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Big Road Project Started in Gettysburg

Oct. 24 2007- CWi -Work has begun this week on a \$ 2.2 million roads project on the Gettysburg battlefield, according to the National Park Service. The Federal Lands Highway Program has funded the repaving project on nineteen historic roads in Gettysburg National Military Park and the repair of the Reynolds Avenue bridge over the railroad tracks.

Puente Construction from Woodbury, New Jersey, is the contractor, with two local subcontractors working with them, including CS Davidson, Inc. and Kinsley Construction.

Contractors began pavement sealing and repaving on the following roads, and will continue for the next three weeks, weather permitting: Colgrove Avenue, Carmen Avenue, Slocum Avenue, Culp's Hill Tower Road, Hunt Avenue, Sedgwick Avenue, Wheatfield Road, Crawford Avenue, South Sickles Avenue, and Ayers Avenue. Temporary closures may be necessary on some of these roads but will not exceed three to five days on each road. In the event of temporary road closures, these roads will be open on weekends. In March 2008, a second group of park roads will be treated and repaved, weather permitting, including: Reynolds Avenue, Wadsworth Avenue, Doubleday Avenue, Robinson Avenue, Seminary Avenue, South Confederate Avenue, Benner's Hill Road, Berdan Avenue, and National Cemetery Drive. Once again, temporary closures may be necessary on some of these roads but will not exceed three to five days on each road. Roads will be open on the weekends.

The project also includes total replacement of the Reynolds Avenue Bridge in the northwest section of the

Gettysburg battlefield, beginning in January 2008. Weather permitting, construction may take up to three months.

Because of the difficulties and expense involved in keeping the bridge open to traffic throughout the project, the National Park Service is considering a temporary closure of the bridge during construction. A final decision on this possible bridge closure will be made closer to the January start date.

For more information contact the Gettysburg National Military Park Public Affairs Office at (717) 334-1124 x452. or visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/gett

Gettysburg trolley could be running by spring

By MATT CASEY, Hanover Evening Sun, October 12, 2007

Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent John Latschar said a planned trolley system connecting downtown Gettysburg and the park's new visitor center will open next spring, but whether the system will be public or private has yet to be determined.

Latschar said recently at the park's Advisory Commission meeting that he has not received paperwork finalizing a Park Service grant for the system, but has been told verbally that the funds have been approved.

The park would use the grant to buy three trolleys to serve the nine-stop loop, Latschar said.

The trolley's route would include two stops on Lincoln Square and two stops serving Steinwehr Avenue - the borough's traditional tourist strip - as well as stops at The Soldiers National Cemetery and the new visitor center, which is under construction along Hunt Avenue, near Baltimore Pike.

If federal money doesn't come through, Latschar said he has a contingency plan for Gettysburg Tours Inc. to run the trolley route privately.

Latschar predicted the trolleys will be more expensive for passengers if the Park Service has to contract with Gettysburg Tours for the work, but said no prices have yet been finalized.

Local hotels have expressed interest in purchasing trolley passes for their guests, he said.

"If we can get this started ... we can make it work," Latschar told the small gathering at the meeting in the Cyclorama building.

He said the system is pre-qualified for Congestion Management Air Quality and state rural transit operating funds.

In other news:

Latschar said workers have hung seven of the 14 sections of the Cyclorama painting at the new visitor center. The park plans to open the Cyclorama painting next August.

Latschar said the Gettysburg National Military Park is "finally going to be entering the 21st century," when the Gettysburg Foundation unveils a new Web site later this fall.

The superintendent said visitors to the site will be able to buy tickets and reserve park guides, and links from the site will allow visitors to find other attractions in Gettysburg.

The Park Service will be adding a "fourth day" to the battlefield auto tour, Latschar said, that will take visitors to downtown Gettysburg, and include a stop at the Wills House.

Latschar said the change would be included in the self-guided auto tour brochures as well as the auto tour signs.



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US TRUMPS STATES OVER SITING POWER LINES

Designated as part of a national power 'corridor' Tuesday, Virginia could see transmission towers near Civil War sites.

By Mark Clayton, The Christian Science Monitor, October 4, 2007
Huge transmission lines could soon skirt Civil War battlegrounds, historic districts, and the Appalachian Trail following a federal order that designates national corridors in two key regions of the United States with fast-growing electricity needs.

The corridors are designed to make it easier for utilities to get approval for power lines in areas where the electric grid is congested. They allow the US Energy Department – not states – to be the final arbiter of where the lines are built.

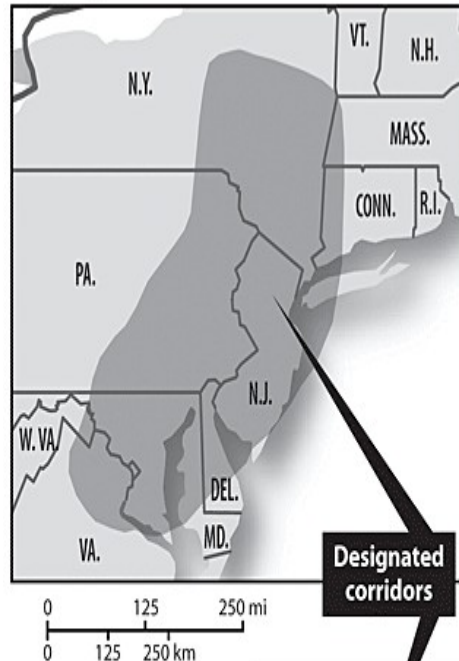
Tuesday's move is certain to spark a fresh round of lawsuits and inject vigor into congressional debates about new energy legislation, critics say, especially over provisions for the new eastern corridor. At stake is the reliability and cost of electric power in the Northeast, its embrace of green energy, and the ambience of hundreds of thousands of rural acres from New York to Virginia.

Arguing that the US badly needs new transmission lines to prevent future power shortages and possibly even blackouts, federal energy officials say newly designated "national interest electric corridors" in the Mid-Atlantic states and the Southwest are a much needed insurance policy.

"These National Corridors serve as an important indication by the federal government that significant transmission [power] constraint or congestion problems exist," Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said in a

statement. "The goal is simple – to keep reliable supplies of electric energy flowing to all Americans."

New power corridors



The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission this week designated two huge swaths of land to accommodate new transmission lines to ease congestion on the nation's electric grid.



But opponents, including the governors of New York and Virginia, state regulators, and others, say it's anything but simple. The newly designated corridors hold potential to push power lines through some of the most scenic and historic areas of 11 states. They would also undermine Northeast states' bid to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions by causing them to rely more on cheaper coal-fired power from the Midwest, rather than cleaner but higher cost

electric generators fired by natural gas.

"I am deeply disappointed in the department's decision to go forward with this designation," says Rep. Frank Wolf (R) of Virginia. "It makes no sense and has the potential to destroy neighborhoods and desecrate huge swaths of historically significant land."

Under provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is allowed to preempt local and state zoning laws when it designates a "national interest electric transmission corridor." It also permits the use of federal powers of eminent domain that would require landowners to sell their property.

As reported by the Monitor in May, at least eight power lines stretching 2,000 miles through six eastern states at an estimated cost of more than \$9 billion are under active consideration or have been formally proposed by power companies. But those plans, which make it possible to bring power from the Ohio Valley to the East Coast, face increasing opposition.

Indeed, the new corridors are not needed to boost reliability, say state officials and some grid-reliability experts. They say the corridors are aimed mainly at making it possible for large, deregulated utilities to profit from transmitting cheap coal-fired power from the Ohio Valley to the East Coast.

What raises suspicions for some is the sweeping scope of the corridor along the Eastern Seaboard. Transmission planners and engineers say upgrades to existing lines could address reliability without a need for most new lines. The two new corridors are not exactly narrow pathways for power lines, but



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encompass wide swaths of 11 states. The new Mid-Atlantic power corridor, for instance, encompasses 116,000 square miles.

