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National parks repairs lagging

WAYNESBORO — National parks, including Shenandoah National Park, are facing historically high maintenance backlogs, say experts at the National Parks Conservation Association.

"It's been a problem for awhile," said Pamela Goddard, a program manager for the association. "But this year, it's worse."

The park system as a whole has a nearly \$11 billion maintenance backlog — which includes maintenance of roads, buildings, the parks themselves, historical sites, educational programs and more, said John Garder, a budget analyst for the

association. More than \$3 billion of the backlog is what is considered "critical systems" maintenance, non-road maintenance items that include replacing and repairing sewer systems, roofing work on park buildings and public safety projects. "Many park programs are already on life support," Goddard said. "And Congress) is trying to pull the plug on them."

The backlog at Shenandoah National Park is \$74 million, but that number fluctuates as projects are completed and new projects arise, said Karen Beck-Herzog, a public affairs officer at the park.

"Many of these are shovel-ready projects," said Beck-Herzog, meaning the design, compliance and environmental assessments have already been done.

"Once the money is appropriated, we can begin construction right away." The park, which receives on average \$5 million a year for operational costs and \$2 million to \$3 million for project funding, has received substantial

one-time funding allocations in recent years from the American Recovery and Restoration Act: \$30 million in 2010 and \$5 million this year. "That has made a tremendous difference," Beck-Herzog said. "But there are still significant challenges." The shortfall couldn't come at a worse time for parks, which are seeing an uptick in visitors due to the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, Garder said.

The First Battle of Bull Run, also known as First Manassas, for example, celebrated its 150-year anniversary on July 21, 2011.

As a result, July visitations to Manassas National Battlefield Park increased from less than 65,000 in 2010 to more than 85,000 this year, Garder said, an increase of more than 20 percent.

"Civil War anniversary events offer substantial economic benefits for many park gateway communities," said Garder, adding that parks are struggling to meet the demands of increased visitation.

Virginia has 123 Civil War battlefields, by far the most of any state, Goddard said, likely leading to a "huge influx of tourists from all over the world."

In response to the concerns, President Obama's proposed fiscal year 2012 budget calls for an increase of \$39.5 million for park operations, citing, among other factors, about \$12 billion spent by 285 million park visitors in 2009, which supported 247,000 private-sector jobs, according to the budget proposal.

A competing budget proposal supported by Republicans in the House of Representatives, known as the Path to Prosperity, does not address the National Park Service directly but calls for cuts to

"nondefense discretionary spending," which includes park services.

A Hispanic Month Tribute To Moses Ezekiel

By Calvin E. Johnson, Jr., October 3, 2011

"The death of Moses Ezekiel, the distinguished and greatly loved American sculptor, who lived in Rome for more than forty years, caused universal regret here"---1921, The New York Times Dispatch from Rome.

Arlington National Cemetery is located in the shadow of the Custis-Lee Mansion (Arlington House) that was home to General Robert E. Lee and his family until 1861, and the beginning of the War Between the States. This cemetery was first used in 1864, for the burial of Union soldiers.

Tours, through this famous burial place of President Kennedy, General Wainwright and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, are conducted daily. I have been told that another part of this cemetery (section 16) may sometimes be overlooked. It is, however, an important part of our nation's history and should be a part of your guided tour through Arlington.

On June 4, 1914, the President of the U.S., Woodrow Wilson spoke at the dedication of a new Confederate memorial at section 16. The monument, to those Confederate soldiers who were re-interred there in 1900, has been called by some people as both striking and unique. This monument was trusted into safe keeping to the U.S. War Department by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1914. It was a tradition of American presidents to place a wreath and some even spoke there on Memorial Day. What



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has happened to this wonderful tradition?

Dr. Edward Smith, a Professor of History at American University, has described this monument as probably the first to honor the Black Confederate soldiers. This monument includes a depiction of a Black Confederate marching in step with the white soldiers.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy commissioned a Jewish- Confederate Veteran, Sir Moses J. Ezekiel, to do the work on this monument. Some people say that he might have been the first Jewish-American to do this type of sculpture. It is written that the UDC was pleased with his work which depicts the multi-cultural makeup of the late Confederate States of America.



