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Gettysburg Expands Virtual Museum, Sets Winter Hours Starting Nov. 1

Oct. 15 2006--The National Park Service has expanded its virtual museum exhibit, "Gettysburg: Camp Life: Civil War Collection", according to Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent John Latschar. Working together with the Museum Management Program of the National Park Service's Washington headquarters, Gettysburg NMP's museum specialists have collected and added new images and information from the park's collections related to the life of the soldier and the Battle of Gettysburg.

Looking at the website gives the public a better understanding of Civil War soldiers' life in camp, their day-to-day existence, and how they battled boredom with games, writing, drinking, smoking, whittling, playing music, and praying. Seldom seen images include a soldier's toothbrush, his underwear, a bullet-torn diary, and many more.

"Gettysburg: Camp Life: Civil War Collection" continues to be one of the National Park Service's most popular virtual exhibits, attracting more than 800,000 people per year. The website is <http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/gettex/index.htm>.

Beginning November 1, 2006, Gettysburg National Military Park will change to its winter visiting hours, staying open to the public from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. daily, the National Park Service has announced. The winter visiting hours will continue through March 31, 2007.

From April 1 through October 31, the park will remain open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily.

During the winter visiting hours, park-approved special events such as the annual Remembrance Illumination, youth group campground operations, and park sponsored public meetings would continue to be permitted.

Certain park avenues will continue to be accessible 24 hours/day for vehicular through-travel only: Buford Avenue, Doubleday Avenue, Granite Schoolhouse Road, Howard Avenue, Millerstown Road, Reynolds Avenue, Wadsworth Avenue, West Confederate Avenue, and Wheatfield Road.

Fines for Closed Area Violations are \$75. For more information contact Gettysburg National Military Park at (717) 334-1124, or visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/gett

Restoration Revealing Carnage at Gettysburg's Lady Farm

Oct. 5, 2006- Courtesy CWI
The Daniel Lady Farm is making history again.

Kathi Schue, president of the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association, the farm owner, today revealed details of an initial investigation into the blood stains that mark the floors of three rooms of the farmhouse.

Schue said the distinction of being the oldest known death scene ever successfully investigated with the use of luminescent agents is now shared by the farm with the Shriver House in downtown Gettysburg.

The house and barn on the Lady Farm were Confederate field hospitals during the three-day battle. Stains in the attic of the Shriver House support accounts that a Confederate sniper died there. Stains in the Lady farmhouse offer even more vivid evidence of the pain and suffering endured by the combatants

of the North and South. "The stains in your front room are of great significance not only historically, but also forensically, reported Detective Lt. Nicholas Paonessa of the Niagara Falls (N.Y.) Police Department, who volunteered to conduct the study on his own time. Paonessa's interest was forensic in addition to historic.



Photo courtesy Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association

Paonessa's department was seeking to determine how far back a new detection fluid, Bluestar Forensics Latent Blood Reagent, could go in finding blood at a death scene. While the Niagara Falls area is rich in history, Paonessa said he could not locate a death site nearly as old as the Lady farmhouse to investigate. "Unfortunately, we have no organization like the GBPA," Paonessa said.

"The capability of luminol to react with blood stains over 200 years old has already been demonstrated, however, the use of this method outside of the lab and in an actual death scene had not been explored." said Paonessa, "Our intention was to determine the feasibility of utilizing this luminol analogue (Bluestar) for use in visualizing historical blood evidence and at the same time demonstrate how useful it would be on old crime



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scenes which may still be prosecuted."

Paonessa said he was excited by what the Lady farmhouse revealed. "Unlike the Shriver House, the finish on the floor in the Daniel Lady Farm actually gave off fluorescence when subjected to Rofin Polilight Forensic Alternate Light Source," reported Paonessa. "This created a strong contrast between the glow of the finish and the absorption of the stains (the Shriver house attic had an untreated floor and a dark wood)."

Feds give \$2 million to help preserve historic Fredericksburg Civil War farm

Associated Press, October 16, 2006
RICHMOND, Va. -- Federal officials will give \$2 million toward efforts to preserve historic Slaughter Pen Farm in Fredericksburg, helping protect what has been called one of the most historically significant properties in the nation, officials said Monday. The gift will come in the form of a matching grant, U.S. Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne said at a press conference that marked the first public event held at the site. The cash will go toward a \$12 million fundraising effort by the Civil War Preservation Trust to buy the property, recently threatened by burgeoning development. "This federal grant is a crucial component in our campaign," said James Lighthizer, president of the nonprofit group. "Without it, we would simply be unable to meet our \$12 million goal."

More than 5,000 casualties were inflicted at the farm during the Battle of Fredericksburg on Dec. 13, 1862, one of the most intense battles of the

Civil War. Five Congressional Medals of Honor for valor were awarded for actions taken there that day. But recent history hasn't been kind to the 208-acre property, located along historical Tidewater Trail in a booming commercial region. The property is near a major rail line and is zoned for industrial use--which preservationists say is tempting for commercial developers.

With loan help, the group was able to purchase the property after it went to market in December. Group leaders have since embarked on a major fundraising campaign and what has been called the most expensive private battlefield preservation effort in American history.

"The effort to preserve the Slaughter Pen Farm is a model for conservation partnerships throughout the nation," Kempthorne said.

The Civil War Preservation Trust has 70,000 members, and has saved more than 23,000 acres.