"The FERC cited the Hudson Valley in New York as a bottleneck for power – but that's wrong," says George Loehr, a power engineer and executive committee member of the New York State Reliability Council. "It's just that independent generating companies in upstate New York would like to be able to move more power to New York City and Long Island. That's the highest priced market and would earn them more money there. But that's not a reliability issue."

But Dominion Resources, which has proposed a 65-mile power line through the Virginia countryside narrowly skirting battlefields, has said it expects state regulators to make a positive decision on its recent application. If the company doesn't like the decision, it may now apply to FERC for review of its power-line proposal.

Some of the most heated resistance is in Virginia where the new national corridor includes 11 historic districts, one national historic landmark, 19 state or national historic sites, seven Civil War battlefields, and the Appalachian Trail. Some of the most famous sites of the Civil War – Manassas, Antietam, and Gettysburg – lie within the Mid-Atlantic corridor.

Mark Brownstein, a managing director at Environmental Defense, a New York-based environmental group, says his group is examining the possibility of a lawsuit. The new corridor border divides Appalachian coal reserves and large urban populations on the East Coast. "It seems no accident these corridors are exactly along the borders of states that have committed to

reducing greenhouse gasses," he says.

Gettysburg's 6th New York Cavalry Monument Badly Damaged by Lightning Strike

Oct. 30 3007-CWi-Officials at Gettysburg National Military Park are still assessing the damage done by a lightning strike on October 9th that seriously damaged the monument to the 6th New York Cavalry. The monument dates to 1889 and is composed of rough hewn and smooth granite, standing 26 feet high on a 14 x 10 foot base. It has a tower with turrets at each corner. Horse heads cap the pilasters. The monument features a bronze relief on the west face and an information tablet on the east side. It was designed by Frederick and Field and is located near the center of Buford Avenue, in the northwest part of the Gettysburg Battlefield.

Components of the stonework were blown free by the strike, and many of the stone components were displaced when mortar joints failed. The park's monument preservation experts have stored loose pieces of the monument and plan to stabilize it for the winter season using straps and possibly tarps.

According to Vic Gavin, the head of the park's monument preservation branch, "The damage may be even worse inside the structure where lightning superheated the moisture that is naturally present in the stone and mortar."

"We may have to totally disassemble it to repair the damage," said Gavin. "Because of staff limitations, we will very likely need to use a private-sector restoration firm."

National Park Service damage estimates are in the \$100,000 range.

A park neighbor reported hearing lightning in the area at the approximate time of the strike. The last known lightning strike on a Gettysburg monument was in the 1930s on the 58th New York monument which is nearby.

Bristoe Station Battlefield park opens

By JACLYN PITTS, Potomac News.com, October 15, 2007

Tucked behind rows of new single-family homes and town houses are approximately 134 historic acres now open to the public as Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park in Bristow.

Historians and residents celebrated the park's grand opening this weekend with tactical demonstrations, tours and living history exhibits.

Park visitors got to see what a Civil War field hospital would have looked like, complete with a field surgical chest, various medical tonics, a body cleaning area and other items.

Washington, D.C., podiatrist and living history demonstrator Dr. Charles Raugh said the replica hospital camp on display Sunday was positioned as a front line hospital in the center of the battlefield during the war.

Raugh said Civil War field hospitals typically consisted of two surgeons, two tables and "hordes of wounded" in the front.

Historical re-enactor James Owens of Silver Spring, Md., and his fellow members of Company D 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry demonstrated various Union Army formations for visitors Sunday.

As the 1st Minnesota re-enactors demonstrated "capping off," or clearing their muskets before battle, Owens explained that the first thing soldiers learned when they enlisted



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during the Civil War was the school of the soldiers.

The school served as uniform rules about formation and techniques for battle.

Owens explained how the troops were formed into two lines of battle with officers at the back. As casualties occurred, the gaps would be filled by other soldiers, he said.

During the skirmish demonstration, Owens explained that the main idea behind the formation of firing in pairs was to keep the loaded musket closest to the opponents.

After one soldier fired, another would move up to cover him, Owens said.

Sunday marked the 144th anniversary of the Battle of Bristoe Station.

On Oct. 14, 1863, Confederate Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill's corps stumbled upon two corps of the retreating Union army at Bristoe Station and attacked without proper reconnaissance.

Union soldiers of the 2nd Corps, posted behind the Orange and Alexandria Railroad embankment, mauled two brigades of Henry Heth's division and captured a battery of artillery.

Hill reinforced his line but could make little headway against the determined defenders.

After this victory, the Federals continued their withdrawal to Centreville.

Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's Bristoe offensive sputtered to a premature halt.

After minor skirmishing near Manassas and Centreville, the Confederates retired slowly to Rappahannock River destroying the Orange and Alexandria Railroad as they went.

Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park is located off Bristow Road (Va.

619 West) near the intersection of Va. 619 and Va. 28 South.

Ford's Theater Upgrade Puts Lincoln at Center Stage

Theater Expansion to Add Buildings, Historical Focus

By Jacqueline Trescott, Washington Post, October 26, 2007

Ford's Theater, a melancholy landmark in downtown Washington for 140 years, is planning a multimillion-dollar expansion that will give visitors interested in history a more comprehensive look at President Abraham Lincoln.

"We want to use the theater as a focal point about Abraham Lincoln's life and his presidency, and use that as an opportunity to learn more about Lincoln's life, not just how he died," said Rex W. Tillerson, chairman and chief executive officer of ExxonMobil, who is leading the federally owned theater's drive to raise \$40 million.

The campaign, which will be announced at the theater today, will create a "Lincoln campus" downtown. Eventually, six buildings on both sides of 10th Street NW will be linked as part of Ford's and Lincoln's chronicle. The reinterpretation of Lincoln will include a state-of-the-art education center directly across the street from the theater.

The historic theater, where Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, doubles as one of the city's important theaters, and the renovation will make things more comfortable for those attending plays. Ford's will be modernized to include a new lobby with a cafe and gift shop and a refurbished museum in the basement of the main theater. And -- let the applause begin -- the overhaul includes replacing the theater's gilded

seats, which are generally considered the most uncomfortable in town.

The theater, which has been closed for renovations since August, will reopen as an active stage in February 2009, in time to celebrate the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth.

Ford's generally draws 1 million visitors a year. The main attraction has been the box where Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865. Many of the tourists then visit the Petersen House across the street, where Lincoln spent his final hours until his death the next morning.

Yet these two spots only touch the surface of what Lincoln meant, why he was reviled and revered, the politics and suffering of slavery and the Civil War. Although more has been written about Lincoln than any other president, he is not always understood despite being widely recognized.

"We have unbelievable assets we are not maximizing," says Paul R. Tetreault, the theater's producing director. "For almost 40 years now, Ford's Theatre has been about those two days."

He says the goal of the new displays is to explore "who was this man and why did it matter? Why is this man the president against whom all presidents are measured?"

The renovations will be completed in two phases. The first is on the east side of 10th Street, where the original theater will be renovated. That will be finished in 2009. The second part, across the street, is to be finished by early 2010. Ford's has purchased an office building at 514 10th St., adjacent to the Petersen House. It's a narrow 10-story structure, only 24 feet wide. The front of the first four stories will be glass, with two huge images of Lincoln facing the theater. It will be called the Center for



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Education and Leadership, and its exhibits will cover 1861 to 1865, the years of Lincoln's presidency.

Displays will deal with the aftermath of the shooting, when bells tolled from all the churches and there were newspaper extra editions. One scene will depict the funeral train and describe the 20 days of national mourning. The shooting of Booth and the trial of his conspirators will be explained. There will be a video in which Lincoln historians discuss what might have happened if Lincoln had *not* gone to the theater that night.

