



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Display of Lincoln's bloody overcoat triggers a debate

Textile experts fear display of Lincoln's garments in the light may doom historic clothing

By MICHAEL E. RUANE Washington Post, October 24, 2008

WASHINGTON — The exhibit would be haunting: the famous bloodstained overcoat President Abraham Lincoln was wearing at Ford's Theatre the night he was assassinated, placed on display under protective glass in the lobby of the renovated theater for the world to see.

Visitors could view it up close. Passers-by could glimpse it from the street 24 hours a day. And the coat, its lining embroidered with the phrase "One Country, One Destiny," would be a moving symbol of the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth next year.

But now some textile conservators are worried that the hallowed garment might be too fragile to return to full-time display when the theater reopens in February, and instead ought to be sheltered for the good of posterity.

Light and gravity can doom historic clothing, they say. And the Brooks Brothers coat, like other Lincoln garments, had been on almost continuous display from the time they were acquired in 1968 until Ford's was closed for renovation last year, officials said.

"It might be that it's time to put these things away and not to exhibit them to the public if there's any hope of saving them for future generations," said Cathy Heffner, president of Textile Preservation Associates, who said she examined the clothes for the National Park Service last month.

Preserving items

The concern illustrates an ongoing debate over the display of national treasures: the desire to preserve items for posterity versus the right of citizens to experience them.

"At what point do you take an artifact and ... just lock it away in a dungeon and never let anyone see it?" asked Paul Tetreault, the theater's producing director. "What value does it have if in fact the people who actually own it never get to see it?" For now, the National Park Service and the Ford's Theatre Society, which jointly operate the site here, said plans to display Lincoln's overcoat in the lobby and his frock coat, pants, waistcoat and tie in the new theater museum in the basement have not changed.

"We are still proceeding forward as planned," Tetreault said. "We are taking every precaution out there." Lincoln was shot in the head at Ford's on April 14, 1865, by actor John Wilkes Booth, who was angry that the South had lost the Civil War. The president died the next morning in a house across the street.

The clothes are said to have been given by the widowed Mary Todd Lincoln to Alphonso Donn, a former District of Columbia police officer who served as a White House doorkeeper. Donn, who worked at the White House through several more administrations, resisted offers from people wanting to buy the clothing, including circus czar P.T. Barnum, according to the National Auctioneers Museum.

But in 1924, Donn's daughter-in-law, who had inherited the garments, put them up for auction in Philadelphia. A mysterious well-wisher bid \$6,500 for them and allowed her to keep them, according to an account on the auction museum's Web site.

When the garments passed to Donn's granddaughter, she, too, sought to sell them. In 1968, they were purchased for \$25,000 and given to the theater, according to newspaper accounts at the time.

The clothing was unveiled at the theater two days after its gala reopening that January, after a two-year restoration project.

The clothes went on display in the theater's basement museum — eventually behind special light-filtering security glass — where they remained except for periodic cleaning and appraisals, officials said.

Heffner, who conducted the assessment last month, said she was preparing a report on the condition of the clothing for the U.S. Park Service but declined to go into detail. She expressed concern about plans for 24-hour-a-day display. "Light damage is cumulative," she said.



Photo, MICHAEL WILLIAMSON, WASHINGTON POST - Before storing President Lincoln's bloodstained clothes for the renovation of Ford's Theatre, museum curator Gloria Swift provides a glimpse in September 2007.

Artificial light

In the old museum, which park officials said had no windows and was closed at night, the clothing was under artificial light.

Tom Schwartz, an adviser to the \$50 million Ford's renovation project and director of research at the Abraham



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Ill., said there is no way to protect completely against UV rays. "There will be some UV light that will get through," he said, and then garments "die these little deaths."

At the same time, he said: "I don't think you can lock (artifacts) away. ... The public has a right to be able to see these things for a limited time in a responsible setting."

Historian Richard Norton Smith, another Ford's Theatre adviser, likened the president's clothing to religious relics and said those wishing to see them are like medieval pilgrims.

"It's an age-old human need to get close to the great, especially the legendary great," he said.

