military regiment will return a Civil War sword and scabbard belonging to a famous Confederate officer to the military academy where he studied and worked in the mid-19th century.

The sword, belonging to Col. Charles C. Tew, has been "missing" for 153 years since the Battle of Antietam in 1862. Tew was killed in that battle and his sword was taken as a trophy from the battlefield by a Canadian serving with the Union Army. About 40,000 Canadians served with the Union during the U.S. Civil War, which ended 150 years ago.

The sword will be handed back to The Citadel in a ceremony on Sept. 18, said Michael Martin, chairman of the charitable arm of 33 Signal Regiment, an organization that dates back to 1913.

The sword was given to Tew by his students at the Arsenal Academy, a prep school he founded that serves as an entry point to The Citadel, Martin says.

The story behind the sword remained unknown, he says, until the unit was moving from its former headquarters at Wallis House on Rideau Street to a new location on Walkley Road. It had hung in the Wallis House mess since its arrival in 1963, after a resident of Utica, N.Y., gave the sword to her last known relative, an officer with the 33 Signal Regiment (then known as 703 Signals Squadron).

It was taken down from the wall and Tew's name was noted during a review of the regiment's property. And an investigation and valuation began, Martin says, that has taken until now to complete.

The story starts in 1862 at Antietam, one of the bloodiest battles of the war. The general in command of the Southern side was hit in the leg and his femoral artery was cut. Knowing he was dying, he transferred command to Tew.

To receive the news Tew stood up and was immediately shot in the head by a Northern sniper, just three days before his commission would have ended and he would go home.



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Col. Charles Tew posed for a daguerreotype in 1860

At the time one Capt. Matthew Manly wrote: "During the battle in this bloody lane Colonel Charles Courtenay Tew was killed, his body falling into the hands of the enemy ... He was shot through the head and placed in the sunken road ... Here he was found, apparently unconscious, the blood streaming from a wound in the head, with his sword held in both hands across his knees. A Federal soldier attempted to take the sword from him, but he drew it toward his body with his last remaining strength, and then his grasp relaxed and he fell forward, dead" on what became known as The Bloody Road.

That Federal soldier was one Capt. Reid, who is said to have spoken with a British accent and was a Canadian serving with the North. He prised the sword from Tew's hands after the colonel expired.

Reid, who was known as a bit of a scoundrel, took the sword to Norwalk, Ohio, where it somehow passed to the local Odd Fellows Lodge. The weapon stayed in Norwalk for a time, eventually making its way into the hands of Amelia Blythe, Martin says. Blythe was a descendant of a prominent family connected to the lodge.

Confederate artifacts are often valuable because of rarity, but also because of the interest in the Civil War in the U.S. For a lesser known officer, a sword could fetch about \$30,000, Martin says, but because it belonged to a commandant of The Citadel, who was killed leading an army on a famous battlefield, it is "priceless."

"We believe it is only fitting to see that the sword is returned to the hands from whence it came. It is an amazing story. It's an artifact that has passed through many hands from south to north. It is a story of heroes and scoundrels, prominent families on both sides of the divide and a mystery spanning 150 years," Martin says.

Lt.-Col. David Goble of The Citadel said everyone at the academy is excited about the return of Col. Tew's sword.

"(He) was our first Honour Graduate and was accordingly the first person to ever receive a diploma from our institution. He was also the first president of The Citadel Alumni Association. We are extremely honoured by the 33 Signal Regiment's decision to repatriate the sword and very appreciative of the lengths they have gone to make it happen," Goble said.

"At the bloodiest one-day battle in American history, 23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded or missing after 12 hours of savage combat on Sept.

17, 1862. The Battle of Antietam ended the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia's first invasion into the North and led to Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation."

The Battles Of A Civil War Re-Enactress

NPR, JUNE 09, 2015

When J.R. Hardman, 28, asked to join a group of Civil War re-enactors in a military drill a few years ago, the unit commander said *no dice*.

Hardman was willing to wear the wool uniform, carry the gear, load the muskets, eat the hardtack, but the brass still said no.

Because ... J.R. Hardman is a woman. The unit commander told her to talk to his wife, who would help Hardman find a hoop skirt.

"I told him I wanted to be a soldier, and he informed me that they don't accept women in their unit at all," says Hardman from her home in Atlanta, where she is working on a documentary about women who dressed as men so they could fight in the real Civil War. The working title: *Reenactress*.