Another section will talk about the Lincoln Memorial and how it emerged as a meeting place for many famous speeches and gatherings. It will contain a tower of books, representing all the words that have been written about Lincoln's life.

On the theater's side of the street, the events leading up to Lincoln's murder will be emphasized.

The theater's basement gallery, which has housed a small Lincoln museum since 1932, gets an overhaul. There will be 12,000 square feet of displays telling the story of the Lincoln presidency and Civil War-era Washington.

One gallery will tell how Lincoln, aware of an assassination plot in 1861, came into Washington disguised as an invalid. Sound effects will include train whistles and hushed conspiratorial voices humming "Dixie." There will be excerpts from Lincoln's speeches.

Videos will discuss critical decisions, arguments and meetings, including the relationship of Lincoln and black leader Frederick Douglass. Lincoln's confrontation with Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger B. Taney over the president's war powers will also be highlighted. Story boards will portray the death (from a typhoid-like

illness) of the president's young son Willie, the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and the famous speech at Gettysburg.

The theater and museum, operated by the National Park Service, have 400 Lincoln objects, including Booth's diary and the original door to the president's box. It is uncertain where the most famous artifacts -- the derringer used by Booth and the hoods worn by the conspirators when they were hanged -- will be displayed. Timelines, placed in the passage leading from the basement galleries to the theater, will show how Lincoln and Booth spent April 14, 1865.

Other changes will make the theater more comfortable.

For the first time the theater will add a roomy lobby. There's no space for one in the historic building, so Ford's is currently leasing 5,000 square feet in a building next door. The improvements will include couches in the lobby, better restrooms, a more convenient box office, new refreshment counters, a visitor center and a gift shop. There will be an elevator to the second floor and one from the new lobby to the parking garage. (The historic theater currently has no elevators.)

The strategy, approved by the Ford's Theatre Society Board of Trustees, has also been supervised by a special advisory council for the project. It includes historians David Herbert Donald, Doris Kearns Goodwin, James M. McPherson, Gary W. Gallagher and Brent Glass, the director of the National Museum of American History.

Tillerson said half of the \$40 million needed for the project has been raised. The National Park Service, which manages the historic site, contributed \$8.3 million and ExxonMobil, \$5 million.

The site was the home of the First Baptist Church from 1833 until it was converted into a theater in 1862. Gutted by a fire the same year, it reopened in August 1863. According to the theater's records, Lincoln attended productions at Ford's at least 12 times. The president saw John Wilkes Booth perform in November 1863.

The theater was closed for 103 years, used as offices by the federal government until it reopened in 1968. That is when it was last spruced up.

The theater usually presents five productions a season, and last season's attendance was 100,000. When it reopens in 15 months, visitors to the site will watch a one-act play about April 1865 as part of their tour.

Now the chairs: The current ones are rigid, with a thin cushion. The new chair was inspired by the seats in the 19th-century Lovely Lane United Methodist Church in Baltimore. The prototype the theater is testing is wood, with a padded back and a padded seat that folds up, allowing better passage in the rows. It has armrests and filigreed iron sides. The seats will not be attached to the floor, reflecting the style of Lincoln's day. The exact number of new seats is still being worked out. Tetreault wants to eliminate the 90 seats (out of 682) that have obstructed views.

"Even before I arrived at Ford's I heard about the uncomfortable seats. For the past 3 1/2 years, everyone I meet mentions the seats," he says. "I knew no renovation would be complete without changing the seats -- it was the one thing I knew I needed to accomplish during my tenure at Ford's. I am thrilled that we are able to do that now -- and I know our audiences will be as well."



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Still no monument for Douglass in Easton

Capitol Online, October 28, 2007

EASTON (AP) - It's been more than three years since the birthplace of abolitionist Frederick Douglass agreed after a rancorous debate to honor its native son with a statue on the courthouse lawn.

But there's still no Douglass monument at the Talbot County courthouse, a delay that has supporters wondering if this Eastern Shore community still is snubbing its most famous resident.

"It's a sad commentary that Easton's claim to fame is Frederick Douglass, but you can't convince white people of that," said Ed Dwight, a Denver artist who created a Douglass statue for the Douglass Museum in Washington and a monument to "Roots" author Alex Haley in Annapolis.

Mr. Dwight has plans for a Douglass monument in Easton, too, but he said he has no idea when one will be installed.

"Your guess is as good as mine," Mr. Dwight said.

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery in Talbot County around 1817 or 1818. As an adult, his master sent him to work in a Baltimore shipyard before Mr. Douglass disguised himself as a sailor to escape north to freedom. His autobiography, published in 1845, was a best-seller that helped fuel the abolitionist movement. After the war, Mr. Douglass spoke at Abraham Lincoln's funeral and advocated for women's rights.

Despite Mr. Douglass' fame, though, his home county was deeply divided over how to honor him when some proposed a courthouse monument several years ago.

There are two existing memorials on the lawn - one to Vietnam veterans and one for the "Talbot Boys," local men who fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War. Veterans groups in Talbot opposed the idea of a Douglass statue on the site, saying the courthouse lawn was reserved for military dead. They said a library or school would be more appropriate for a Douglass monument.

The opposition stung black residents, especially since one of the veterans' monuments honored people who fought to preserve slavery. The debate turned into a bitter racial dispute that drew national attention. After months of heated arguments, Talbot's all-white council voted in a 2004 split decision to allow the Douglass statue to be built. It was a decision some still oppose. "I said, let's put it anywhere in the county except where the veterans are," said Council President Thomas G. Duncan, who voted against the Douglass statue then and says he'd vote the same way now. "I think it should go in front of the library. What better place could it be?" After the council voted to allow the courthouse statue, though, the Douglass debate was just beginning. The council stipulated that the statue be built with no county funds and that it be proportional to the Talbot Boys and Vietnam memorials. The group that pushed for the Douglass statue has raised \$400,000, but design and other disputes have kept Mr. Dwight's memorial on the drawing board.

"The issue that now raises its ugly head is who gets to decide what the statue looks like on the lawn," said Moonyene Jackson-Amis, an Easton town councilwoman who leads Fred's Army, the group raising money for the Douglass monument.

The group pitched a memorial that would've included a statue of Mr. Douglass, along with panels about his life and other statues at his feet. But even county officials who voted to approve the statue complained about the proposed size of the Douglass monument.

"Basically, it would've taken up all the room," said Councilman Philip Carey Foster, who cast the deciding vote to allow the statue. "There's very little space to put up monuments. It's not like the Mall in Washington." Ms. Jackson-Amis said the size dispute shows a lack of support from county officials. "They just want a bird's perch," she said. Ms. Jackson-Amis said another stumbling block is the lack of funding from the county. Though the county did not contribute to the other two memorials on the courthouse lawn, Ms. Jackson-Amis said Fred's Army needs more than the \$400,000 its raised for the memorial. "The county hasn't given one red cent," Ms. Jackson-Amis said, acknowledging the county never agreed to pay any money, but saying officials should have allocated funds anyway.

Ms. Jackson-Amis said she wasn't sure when the monument could be built.

The bickering is befuddling to history buffs in the county who want to honor the abolitionist. George Seymour, a retiree who leads Frederick Douglass tours in St. Michaels, a few miles south of Easton, said he doesn't understand why the statue isn't in place. Seymour leads small groups to sites where Douglass lived as a teen, and he said he can't see why a Frederick Douglass monument at the courthouse has inspired such ire.



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Newark OH City Council looks to save Clem House

By AMY PICARD, Newark, OH Advocate, October 17, 2007

NEWARK, OH -- Nearly 150 years ago, a boy named John Clem ran away from his Newark home to join Union forces during the Civil War.

Today, some city officials are trying to save his birthplace.

