



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

National Park Advocates and Local Residents File Legal Challenge to "Wilderness Wal-Mart"

Approval

CWi, September 24, 2009

Residents of Orange and Spotsylvania Counties joined with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Friends of Wilderness Battlefield today in filing a legal challenge against a proposed big-box development on the Wilderness Battlefield. The huge 240,000-square foot commercial development would harm the historic battlefield and encroach upon the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park.

The challenge filed today asserts that the County Board of Supervisors failed to gather and consider important information about negative effects on the County, its citizens and its historic resources. The County has responsibilities to protect those historic resources under Virginia law and under the County's own Comprehensive Plan for development. Yet the Board brushed aside the concerns, objections and offers of assistance from the Governor and the Speaker of the House of Delegates of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the National Park Service, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 250 Civil War experts, and others. "Even in the face of widespread opposition," the complaint asserts, "the Board failed to obtain critical information about the historic importance of the Wal-Mart site and the impact of approving the special use permit on the National Military Park."

The challenge was filed with the Circuit Court of Orange County. In addition to the non-profit National Trust for Historic Preservation and Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, six residents who live in close proximity to the proposed Wal-Mart superstore site have joined the lawsuit as plaintiffs.

"We have joined with concerned local residents to file this lawsuit challenging Orange County's approval of Wal-Mart's over-sized and inappropriate commercial development in order to protect the Wilderness Battlefield, National Park, and the citizens of Orange County," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which owns 2,700 acres and James Madison's Montpelier in Orange County, Virginia. "It's our obligation to challenge big-box development on this vulnerable site, which would compound earlier land-use planning missteps and eventually would radically urbanize the rural gateway to the National Park."

The site of the proposed Wal-Mart superstore, along with 100,000 square feet of additional commercial development, stands on unprotected land within the historic boundaries of the Wilderness Battlefield and is immediately adjacent to the Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, which was established by Congress in 1927. In a split vote, the Orange County Board of Supervisors voted to approve a special use permit allowing Wal-Mart's 240,000-square foot project to proceed on August 25, 2009.

"A nationally significant and highly vulnerable historic site is at great risk," noted Zann Nelson, president of Friends of Wilderness Battlefield. "The local government's

approval of this special use permit poses real and irreversible threats to the historic place. The Wal-Mart project would irrevocably harm the battlefield and seriously undermine the visitor's experience of the National Park."

"This lawsuit asserts that the Board of Supervisors was determined to approve the extensive Wal-Mart development on Wilderness Battlefield — a national icon for a battle in which 30,000 Americans were casualties — at whatever cost or damage to the battlefield or to the National Park," said plaintiffs' counsel Robert Rosenbaum of the law firm of Arnold & Porter. "The Board therefore failed to gather and weigh properly all the facts and independent expert views that any reasonable person would consider when voting on such a development under those circumstances."

"The National Trust and its partners in the Wilderness Battlefield Coalition stand ready to assist Wal-Mart to find an alternative location away from the battlefield and National Park," Richard Moe added. "We do not oppose Wal-Mart or other large scale retail operations in Orange County, and we certainly acknowledge the benefits these stores may offer to the public. Wal-Mart can serve residents of Orange County and resolve this controversy by reconsidering and relocating its superstore center away from the battlefield and National Park."

Moe also noted that Virginia Governor Tim Kaine and Speaker of the House of Delegates Bill Howell have offered the technical support of the Commonwealth to help identify an alternative site.

Wal-Mart's proposal has generated considerable opposition both locally and throughout the nation. In addition



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to the July 13, 2009 letter and offer of help from Governor Kaine and Speaker Howell, the proposal has been denounced by many of the nation's top historians, including Pulitzer Prize-winning authors James McPherson and David McCullough, as well as renowned filmmaker Ken Burns. Others who have spoken out against the proposal include Academy Award-winning actors Richard Dreyfuss and Robert Duvall, as well as Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) and U.S. Congressmen Ted Poe (R-TX) and Peter Welch (D-VT).