'Ghost walks' infuriate cemetery manager

BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER,
Gettysburg Times, October 24, 2008
Published: Thursday, October 23,
2008 6:46 AM EDT

Ghost walks are trespassing in Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg at night, angering the property's superintendent, who feels that the groups aren't respecting the dead. "Unfortunately, one of the offshoots of having ghost walks is that people are coming into our cemetery after hours," Evergreen Supt. Brian Kennell told Borough Council's Public Safety Committee this week. "We do not have a fence, but even a fence won't keep people out of the cemetery. It's just infuriating that cameras are flashing all night long." The 153-year-old cemetery is open from dawn to dusk.

"It's common sense that they're not supposed to be there after dark," said Gettysburg Police Department Chief Joe Dougherty.

Evergreen Cemetery is located along the 700 block of Baltimore Street, and straddles the Cumberland Township line.

"These are not organized groups that are coming into the cemetery," said Councilman John Butterfield, chairman of the board's Public Safety Committee. "These are unaffiliated people coming into the cemetery after hours."

The groups are bothersome because of the noise and constant photo-taking, Kennell argued.

"When the cemetery was formed, we wanted people to visit, and we want people to walk through," said Kennell.

"But with the fascination of ghosts, it's flash, flash, flash all the time. I'm worried that somebody is going to be upset when I ask them to leave, and I'm afraid that they'll vandalize the property."

Some officials are upset that the cemetery has become a tourist hot-spot.

"My parents are buried in Evergreen Cemetery, and I use it as a place of reverence and remembrance — not as a tourist attraction," said Councilman Butterfield.

Kennell is also concerned about tour buses that are parking near the cemetery's gate, impeding the flow of traffic on Baltimore Street. "Over time, this has been a continuing problem. If you've ever pulled out of the Evergreen Cemetery entrance trying to go onto Baltimore Street, it can be unsafe," said Kennell, using photos to illustrate his argument. "People are going to get hit because they can't see the traffic." Authorities plan to monitor the situation.

"It's a hazard, so please call us," Chief Dougherty told Kennell. "We'll try to keep an eye on it." Town officials have suggested installing signs and posting the cemetery's hours in and around the property.

"A sign may make a difference, and how you word it may make a difference," said Councilman Michael J. Birkner. "If you don't have private signage now, then it's understandable why people don't realize that they shouldn't be there."

Gettysburg is now home to more than a dozen ghost tour companies, which flood the town's sidewalks on a nightly basis.

But Kennell said that they do not have permission to enter his property. Officials are sympathetic.

"A cemetery is a very private place, and it's not appropriate for these groups to be in there," said Borough Council President Dick Peterson. Built in 1855, the cemetery is privately owned and operated. It is often confused with the National Cemetery, which it sits beside, owned by Gettysburg National Military Park.

Governor fires head of Lincoln Museum after shoplifting charges



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Ray Long, Chicago Tribune, October 28, 2008

Gov. Rod Blagojevich fired the head of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum today following revelations that the executive director shoplifted in Springfield.

Rick Beard, 61, has not worked in his \$150,000-a-year job running the heralded Lincoln complex since last week, when word emerged of police cases against him, said David Blanchette, a museum spokesman.

Security guards at a Springfield Target store claimed Beard tried to steal a \$39.99 DVD box set of Season 4 of the TV series "House."

The August incident at Target was the second known shoplifting arrest for Beard, who also was arrested in February 2007 on security guard reports that he shoveled neckties into his shopping bag at a Macy's in Springfield. In that case, he paid a \$200 fine and got court supervision.

Blanchette said officials were unaware of Beard's shoplifting incidents before last week.

Scientists have new clue to mystery of sunken sub Hunley

By BRUCE SMITH, Associated Press, October 17, 2008

CHARLESTON, S.C. — It's long been a mystery why the H.L. Hunley never returned after becoming the first submarine in history to sink an enemy warship in 1864, but new research announced Friday may lend credence to one of theories.

Scientists found the eight-man crew of the hand-cranked Confederate submarine had not set the pump to remove water from the crew compartment, which might indicate it was not being flooded.