Moses J. Ezekiel was born on October 28, 1844, in Richmond, Va. He was one of fourteen children born to Jacob and Catherine de Castro Ezekiel. He was born in a house on "Old Market Street" that is said to have been in the poorer side of town. His grandparents came to America

from Holland in 1808, and were of Jewish-Spanish Heritage.

Ezekiel talked his parents into letting him attend Virginia Military Institute and he did enroll on September 17, 1862. Some people say, he was the first Jewish-American to enter there at this the school of General Stonewall Jackson.

After three years at VMI, Ezekiel saw military service during the War Between the States. The Cadets, of Virginia Military Institute, were called to support Confederate General John C. Breckenridge at the Battle of New Market, Virginia. Ezekiel joined his fellow cadets in the charge upon the Union lines.

Ezekiel would travel to Italy to study and work as an artist and would become known worldwide. He was honored by King Emmanuel who knighted him and gave him the distinction of "Sir Moses Jacob Ezekiel."

It was Ezekiel's wish to return to his native Virginia but World War I kept him from doing so. He spent his final days in Italy where he died in 1917. His remains were not brought back to the states until 1921.

Among his many great works are: "Christ Bound for the Cross", "The Martyr", and "David Singing his Song of Glory."

His funeral service was held at the amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery. Cadets, of the Virginia Military Institute, stood by his casket that was draped with a flag of the United States. Ezekiel was buried at the base of the Confederate monument. Also buried around the monument are 450 Confederate soldiers, wives and civilians.

Steven Spielberg to delay Lincoln film for election

Steven Spielberg has said that his Abraham Lincoln biopic will be released after the 2012 US presidential election to avoid it being "political fodder".

The director told the Orlando Sentinel newspaper: "The movie will be purposely coming out after next year's election."

The film will be based on the recent best selling book Team Of Rivals, by historian Doris Kearns Goodwin.

Daniel Day-Lewis will play the president, while his wife will be portrayed by actress Sally Field.

The movie will follow Lincoln's journey to abolish slavery and end the American Civil War, but will centre around the final four months of his life.

"It is really a movie about the great work Abraham Lincoln did in the last months of his life," Spielberg said.

The film-maker is preparing to start shooting the movie in Richmond, Virginia because buildings there look "like Washington looked back during the Civil War".

Joseph Gordon-Levitt will take on the role of Lincoln's eldest son Robert Todd Lincoln and Tommy Lee Jones will play Thaddeus Stevens, a Republican leader and congressman from Pennsylvania. Local man's documentary about Battle of Hagerstown a 'labor of love'

By JANET HEIM, Hagerstown Herald-Mail, October 10, 2011



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Stephen "Steve" Bockmiller wears many hats for the City of Hagerstown. The city's development review planner and zoning administrator also is on the staff of the Historic District Commission, a good fit since one of Bockmiller's interests is history, especially in educating others. When the city received a series of grants for historical markers — because Washington County is one of three Maryland counties in the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area — Bockmiller got involved with the placement and research for the markers.

There are now 50 such free-standing and wall-mounted markers with photographs and illustrations around Hagerstown, with four more pending, Bockmiller said.

That all led to a video project. "The photographs and illustrations on the markers — there's enough for a book. That's where the video came in. It's based on one chapter," Bockmiller said.

On his own time, Bockmiller wrote, directed and produced "Valor in the Streets," a 32-minute documentary about the Battle of Hagerstown, a task he calls a "labor of [love](#)." He estimates it took about 250 hours of his time over a period of 15 months, with the help of others.

"The historical stuff I do is the icing on the cake," Bockmiller said. "The stuff I do as a volunteer I'm very happy to do for the community."

Bockmiller, 45, did the bulk of the research and writing, with the live action filmed on weekends. The documentary was filmed in Waterford, Va., because it looks more like Hagerstown did during the Civil War, he said.

Antietam Cable customers can see the documentary Wednesday and Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. on

Channel 6, most likely through the end of the year, Bockmiller said. Bockmiller said he has written three books, but this was his first video project.

"The video is something where all the stars and moon aligned. It was all a new experience," Bockmiller said. Bockmiller credits Eric Hastings of Antietam Cable for his knowledge of video and for volunteering his time. "He was a very important player. He was the mastermind behind editing and putting it together. He was the cameraman and editor," Bockmiller said.