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Friends of Wilderness Battlefield are members of the Wilderness Battlefield Coalition, an alliance of national, regional and local organizations with an abiding interest in the preservation of the historic Wilderness Battlefield in Orange and Spotsylvania counties, Virginia.

Civil War Times, The Artilleryman publisher C. Peter Jorgensen dies

Firerescue.com, September 28, 2009 Civil War Times publisher C. Peter Jorgensen died of cancer at his home in Tunbridge, Vt., on Sept. 25 at age 68.

He grew up in Arlington, Mass., where he joined the auxiliary fire department when he was 18.

During college he and friends ran a Boston news photo agency that supplied fire and emergency services photos to wire services and local newspapers.

He and his wife Kathryn, a Boston University journalism master's program classmate, bought The Arlington Advocate in 1969.

When they sold their company in 1986 they had six suburban weekly newspapers.

He also published four Vermont and New Hampshire weeklies in the mid-1970s and The Commercial and Financial Chronicle in New York City, which he bought in 1973.



Photo courtesy Firerescue.com

In 1986 Jorgensen and his wife started Historical Publications, which now publishes The Artilleryman, a quarterly magazine he founded in 1978; Civil War News, a current events newspaper started in 1988; and Fire Apparatus, the national fire service industry magazine Jorgensen started in 1996.

He owned Firetec Apparatus Sales from 1996 to 2002 and served on the Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association board of directors from 1998 to 2001.

Jorgensen was a dedicated first responder and carried his own jump kit and defibrillator.

A highlight of his career came in May 2003 near Winchester, Va., when he revived a collapsed man with his defibrillator.

His varied interests and collections included military history, especially Civil War and World War II books and art, Mack fire trucks, cannons, John

Deere tractors, bamboo fly rods and Civil War artifacts.

He competed in carbine, musket, revolver, cannon and mortar events in the North-South Skirmish Association.

Jorgensen held an associate in arts degree and bachelor of science and master of science degrees in journalism from Boston University.

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn, of Tunbridge, a brother, sister and two nephews.

Gettysburg Electric Map could make a comeback

By ERIN JAMES, York Daily Record/Sunday News, September 13, 2009

The Electric Map might have a place at the new Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center after all.

More than 16 months since the famous map's last showing, visitors continue to ask about the Gettysburg icon, park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon said.

She said rave reviews of the new museum center are often punctuated by a single comment from visitors: "I really wish that you still had the map." Park officials have taken note, she said, and are in the middle of an "experiment" they hope will satisfy those visitors and critics who have argued that the 46-year-old Electric Map deserves to have a place in the new facility.

Their idea is to create a film "based on the Electric Map presentation" that would orient visitors to Gettysburg history -- and give them an alternative to viewing the museum's current film, "A New Birth of Freedom."

The details of how it would work are still sketchy, but Lawhon said the Electric Map film has potential to create a better visitor experience.



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"The common ground here is that for people who are coming to the park and they want to see the Electric Map, it's a way to meet their needs," she said.

Created in 1963 by Joseph Rosensteel, the Electric Map used lights to depict troop movements during the Battle of Gettysburg. It could be viewed by the public for \$4 before the old visitor center on Taneytown Road was closed last April.

Though the Electric Map had originally been included in the park's general-management plan as one of three pay-to-see "interpretive venues," park officials ultimately decided not to reopen the exhibit at the new site on Baltimore Pike. They cited a lack of interest from the public and an opportunity for new technology.

Then, a year ago, some suggested reinstating the Electric Map as a means of generating revenue after the park announced its plan to institute an admission fee for the previously free museum. Officials had projected a \$1.78 million shortfall.

But park and foundation officials said they believed the potential revenue from the Electric Map would not resolve the overall problem.

The Electric Map was disassembled earlier this year and placed in storage, where it remains today.



Lightbulbs marked the troop movements on the old Gettysburg Electric Map. Blue showed the Union; orange, the Confederates. (DAILY RECORD / SUNDAY NEWS -- FILE)

But before it was taken apart, the Electric Map presentation was filmed, Park Superintendent John Latschar said Thursday. The film is being edited, he said.