That could mean crew members suffocated as they used up air,

perhaps while waiting for the tide to turn and the current to help take them back to land.

The new evidence disputes the notion that the Hunley was damaged and took on water after ramming a spar with a charge of black powder into the Union blockade ship Housatonic.

Scientists studying the sub said they've found its pump system was not set to remove water from the crew compartment as might be expected if it were being flooded.

The sub, located in 1995 and raised five years later, had a complex pumping system that could be switched to remove water or operate ballast tanks used to submerge and surface.

"It now really starts to point to a lack of oxygen making them unconscious," said state Sen. Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston and the chairman of the South Carolina Hunley Commission, formed to raise, conserve and display the sub. "They may have been cranking and moving and it was a miscalculation as to how much oxygen they had."

In excavating the sub, scientists found little intermingling of the crew remains, indicating members died at their stations. Those bones likely would have been jumbled if the crew tried to make it to the hatches in a desperate attempt to get out.

"Whatever occurred, occurred quickly and unexpectedly," McConnell said. "It appears they were either unconscious because of the concussion (from the attack) or they were unconscious because of a lack of oxygen."



This is an undated image released by The Friends of the Hunley, showing the aft pump of the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley. Scientists said Friday, Oct. 17, 2008, that the crew of the H.L. Hunley was not pumping water out of the crew compartment when the hand-cranked sub sank off Charleston in 1864. Archaeologist Maria Jacobsen cautioned that scientists have not yet examined all the valves to see if the crew may have been trying to surface by using the pumps to jettison ballast. "Can we definitely say they weren't pumping like mad to get water out of the tanks? No we cannot," she said. "I'm not really at a point where I think we should really be talking about what these guys were doing at the very end because we simply don't know all the valve settings." But she said scientists can definitely say the valve that would have been used to remove water from the crew compartment was closed.

Franklin's Lotz House reopens to public

By Bonnie Burch, THE TENNESSEAN, October 29, 2008
FRANKLIN — Beginning Friday, the Lotz House — the Columbia Avenue two-story home that was in the midst of the Battle of Franklin fighting in 1864 — will reopen for public visitors.



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Not only will the structure tell the story of the men from the Union and Confederate forces who died on that spot 144 years ago, but it will also serve as a showcase for an extensive collection of period antiques.

"This has been a dream of mine for a long time. We will be here for the sesquicentennial, but I also hope people can come here for the bicentennial in 50 years. You really do learn about how people lived and get to shake hands with history," said J.T. Thompson, executive director of the Lotz House and the nonprofit Lotz House Foundation.

Thompson acquired the then-vacant Lotz House seven years ago with the intention of reopening it for public visits. A previous museum with Civil War and Native American artifacts housed there closed in 2000.

Originally, plans were made to open the Lotz House in April 2009. But when the law firm that leased the house moved out early, the owners decided to bump up the arrangements.

"Basically, we had to do in 60 days what we planned to do in six months," Thompson said.

In the house, visitors can see music, dining, keeping and staying rooms along with two bedrooms, one of which belonged to Matilda Lotz, who witnessed the battle's carnage the day after she turned 6. She grew into a world-traveled artist who specialized in portraits of people and animals. The Thompsons hope to get one of her original paintings of three sheep back into her bedroom.

In the gift shop, tourists can marvel at the burned outline of a cannonball that crashed through the roof and second floor before ultimately leaving a circular mark on the wooden floorboards while they browse through Civil War-based books,

DVDs and children's educational materials.



Lotz House was one of the homes that served as a hospital after the Battle of Franklin in 1864.

And like many of the structures in town, the Lotz House served as a hospital for wounded and dying soldiers. The poplar wood floors are still stained with blood.

Uniforms, a Union drum picked up from the Franklin battlefield and many other artifacts related to the battle will also be on display.

The house also serves as a home to what Wendell Garrett, editor at large of *The Magazine Antiques*, called "the finest private collection of American Victorian furniture in the Southeast."