Clem long has been a local hero in Newark. A six-foot bronze statue of him stands on the corner of Sixth and Main streets, and a school is named after him.

But the house he was born in, 26 Harrison St., has long been forgotten. City Council President Marc Guthrie thinks something needs to be done.

"We need to think about whether we, as a community, ought to be getting together to try to save the birthplace," Guthrie said. "If this community can't come together to save his birthplace, then we have a problem."

At least one member of the community, Licking County Historical Society Board of Trustees Secretary Linda Leffel, agrees.

Leffel and Guthrie both tried several years ago to have the birthplace saved, but to no avail.

Leffel originally took an interest in Clem when she was a teacher at John Clem Elementary.

"Everybody has great interest but no money," Leffel said. "I'd like to see it as a place where we could display different artifacts. We need more room to be able to see the rich heritage of Licking County."

But Nov. 10, a documentary, "Johnny," is premiering at Newark High School detailing Clem's life, causing interest to reach a peak again.

According to www.ohiohistorycentral.org, John Clem (originally Klem) was born in 1851. Just before Clem's 10th birthday, he ran away to join the Army but was rejected because of his age. He tagged along anyway as a drummer boy until the 22nd Michigan allowed him to join two years later.

At the Battle of Chickamauga, Clem reportedly shot a Confederate colonel when he ordered Clem to surrender, earning him the nickname "Drummer Boy of Chickamauga." Because of his bravery, Clem was promoted to lance corporal.

When Clem retired from the army in 1915, he was the last Civil War veteran to leave the United States military and had risen to the rank of major general.

Guthrie said although he would like to develop long term plans for the house, right now the focus is on getting the house into code compliance by the premiere.

"The house is in horrible disrepair right now, but it has a lot of character," Guthrie said. "It is really not in a bad neighborhood, so it has potential."

The house has been converted into three apartments, all of which are vacant. The house is for sale and the owner, John Clark, of Columbus, said he didn't know it was a historical property.

However, because the house is private property, there might be little city officials can do to fix problems before Nov. 10.

Shirley Stare, chair of the City Council Recreation Committee, said the citizens advisory council on recreation has discussed possible solutions but has not made any decisions.

"There was some interest in making it a historical landmark," Stare said.

"But I'm really not sure what interest this will drum up."

Several ideas already have been put forward. Leffel hopes one room can display Civil War artifacts, and other rooms can display Licking County artifacts currently in storage. Others hope the house could be moved to join other historical homes on Sixth Street.

Most agree for anything to be done, several sponsors are needed.

"I get frustrated sometimes when I see other organizations able to do similar things," Leffel said. "It's just a shame to see it in disrepair."

Civil War ends for 1 soldier

Switching sides left dispute about markers over resting place

By KARA LOPP, CWi

A soldier believed by some to have switched sides in the Civil War will soon have two markers at his grave -- one Confederate and one Union -- after feuding relatives reached an agreement last week.

Stephen Shook, whose relatives say he died June 10, 1902, had been resting with a Union Army tombstone since at least 1920 in a private cemetery in Madison County, north of Asheville.

Relatives visiting the cemetery in summer 2006 quickly noticed that Shook's Union tombstone, which lists him as a sergeant, had been replaced with a Confederate tombstone. The Union stone was lying on the ground nearby, undamaged.

Richard Hill of Gastonia, a relative of the soldier, was charged this month in Madison County with desecrating a grave.

The charge was dropped last week after family members met with prosecutors and came to an agreement, a spokeswoman with the District Attorney's office said.



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According to the District Attorney's office, Hill has agreed not to disturb the Union stone, which was put back in May, if he can place a plaque at the foot of the grave noting Shook's Confederate service.

When contacted by phone Sunday, Hill declined to comment.

Shook's great-great-grandson, Bennie Whitt, 51, of Mars Hill, said he and other family members were upset that Shook's grave was disturbed without permission.

"To us it wasn't really no big deal as far as the Yankee or Confederate deal," Whitt said. "... But this was a historical marker, and it upset us more that someone went in there and done this."

Family history indicates that Shook switched sides during the war, Whitt said.

Whitt said his great-great-grandfather entered the war as a Confederate soldier but left when he was denied a leave of absence to attend the funeral of his 9-year-old daughter, who had died in a fire while he was away.

Shook later enlisted in the Union Army with a Tennessee cavalry unit, Whitt said.

Whitt said the family has enlistment papers signed by Shook when he entered the Union Army, but they were not immediately available.

Shook's tale, if true, was a familiar one during the Civil War, said James Hogue, associate history professor at UNC Charlotte. A West Point graduate, Hogue has focused much of his research on the Civil War.

Online records of Civil War soldiers at the National Park Service list four entries for the name Stephen Shook.

Three of them show privates in the Confederate Army, cavalry and infantry, with different North Carolina units and one Stephen Shook in the

Tennessee cavalry of the Union Army.

According to the records, the Union Army soldier entered as a private and left as a sergeant.

Soldiers deserting their units were a problem for both side during the Civil War, Hogue said. Letters from home telling soldiers of sickness or pleading for help with the crop harvests prompted many to leave, often without permission, and most never returned, Hogue said.

North Carolina provided the highest number of soldiers for the war, with an estimated 125,000, but also had the highest number of deserters, estimated at between 10,000 and 15,000, Hogue said.

Sheila Grindstaff, a great-great-granddaughter of Shook, is just glad that her family's last battle of the Civil War is now over.

"I'm relieved that that's the end of the story," she said.

CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST ANNOUNCES CAMPAIGN TO SAVE GLENDALE BATTLEFIELD

Preservation group announces national fundraising campaign to save 319 acres of hallowed ground in historic Henrico County, Virginia

(Washington, D.C.) – October 27, 2007, The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), America's largest nonprofit battlefield preservation group, announced today the beginning of a \$4.1 million national campaign to preserve four key parcels of land associated with the Glendale Battlefield in Henrico County, Va. According to historians, the area targeted for preservation witnessed some of the most intense

close-quarters and hand-to-hand combat of the entire Civil War.

"We have a tremendous preservation opportunity at Glendale," remarked CWPT President James Lighthizer. "Until two years ago, practically none of the historic center of this battlefield was protected. Visitors had trouble finding so much as a place to pull off the road. If our campaign to save Glendale is successful, we will have saved nearly the entire battlefield from scratch."

Historians agree with Lighthizer's assessment that preserving this land at Glendale will be an unprecedented achievement. According to Robert E. L. Krick, historian at Richmond National Battlefield Park, "There has been nothing like it before in Virginia.... These acres do not fill in gaps or simply improve an existing picture. They are the core of the battlefield."

The battle of Glendale, also referred to as Frayser's Farm, was fought on June 30, 1862. Earlier that spring, the federal Army of the Potomac had launched an offensive up the Virginia Peninsula in an attempt to capture the Confederate capital at Richmond. After pushing with seven miles of the city Northern fortunes turned when Robert E. Lee took command of the Confederate Army and began steadily driving the invaders back from the capital during his famous Seven Days Campaign. Glendale was the fifth major engagement of the Seven Days Campaign.

The fighting at Glendale was Lee's last chance to inflict serious damage on the Union Army before it was out of reach. The Rebel attack, however, was poorly coordinated and, despite an initial rout, the Federal forces were able to regroup, withdrawing to a strategic defensive position at nearby Malvern Hill. The piecemeal nature of



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the Confederate attack led to enormous casualties -- more than 6,000 killed, wounded or missing on both sides -- and prevented Lee from achieving his goal of crippling the retreating Union Army.

Despite its historical significance, until recently nearly the entire Glendale battlefield remained vulnerable to development. The only areas protected were the tiny Glendale National Cemetery and a small preserved area on the outskirts of the main battle area. Citing numerous impending housing developments with names trading on the battlefield's history, Glendale was included in CWPT's annual list of most threatened battlefields in 2004 and 2006.