"When it's ready, we're just going to run an experiment," Latschar said, adding that park officials have heard from many visitors who "desperately missed the map."

The experiment, Latschar said, will be to show both the Electric Map film and "A New Birth of Freedom" simultaneously "and let visitors vote." Asked to explain further, Lawhon said that doesn't mean the park intends to offer only the more popular film. Rather, she said, visitors will likely have a choice of which film they'd like to view before moving on to the Cyclorama painting presentation. That's possible because there are two theaters in the museum.

Calling it a hybrid of old and new technology, Lawhon stressed the Electric Map film is still an experiment.

"If we get it up and running, we would probably leave it as a second option," she said.

Gettysburg 2009/2010 Deer Management Program Announced

National Park Service Press Release, September 18, 2009

In October, the National Park Service (NPS) will continue its program of deer management at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, park officials have announced.

Gettysburg and Eisenhower national parks are reducing the number of deer in the parks directly by shooting. All venison will be donated to area food banks. Hunting is not permitted inside the two parks—only qualified

federal employees will take part in the effort to reduce the herd.

Deer management is an unfortunate necessity of preserving the Gettysburg and Eisenhower parks. Intense browsing by high numbers of deer damages the historic landscapes. We need to protect the historic woodlots and the farm fields in order to tell the story of these two parks," said park Superintendent John Latschar.

The deer management program will continue through the end of March. Annual deer reductions will continue from October through March each year, as necessary. A deer reduction community safety committee meets as needed on matters of public safety related to the program. The committee is composed of the local Pennsylvania Game Commission officer, the Chiefs of Police from Gettysburg Borough and Cumberland Township, the Chairman of the Gettysburg National Military Park Advisory Commission and the park Superintendent, Chief Ranger, and Natural Resource Specialist.

In 1995 an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) described and considered a variety of options for meeting park objectives for deer management, including public hunting, relocation, and the use of sterilization and contraception. Hundreds of people participated in the public review of the EIS and many commented on it in writing. The NPS decided to reduce the number of deer in the parks through shooting.

A deer density goal of 25 deer per square mile of forest was established in the EIS. The park has now reached that goal and will continue to manage deer to maintain the level of 25 deer per square mile of forest.



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Philadelphia Civil War museum's artifacts to be displayed elsewhere

By Edward Colimore, Philadelphia Inquirer, September 26, 2009

They're stored in crates, bubble wrap, and archival boxes, locked away and awaiting their fate at an undisclosed Philadelphia storage facility.

Under the packaging are wool uniforms and glistening swords worn by great generals of the Civil War, men who helped preserve the Union. Next to them are muskets, sidearms, and flags carried into desperate battles that determined the nation's fate.

Since the closing of the Civil War Museum on Pine Street more than a year ago, at least 3,000 artifacts have been unseen by the public.

Now come plans to put them on display again at other institutions in Philadelphia and Gettysburg while the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia seeks funding for a new home in the city, museum president and chief executive officer Sharon Smith said.

The collection would be exhibited and cared for over the next three years at the Gettysburg National Park Visitors Center, the National Constitution Center, and the African American Museum in Philadelphia, according to an interim plan.

Some of the historic treasures also would be in a traveling exhibit visiting sites in Pennsylvania and across the country during the 150th anniversary of the war.

With no money for a building and no desire to leave Philadelphia, museum officials proposed the plan, which is expected to be approved in an order issued soon by Philadelphia Common Pleas Court Judge Anne E. Lazarus.

"This is the best 'plan B' we could imagine because the collection will be

taken care of and seen in different venues, and the museum board can concentrate on building a museum in Philadelphia," Smith said.

The board set the goal of opening the new museum by 2014, "but that's the outer edge," she added. "We hope to have it before then."

Smith said the board would spend the next six to eight months revising its plans to increase public and private support for the museum and would identify a new location in an existing building in Philadelphia.

The Civil War institution's move follows the Rendell administration's refusal to provide \$8 million to \$10 million in promised capital funding. That prompted the loss of the museum's planned new location at the historic First Bank of the United States in the heart of Independence National Historical Park.