Among the many pieces is an extensive assortment of chairs crafted by John Henry Belter, a German immigrant who was well known at the time for his rosewood furniture, as well as pieces made by New Orleans 19th-century furniture trader Prudent Mallard. These pieces were constructed between the 1820s to about the 1860s.

Other antiques include portraits painted of well-known society members during that period, Old Paris Porcelain formal dishes, a large memorial hair wreath and an oil painting of Betsy Patterson and Jerome Bonaparte.

Whatever the interest future visitors may have in the Lotz House, J.T.

Thompson said he looks forward to working with other local Civil War sites such as The Carter House, Carnton Plantation and the McGavock Confederate Cemetery to attract more history seekers.

"We are only 110 short steps from the front door of The Carter House. I think the Lotz House is a perfect complement to what makes this town so important. Franklin is very unique when it comes to heritage tourism. It's our history. We should preserve it well," he said.

Mississippi man claims firing result of SCV license plate

Therapist, former employer battle over 'symbol of hate' on bumper

By Lawrence Buser, Memphis CommercialAppeal, October 8, 2008

A marriage and family therapist from Olive Branch who considers the Confederate battle flag "a venerated object" says he was illegally fired for refusing to remove his special Mississippi license tag bearing the flag logo of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

His former employer, Compass Intervention Center on Lowrance near Hacks Cross Road, says it only asked Adrian Paul McLaren, not to park in a way that would make another Confederate flag on his front bumper visible to guests.

The Circuit Court suit filed Tuesday asks for up to \$500,000 and attorneys fees.

McLaren said in the suit that officials at the residential adolescent treatment center began making the parking request in 2006 and that he spent 20 minutes explaining the history, his personal beliefs and Christian aspects about Confederate symbolism.



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

He said that after an ongoing series of corrective action notices from his employer, McLaren began parking head-in to comply with the request to hide the front tag from view in the parking lot.

The company, however, then began to complain about his Mississippi-issued license plate on the rear of the car that also displayed the Confederate battle flag logo of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, McLaren said in the suit.

He said he was fired in October last year when he refused to remove the tag.

In correspondence McLaren filed with his lawsuit, Compass Intervention indicated it was concerned that its many inner-city, low-income residents and visitors might be offended or "incorrectly perceive your tag as a political symbol of hate."

"While Compass Intervention Center acknowledges your right to place such an item on your vehicle, we do ask that you exercise restraint and consideration for the residents at our facility," CEO Nashon McPherson said in a letter last year.

The company said its request was not unreasonable and denied that it ever asked him to remove his license plate.

Postal Service unveils new Lincoln stamps

By BRUCE RUSHTON, THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER (Springfield, IL), Oct 30, 2008

Abraham Lincoln, once a postmaster, then a president, would have appreciated four commemorative stamps unveiled Thursday at the Old State Capitol.

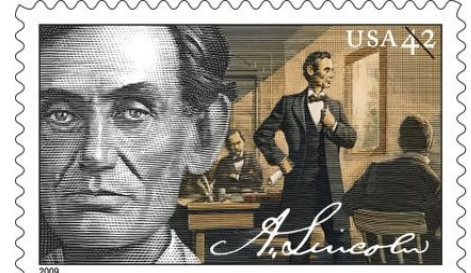
"Lincoln really recognized the U.S. mail as the glue that held the nation together," said Harold Holzer, Lincoln scholar and co-chairman of the federal Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial

Commission, which is organizing observances of Lincoln's 200th birthday next year.

But Lincoln wasn't above fiddling with the mail during his duly appointed rounds as postmaster of New Salem, Holzer observed. Newspaper subscribers would often wonder why their papers looked as if they'd already been read when they received them. It was Lincoln, whose ever-inquisitive mind couldn't resist the temptation of reading as he rode.

The U.S. Postal Service will release four stamps Feb. 9 to celebrate the Great Emancipator's 200th birthday Feb. 12, and the first ones will be sold in Springfield. The designs depict Lincoln as a rail splitter, a lawyer, a politician and a president. And they are not, by far, unprecedented. Lincoln has already appeared on more than 50 U.S. postage stamps, more than any other person.