Late in 2005, the first piece of Glendale's remarkable reclamation puzzle fell into place when CWPT began moving to acquire a crucial 39 acre tract at the very heart of the battlefield. "For the first time we had cause to celebrate a preservation success at Glendale," Lighthizer said. "Suddenly doors were opened and we could hope that not all of this hallowed ground would be lost to development."

Today, preservationists stand on the cusp of preserving an additional 319 acres at the very heart of the battlefield. To get to this point, negotiations have stretched across many months and multiple meetings. However, CWPT is not yet ready to list the properties as saved; first, they must be paid for.

Since these lands lie entirely within the authorized boundary of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, federal matching grants are not available for acquisition of these parcels. Instead, this land will be purchased almost entirely through the donations of private groups and

individuals. Initial commitments to the project are approaching \$1.5 million, including an extremely generous donation of \$100,000 from the Richmond Battlefields Association.

"Thanks to several preservation-friendly landowners, we have the opportunity to purchase these properties at a fair price," Lighthizer said. "But before we can declare the battlefield protected, we have a lot of fundraising work ahead of us."

"I am constantly amazed by the generosity of the American people and their commitment to protecting these priceless battlegrounds for future generations. We have undertaken an ambitious project, but I know we will succeed. We must preserve these last remaining tangible links to our past and our heritage."

Further arguments split SCV Leadership

Southern Heritage Group Split Again
By Heidi Beirich, Southern Poverty Law Center, October 17, 2007

Infighting within the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) heritage group has reached monumental proportions, as the "Lunatics," the nickname for the SCV's most extreme political hard-liners, call for the resignation of the group's commander, Chris Sullivan. The power struggle exploded during the SCV's convention in late July, when two Lunatics had their memberships suspended by the SCV's ruling General Executive Council (GEC).

Until this April, Sullivan, although a suit-and-tie type, was widely liked in Lunatic circles, where biker attire and extreme-right views predominate. After all, Sullivan has for years published *Southern Partisan*, a neo-Confederate magazine that has defended John Wilkes Booth's assassination of President Lincoln as

"not only sane, but sensible" and called the Emancipation Proclamation "sinister." Sullivan earned extra credit with the Lunatics for his close relationship to fellow South Carolinian and prior SCV commander Ron Wilson (2002-2004), a Lunatics darling who once sold anti-Semitic material on his website.

That extra credit has now been spent. During the convention, the Sullivan-led GEC suspended the membership of James "Jim" McManus, who distributed a racist essay on an SCV E-mail list in 2004, and Eddie "Grooch" McRae. Both men are members of the Norwood, N.C., James-Younger SCV "camp" (or chapter), which is essentially a motorcycle gang dressed up as Confederates.

The suspensions may have been the first step in a Sullivan plan to clean up the SCV's image and thereby halt a dizzying membership freefall. According to the group's proposed fiscal year 2007 budget, the SCV is only sure of receiving dues from 18,600 members, a stunning drop from the 30,000-plus members it claimed a year earlier. Thousands of moderate members have left as embarrassing revelations of racism within the group have been made public, principally in the pages of the *Intelligence Report*.

The GEC — presumably because of the financial strains caused by plummeting membership rolls — also voted at the convention to raise dues by \$10 per year starting in 2008.

The bad blood between the Sullivan and the Lunatic factions broke out in April when Sullivan, with the support of a majority of the GEC, cancelled funds for four members of the James-Younger camp to distribute Confederate flags during a May NASCAR race in Darlington, S.C. The



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SCV has been livid at NASCAR since its CEO, seeking to broaden the stock car racing circuit's popular appeal outside the South, condemned the flag as racist on "60 Minutes" in 2005. In an April letter, Sullivan explained that the funds were denied because one of the men, Donnie "Porkchop" Hatley, wore a T-shirt depicting the violently white supremacist race war novel, *The Turner Diaries*, at a 2006 race where Hatley and two friends were protesting NASCAR's stand. A photograph of that protest, depicting Hatley in his T-shirt, along with the now-suspended Eddie McCrae and another man named Steve Poteat, was published in the Summer 2006 issue of the *Intelligence Report*, causing considerable embarrassment among SCV leaders seeking to avoid the "extremist" label. Sullivan, who declined several E-mail requests from the *Report* for comment, wrote that the SCV was "understandably leery of proceeding" to fund "the same ones who had demonstrated such bad judgment last year."

This was quite a change of course for Sullivan. At the SCV's July 2006 convention, Hatley, McCrae and Poteat, plus their fellow camp member McManus, were awarded SCV "Heritage Defense" medals for protesting NASCAR.

Once Sullivan deemed the James-Younger members unacceptable representatives of the SCV, all hell broke loose as the bikers and their allies went on the attack. Overnight, Sullivan went from being a respected hard-liner to a useless "Granny" — as SCV moderates opposed to the Lunatics are known — who was mocked for his fancy garb and derided for thinking, according to Louisiana member Mark Brandon, that he is "Emperor of the SCV."

Calls for Sullivan's ouster came fast and furious from SCV members who ironically had earlier worked with Sullivan, and Wilson before him, to expel some 400 anti-racists from the North Carolina division. McManus, one of the main supporters of the North Carolina purge, wrote in a recent E-mail that Sullivan should quit. After hearing of his suspension in July, McManus raged, "[W]e are determined to kick the Seersuckerd [sic] High Priests and there [sic] minions out of office & out of our back pockets!!!"

North Carolina SCV leader Bruce Tyson hit the roof. Tyson said he'd already disciplined Hatley and that it was "only ONE T-shirt, worn by ONE man." Tyson mocked Chief of Heritage Defense Darryl Starnes, a Sullivan acolyte, for complaining that "biker attire" worn by McCrae and Hatley was "not proper." Tyson ridiculed Starnes' concerns that the "extreme leftist Southern Poverty Law Center ... would find out about the protest and create trouble for the SCV." And Hatley's fellow protester, McCrae, wrote of Starnes and Sullivan: "I would not want to be in their shoes when they meet their Confederate ancestors at the Gates."

Since the events of April, Sullivan has found himself under constant attack from his right flank. Remarkably, he was tagged as an NAACP lackey for a June SCV press release that actually mocked the NAACP as a "fringe group" following a "flawed program" of attacking Confederate symbols. Though obviously belittling of the NAACP, the press release's clearly sarcastic statement that the SCV is ready "to meet with [the NAACP] and discuss meaningful and responsible ideas" was seen as a sign of weakness by the Lunatics. Ed James, for instance, wrote on the Southern-Herald E-mail list that Sullivan's release was "nothing short of kissing their ass."

Sullivan now is also under attack for the GEC's vote against an amendment put forward during the convention by Alabama SCV Commander Leonard "Flagpole" Wilson. An arch-segregationist and member of the white supremacist Council of Conservative Citizens, Wilson asked the membership to uphold a measure that would have condemned any state legislature that voted to apologize for slavery (so far, Alabama, Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia have done so).

North Carolina's James-Younger camp of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans has reportedly undermined efforts to bring respectability to the SCV



BALTIMORE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE



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After a voice vote that Lunatics sympathizer Mark Brandon swore was won by the "yeas," Brandon wrote in an E-mail: "SullyCo [a derisive term referring to Sullivan and his administration] then overrode the opinion of the delegates from the chair ... to reject and overrule the will of the body assembled by stating, 'In the opinion of the chair, the 'nays' have it.'"

The fallout from this conflict is still spreading.