Bockmiller said he owes a lot of favors to friends in the Civil War reenactment community who helped him with the project. He, too, is a reenactor, but chooses opportunities that are education-oriented, like volunteering on the USS Constellation at Baltimore's Inner Harbor, rather than battle-focused activities.

Bockmiller is originally from Baltimore and graduated from Towson University, where he majored in geography with a concentration in planning. He moved to the area in 2000 and has worked for the city for nine years.

Before that, Bockmiller was chief planner for Jefferson County, W.Va. He commuted from the pre-Civil War log house in Middletown, Md., where he and his wife, Stefania, lived. They have been married for eight years and have a 5-year-old daughter, Sarah.

Four years ago, they built a home near Waynesboro, Pa.

Blood and Ink: The Newseum's just -opened exhibit of civil war newspapers

By Gregg Clemmer, DC Civil War Heritage Examiner

A stunning display of more than 30 civil war newspapers recently opened at the Newseum on Pennsylvania Avenue in downtown Washington. Titled and presented as "Blood and Ink," journalism's museum features a diverging variety of wartime front pages, from *Harper's Weekly* and the *New York Illustrated News* to the *Charleston Mercury* and the *Atlanta Daily Intelligencer*.

Headlines include news of Abraham Lincoln's election to president, reports of the firing on Fort Sumter, accounts of the Battle of Gettysburg, the fall of Atlanta, Lee's surrender at Appomattox, and Lincoln's assassination in Ford's theater.



Photo – author's collection

The exhibit also conveys the challenges and perils of wartime reporting, from a Northern paper's erroneous news of victory at First Manassas in July, 1861, to an 1863 copy of *Stars and Stripes*, a Union



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paper printed in the occupied South on wallpaper.

In the curiosity department, one paper's front page was later used by a Union soldier as stationery for a note home to his mother. One of the most poignant is *The Union Sentinel* (sic), a handwritten "newspaper" on lined notepaper put together by students from Warren, Connecticut. Although Newseum staff had plenty of 1865 examples to illustrate the ratification of the 13th Amendment which abolished slavery in the newly reunited United States, they had to go all the way back to 1807 to find a newspaper featuring ads for slaves.

"Blood and Ink: Front Pages From the Civil War" is scheduled to be on view throughout 2012.

Plans for Confederate flying machine are sold

One man's vision caught Jefferson Davis' attention, but never could get funded

While Rebel and Union soldiers still fought it out with bayonets and cannons, a Confederate designer had the foresight to imagine flying machines attacking Northern armies. He couldn't implement his vision during the war, and the plans disappeared into history, until resurfacing at a rare book dealer's shop 150 years later.

Now those rediscovered designs have found their way to the auction block, providing a glimpse at how Victorian-era technology could have beaten the Wright Brothers to the punch.

The papers of R. Finley Hunt, a dentist with a passion for flight, describe scenarios where flying machines bombed Federal troops across Civil War battlefields. Hunt's papers are sold at the Space and

Aviation Artifacts auction during the week of Sept. 15-22, giving one lucky collector a chance to own a piece of an alternate technological history that never came to pass.

"It's incredible for someone who loves early aviation, because it poses the great question of "What if?" said Bobby Livingston, vice president of sales and marketing with RR Auction. "What if planes had appeared above the wilderness when (Union Gen. Ulysses S.) Grant began his campaign in the Shenandoah Valley?"

The hardback collection includes pencil drawings of wings, propellers and a multi-cylinder steam engine. Hunt's designs drew inspiration from his love of studying any and all flying methods found in nature, despite his own lack of professional expertise.

But Hunt found it difficult to find an engineer willing to build the device, despite getting the help of Confederate President Jefferson Davis to have the proposal considered. Letters between Hunt and a Confederate review board show that other engineers had strong doubts about the "steam flying machine."

First, the engineers said Hunt had dramatically overestimated the engine's power and ability to keep the machine flying. They also described another error in Hunt's reasoning as being "so obvious on reflection that no discussion is required."

"When they turned him down, it was over the science of it," Livingston told Innovation News Daily. "But they considered it, and considered it a lot." Hunt refused to take no for an answer. The papers include another letter to Davis, wherein Hunt tries to defend his flying theories and asks for assistance from a machinist. In the end, the Confederates decided

against spending money to fund the project.