Museum officials sought funding from the legislature, but with so many competing interests across the state, their pleas didn't receive the needed support.

By July, Smith spoke of being forced to make preparations to move the collection within weeks if financial support couldn't be found.

"Since we couldn't get funding to build a museum and we lost the First Bank," Smith said, "a new plan was needed if we are going to reach our ultimate goal."

Given all the possibilities, "the dissolution of the collection or permanent relocation outside of the city or state, this keeps the dream alive for a Civil War museum in Philadelphia," said Gary Steuer, the city's chief cultural officer.

"This is an interim step that allows the collection to be kept intact and conserved to the highest standards with strong partners that have the

capacity to place some of the collection in front of the public."

Steuer, who also serves as director of the city's office of arts, culture, and the creative economy, said the museum must now look for a combination of public and private financial support while waiting for the economy to pick up.

The plan "is not my first choice," said State Rep. James R. Roebuck Jr. (D., Phila.) of West Philadelphia. "But it is a reasonable choice given the circumstances we find ourselves in."

"Everyone was influenced by the downturn in the economy," he added, while laying much of the blame on Harrisburg. "It's frustrating that the political leadership is lacking. I do very much put that responsibility on the governor . . . possibly a new governor might help."

In the meantime, "the collection will go to Gettysburg for care in their state-of-the-art facility and for exhibition," Smith said. "Artifacts related to abolition and the U.S. Colored Troops will be exhibited at the African American Museum in a new exhibit they will develop."

Artifacts from the collection also "will be used by the National Constitution Center for a 150th anniversary exhibit that will open here in Philadelphia and then travel in the commonwealth and nationally."

The Civil War Museum will work with the Gettysburg Foundation, which operates the Gettysburg National Park Visitors Center, and the National Constitution Center to choose the artifacts to be displayed in the center's exhibition as well as its traveling exhibition.

"For us, the [Philadelphia Civil War Museum's] 'plan B' is our 'plan A,'" said Steve Frank, vice president of education and exhibits at the Constitution Center. "We're able to



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collaborate to develop a world-class exhibition."

That exhibition will remain in Philadelphia for at least nine months before traveling," Smith said.

Dru Neil, a spokeswoman at the Gettysburg Foundation, said the organization would talk with the Civil War Museum of Philadelphia "about potential arrangements" for the collection. Nothing definite has been planned.

An official at the African American Museum in Philadelphia, who declined to be named, said the museum "is happy to help in any way we can" but no arrangements have been made so far to receive artifacts. Former Union officers established the Civil War Museum in 1888, and with their families donated artifacts and memorabilia over the years until a house was bought in 1922 in the 1800 block of Pine Street to display the collection.

The collection, now in storage, includes items connected with the great heroes of the war along with others specifically connected to Philadelphia.

There are blue wool frocks once worn by generals including Ulysses S. Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman, and George Gordon Meade; Confederate President Jefferson Davis' ornate smoking jacket, taken when he was captured in 1865; and plaster casts of Abraham Lincoln's face and hands.

"This collection begs for display, interpretation, and public scrutiny," said Andy Waskie, a Civil War historian, author, and Temple University professor who serves on the board of the Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Library in the city's Frankford section. "Given the fast-approaching sesquicentennial of the Civil War era,

it is even more essential that this museum be preserved and open to the public and its collections available to inspire and educate."

SCV DECLARES HAYWARD SHEPHERD DAY

SCV Press Release, September 30, 2009

The Army of Northern Virginia of the Sons of Confederate Veterans will kick off the Sesquicentennial of the War Between the States on Saturday, October 3, in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, by holding their annual meeting beginning at 10:30 at the Block house (John Brown's Fort). The purpose of the meeting is to announce that October 16 will be known as HAYWARD SHEPHERD DAY, honoring the unfortunate black citizen who met his death as John Brown's first victim 150 years ago. Hayward, a faithful employee and Baggage Master of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was murdered in furtherance of John Brown's nefarious scheme to capture the arsenal in that famous city. The SCV will honor Hayward Shepherd by placing a wreath at the 1931 marker honoring him across from the Engine House where Brown's raid ended.