The most surprising person to come under harsh criticism is white supremacist lawyer Kirk Lyons, who was married on the grounds of the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations compound and had for years been seen as a hero by the Lunatics for orchestrating the infiltration of the SCV by racists. Lyons, who suggested in a 2003 E-mail that Klan members should be allowed in the SCV, is now seen as a Sullivan lackey. Lyons complained in his law firm's July E-mail update about former allies angered by the positions Lyons had taken on "internal SCV political matters" and who "have since mounted a campaign to discredit anything related to the SLRC" — that is, Lyons' nonprofit law firm, the Southern Legal Resource Center.

The reason for the anti-Lyons jihad, according to Lunatic Jim Pierce, is that while the SCV gives Lyons' SLRC "tens of thousands of dollars" to defend children suspended for wearing Confederate flag T-shirts to school, Lyons has done nothing to defend the T-shirt his fellow North Carolinian, Hatley, wore at NASCAR. One Lunatic even suggested Lyons, formerly a Lunatics hero, could be a spy.

McManus and McRae, meanwhile, are blaming two other prominent former Lunatics for their suspensions.

They claim that Charles "Chuck" McMichael and Ron Casteel forwarded some of their more embarrassing E-mails to the GEC. McMichael and Casteel were both at one time members of white supremacist neo-Confederate groups and active on Lunatics E-mail lists. McMichael hotly denied the accusation in an SCV Dispatch E-mail, contending that the Lunatics had their facts wrong. Both McMichael and Casteel refused to comment to the *Report*.

The outrage expressed by SCV hardliners virtually guarantees that this conflict will likely rage on at least until elections are held for new leadership at next year's SCV convention in Concord, N.C.

"Let us count our cartridges, musket caps, clean and shoulder our muskets and march forward to victory in Concord," wrote Brandon, the Lunatic, on the Southern-Herald E-mail list. "The consequences of losing this fight for control of the SCV will be just as devastating as the consequences our ancestors faced upon defeat by the damned yankee race in 1865. The thoroughly reconstructed 'Granny' party of the SCV must be defeated soundly in 2008."

More letters found from Lincoln's 'little correspondent'

By Debbie Woodin, THE JOPLIN GLOBE (JOPLIN, Mo.), October 31, 2007

PITTSBURG, Kan. — An alumna of Pittsburg State University who is a historical researcher will unveil the contents of a recently discovered letter written to Abraham Lincoln by his "little correspondent" next week. The second letter to Lincoln from Grace Bedell, the girl who

encouraged Lincoln to grow a beard in 1860 before his election as president, will be revealed in a ceremony at 11 a.m. Monday at PSU. The alumna is Karen Needles, of Washington, D.C. She has been working for six years as a researcher for the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Ill. She also operates an online service for locating historical documents at www.documentsonwheels.com.

Bedell became known as "Lincoln's little correspondent" when, at age 11, she wrote to the presidential candidate.

"She wrote a letter in 1860 saying he would look more statesmanlike if he wore a beard," said John Lupton, associate director for the papers of Lincoln at the Lincoln Presidential Library.

At first, Lincoln didn't take to the idea. He wrote back to the girl and told her it might be regarded as "silly" for him to grow whiskers after not having had them for many years. But, by the time Lincoln took a train to Washington, D.C., to be sworn into office only a few months after receiving her letter, he sported a full beard.

During that trip to the capital, Lincoln stopped in Bedell's hometown in upstate New York, near Buffalo. He asked for the girl who wrote the letter to step forward from a crowd of well-wishers at the train stop, and he hugged her, Lupton said. That part of the story was made into a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie in 1953 and is a topic in some books. But, it was not the last time Lincoln heard from the girl. Lupton said Needles found another letter from Bedell to Lincoln written about four years later, in 1864, that has been stored in the National Archives. The contents of that letter,



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discovered in March, have not been made public, but Lupton said the writing has to do with the girl searching for a job and hoping Lincoln can arrange to put her to work in the U.S. Treasury. The researchers found no evidence that Lincoln replied to Bedell, and no Treasury Department employment records were found for her. A third letter from Bedell asking Lincoln why he didn't reply also was found, Lupton said.

But, at that time, Lincoln was steeped in duty and worry with the Civil War. The girl wasn't of legal age for hiring, Lupton said, though she may have been trying to earn money for her family.

Bedell eventually married and, as an adult, moved to Kansas with her husband, George Billings, who served as a sergeant in the Civil War. They moved to Delphos, Kan., where she died in 1936 at age 87.

New PA Museum dedicated to history of Henry rifle

By Christian Berg | and Kelly-Anne Suarez, Allentown Morning Call, October 14, 2007

William Henry Atherton was 8 years old when he became enchanted by his family's rich history. It was the summer of 1936: the height of the Great Depression. As part of a Works Progress Administration project, Atherton's father, Thomas Henry Atherton Jr. -- an architect by trade -- had taken to cataloguing the old Boulton Gun Works on the banks of Bushkill Creek in Northampton County. He sketched the factory's grinding wheel, its door hinges, its raceway.

"I held the tape measure," Atherton recalls. As he did so, he listened to

his father expound on the Henrys' former glory.

The Henrys were among the most prolific gunmakers in early America, and the arms they manufactured played a key role in every major conflict from the French and Indian War through the Civil War. They supplied muskets to Gen. George Washington's Continental Army during the American Revolution, and rifles to Union sharpshooters who used them at Shiloh and Vicksburg. "They were a major contributor to American military arms during the early Republic," said Dave Miller, associate curator of military history at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, which has a dozen Henry firearms in its collection.

In addition to their military contributions, the Henrys played pivotal roles in early American politics, education and economics. "I can't think of anything more delightful than having been born into this family," said Atherton, now 79 and the only Henry descendant still living at the family's historic homestead near Jacobsburg. He lives on the top floor of an 18th century log cabin whose main level has been taken over by the Jacobsburg Historical Society's new Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle, which opened last year. Despite the Henry family's storied legacy, its contributions to the nation have largely been forgotten, even in the Lehigh Valley. But efforts by the historical society are kindling awareness of the Henry name. In addition to operating the museum at its 40-acre Bushkill Township property, the society offers regular tours of the Henry family's 1832 townhouse and hosts two living history encampments a year.

One such event will occur Saturday and next Sunday, when several hundred re-enactors will gather for a pre-1840 American fur trade rendezvous featuring black powder rifle shooting, tomahawk throwing, blacksmithing, open hearth cooking, Native American crafts and more. Society board member Dave Ehrig said the rendezvous is an opportunity for local residents to visit the Boulton historic site and see what life was like during the height of Henry gunmaking.

An early patriot

According to Jacobsburg Historical Society records, the Henry gun-making story begins in 1750, when family patriarch William Henry I opened a gun shop in Lancaster. An armorer in the French and Indian and Revolutionary wars, William Henry served in the Continental Congress and was a member of Benjamin Franklin's American Philosophical Society.

A copy of a William Henry portrait, painted by legendary American artist Benjamin West, now hangs in the foyer of the family's 1832 townhouse, a few hundred yards from the Henry Homestead, the modest cabin first occupied by William Henry III and now by Atherton and the longrifle museum.

William I was Atherton's great-great-great-grandfather. (Atherton's grandfather, christened Thomas Atherton Henry, flipped his middle and last names after college, to honor the maternal uncle who paid his way through Princeton University.) While lounging recently in the homestead basement, Atherton spoke of the portrait, which used to hang in the living room of his childhood home in Wilkes-Barre. That painting, combined with the Henry rifles mounted over the fireplace,



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served as reminders of descendants who became his role models. Henrys have served in various political offices, helped build the first bridge across the Delaware River at Easton, introduced Pennsylvania's first forest conservation legislation and co-founded both the Lehigh Coal Co. and the city of Scranton. But the family built its name on the sturdy guns that armed a nation and helped shape its history.