Hunley Commission says Dispute with Clemson Settled

BY BRIAN HICKS, Charleston Post and Courier, November 3, 2006

Plans for an 82-acre Clemson research campus on the former Charleston Naval Base could be under way by the end of the year following a compromise approved by the Hunley Commission on Tuesday. Members of the executive committee of the Hunley Commission, which manages the state's interest in the Civil War submarine, said they have found a way around a provision in the original agreement with Clemson University that threatened to kill the whole deal.

"We just wanted to make sure the sub is conserved," said commission

member Randy Burbage. "In the event that Clemson didn't get the job done, we wanted assurance that we could."

Clemson officials have a 30-year plan to build a \$35 million campus - a price tag that reflects the value of the Hunley lab, the land around it and \$10 million in new construction. Eventually, university officials say, the Restoration Institute could employ up to 5,000 people and have a \$500 million economic impact on the Lowcountry.

In exchange for the lab and land surrounding it, Clemson would take over conservation of the sub. Most of the campus would be developed after the sub is finished and gone on to a museum.

The snag in the deal, which has been in the works more than a year, was discovered in July. State officials, including members of the Joint Bond Review Committee and State Budget and Control Board, said they could not approve the original deal because of a provision to give the Warren Lasch Conservation Center back to the commission if Clemson didn't finish the sub.

But for Clemson to leverage bonds on the value of the lab and its land, it needed a clear title. However, the Hunley Commission refused to give away a lab it had built into a state-of-the-art facility without a safety net, particularly after internal Clemson e-mails were publicized with some members of the university's staff calling members of the commission "fanatics" and the sub "that damn thing" and bragging that they could walk away and dump the sub back on the commission if they didn't get finished.

Hunley committee members, who ironed out its compromise in executive session, would not discuss



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details of the new deal, but sources close to commission say the reverter clause issue is resolved this way: If Clemson fails to conserve the submarine by 2013 - the date approved by the Navy in the Hunley conservation plan - the university would have to lease the lab back to the commission for \$1 a year until the sub is finished. Clemson would also have to pay the Hunley Commission up to \$300,000 a year toward conservation to get the job done.

Late Tuesday, Clemson officials said they could not comment on the compromise yet. Sen. Glenn McConnell, chairman of the Hunley Commission, would only say that he believed the compromise would be acceptable to everyone.

"We just want to stay in compliance with the federal agreement to finish the sub and do it without undue cost to the state," McConnell said.

If Clemson agrees to this compromise, the plan could go before the Joint Bond Review Committee and Budget and Control Board this month or next.

New research fills in life of Hunley crewman

By BRUCE SMITH, Associated Press, October 18, 2006

CHARLESTON, S.C. | When Arnold Becker was buried more than two years ago, little was known about him except that he was the smallest and youngest crewman aboard the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley. Now researchers have learned he was born in Germany, emigrated to the United States and worked on the Mississippi River before the Civil War broke out.

Later he served on the CSS General Polk and was aboard the famed Confederate ironclad Arkansas, which in 1862 ran a gauntlet of 39 union vessels on the Mississippi

before reaching the Confederate stronghold of Vicksburg.

New research and a Confederate surgeon's journal have helped fill in the life of Becker, one of eight crewmen who died when the Hunley, the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship, sank off Charleston in 1864.

The Hunley sank after sending the Union blockade ship Housatonic to the bottom. It was raised in 2000 and thousands turned out in April 2004 when the crew was buried in what has been called the last Confederate funeral.

Forensic genealogist Linda Abrams has searched for evidence about the Hunley crew and one of the key clues came from the journal of Dr. Robert Freeman Jr., who was the surgeon aboard the Polk.

It describes Becker as an 18-year-old seaman from Germany who was treated for chills and fever as the result of a bout with malaria. It is still not clear where in Germany Becker was born.

"I'm still after that," Abrams said Tuesday, adding she is scouring the writings of the officers who were aboard the Arkansas.

"As I acquire those writings, I'm looking for a mention of Becker beyond what's in the surgeon's journals," she said.

When the Arkansas was in dock in Vicksburg, the Union vessel Queen of the West attacked, injuring several Confederates, including Becker. That explains a wound found on Becker's remains. "The anthropologists recognized the wound on Becker as not being an old wound," Abrams said.

When the Arkansas was scuttled to prevent it from falling into Union hands, Becker was transferred to Charleston.

He served on the CSS Chicora and the CSS Indian Chief, before being recruited by Lt. George Dixon, commander of the Hunley, to serve on the sub.

Becker was third in command of the vessel and operated the bellows and snorkel tubes that enabled the crew to breathe. He managed the forward pump and occasionally manually worked a handle of the hand-cranked submarine.

It is unlikely that Dixon and Becker met in the military before Charleston. Dixon was from Alabama while most of the crewmen aboard the Arkansas were from Missouri, Abrams said. "They certainly could have (met) on the Mississippi," before the war, she said. "But when you look at the number of commercial steamboats on the Mississippi before the war, there were hundreds."

Headstone to mark grave of one of first black

Army officers

BRUCE SMITH, Associated Press, October 20, 2006

CHARLESTON, S.C. - In an unmarked grave in a grassy corner of small cemetery lie the remains of Lt. Stephen Swails, one of the first black commissioned officers in the U.S. Army.

Although almost a forgotten footnote in history, Swails served with the 54th Massachusetts in the black regiment's desperate attack on Confederate Battery Wagner in 1863 - an attack recalled in the movie "Glory."