Gettysburg, No Dress

"I have been interested in the Civil War since I was in elementary school," says Hardman, who helps run a movie-festival program for college students. In 2012, she was in Gettysburg, Pa., to witness the annual battle re-enactment. "It was really hot so I bought a big hat from one of the period vendors, and I got mistaken for a re-enactor."

That was the first time, she says, "I realized that women could even portray soldiers, but I found out later that it's not always easy to find a welcoming group."



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Eventually, she was invited into the family-friendly 6th New York artillery unit of re-enactors and she joined them for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam. Hardman learned how to fire a cannon. "It was," she says, "one of the most exhilarating experiences I've ever had."

She has since also found an open-minded infantry unit — part of the Georgia Volunteer Battalion — to re-enact with. "Doing an infantry impression," Hardman says, is "a lot more physically taxing than artillery, because you have to carry your own weapon and gear and there's a lot more marching."

Tie Back My Hair

There is historical authenticity in the idea that Hardman must dress and act as a man in order to fit into contemporary re-creations of Civil War life.

After all, the small number of women — perhaps several hundred — who fought in the real Civil War did so disguised as men. Some fought to be near loved ones; others for better pay; still others for ideological reasons. Those dressed-as-men combatants are beacons to Hardman. For example:

Jennie Rodgers, an Illinois resident, enlisted at 21 as an infantryman named Albert Cashier. Her regiment fought in more than 40 engagements, the Civil War Trust reports. According to one account, Cashier was captured and imprisoned, but escaped. She lived out her life as a man and died in 1915, when her subterfuge was found out.

Sarah Rosetta Wakeman from New York state disguised herself as a man and enlisted in the Union Army, according to the Civil War Trust. She served as "Lyons Wakeman" from 1862 until her death in 1864.

Wakeman "fought in multiple battles and she actually died of dysentery without ever being discovered to be female," Hardman says. That secret was revealed many years later.

Loreta Velazquez apparently called herself Lt. Harry Buford and fought in the Battle of Bull Run, according to the Department of Defense. Details are sketchy. The Civil War Trust notes that Velazquez/Buford commanded a group of volunteers and eventually became a spy for the Confederacy.

After participating in more than a dozen re-enactments, Hardman tells pretty good tales. "Many units have a practice called 'powdering' or 'getting powdered,' " she says. "They make you pour a whole cartridge-worth of black powder into your hand, spit in it and then rub it all over your face like a beard. They tell you it's a way to keep you safe on the battlefield so that everyone knows you're 'seeing the elephant' for the first time — that it's your first battle — and they can make sure to keep an eye out for you. But it's also pretty clearly a mild form of hazing. I was never in a sorority — or a fraternity — but I imagine that's what joining one is like."



J.R. Hardman, dressed for Civil War re-enactment., photo O.K. Keyes/Courtesy of Reenactress

The Next Campaign

Hardman's firsthand re-enacting experiences, along with her filmmaking studies as a student at the University of Southern California, have inspired her to try to make a documentary.

For her work-in-progress, Hardman draws on the pioneer research of historians DeAnne Blanton and Lauren Cook Wike, who co-authored *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the Civil War* in 2003. Wike won a discrimination lawsuit against the National Park Service in the 1990s, the Los Angeles Times reported, that opened the door for women to participate in certain re-enactments.

Today women like Hardman can be found in uniform at re-enacting events — in homage to those who fought in the real Civil War.

She has spent three years and \$10,000 of her own money on the venture, she says. She is hoping to raise more capital through crowdfunding this summer.

Is Hardman also hoping — now that she has had some practice — to re-enlist as a man in that Confederate unit that rejected her in the first place? "I have definitely considered that," she says. "Trying to pass completely as a man is definitely a goal of mine for this project."

Custer and His Roommate Part Ways

By RONALD S. CODDINGTON,
NEW YORK TIMES, FEBRUARY
15, 2012



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On Feb. 15, 1862, the Confederate Congress approved a second lieutenant's appointment for Jim Parker, a thickset, redheaded West Pointer with eyes that matched the color of his uniform. Strangely, it was Parker's second stint at this rank.

The first time around, Parker had worn Union blue. In 1861, he received and accepted a brevet commission as a second lieutenant in the regular United States Army, following the traditional career path for West Point graduates. But this was an appointment he technically did not earn.