That name still resonates with gun collectors, said Ronald Gable of Slatington, who has served as president of the Jacobsburg Historical Society, the National Kentucky Rifle Association and the American Society of Arms Collectors. While late-model Henry rifles and shotguns sell in the collectors market today for as little as \$500, Gable said, Henry "trade" rifles -- those made for the fur-trading industry during the early 1800s -- sell for about \$4,000 and longrifles crafted by William Henry I fetch as much as \$30,000.

Move to the Lehigh Valley

Two months after the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia, William Henry's son William Henry II enrolled at the Moravian gunsmith school at Christian's Spring in Northampton County. By 1780, he'd set up his first gun shop on Main Street in Nazareth, where the Express Times and Nazareth News Agency stand today. In 1790, William Henry II purchased 500 acres along the Bushkill Creek near Jacobsburg on which he would build a gun factory two years later. Over the next several generations, the Henrys continued to purchase property and, at one time, owned 1,200 acres in the Jacobsburg area. Moving the family gun-making operations from Nazareth to Jacobsburg allowed the Henrys to

expand rapidly and use water from the Bushkill Creek to power grindstones, sledgehammers and furnace bellows.

During this time, the Henrys also expanded gunmaking to Philadelphia, where their shop played a key role in securing federal firearms contracts, including an 1808 government purchase of more than 10,000 muskets and pistols. That made the Henrys one of the largest civilian firearms contractors during the War of 1812.

At the onset of war, William Henry II's sons John Joseph and William III oversaw the construction of Boulton Gun Works on the Jacobsburg tract, a factory considerably larger than the original Jacobsburg building. The facility was named after Matthew Boulton, an industrialist and pioneer in the British metal industry. By 1822, the family would consolidate gun production at Boulton, which became one of the nation's first "industrial plantations," Atherton said. German immigrants flocked to the area for work. At its peak, the Henry gun-making operation employed roughly 125 people, including craftsmen working out of their homes nearby making trigger plates, patch boxes and other small metal parts. Tim Lubenesky, curator of arms at the longrifle museum, said the Henrys also maintained two icehouses and engaged in farming.

"They had everything needed here to be self-sufficient," he said.

Fur trade profits

Henry gunmaking enjoyed its most productive and profitable years under the leadership of John Joseph Henry, who in 1826 established a relationship with one of the nation's biggest businesses: John Jacob Astor's American Fur Trade Co. Over nearly two decades, the Henry

family built tens of thousands of rifles for the fur trade business -- weapons that were used by frontiersmen to hunt, trap and barter with American Indians from the Midwest to the Pacific Coast.

"This is what fueled western expansion in the United States," Lubenesky said. "A guy could make more money capturing one beaver than he could in a month as a laborer."

Although their classic "trade" rifles were not as finely crafted as the longrifles made by earlier generations, the Henrys made a hefty profit by selling them for \$11 each. "They were making them for about \$4, so that was a hell of a markup," Lubenesky said.

A symbol of that success still stands: the Philadelphia-style townhouse John Joseph Henry built his wife, Mary Rebecca, at Boulton in 1832. The brick home was occupied by Henry descendants until 1989.

The end of an era

While the fur trade era served as the high point for Henry gunmaking, the Civil War marked the beginning of its demise.

Under Granville Henry, grandson of John Joseph, the family manufactured rifles and other arms for local militias in Bethlehem and Catasauqua as well as for state militias from both the North and South during the years leading up to the Civil War. It's likely that Henry arms were carried by both Union and Confederate soldiers.

The company also produced thousands of Mississippi-style rifled muskets for the P.S. Justice Co. of Philadelphia, which held large federal arms contracts.

After the Civil War, the firearms market declined steeply because of a



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glut of leftover firearms manufactured for the war.

The Henrys stayed afloat by purchasing 10,000 surplus musket barrels from the federal government and large quantities of Austrian firearms that had been imported for the war.

Over the next 25 years, they used the surplus items to produce inexpensive rifles and shotguns for the civilian market. Family records show some of the guns made during this period sold for as little as \$3.50. "They were basically pretty cheap, but they kept the company in business until the early 1900s," said Gable, the gun collector. As the Henry gun-making operation struggled, the center of America's gun industry shifted north to the Connecticut River valley, where armsmakers such as Winchester, Remington and Marlin were investing in modern manufacturing facilities that produced vast quantities of repeating rifles and shotguns.

"As the gun-building shift took place out of Pennsylvania to New England, the Henrys branched out into other fields of medicine and forestry and education," Ehrig said. "They had great success in those arenas, but the gun-building part of it fell into disrepair."

Production of gun parts at the Boulton Gun Works ceased in 1895, although Granville Henry continued to make guns from existing inventory. The last Henry firearm produced at the Boulton factory, a .22-caliber rifle, was sold in 1905.

According to the Jacobsburg Historical Society, more than 110,000 firearms were produced at the Boulton Gun Works during its more-than 90 years of operation.

When Granville Henry died at Boulton in 1912, the factory fell into disrepair.

A flood severely damaged it in 1922. A second flood decimated it in 1945, prompting the city of Easton, its owner at the time, to raze the structure in 1946.

All that remains today is a weed-covered stone foundation.

Preserving the past

Even as the sun set on the Henry's rifle-making heyday, the family remained in Boulton, tied to the woods of Jacobsburg and the memories they held. Granville's daughter, Molly, moved into the 1832 brick house, known as the J.J. House, in 1938 with her husband, Dr. Thomas Henry Stites, and daughter Mary Henry. They upgraded the mansion, adding electricity.

Molly taught in the nearby one-room schoolhouse during World War II, and continued living at Boulton with Mary Henry until her death in 1974 at age 101.

Through the years, Atherton and his extended family continued to spend summers at Boulton. Although he grew up in Wilkes-Barre, Atherton said his heart was always in Jacobsburg. For that reason, he moved from Connecticut to the J.J. House in 1985 to care for his then-ailing cousin.

Mary Henry remained a champion for her family and its history -- Atherton said the two had near-daily discussions about their ancestors. Upon her death at age 82 in 1989, she bequeathed her home and everything in it to the Jacobsburg Historical Society and entrusted Atherton with carrying on the legacy. The retired jet-engine salesman serves on the society's board of directors, and as an occasional museum guide.

Thanks to the society, the once-bustling tract is alive again with

visitors and muzzle-loading enthusiasts who come to learn the gun-making techniques pioneered by the Henry family.

Atherton, true to his heritage, is crafting his first flintlock pistol. "I love this world," he said, standing on his front porch, admiring the cozy homestead his family has occupied for more than 200 years. "It's ideal for me."

Red Cross opens Walkersville museum

Jeremy Hauck, Gazette.com, October 11, 2007

With a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week, the Frederick County Chapter of the American Red Cross opened a new museum at its Walkersville location, just one year after dedicating the 16,000 square-foot building.

The museum, which is set to grow into another room by December, tells the history of the American Red Cross, which Civil War nurse Clara Barton founded in 1881 after visiting Europe. Henry Dunant, a Swiss national, created the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Geneva, Switzerland in 1863.

"It's such a rich history," said Niki Thrash, financial development director at the Frederick County chapter. "The preservation of these pieces is really important to us."

Several thousand exhibits are on display at the museum, at 2 E. Frederick St., according to Keith Roberson. He collected the pieces over 10 years, and led the effort to create the museum.

Roberson said he hopes the museum will attract visitors who want "to learn about the history of the Red Cross and the work that it's done in the past, and the meaning of what the



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Red Cross does now and into the future."

Among the exhibits are some of Clara Barton's original letters and cards from the late 19th century, Roberson said.

"There are a significant number of early uniforms," he said adding that some items bear the Red Crescent symbol. "Red Crescent is affiliated with countries of Muslim origin."

Roberson, a Red Cross volunteer for 14 years, could not say how much money it took to fund his worldwide acquisition campaign for Red Cross history. He has written two books on the subject, both of which are for sale at the museum.