Citadel believes it has found the original 'Big Red,' its Civil War-era flag

By Diane Knich - The (Charleston) Post and Courier, October 1, 2009
CHARLESTON -- In the days leading to the Civil War, a battery of Citadel cadets on Morris Island fired at the supply ship "Star of the West" as it approached Fort Sumter, forcing the ship to turn around.

A red palmetto flag flew over the cadets during the attack on Jan. 9,

1861, which marked a victory for them, and was a significant precursor to the war.

The war officially began on April 12, 1861, with the Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter. But some Citadel alumni and others consider the shots fired at "Star of the West" to be the first shots of the Civil War.

The red palmetto flag, a symbol of victory in that battle, became a powerful symbol for the state's military college. The school adopted a replica of the red palmetto flag as its "spirit flag" in 1992 and called it "Big Red." But nobody knew, until now, what happened to the original flag.

The school has found what almost certainly is the original, Civil War-era "Big Red" in a museum in Iowa. The flag was donated to the museum by a Civil War veteran from Iowa in 1919, and has been sitting in a storage closet for nearly a century.

The State Historical Society of Iowa, which owns the flag, and a history committee from The Citadel Alumni Association have determined through forensic and historical research that the flag in Iowa is very likely the one that flew on Morris Island on Jan. 9, 1861.

Finding the original flag is great news for The Citadel, said Ted "Tex" Curtis, chairman of the Citadel Historical Council and a 1964 graduate of the school. The flag is not only "a priceless, historic artifact," he said. "It literally is The Citadel. It goes right to the beginning."

After seeing a photograph of the original flag, Citadel leaders now know that the replica they have been using has historical inaccuracies, Curtis said.

A committee of the school's Board of Visitors voted Thursday to begin using the historically correct version



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of the flag as its "spirit flag," and to assign intellectual property rights in "Big Red" to The Citadel Alumni Association. The full board will take a final vote on the matter today.



This is believed to be the original 'Big Red,' the flag flown on Jan. 9, 1861, when Citadel cadets fired on the Star of the West. Source: The (Charleston) Post and Courier

The flag in the Iowa museum has a red background with a large white palmetto tree in the center and an inward-facing white crescent in the upper-left corner. The replica the school has been using has a smaller white palmetto tree on a red background, with a white outward-facing crescent in the upper-left corner.

The direction of the crescent is important, Curtis said, because an inward-facing crescent was, at the time, a common symbol of secession in the Charleston area.

The fact that the flag in Iowa carries the secession symbol makes it more likely that it is the flag that flew on Morris Island, he said.

Ed Carter, president of The Citadel Alumni Association, said his group is now in discussions with the State Historical Society of Iowa about bringing the flag to The Citadel on long-term loan.

From S.C. to Iowa

Michael O. Smith, director of Iowa's State Historical Museum, said the museum has a collection of Civil War battle flags. The red palmetto flag was donated to the museum by Willard Baker in 1919. Baker, a Civil

War veteran, said only that he "got the flag in Mobile, Ala., at the end of the Civil War," Smith said. Baker didn't say specifically how he got the flag, Smith said. Because museum officials have such limited information about how he acquired it, they can't guarantee the flag is original, he said, but added that it likely is.

A report from the Citadel Alumni Association's Historic Council, a four-member group that has been researching the flag for nearly two years, states that Baker was a private in a volunteer infantry unit involved in the capture of Fort Blakeley, which is near Mobile, Ala., in April 1865.

The report also states that according to historical records, Capt. James F. Culpepper, an 1854 graduate of the Citadel Academy, and his battery were at Fort Blakeley when it fell.

Culpepper had been a student of Maj. Peter F. Stevens, who was superintendent of The Citadel during the time "The Star of the West" was fired upon and commander of cadets on Morris Island.

According to the report, a news report in 1861 stated that the Hugh Vincent family designed a red palmetto flag and presented it to Stevens between Jan. 1 and 4, 1861, to be used by the Citadel battery at Fort Morris.