Still, the Confederates did deploy several other innovative war machines. Their ironclad steamship, the CSS Virginia, fought against the USS Monitor in the world's first duel between ironclads. A Confederate submarine called the H.L. Hunley also made its mark in history as the first submarine to successfully sink an enemy ship.

Both the Union and Confederate sides also flew manned balloons to scout different battlefields.

As for Hunt, he went to Washington, D.C., and got a U.S. patent on his device after the Civil War ended in 1865. He also built several working models and was still attempting to get financing in 1872. Yet he never saw his vision take flight.

"It looks to me like he's 40 years before the Wright brothers with a rotary engine driving propellers, but I don't know how close he was," Livingston said. "He never got the money to do it."

Stolen Civil War flag heading back to La. museum

The Associated Press, October 5, 2011

RICHMOND - A stolen Civil War battle flag recovered by the FBI is heading back home to a Louisiana museum.

The FBI says agents from the Richmond division recovered the stolen 14th Louisiana Infantry Regiment Confederate Battle Flag in late September.



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This undated photo provided by the FBI shows a stolen 14th Louisiana Infantry Regiment Confederate Battle Flag that was recovered by the Richmond Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. (Courtesy photo | FBI)

Officials say the flag was stolen in the 1980s by a former volunteer at the Confederate Memorial Hall Museum in New Orleans. An investigation found that a collector purchased the item in 2004 without knowledge of it being stolen and voluntarily turned the item over to the FBI.

It was presented to board members from the Confederate Memorial Hall in Louisiana at a ceremony at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond.

Recounting the Dead

By J. DAVID HACKER, New York Times, September 20, 2011

Even as Civil War history has gone through several cycles of revision, one thing has remained fixed: the number of dead. Since about 1900, historians and the general public have assumed that 618,222 men died on both sides. That number is probably a significant undercount, however. New estimates, based on Census data, indicate that the death toll was approximately 750,000, and may have been as high as 850,000.

The notion that we've drastically undercounted the Civil War dead is not a new idea: in fact, Francis Amasa Walker, superintendent of the

1870 Census, estimated that the number of male deaths was "not less than 850,000." So how did the lower number come to be the accepted count — and why does it matter that it was wrong?

Efforts to identify, rebury and count the dead began as soon as the war ended. A precise count proved impossible, however: both armies lacked systematic procedures to identify the dead, wounded and missing in action, as well as an official means to notify relatives of a soldier's death. Men went missing; battle, hospital and prison reports were incomplete and inaccurate; dead men were buried unidentified; and family members were forced to infer the fate of a loved one from his failure to return home after the war.

Instead, postwar counts of the Union dead drew from regimental muster-out rolls and battle reports. An 1866 report compiled under the direction of Provost Marshal General James B. Fry estimated that 279,689 men in the Union forces died in the war. The estimated death toll increased to 360,222 by the late 19th century, partly as a result of widows and orphans bringing forward information when applying for pensions and survivors' benefits.

But a direct count of the Confederate dead proved impossible. The destruction of the Confederate army and many of its records limited investigators to partial counts. The Fry report documented just 133,821 Confederate deaths from incomplete returns. That number didn't change much: since Confederate widows and orphans were ineligible for federal benefits, the estimate was never supplemented with information from survivors.

Francis Amasa Walker's interest in estimating the number of war-related

deaths was a result of the 1870 Census returns. The final Census count put the population at 38,558,371, up just 22.6 percent from the count in 1860. All previous 19th-century censuses had documented decennial growth rates between 32.7 percent and 36.4 percent, a near-constant rate of increase that 19th-century Americans had come to expect and celebrate as a measure of the nation's strength, progress and future prosperity.

The 31-year-old superintendent was understandably defensive. City boosters in Philadelphia and New York had charged the 1870 enumeration with excessive coverage errors, and President Grant had taken the unusual step of ordering a recount of those cities. Although the second counts failed to turn up many additional residents, the Census remained suspect. After all, if past growth patterns had continued, the population should have been 41.5 million. Had the Census somehow missed 3 million people?

Walker acknowledged that the 1870 census was far from perfect, but he refused to concede that it was more deficient in its coverage of the population than preceding censuses. Instead, he reasoned, the war was to blame. The disappointing growth rate, he countered, was the result of the "notorious and palpable effects of the war, which hampered the growth of the black population, checked immigration, limited marriages and births and led to the direct loss of close to a million men."