Swails would survive the Civil War to become a state senator, a lawyer, University of South Carolina trustee and mayor of Kingstree.

And on Oct. 28, re-enactors portraying members of the 54th Massachusetts joined historians and



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public officials to dedicate a stone marker at Swails' grave more than a century after his death.

The Oct. 28 ceremony capped a two-day commemoration of Swails' life sponsored by the new African-American Historical Alliance, a group working to increase the awareness of the involvement of blacks in the Civil War and Reconstruction in South Carolina.

"The African-Americans that were part of the new South Carolina after the war were very extraordinary folks," he said.

Researchers determined where Swails' grave was in the black cemetery by using old records from the Avery Institute for African-American History at the College of Charleston, said Krista Robertson, a spokeswoman for the alliance.

Across the street is Magnolia Cemetery, which has a section where more than 1,700 Confederates are buried. In another section of Magnolia are the remains of crews of the H.L. Hunley, the Confederate submarine which was the first in history to sink an enemy warship.

Swails was born in Columbia, Penn., in 1832, the son of a black father and white mother. By 1860, he was working at a hotel in Cooperstown, N.Y., and he married.

In 1863, he enlisted in the 54th Massachusetts and became a first sergeant. He survived the attack on Wagner but in February 1864 was wounded at the Battle of Olustee in northern Florida where the 54th Massachusetts also fought.

Swails was then promoted to second lieutenant by Massachusetts' governor John Andrews although the Army did not recognize the promotion until the following year.

After the war, Swails was employed for the Freedman's Bureau in Charleston and worked in Kingstree.

He also married a woman from the Charleston area and had four children. It's not known what happened to his first wife, said Billy Jenkinson, a Kingstree attorney who has extensively studied Swails' life.

Swails was a delegate to the South Carolina constitutional convention and became a state senator. He also served as a delegate to three Republican national conventions and was one of the first blacks elected to the Electoral College.

But when whites came back into power at the end of Reconstruction, Swails resigned from the Senate.

"He was politically active in Williamsburg County and was told to leave under the threat of death," Jenkinson said.

As whites took back power Swails simply "was black and he didn't belong," Jenkinson said. "He was never accused through all of Reconstruction of doing anything wrong."

Later, Swails worked in Washington for the Postal Service and Treasury Department. He took ill in 1899 and returned home to Kingstree where he died the next year.

He was probably buried in Charleston because that's where his wife's family's burial plot was, Jenkinson said.

"Turn-of-the-century Charleston was not a prosperous place. A lot of cemeteries used wooden headstones," said Jenkinson, adding it was unlikely there was ever a stone marking Swails' grave.

"By this time next week there will be," he said.

Eastern National dropped at Gettysburg park

By MEG BERNHARDT, Hanover Evening Sun, October 16, 2006

For more than 50 years, Eastern National has been running the bookstore, electronic map program and Cyclorama Center at the Gettysburg National Military Park. The non-profit association employs more than 70 people at Gettysburg and donates profits back to the National Park Service.

But when the Gettysburg Foundation decided who to run the retail shops at the new Museum and Visitor Center when it opens in 2008, the foundation, with National Park Service approval, chose to go with a different organization – for-profit retailer Event Network.

The foundation, the group responsible for raising funds and overseeing the operations of the new \$95-million visitor center chose Event Network because it offered the "best possible financial benefit for the Gettysburg Foundation and also best possible level of service," spokeswoman from the foundation and the park said.

That left preservationists and employees wondering what would happen to Eastern National. The association operates in 150 locations in 30 different states, but generates about half its profit from the Gettysburg store and programs.

Chesley Moroz, president and CEO of Eastern National said the association started looking into alternatives when it found out it wasn't awarded the bid.

And recently, the new development Gateway Gettysburg announced that a subsidiary of Eastern National will be setting up at Gateway – a hotel,



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convention center and movie theater complex on Route 30 – to run an expanded reservation service and two retail outlets.

The newly formed subsidiary, Park Trek, now owns Eastern National's reservation system, which currently manages the reservations for Gettysburg Battlefield Tours, Eisenhower Farm, and electric Map Tickets and licensed Battlefield Guide Tours.

Moroz, also Park Trek's CEO and president, said the for-profit subsidiary was formed because an existing agreement with the Park Service wouldn't let them sign an agreement to provide service at Gateway Gettysburg.

But all of Park Trek's profits will go to Eastern National, which will then continue to distribute them to national parks around the country.

Last year, for instance, Eastern National donated \$2.8 million to the Park Service, and about half of that came from Gettysburg, Moroz said.

"Eastern has a revenue sharing philosophy: It doesn't matter who generated the profit, all the parks benefit," Moroz said.

Since the association was founded in 1947, it has donated more than \$77 million to the Park Service, according to a press release.

She hopes Park Trek will be able to hire as many Eastern National employees as possible so no one will lose their jobs.

SCV Once Again Elects Radical National Leaders

Southern Poverty Law Center, October 20, 2006

The Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), a Southern heritage group that has been largely dominated by racial extremists since 2002, has again elected a commander in chief

and other national leaders who are closely tied to its radical faction.

At its August convention in New Orleans, SCV delegates selected as their national commander Chris Sullivan, a longtime ally of outgoing commander Denne Sweeney and a fellow South Carolinian. Sullivan is the editor of *Southern Partisan*, a controversial neo-Confederate magazine that has depicted antebellum slaves as happy and slave traders as benevolent. Other Sweeney allies were elected to top posts in the SCV's three "armies," or major geographical subdivisions.