It's likely that Culpepper and his men had the flag when they arrived at Fort Blakeley, and that Baker got the flag from them, and brought it home to Iowa, Curtis said.

Curtis and Smith said The Citadel and the State Historical Society of Iowa shared research and came to the same conclusions about the flag's likely authenticity. Curtis said the important factors included: the inward-facing crescent; results of forensic tests; written historical accounts; and similarities between the red palmetto flag and the other

flags known to have been made by flag-maker Hugh Vincent.

Smith said the flag has been in a storage closet since 1919. Officials knew it was from South Carolina because of the palmetto, but they didn't know the flag's significance.

Curtis said a woman, who wants to remain anonymous, posted information about the flag on the Internet in 2007. Some Citadel alumni saw it and began conducting research with the State Historical Society of Iowa. It took nearly two years to determine the huge 10-foot-by-7-foot flag was likely the original "Big Red," Carter said.

"Until now, nobody knew what the real 'Big Red' looked like," he said. But soon, he said, "you'll see it on license plates, T-shirts, logos and decals."

Probe: No Gettysburg wrongdoing

By Mark Scoloro, Associated Press, September 29, 2009

HARRISBURG - Investigators have found no evidence that the superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park engaged in criminal activity while running the historic Civil War site, according to a U.S. Interior Department report issued yesterday.

It also said there was no support for claims of financial mismanagement and possible fraud in connection with the park's new \$103 million museum and visitors' center, built and operated by the nonprofit Gettysburg Foundation.

"While the general agreement between the park and the foundation is a controversial partnership, our investigation uncovered no evidence of fraud in the creation or operation of the partnership," the department's Office of Inspector General concluded.



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Civil War soldier from N.Y. comes home

Michael Risini, LoHud.com,
September 16, 2009

CORTLANDT, NY - A sense of duty and maybe a railroad car or a steamer set in motion his service to a still-young nation, culminating with a march to the rolling fields of Maryland.

He came home Tuesday - 147 years after he died on a Civil War battlefield. There was no family to welcome him back, no mother, no sweetheart. But veterans and the New York Army National Guard were waiting for him. Among them was John Tibbs of Peekskill whose great-great-grandfather fought with the Confederacy.

"I think about what might have happened back then. I just wanted to be part of it. This is something. It's all I can say," Tibbs said.

He is a former Marine and a member of Rolling Thunder, a motorcycle group that honors veterans. Tibbs was among some three dozen motorcyclists that escorted the unknown soldier's coffin from Interstate 287 in New Jersey to the Guard's Camp Smith in Cortlandt. He was placed in the post's Duffy Chapel. A flag with 34 stars - the number of states in the Union when the conflict broke out - covered his coffin.

This much is known: He was between 17 and 19 years old, he came from New York and he died in the Battle of Antietam. He will be laid to rest Thursday in the Saratoga National Cemetery with full military honors - a more secure spot than the shallow grave-turned-woodchuck burrow where he was found in October.

A hiker spotted some bone fragments in soil excavated by a woodchuck digging a new home.

Several New York regiments fought in that part of the battlefield known as the Cornfield during the morning of Sept. 17, 1862. Union forces were trying to repel the invading Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee and his men.

About 23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, missing or captured during the 12-hour fight, and 134 remain missing. Two days later, a New York Times correspondent described the carnage from the war's bloodiest one-day battle.

"Mangled humanity in all its ghastly forms could be seen in this field, to the left, to the right, behind and before, on every hand the eye beheld the horrors of the field," he reported.

The dead were buried where they fell and later transferred to the Antietam National Cemetery. But the unknown New Yorker remained unseen until the woodchuck tossed him out a few days before Halloween last year.



Members of the New York Army National Guard honor guard receive the remains of an unknown soldier from New York, one of about 23,000 casualties of the Battle of Antietam on Sept. 17, 1862. The remains were discovered last year on the Maryland battlefield.

Archaeologists ultimately found 401 bone fragments, from just chips to a portion of his jaw. A partial eruption of a wisdom tooth along with unfused skull bones determined his age. Uniform buttons with the word

"Excelsior" - the state's motto meaning "Ever Upward" - marked him as a New Yorker.