A chronic underachiever, Cadet Parker had habitually ranked toward the bottom of the class in demerits and academics, and he was eventually kicked out. The source of his troubles may have been the company he kept, which included his roommate, a future Union commander destined for infamy, George Armstrong Custer.

The stout, slow-moving Parker and the lanky, energetic Custer had been fast friends since they first met at West Point in 1857. A fellow cadet, Morris Schaff, who occupied a room near Parker and Custer in the West Point barracks, recalled "with that well-matched pair I fooled away many an hour that should have been devoted to study."

All three belonged to Company D, "the distinctively Southern company," Schaff noted, with somewhere between half to two-thirds of its ranks coming from the Southern states. Parker fit the company's Southern, well-to-do profile: he was the youngest of six children of the successful Kentucky physician John Todd Parker, and his first cousin was Mary Todd Lincoln.

West Point was less impressed with his background than others may have been, however, and he was let go in the last semester of his senior year, just before receiving his diploma and commission. But with the nation lurching toward war, diplomas were suddenly less important than skills, and Parker was given a brevet commission and an assignment to the Fourth Infantry in Washington.

On the morning of July 20, 1861, Parker lay asleep in a rented room at the Ebbitt House in Washington, when Custer showed up unannounced from New York. After the two men greeted each other, Custer anxiously asked Parker for the latest news from Virginia, where two opposing armies were converging near Manassas and all expected an imminent engagement. (The First Battle of Bull Run occurred the following day.)

Custer then asked about Parker's plans. Parker pointed to a document lying on a table near his bed. Custer read the paper, an official order from the War Department dismissing Parker "for having tendered his resignation in the face of the enemy." Like many of his Southern brethren, Parker would not fight against his homeland.

Custer and Parker spent another hour discussing the war. Custer, as he later recalled, then bade a fond farewell to my former friend and classmate, with whom I had lived on terms of closer intimacy and companionship than with any other being. We had eaten day by day at the same table, had struggled together in the effort to master the same problems of study; we had marched by each other's side year after year, elbow to elbow, when engaged in the duties of drill, parade,

etc., and had shared our blankets with each other when learning the requirements of camp life. Henceforth this was all to be thrust from our memory as far as possible, and our paths and aims in life were to run counter to each other in the future.

Parker went immediately to Richmond, where he soon received his new commission in the Confederate Army — to fight, Custer later wrote with ill-concealed enmity, "under a flag raised in rebellion against the Government that had educated him, and that he had sworn to defend." There is no record that the two men ever crossed paths again.

Within a day's time Custer arrived on the battlefield of Bull Run and became caught up in the chaotic retreat following the collapse of the Union lines. Thus began the legendary career of the dashing and flamboyant cavalry officer: He charged into the war with boldness and reckless courage, slashing his way to glory at Gettysburg and other memorable battlefields. He ended the war with the stars of a major general and one of the most distinguished records of any horse soldier, North or South.

Meanwhile, Parker received his second lieutenant's bars and an assignment to the Confederate artillery corps. In May 1862, military authorities dispatched him to the Mississippi River stronghold of Vicksburg with the stars of a lieutenant colonel on his uniform collar. As commander of the First Mississippi Light Artillery, he and his gunners successfully defended the key bastion against Union ironclad warship attacks during the summer of 1862.

He left Vicksburg later that year for duty at Port Hudson, La., just upriver



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from Baton Rouge, where he served as chief of heavy artillery to Maj. Gen. Franklin Gardner. Though the Union controlled New Orleans, possession of this fortress city enabled Confederates to control the 240-mile stretch of the Mississippi River between it and Vicksburg. Parker served in this capacity during the 48-day siege that ended in surrender on July 8, 1863, four days after the fall of Vicksburg made Port Hudson untenable. Parker would spend the rest of the war as a Union prisoner.

In July 1865, Parker signed an oath of allegiance to the federal government and gained his release, after which, like his more famous former roommate, he headed west. He settled in the New Mexico Territory county of Sierra, living in the silver-mining boomtown of Kingston. He put his West Point education to work as a civil engineer and also served as the county's first assessor. One townsman recalled that Parker led a grand opening march into a new dance hall in Kingston in 1882. "He managed to get his 275 pounds into his old West Point dress uniform. His partner in the grand march was Big Annie, a lady from Missouri. She was corn-fed and the least that can be said about her size is that she was a grand partner for the colonel. She was dressed to kill."

Parker died in 1918 at about age 79, outliving Custer by more than four decades. He never married.