Although the Surgeon General's Office had at that point documented 304,000 Union deaths, Walker noted that the number was based only on those men who died during their terms of service. About a third of the 285,000 men discharged for



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disabilities and many of the remaining 2 million men who survived the war, he argued, subsequently died as a result of diseases and wounds contracted while in the Army. "Tens of thousands were discharged to die; tens of thousands died within the first few months after discharge," he wrote. "Tens of thousands more lingered through the first or second year." Together with the losses calculated by the Surgeon General's Office, Walker concluded that "500,000 will surely be a moderate estimate for the direct losses among the Union armies."

Walker's estimate of Confederate losses was necessarily rougher. He started with a guess at the number of men participating — about half of the aggregate number participating on the Union side — and his assumption that Confederate soldiers' longer average terms of service and relative lack of nourishing food, medicine and skilled physicians resulted in a greater risk of death. "Without attempting to deal at all nicely with this subject," he argued, "it is difficult to see how anyone could, upon reflection, place the losses of the confederate armies at less than 350,000 men."

Unfortunately, Walker did not pursue the line of inquiry further. After his reappointment as superintendent for the 1880 Census, he had to explain the overly rapid growth of the South's population between 1870 and 1880 and defend the Census from charges of fraud in the form of over-counting. After a field investigation by the Census geographer Henry Gannett failed to turn up any evidence of fraud, suspicion returned to the 1870 census. Gannett charged that many of the 1870 enumerators were appointed for their Republican political connections, not for their

local knowledge or ability to conduct a census. The inevitable result, he concluded, was a large undercount.

This time Walker agreed. Having been successful in pushing through many costly reforms for the 1880 census, one of which was to shift enumeration responsibilities from federal marshals answerable to the Justice Department to a much larger field force selected for their qualifications and answerable to the Census Office, Walker must have felt some measure of justification from Gannett's report.

But with the census discredited — a crude calculation by the 1890 census office subsequently indicated that the 1870 Census had undercounted the South's population by 1,260,078 (10 percent of the region's and 3 percent of the nation's population) — the opportunity for a more comprehensive examination of the war's human cost was lost to the political winds. The estimate of 360,222 Union deaths stood.

The count of Confederate dead was, however, heavily debated. William F. Fox, a private citizen and Union army veteran whose 1889 book on regimental losses remains a classic reference work for Civil War historians, relied on battle reports and unofficial estimates to obtain a total of 94,000 Confederate battle deaths. He complained, however, that records were incomplete, especially during the last year of the war, and that battlefield reports likely undercounted deaths (many men counted as wounded in battlefield reports subsequently died of their wounds). In 1900 Thomas L. Livermore, who, like Fox, was a private citizen and Union army veteran, put the number of Confederate non-combat deaths at 164,000, using the official estimate of Union deaths from disease and

accidents and a comparison of Union and Confederate enlistment records.

Livermore's estimate assumed Union and Confederate troops suffered an equal risk of death from disease, a conservative assumption that Walker had explicitly rejected. Despite acknowledging that his estimate of disease mortality likely undercounted Confederate deaths and his concern that Fox's estimate of battle deaths could "be accepted only as a minimum," Livermore combined the two estimates to arrive at a total of 258,000 Confederate deaths, a total that remains unrevised more than a century later.

So why should we now doubt that number? For one thing, Fry, Walker, Fox, Livermore and other early investigators were limited by the quality of the data available. Using new quantitative sources, we can now make a more comprehensive and accurate estimate of war-related deaths. With one exception, microfilm copies of the original manuscript returns have been preserved for all censuses since 1850 (the 1890 Census manuscripts were lost in a fire). Census microdata samples created from these returns at the Minnesota Population Center make it possible to estimate undercounts by age and sex in censuses back to 1850 and to construct a Census-based estimate of male deaths caused by the war.

Census undercounts are estimated using multiple censuses and a demographic method known as back projection. The results confirm that, indeed, the 1870 Census was the most poorly enumerated. It was not nearly as bad as Walker feared and as 1890 census officials charged, however: the net undercount was 6.5 percent in 1870, compared to 6.0



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percent in 1850, 5.5 percent in 1860, and 3.6 percent in 1880.