For four years, the SCV has been split by an internal civil war between moderates and radicals with hard-line racial views. The radicals have sought to turn the SCV into an explicitly political group that pushes racist neo-Confederate ideas and issues. The latest election was a clear victory for the radical faction.

"We should all [now] resolve to work to defeat the Marxist Socialists that are waging war on Southern culture," Ed Butler, a newly elected leader of the Army of Tennessee, exulted after his victory. The League of South, a neo-Confederate hate group sympathetic to the radicals, was pleased, too, enthusing on its website that "The Sons of Confederate Veterans have endorsed a radical direction."

The election also solidified the hold on the SCV of Kirk Lyons, a white supremacist North Carolina lawyer, and his Southern Legal Resource Center, which specializes in defending Confederate symbols. Two SLRC board members -- Roy Burl McCoy and Bragdon Bowling -- won posts on the SCV's executive board. In addition, a new constitution, largely written by Lyons with Sweeney's approval, was adopted. The

document gives unprecedented power to the national commander.

As a result of the latest vote, discouraged moderates continued to trickle out of the SCV, as they have for several years. "Our convention committee presided over the funeral of what we all once thought of as the SCV," lamented the commander of the New Orleans SCV "camp," or chapter, that hosted the convention. "The SCV that we knew was dumped as a rotting carcass in a dung heap."

Confederate White House to stay put; collections must relocate

By ZINIE CHEN SAMPSON
Associated Press, October 18, 2006

RICHMOND, Va. - Despite encroaching development and dwindling attendance, the White House of the Confederacy will stay at its downtown site, but the adjoining museum's collections will be moved so they can be properly maintained, officials said Tuesday. The former mansion of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his family during the Civil War has fallen on tough times, as annual visitation has fallen precipitously from 91,000 in the early 1990s to 51,500 in the last fiscal year. The White House and museum have operated under an estimated \$500,000 annual deficit.

An independent review team hired by the museum's Board of Trustees recommended that above all, the Civil War weapons, flags, uniforms and other artifacts should remain together. Because of its significance as the former Confederate capital, Richmond would be the collection's best location, "but if it comes to a choice between Richmond and keeping it together, keep it together,"



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said museum executive director S. Waite Rawls.

"We cannot achieve a sustainable enough number of visitors to keep the proper care of the collections," Rawls said. "We're hoping for a possible solution in Richmond."

Museum officials are looking into partnerships with other historic sites in the city, including the American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar, to which the museum has loaned some of its artifacts.

The study recommended that the Confederate White House remain in its current, original location that is now dwarfed by Virginia Commonwealth University's expanding medical complex. Museum officials say the building is tough to find among the high-rise buildings and ongoing construction, but moving it would cost an estimated \$5 million and the option sparked opposition from preservation groups and citizens.

The study advised against selling core collections to raise operating money for the museum, saying that "will certainly call down widespread professional and public criticism."

The review recommended that the museum seek compensation for the harm caused by VCU's expansion by asking the General Assembly for money to help preserve and operate the landmark. The museum requested \$700,000 in the 2006 legislative session; it got only \$50,000 and as a result cut its hours and staff, postponed new exhibits and began trying to raise emergency funds.

The review panel pointed out that until Rawls came on board in 2004, the Museum of Confederacy failed to aggressively build constituents, membership and a donor base, and until last year resisted seeking public funding.

A National Historic Landmark, the gray-stucco mansion was built in 1818 and was the South's social, political and military center during the war. After the war, it became a Richmond city school. When the home faced demolition in 1890, a Confederate preservation group renovated it as a shrine to the South. In 1976, a separate museum opened, and in 1988, a decade-long restoration of the White House was completed.

The mansion once overlooked Shockoe Valley and was within sight of the state Capitol, but the view is now largely obscured by VCU buildings.

"All this stuff happens gradually; no one fast-forwards in their mind to what it eventually would become," Rawls said. "In 1975, if they had a concept of what could happen they'd be more careful. I can't conceive of this happening to Mount Vernon or Monticello."

New Plaques Installed to Identify Trees in Gettysburg National Cemetery

Nov. 6 2006 -CW- Volunteers from Historic Gettysburg Adams County have replaced and refurbished tree markers throughout the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg National Military Park.

Donating supplies and services, the organization purchased and replaced 82 signs and fabricated 37 new sign posts and holders. The signs identify the more than 50 different species of trees and shrubs in the historic cemetery, a popular location with the National Military Park, and the site of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in 1863.

"Visitors to the National Cemetery always appreciate the old trees that

have grown up to shade the graves of our fallen," said park Superintendent John Latschar. "Thanks to this generous donation and the hard work of

Historic Gettysburg Adams County our visitors can now satisfy their curiosity about the names of the trees growing there."

Historic Gettysburg Adams County worked with John Zaremba of the Gettysburg Civil War Roundtable and Roy Thomas, an Adams County Master Gardener, to complete the project.

NC State archives to display Lincoln's slavery amendment

by The Associated Press, October 24, 2006

RALEIGH – An amendment to the U.S. Constitution that was signed by President Abraham Lincoln but never ratified went on display at the North Carolina State Archives on Wednesday, October 25th.