The museum is open for self-guided tours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Admission is a suggested donation of \$2. Groups of visitors can arrange for a guided tour in advance. The Red Cross has been active in Frederick County since 1917, according to the chapter's Web site. Seven full-time employees and more than 300 volunteers work to continue its mission to provide relief to disaster victims, Thrash said.

For further information, contact the chapter at 301-662-5131, e-mail frederick@frederickredcross.org or visit www.frederickredcross.org

Ship that sailed for both Union and Confederate navies believed found in GA river

By RUSS BYNUM, AP, October 24, 2007

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Captured by Confederate sailors in a bloody midnight sneak attack in 1864, the gunboat *Water Witch* became one of the few Civil War ships to sail under the flags of both the Confederate and Union navies. Archaeologists say they found strong evidence Thursday

they've located the *Water Witch*'s wreckage buried under more than 10 feet of mud in the Vernon River south of Savannah.

Divers pushed a 20-foot metal rod through the river mud Thursday and tapped solid wood and metal underneath. It was the same location where an 1865 survey map showed Confederate sailors burned the ship to prevent Union Gen. William T. Sherman's army from recapturing it.

"In all likelihood, it is the *Water Witch*," said Gordon Watts, an underwater archaeologist hired by the state of Georgia. "We'd have to absolutely dig something up to say for sure."

If Watts is correct, the *Water Witch* would be just the third Civil War shipwreck — along with the ironclad *CSS Georgia* and the blockade runner *CSS Nashville* — to be found out of dozens known to have been sunk in Georgia waters, said Dave Crass, Georgia's state archaeologist.

"There are lots more that are out there and we know where they are, but it's cost prohibitive" to go after them, Crass said.

Archaeologists got lucky with the *Water Witch*. The state Department of Transportation had to survey a part of the Vernon River it plans to bridge with a parkway extension. The agency agreed to go ahead and check a spot just two miles away where the *Water Witch* was believed to have burned.

Using a magnetometer, a giant metal detector, surveyors detected large iron objects scattered beneath the river's surface in an area 200 feet long. An 1865 map marked the same spot as the *Water Witch*'s grave.

Crass said the state will consult with the federal government, which technically owns the wreckage, to see if they support funding an expedition

to verify whether the diver found the *Water Witch*.

The 160-foot, wooden-hulled *Water Witch* was built by the U.S. Navy in 1851 as a sort of hybrid of old and new seafaring technologies. Though outfitted with a steam engine and side-mounted paddle wheels, the ship also had 90-foot masts for sailing.

During the Civil War, the *Water Witch* patrolled blockades off the coasts of Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, but mostly in the waters of Ossabaw Sound between Ossabaw Island and the Georgia mainland 15 miles south of Savannah.

That's where Confederate Navy Lt. Thomas Pelot got assigned to lead a raid to capture the ship in the early morning darkness on June 3, 1864.

Pelot led a group of about 120 men who used small boats to slip alongside the *Water Witch* undetected. Their numbers gave them a healthy advantage over the ship's crew of 65 sailors.

Taken by surprise, the Union sailors still put up a fight, engaging the Confederates in close quarters combat with sabers and revolvers. Luther Billings, the assistant paymaster aboard the *Water Witch*, later estimated 40 men were killed or wounded in the raid.

The dead included Pelot, who led the assault, and Dallas Moses, a slave who was also paid a \$100 monthly salary as a Confederate river pilot.

Moses piloted the lead boat in the sneak attack, and was supposed to steer the captured *Water Witch* back to Savannah — under the flag of the Confederate Navy.

Though numerous ships were captured by both sides in the Civil War, few actually served on both sides during the war, said Bruce Smith, executive director of the



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National Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus.

"It was fairly uncommon," Smith said. "It did happen a number of times, less than a handful."

Because Moses was killed before he could pilot the captured *Water Witch*, the ship never made it back to Savannah. Confederate sailors dared not take their prize back to sea, where Union battleships watched for it, and the inland waterways to the city were too shallow.

The *Water Witch* remained in the waters near Ossabaw Sound for about six months until December, when Sherman's Union troops closed in on Savannah. Fearing the Union would reclaim the ship, Confederate sailors burned it in the water.

Smith said written orders from the period show that sailors stripped the *Water Witch* of its guns, ammunition and most of its supplies before burning it. But he said any artifacts that could be recovered would be valuable.

"If it was just doorknobs, that would be fantastic as far as I'm concerned, if it was the real deal," Smith said.

'The Great Hanging,' long ignored, now memorialized

BY BUD KENNEDY, MOBILE STAR-TELEGRAM, OCTOBER 22, 2007

They called it the Great Hanging.

And for 145 years, Gainesville has tried to forget the largest mass lynching in American history.

Now, it is remembering those 14 deaths plus 28 other men executed amid the political tension of the Civil War.

A city park filled with 42 tiny crosses was dedicated Friday to remember the 1862 deaths. Most of the men were convicted and hanged as Union sympathizers. Fourteen were hunted

down and lynched outright by a renegade mob angered by anti-war dissent.

"For the first time in nearly 150 years, we are remembering the sacrifice here," said Leon Russell, 78, of Keller, a Cooke County native opposing the "cult of secrecy" around the hangings.

The lynchings -- and, depending on your political point of view, the trials -- are considered among the most shameful abuses in the Confederate States. Yet they are rarely taught in local history lessons.

"People have kept this a well-guarded secret," said Russell, a retired Dallas insurance executive, talking by phone from Gainesville's Morton Museum before the park dedication. "Some people here wanted it to stay secret."

The Great Hanging has been no secret to historians. University of North Texas history professor Richard McCaslin wrote about it in a 1994 book, *Tainted Breeze*.

McCaslin emphasized Friday that the memorial does not take either the Confederate or Union side, or blame anyone. Some local families are descendants of the 40 widows and 120 children left fatherless. One leader who lobbied for the memorial was the granddaughter of a juror.

The 14 lynchings alone make it the largest vigilante-style mass killing in American history.

"The only message is that this event is worth remembering," McCaslin said.

Then he said something that might apply today.

"In wartime, when there is so much emphasis on national unity, the very idea of free speech can be seen as threatening and divisive," he said.

"The reaction can have an impact on a nation and a region."

Cooke County and most of the counties north of Dallas and Fort Worth had voted against Texas joining the Confederacy. By 1862, Confederate leaders were criticized because wealthy landowners weren't getting drafted, and dissenters were organizing a Peace Party political faction.

"Southerners did not agree on the war," McCaslin said. "In particular, North Texans did not agree on the war. ... All we want is for Gainesville to have a window on the past, to see that it's OK to discuss these issues even though we don't always agree." The Gainesville City Council approved the memorial Tuesday. The vote was unanimous.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, a history and heritage organization, has a chapter in nearby Lindsay. The chapter is named in part for Confederate Col. James G. Bourland, who led the arrests of those convicted and hanged.

Kenneth Blair, the local SCV commander, said his group did not know about the memorial proposal. The Sons meet monthly and discuss history, but nobody has ever discussed the hangings, he said.

"The facts seem unclear," he said. "Were these lawful trials, or not? Were these people spies, or was this renegade Southerners going crazy? I don't know, and I've got dear friends whose ancestors were hanged. I don't necessarily condone what happened."

The idea of a memorial has been around since 1916, when a Massachusetts congressman proposed spending \$100,000 for a federal monument. A Texas lawmaker opposed it, saying that some of the men were executed by a military tribunal.



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Russell, the man behind the memorial, said he never learned about the lynchings and hangings growing up in Woodbine, east of Gainesville. He didn't even know about the incident until a few years ago, when an acquaintance from New York asked.

Russell went home to Gainesville and started asking educators and leaders. "I know it's not something for Gainesville to be proud of," he said. "But it's not something they should hide."

It's not hidden anymore.