War-related losses are estimated by comparing sex differences in mortality during the 1860s with sex differences in mortality in the 1850s and 1870s. The results indicate that the war was responsible for the deaths of about 750,000 men (using less conservative assumptions, the total may have been as high as 850,000). Although that estimate is 100,000 fewer than the 850,000 deaths suggested by Walker, it is closer to his guess than it is to traditional estimate of 618,222 deaths, which has been cited uncritically for too long. If the Census-based estimate is correct, the traditional estimate is about 20 percent too low.

Although there are limitations to using Census data to estimate of Civil War mortality — civilian deaths are too few to be measured accurately, and deaths cannot be reliably divided into Union or Confederate subtotals — the method provides a more complete assessment of the war's human cost. In addition to the men who died during their terms of service, the Census-based estimate of male mortality includes men who died between the date of their discharge and the 1870 Census from diseases and wounds contracted during the war, as well as non-enlisted men who died in guerilla warfare and other war-related violence. It excludes, however, men dying from war-related causes who would have died under the normal mortality conditions of the late 19th century. This final group, included in all direct counts of the Civil War dead, represents about 80,000 men.

So what? Above a certain count, do the numbers even matter? Well, yes. The difference between the two estimates is large enough to change

the way we look at the war. The new estimate suggests that more men died as a result of the Civil War than from all other American wars combined. Approximately 1 in 10 white men of military age in 1860 died from the conflict, a substantial increase from the 1 in 13 implied by the traditional estimate. The death toll is also one of our most important measures of the war's social and economic costs. A higher death toll, for example, implies that more women were widowed and more children were orphaned as a result of the war than has long been suspected.

In other words, the war touched more lives and communities more deeply than we thought, and thus shaped the course of the ensuing decades of American history in ways we have not yet fully grasped. True, the war was terrible in either case. But just how terrible, and just how extensive its consequences, can only be known when we have a better count of the Civil War dead.

Interior Secretary Salazar eyes 'monument' status for Fort Monroe

By STEVE SZKOTAK, Newport News, Va. Daily Press, September 21, 2011

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said Wednesday he is pushing ahead with Fort Monroe's preservation as a national monument, an approach welcomed by Virginia advocates of a Chesapeake Bay outpost that has seen the sweep of the nation's history.

Preserving portions of the Hampton fortress as a national monument could be achieved under presidential order under the Antiquities Act. It

would not require congressional approval.

"The Antiquities Act has been used by presidents, both Republicans and Democrats, to protect historic sites and natural wonders," Salazar said in an interview with The Associated Press in Washington, D.C. "It's an important law."

Salazar said his office has been in discussions with local and state officials on the national monument approach to Fort Monroe and those discussions are now heading to the White House.

"We are in the process of doing that analysis and we will soon be (seeing) what exactly the president will do with respect to Fort Monroe," Salazar said of President Barack Obama.

A week ago, the Army handed responsibility for managing Fort Monroe to Virginia. The land it occupies at the mouth of the Chesapeake saw the first European arrivals to the New World more than 400 years ago, including Jamestown settler John Smith, and was the first stop for African slaves. It also is seen as the place where slavery began to crumble when runaway slaves sought refuge during the Civil War at the Union fort.

The moated fort has seen a who's who of U.S. political figures, including President Abraham Lincoln, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, the imprisoned Confederate President Jefferson Davis, and writer Edgar Allan Poe was stationed there.

The Antiquities Act, which dates to 1906, authorizes presidents to proclaim "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" as national monuments, the National Park Service website states. President Theodore Roosevelt used the act broadly, proclaiming more



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than 800,000 acres of the Grand Canyon as a national monument. More recently, President Bill Clinton proclaimed the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah a national monument.

Fort Monroe was ordered closed in 2005 as part of the nation's base realignment, intended to cut costs, and had been in continuous operation since 1823. In recent decades it served as the home of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command.

The Fort Monroe Authority's executive director, Glenn Oder, said approximately 40 percent of the fort and its grounds would initially be part of the Park Service. The 200 acres is primarily open space.

The state is also seeking additional park status for other significant portions of the fort, including the parade grounds and the quarters where Lincoln and Lee had spent time.

Legislation that has the bipartisan support of Virginia's delegation is also pending in Congress to designate the fort a national park.