The amendment, sometimes called the "Ghost Amendment," would have prohibited Congress from passing future amendments that would abolish slavery or interfere with state laws related to slavery. The amendment passed through Congress and was signed by Lincoln in March 1861, before the Civil War started.

The document was found among papers owned by North Carolina's then-Gov. John W. Ellis, said Fay Mitchell Henderson of the State Archives.

"It's kind of the evil twin of the one that actually did pass," she said.

State Archives officials believe the document has never been displayed publicly.



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The "Ghost Amendment" will be available for viewing in the State Archives Search Room, along with other old documents related to North Carolina history.

Battlefield trust buying Fredericksburg Braehead mansion

By RUSTY DENNEN, Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, October 17, 2006

Looking for a big, historic house in town with lots of room and acreage? How about one where Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee himself had breakfast before the Battle of Fredericksburg?

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust has just the place.

The trust, which has a long record of protecting Civil War battlefield land here, has signed a contract to purchase Braehead, an antebellum mansion on Lee Drive off Lafayette Boulevard.

"We do not usually consider houses," says Dr. Mike Stevens, CVBT president, "but Braehead is an important part of the Fredericksburg battlefield."

When the family that has owned the house since it was built in the mid-19th century decided to put it on the market a few weeks ago, "We thought it important to get it off the market, at least temporarily, so we could ensure its protection," Stevens said.

The trust plans to place easements on the land to prevent anyone from subdividing the more than 18-acre site and to avoid inappropriate changes to the historic building.

CVBT would then resell Braehead to a preservation-minded buyer who would take care of the property.

Erik Nelson, a senior planner in Fredericksburg and secretary of the

trust, said the contract price was \$995,000. Closing was delayed for 18 months to allow the organization time to find a suitable purchaser.

Nelson said the owners, Dr. Graham Stephens, and his wife, Thelma, decided it was time to sell the property.

"None of their kids have an interest in living there--and it's an enormous building--and they agreed it was time to pass it on," Nelson said.

The Stephenses held a family reunion at the house in 2004, giving distant relatives a chance to reconnect with the property.

Stephens' youngest son and daughter-in-law, Bruce and Sandi, ran Braehead as a bed and breakfast from 1997 to 2002 before moving to Hawaii. Then Graham Stephens, a retired emergency-room physician from Roanoke, and his wife moved back in.

Braehead is within the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park boundary, but the park service couldn't acquire it because of a lack of funds.

"We're delighted that CVBT stepped up and is going to preserve Braehead," said Russ Smith, the parks' superintendent.

The brick mansion was built by John Howison, a dairy farmer, in 1859 for his extensive family. It was the core of a 600-acre estate, run with one slave and 13 other workers. The house sits on the east slope of Telegraph Hill, now known as Lee Hill.

According to Nelson, Braehead also served as a way station for people traveling to and from Fredericksburg during the war. Screened by topography and thick vegetation, the Howison House could not be seen from the Union lines in December

1862. Braehead is Scottish for "house on the hill."

As a result, locals, seeking to enter or leave the city without drawing attention to themselves, such as soldiers visiting their families, could do so there.

Robert E. Lee ate breakfast in the home the morning of Dec. 13, 1862, as Confederates and Union troops were preparing to do battle. Two of Howison's sons were members of the Fredericksburg Artillery, a local Confederate unit. Neither son survived the war. John Howison Jr. (known as Jack) was killed at Gettysburg. Edward Howison died the following year at Ream's Station near Petersburg. Union soldiers occupied the house in 1864.

The house has some impressive Civil War credentials: There's a bullet hole next to the front door, a blood-stained floor and soldier graffiti on a plaster wall.

After the war, the house remained in the family, and most of the land was sold off.

Founded 10 years ago, CVBT has acquired land on each of the area's four battlefields--Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Court House, Chancellorsville and Wilderness.

After each purchase, the trust has sold the acreage to the park service or continued to hold it in trust.

CVBT has made several of its most important acquisitions along the Jackson Flank Attack area on the western end of Chancellorsville Battlefield. That's where Confederate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson led 26,000 men on a daring 12-mile march to attack the Union's right line. Several months ago, CVBT pledged \$1 million toward the Washington-based Civil War Preservation Trust's \$12 million purchase of Slaughter Pen Farm. The farm, adjacent to



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Shannon Airport in Spotsylvania County, was a key component of the Battle of Fredericksburg.

Beauvoir Board Control Wrested from Moderates by "Radical" SCV Faction

By Michael Newsom, McClatchy Newspapers, October 23, 2006

BILOXI, Miss. - A judge's decision in July became the last stand for some members of the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and after the smoke cleared in a bloody war within the group, those left standing are rebuilding Beauvoir.

But some worry about the direction the organization is headed under new leadership. That direction will affect Beauvoir, which is owned by the state chapter.

Last summer, the last home of Jefferson Davis lay in ruin, caught in an uncivil war between factions involved in a change of the guard within the SCV. The lawsuit was settled in July and the Beauvoir board of directors lost.

Those who are still in the group are moving forward and feel positive about the group's future. Plans for rebuilding the home were announced earlier this month. And 13 months after the storm, the first post-Katrina Fall Muster will be held at the Harrison County Fair, with the proceeds to benefit the rebuilding.

But many on the losing end have left the group, and the Beauvoir board has about 80 percent new membership to tackle rebuilding the battered home with \$7 million from FEMA for repairs.