New York supplied more than 17 percent of the soldiers in the Union Army. The unknown young man could just as easily be from the Lower Hudson Valley as he could be from Rochester or Albany.

But John Howard, superintendent of the Antietam National Battlefield, rests easy knowing this soldier's circle is no longer unbroken.

"The long and short of it is this: He's getting a chance to go home. No soldier should be left behind," he said.

Anti-Museum Amendments Defeated in the Senate

National Coalition for History,
September 20, 2009

During floor consideration of the fiscal year 2010 Transportation Appropriations bill (HR 3288) an amendment offered by Senators Tom Coburn (R-OK) and John McCain (R-AZ) which would have prohibited any funding in the bill for museums was defeated by a vote of 41-57.

An additional Coburn/McCain amendment, which would have waived a requirement that states set aside 10% of their overall funding for Transportation Enhancements (including historic preservation and museums, among other programs), was also defeated by a vote of 39-59. Senator Coburn had initially offered another amendment that would have prohibited funding from going to transportation museums and other TE projects, but later withdrew it.

According to the American Association of Museums, since 1992 the Transportation Enhancement Program has provided at least \$110.6 million to support museums.



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Michigan Group honors 'forgotten' soldier

Sons of Union Veterans dedicate headstone to Civil War casualty Barbara Wieland, Lansing (MI) State Journal, September 28, 2009

Harmon Paddelford was 24 years old when he said goodbye to his sweetheart and left his home in Lansing to go to war.

But unlike so many young soldiers who have said similar farewells in recent years, Paddelford wasn't headed to Iraq or Afghanistan. The trip he made 147 years ago was to Washington, D.C., where he would help guard the nation's capital during the Civil War.

Paddelford didn't make it home alive. He died of disease three months after leaving home. And with no children or siblings to carry on his memory, Paddelford was forgotten - until recently.

Last year, local historian Craig Whitford stumbled upon the diary written by Paddelford's sweetheart. Whitford, a member of the Sons of Union Veterans, made it his mission to learn and tell Paddelford's story. The effort resulted in the dedication of a headstone for Paddelford on Saturday at Mount Hope Cemetery in Lansing.

"I wanted recognition for someone who gave so much of himself," Whitford said. "There was no one left to remember him."

Whitford also noted Paddelford's civic pride. At the age of 19, Paddelford helped found Lansing's first organized fire brigade.

He also fell in love. His sweetheart, Lucy Camp, detailed their sleigh rides and visits together in her diary. When Paddelford answered President Abraham Lincoln's call to duty at the outbreak of the Civil War, she was distraught.

Both she and Paddelford doubted he would make it home alive. An idealistic zeal guided his actions.

"I know he thought he would never return from the war but these were his words, 'Lucy I must go for what is our country worth if the South gains the day.' Noble words were those yet how could I let him go. My life was all a blank without him," she wrote.

The premonition proved true. Paddelford left for Washington on Sept. 1, 1862. He died three months later of typhoid fever.

Paddelford's body was returned to Lansing. He was first buried in the City Cemetery and then moved to the Mount Hope Cemetery in 1875. A tombstone to mark his grave eventually toppled and was covered by soil and grass until Whitford rediscovered it.

Members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, dressed in historical army uniforms, conducted the ceremony. It was capped with shots fired by a squad.

"I have a great appreciation for what the war did to this country and how it terribly disrupted people's lives," said Meridian Historical Village director Jane Rose, who attended the ceremony.

"It's critically important to remember not only what happened, but why it happened."



Craig Whitford (center) of the Sons of Union Veterans dedicates the headstone of Cpl. Harmon Paddelford at Mount Hope cemetery. Photo by ROBERT KILLIPS/Lansing State Journal

Additional Facts

From the diary of Lucy Camp

Lucy Camp, who was courted by Harmon Paddelford in her early 20s, wrote about their relationship in her diary. Here are some excerpts from her diary from the year 1862: Aug. 10: I was sick. I had a chill and then fever. Harmon came down to see me P.M. I though feeble arose and spent the evening with him ... I felt it would be but few times that we should meet on earth and I must improve every moment.