The defendants in the dispute over membership and the power to assess dues also alleged that the Mississippi Division of the SCV was infiltrated by

a radical racist element that was controlling the national chapter.

Robert Murphree, an attorney and SCV member who acted as counsel for the defense, fired a litany of charges against the local SCV. He lost the case and has since left the Beauvoir board. He also renounced his SCV membership.

"As much as I love the Confederate history, and as proud as I am of my Confederate history, I am not going to be a part of any group that supports racism," Murphree said.

Researchers at the Southern Poverty Law Center, who have been following the SCV, believe the verdict might be remembered as the Waterloo for the moderates within the group.

"From my perspective, that was a huge defeat for moderates in the SCV," said Heidi Beirich, spokeswoman for the Poverty Law Center. "Murphree's people were seriously dedicated to making this a historical site. The people who are running the SCV now are about politics. I think it is very unfortunate. At the end, the people who were dealing with Beauvoir were good people."

The lawsuit against Murphree and the Beauvoir board of directors alleged it was trying to strip control of the home from the Mississippi SCV's general membership. But Murphree contended the suit was the first step by national leaders who have white-supremacist leanings to wrest control of Beauvoir from his nonprofit group. Mississippi members of the SCV have recently seen the group's national charter moved from Mississippi to Texas and have seen many of their members unseated by what they refer to as a new, radical faction.

As part of the lawsuit, Murphree contended the influence had trickled into Mississippi.

The national SCV named Denne Sweeney of Texas commander-in-chief about two years ago, and some members of the Mississippi Division were removed. Sweeney, who has since been replaced, was characterized by some as a new radical, and said his organization stands fast against "political correctness."

Some view the SCV's actions in flag controversies as a stray from its traditional mission, and they say the group has aligned itself with people who could be considered white supremacists.

The suit filed this past January asked that the court define who is now considered a member of the Division and the defendants "the old guard" say the new, more radical national leadership is directing the actions of the Mississippi Division. Court documents filed by Murphree show communication from the Division to the national headquarters asking how to proceed.

The affidavits allege members of the national SCV leadership have ties to white-supremacist groups. But the court sided with the SCV.

While the suit raged, others spoke out against funding the repairs.

In April, Derrick Johnson, head of the Mississippi NAACP, said the government should not spend millions to fix Beauvoir because it's both privately held and offensive to many.

"To celebrate a time in history that is offensive to a substantial population in the state is something that we should not promote or pay for as taxpayers," Johnson told the Sun Herald. "The Confederacy upheld a moral principal that believes that one



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human being should be held in bondage by another."

The SCV has other critics.

Edward Sebesta, an independent researcher of Neo-Confederate issues who is working on a book with some members of the SPLC, said there would likely be no overt evidence of "Neo-Confederate" ideologies at work in Biloxi while the group is seeking funding.

"I think they will tone down their behavior and say 'We are just statue-polishers here guys'," Sebesta said.

"As soon as they don't need public funding, I think they will use Beauvoir to advocate the full, radical Neo-Confederate agenda," he said.

Sebesta said the content of the bookstore at Beauvoir may change when the home is rebuilt, and radical ideas might surface.

"I can see them having lectures where Lincoln is compared to Stalin, pro-slavery theology, attacks on Martin Luther King," he said. "You will have a polarizing impact on your local community and a black eye in the national press."

But the Mississippi SCV members take issue with claims made by Murphree, Sebesta, the NAACP and the SPLC.

Ed Funchess, commander of the Mississippi Division and a new Beauvoir board member, said the group would never be involved in politics and legally endanger its nonprofit status.

Documents filed by Murphree and other attorneys for the Beauvoir board said then-commander Sweeney, in an e-mail, referred Funchess to Kirk Lyons, who is described by the SPLC as a "white-supremacist lawyer" about how to proceed with the suit against Murphree's group.

The affidavit also included a magazine article from Intelligence Report, the SPLC magazine, which shows a two-page spread from a Neo-Nazi newsletter of Lyons' wedding at an Aryan compound in Idaho in 1990.

Lyons wrote the Biloxi Sun Herald and denied charges he was a racist after an article on Beauvoir and the SCV appeared in the paper in April.

Funchess, who has met Lyons, defended him as one who fights for the protection of Confederate symbols, and said he handles legal matters for the SCV.

But Funchess acknowledged that no organization is immune to unsavory characters and others could have acted wrongfully, but he has personally seen no evidence of racist agendas pushed by the group.

"If I found something of substance that showed the SCV was actively racial, I wouldn't even get home before I would leave the organization. I would make a phone call on the way."

Funchess said the SCVs affiliation with the Confederate battle flag, which has been seized by the Ku Klux Klan and other racist groups as a symbol of hate, has caused the group to draw fire from the left. He said groups like the SPLC see the flag and automatically think those who wave it are racists.

He said many have misconceptions about the reasons the Civil War was fought.

"In their minds, the whole war was fought over slavery," Funchess said. "They probably think that."

Tariffs levied by the government against the South were a major contributor to the war, he said.

But despite the allegations raised by activist groups, Funchess said that since the lawsuit was settled

Beauvoir meetings have been productive and harmonious and the new board is enthusiastic.

"I just feel there is a unity there I have not seen in years," he said.

Bed found in Pennsylvania shed is the one used by Abe Lincoln

By Ann Rodgers, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, November 04, 2006

Abraham Lincoln did indeed sleep there.

An ornate bed found last week in the eaves of a county maintenance shed in South Park has been determined to be the one Lincoln used while here one stormy night in 1861, officials revealed yesterday.

"We believe we have found Abraham Lincoln's bed from the Monongahela House," said an elated Andrew Baechle, Allegheny County director of parks.

It was compared to old Pittsburgh Post-Gazette photographs and "every ding and dent can be matched," he said. For good measure, blueprints from the Monongahela House, a former grand hotel overlooking the river, were found with it, he said.

"It's something historians always knew was out there someplace," said Andrew Masich, president and chief executive officer of the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center, where a news conference was held yesterday.

"But no one knew exactly where it was."

He estimated that conservation and fumigation will take months. He hoped it would remain at the history center, and expected it to be part of a major exhibit planned for President Lincoln's 200th birthday in 2009.



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The bed's fragility prevented the white-gloved museum staff from fully assembling it. It was propped on boxes, minus its massive posts and much of its headboard. Mr. Masich measured it at reporters' request and found it was exactly as long as the 6-foot-4-inch president.

Also on display yesterday was an elegant wooden commode -- not much higher than a training potty -- containing a porcelain chamber pot. Two chairs -- a rocker with a torn leather seat and a four-legged chair whose brocade had weathered to a musty brown -- also were unveiled.

The heavy walnut bed was a mix of late rococo revival and early renaissance revival styling, appropriate for 1861. It was typical of good hotel furniture for its day, Mr. Baechle said.

But there is nothing typical about its history. Even before Mr. Lincoln's visit, it had been slept in by the Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VII of England. Subsequently it would be slept in by nine more presidents -- though not necessarily when they were in office. Three of them -- Mr. Lincoln, James Garfield and William McKinley -- were assassinated.

"I don't know whether it's been cursed or not," Mr. Masich said.

The 210-bed Monongahela House stood on what is now Fort Pitt Boulevard at Smithfield Street, site of the former United Way building. President Lincoln stayed there Feb. 14, 1861, on his way to his inauguration.

The country was teetering on the brink of war, and there were threats against his life, Mr. Masich said. "Some rabid secessionists said he'll never make it to Washington alive," he said.

But Pittsburgh was friendly.

"He called Allegheny County the banner county of the Union," Mr. Masich said.

Despite sleet and rain, 15,000 people turned out to greet him, cramming into the lobby. Colorful Zouave Cadets formed a cordon that allowed him to pass to his room and briefly address the crowd from his balcony. He gave a longer speech the next day.

"I repeat, there is no crisis, except such a one as turbulent men can get up whenever they please," he said.

Pittsburghers immediately recognized the room's significance, and only the most elite guests were allowed to stay there afterward, Mr. Masich said.

The room was lovingly preserved until 1935, when the hotel was torn down. The furniture and decor were given to a county museum located in South Park.

"Then the story gets kind of murky," Mr. Baechle said.

There is no record of when the museum closed. Mr. Masich urged those who remember the museum and who may have pictures of it to contact the Heinz History Center.

The last known picture of the bed was taken in 1959, at a county maintenance shop. County officials made an intensive search for it after an historian contacted them in 1998, but a search of that building came up empty.

On Oct. 26, a carpenter climbed into the eaves of the maintenance shed to repair a leaky roof, and discovered a previously unknown alcove, filled with old furniture wrapped in burlap. He remembered a search for historic furniture, and immediately alerted Mr. Baechle.

There were more than 70 pieces of wood, covered with feathers from a down mattress that had virtually exploded. An entomologist from the

county health department found not only beetles and mites, but at least six snakeskins in the feathers. Mr. Baechle said. Everything had to be moved to the history center in body bags from the medical examiner's office, so that no other antiques would be contaminated.

Mr. Masich would not estimate the bed's value, and said museums do not appraise such items.

"These are treasures for our community that are priceless," he said.

"Car Boot Sale" Item may be valuable Lincoln- Grant Document

October 4, 2006, Metro UK

An antiques buff who paid £1 for a framed scrap of paper at a car boot sale could have unearthed a lost treasure worth £500,000.

The document is thought to be the executive order written by US president Abraham Lincoln giving Lieut Gen Ulysses S Grant command of the US army -- a move that led to victory in the American Civil War.

Kenneth Anderson-Jones, 75, bought it without looking at it too closely at a sale in Stratford-upon-Avon.

He realised its significance when he got home. He said: 'I shouted to my wife: "Hey. Look at this!" Behind the dirt was a short document signed by Abraham Lincoln.'

Auctioneer Sotheby's is investigating the authenticity of the document with help from US experts. Early indications are that it is genuine.



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Extras needed for Gettysburg Film

By TIM PRATT, Hanover Evening Sun, October 23, 2006

Next summer, ghosts of Civil War soldiers will march through the streets of Gettysburg.

Abraham Lincoln will rise from the dead and Jesus Christ will return to earth as the apocalypse approaches. There will be natural disasters and miracles, paranormal happenings and mystical beings.

And it is all the doing of Ann Keller.

Keller is the author and screenwriter of "Vortex of Revelation," a science fiction/action movie that will have portions filmed in Gettysburg on June 14 to 17. The film will be based off Keller's novel of the same name.

Producers are calling on 75 to 100 Union and Confederate re-enactors to serve as extras in the full-length feature film.

"We have a scene where Civil War soldiers are marching as ghosts through downtown Gettysburg," said casting director Kerry Eble-Keller. "People in shops and homes can also be extras."