Aug. 12: Tuesday morn was down to see me, wanted me to go and have a ride. I was so feeble I could not go, but oh, how I wanted to go with him once more.

December: The 30th day of November the Idol of my heart died away from home and away from friends with the Typhoid Fever. He was out of his head for five days before he died. Oh, that I could have seen him once more, once more to have placed that kiss upon his cheek. Once more to have clasped him to my bosom, but his is gone never to return.

He was brought home. Arrived in town Dec. 27. I saw him on the 28. The 29 he was buried, peace to his ashes. May 1, when done with earth, lie by his side, though we are now separated, may we meet again in that land where parting is no more. FINAL NOTE: There is no indication that Camp ever married. At the age of 36, she was listed as unmarried in a city directory. She then disappears from city records.



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Harpers Ferry National Historical Park to be Featured in United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters

US Mint Press Release, September 13, 2009

The United States Mint announced today that the nation will honor Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia through its new quarter-dollar coin program. The Harpers Ferry design will be the 33rd to be featured on coins released under the United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters Program, and will be issued in 2016.

Located at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, the history of Harpers Ferry has involved a diverse number of people and events influencing the course of our Nation's history. Harpers Ferry witnessed the first successful application of interchangeable manufacture, the arrival of the first successful American railroad, John Brown's attack on slavery, the largest surrender of Federal troops during the Civil War and the education of former slaves in one of the earliest integrated schools in the United States. It was established as a national site in 1944.

The United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters Program is a multi-year initiative authorized by Public Law 110-456 -- the America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008. The Act directs the United States Mint to mint and issue 56 circulating quarter-dollar coins with reverse (tails side) designs emblematic of a national park or other national site in each state, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories -- Puerto Rico, Guam, American

Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands. The quarters will be issued sequentially each year, in the order in which the featured site was first established as a national park or site. The coins' obverse (heads) will feature a restored version of the familiar 1932 portrait of George Washington, including subtle details and the beauty of the original model.

"These new quarters will honor some of our most revered, treasured and beautiful national sites - majestic and historic places located throughout the United States and its territories that truly make us 'America the Beautiful,'" United States Mint Director Ed Moy said. "The designs will help reinvigorate interest in our national parks, forests, fish and wildlife refuges and other national sites, as well as educate the public about their importance to us and our history."

Secretary of the Treasury Timothy F. Geithner approved the list of sites recommended by the United States Mint on August 25, 2009, after consultation with the governor or chief executive of each host jurisdiction and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

Civil War Skeleton Sale Sparks New Law

State Bans Sale of Human Remains, Grave Goods

Thebostonchannel.com, September 25, 2009

BOSTON -- New Hampshire officials have banned the sale of human remains and items buried with a person after an auction house put the skeletal remains of a Civil War soldier up for sale.

Earlier this month, Granite State officials changed the law that allowed human remains and grave goods to be sold on the open market in the state.

Human remains include not only the remains of the person, but also jewelry, clothing, memorabilia and other personal items that were buried with a person. Medical specimens have been and still are exempted from the law.

Archaeologists and Native Americans have been concerned with the traffic in human remains and grave goods because it has been viewed both as a desecration and as a threat to the state's heritage.

The issue came into focus in October 2005 when an auction house in New Hampshire wanted to sell the skeletal remains and grave goods of a Civil War casualty. The person was a member of a New York regiment and was buried at Haxall's Landing in Virginia, probably during the Union retreat from Malvern Hill. Illegally excavated, the skeletal remains and grave goods -- weapons, bullets, belt buckles and personal effects -- were offered for auction from the estate of a Civil War relic collector.

The Sons of Union Veterans contacted state archaeologist Dr. Richard Boisvert in order to stop the sale. Because the excavation of the grave and transportation of the remains and grave goods was illegal, their sale was halted and eventually the remains were returned to New York for reinterment.

Enforcement of the new law hinges on education of auctioneers and antiquities dealers, officials said. If a violation is suspected, the relevant county attorney should be notified