Eble-Keller, husband of the author, said he is still casting for a few main roles in the film as well.

The story is set in the present day and begins with a farmer in a Gettysburg Pizza Hut witnessing flashes of light outside. Then, the mayor of Gettysburg witnesses the ghost of a Civil War soldier on horseback cross the street in front of his car.

As more and more Civil War ghosts march through town, the mayor and police chief call on para-psychologist Jack Urso to investigate.

The story is about the second coming of Jesus Christ, and as the End of Days approaches, vortices in time

and space open up and the dead walk among the living.

Urso, his wife, a priest and the priest's assistant travel around the world to investigate ghostly sightings, miracles and other mystical activities as judgment day approaches.

"We've got quite a tale here that needs to be told," Eble-Keller said.

Dave Andrews, an actor who has had roles in TV shows such as *Desperate Housewives*, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* and *Gilmore Girls*, will play one of the lead characters in the film. Emmy Award winner Roger C. Ambrose has signed on as Production Designer.

Eble-Keller said he expects a majority of the re-enactors to come from the Gettysburg, Hanover, Harrisburg and Chambersburg areas.

But the film will not be filmed strictly in downtown Gettysburg. Eble-Keller said he is still looking for a large field in the Gettysburg area to film a battlefield scene.

Portions of the movie will be filmed in other historic locations as well, including Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., and The Alamo in San Antonio, Texas.

Eble-Keller said that a group of extras has already signed on for the project, but he is always looking for more. The project is seeking male and female re-enactors of all ages for the parts.

Eble-Keller said he hopes the film will be completed in the summer of 2007 with a release date in early 2008.

"Basically, the second coming of judgment is something all Christians share," Eble-Keller said. "It's sort of a wake-up call for folks. If we do this movie right, it's going to leave behind a legacy and countless millions will be affected by it."

Reward offered for return of replicas of cannons

By Mark E. Vogler, Lawrence Eagle-Tribune, October 18, 2006

LAWRENCE - Police are using the Internet and getting advice from Civil War scholars as they investigate the theft of two bronze replicas of cannons from the grave site of a Civil War soldier at Bellevue Cemetery.

"It's kind of a unique case," Lawrence police Chief John Romero said yesterday. The cannons, valued at about \$10,000, were stolen last week from the Sumner H. Needham Memorial.

So far, police said they don't have a clue how somebody scaled the 7-foot-tall monument in the middle of the night and removed the cannons, each weighing 200 to 300 pounds, without attracting attention.

But Romero hopes yesterday's announcement of a \$1,000 reward by the Lawrence Civil War Memorial Guard will help investigators.

The guard has the reward money set aside but also is opening up an account to solicit donations to replace the cannons that were installed in 2002 as part of the restoration of the monument honoring Needham, the first Lawrencian to die while serving in the Civil War and one of the first soldiers on both sides to die from combat wounds.

"If the contributions don't go to the replacement of the cannons, they'll go toward replacing the fence that once surrounded the monument," said Elizabeth Charlton, vice president of the guard.

Some members of the Civil War Memorial Guard are blitzing the Internet and Civil War Web sites with bulletins about the thefts.



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"We want to make things so hot that it will burn the hands of the thieves and they'll want to drop the cannons - just like they were touching an overheated cannon barrel back in the Civil War," said Robert Poulin of Lawrence, a Civil War buff and member of the guard.

Douglas Knight of Salem, N.H., a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and a Civil War scholar, said he doesn't believe the cannons were stolen to sell to make quick cash from a junk dealer. Nor does he believe a more sophisticated crew would steal the bronze to sell to a scrap dealer or foundry.

Police said the cannons melted down might net \$1,000 - the equivalent of the cash reward being offered by the guard.

Knight has a couple of theories of where the stolen cannons may be headed.

"If the thieves thought that what they were stealing was an original piece, the cannons are going to a Civil War buff as a souvenir," Knight said.

"On the other hand, if the thieves knew they were replicas, they're probably going to Civil War re-enactors," he said.

If the cannons are headed to Civil War re-enactors or sophisticated collectors, Knight said it would be worth perusing future issues of the popular publications that cater to those people.

The police or the guard might be able to track the cannons down by scanning such publications or placing notices with the reward money in them, Knight said.

Monitoring eBay ads by people trying to move Civil War cannons is another option Knight suggested.

"I hope they are stupid thieves who advertise their thefts and wind up getting caught," he said.

Charlton said she has already embarked on a little Internet sleuthing of her own. She said she has programmed her computer so it advises her of anything circulating over the Internet listing "bronze cannons."

Charlton and Knight said cannon thefts - though rare for Lawrence - are more common than the public realizes. There's even a Web site on the Internet for stolen cannons.

Romero said reaching out to the Civil War community is part of his department's methodology for this investigation. He said he appreciates the advice his investigators have received so far from them.

Police still intend to check with scrap metal dealers and foundries - including the Royalston company that crafted the cannons.

"We're going to check to see if somebody in the region recently received a large quantity of bronze," Romero said.

"But I don't think somebody woke up one morning and decided to steal them for the scrap metal value. You're talking about items that cost about \$10,000 to replace," the chief said.

Besides Civil War scholars and re-enactors, police will be talking to cemetery officials. Anyone who took a recent interest in the Needham site - particularly the cannons - could be considered a suspect, Romero said.