"For your parents, your grandparents, it's going to keep Lincoln's memory alive, one stamp at a time," said Marilyn Kushak, chairwoman of the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.



USPS photos

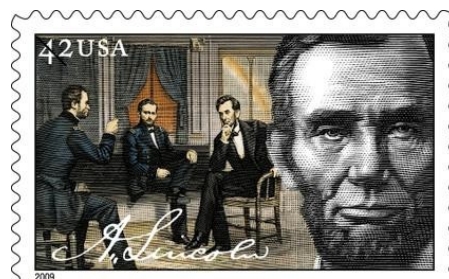
The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency is encouraging schoolchildren to use the stamps to mail birthday greetings to Lincoln, whose address — at least for purposes of his 200th birthday — is: Abraham Lincoln, #1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701.

Ground broken for Resaca Battlefield Historic Site

Project will be gateway to Georgia's Civil War history
Calhoun (GA) Times, October 28, 2008

Twelve years after the formation of Friends of Resaca, a decade-long struggle to get a historic site honoring the many men who fought and died at the Battle of Resaca during the Civil War has come to fruition with a ground breaking ceremony Monday, Oct. 27, for the Resaca Battlefield State Historic Site.

The Gordon County site will be a gateway to other parts of Georgia's Civil War heritage during the





THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

sesquicentennial of the American Civil War (2011-2015).

During an October 27 ceremony, Civil War re-enactors fired musketry on the site for the first time in 144 years, and Georgia Department of Natural Resources (officials and local officials broke ground Monday on the future Resaca Battlefield State Historic Site in Gordon County.

The annual re-enactment of the Battle of Resaca takes place on the Chitwood Farm, which was also part of the original battlefield.

Resaca Battlefield State Historic Site is located just off I-75 near the Georgia/Tennessee border, and its strategic location welcomes casual visitors as well as history buffs as they enter the state -- helping generate tourist dollars for not only Gordon County, but all of Georgia. According to the 2000 Georgia Traffic Flow Map, nearly 56,000 vehicles pass the site daily.

"This will be a tremendous boost to Gordon County tourism," said Alvin Long, chairman of the Gordon County Commission.

Visitors to Resaca Battlefield State Historic Site will learn about the battle of Resaca, then gather information for traveling on to Kennesaw Battlefield, Andersonville National Historic Site, Pickett's Mill Battlefield State Historic Site, Fort McAllister Historic Park, Fort Pulaski National Monument and other locations.

"Because of its location near a major interstate, this new visitor center has the potential to bring many more tourists into Georgia, generating revenue for our communities," said State Rep. John Meadows, R-Calhoun. "I'd like to particularly thank Gov. Sonny Perdue, DNR Commissioner Noel Holcomb and the Friends of Resaca Battlefield for their efforts on this project."

During the ceremony, the Friends of Resaca Battlefield presented a \$10,000 donation to the DNR for building the visitor center. The donation was made possible in part by a grant from the Calhoun Gordon County Community Foundation, an affiliate member of the Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia.

"Today's groundbreaking ceremony is a dream come true," said Friends President Ken Padgett. "It represents more than a decade of work by our members, state legislators and many other agencies."

Resaca Battlefield State Historic Site will open in 2010 and will include interactive displays, artifacts, retail and a theater. The project is funded with \$3 million in bond funds.

Between 2000 and 2003, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources purchased 512.85 acres of the battlefield site and has a conservation easement on an additional 61.74 acres at the Chitwood Farm.

The Department of the Interior has recognized this historic battlefield as one of 25 sites chosen by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission for funding under the American Battlefield Protection Program. Currently, there is no public access to the site.

The visitor center was designed by BRPH of Marietta and will be LEED certified for environmental responsibility. Out of respect for those who fought and died at the site, the building was specifically designed to represent this particular battle.

Situated near a wooded area, the low-profile building has minimal intrusion on the field. Numerous roof angles represent the war's conflict, and the footprint follows actual lines of the battle.

The Battle of Resaca occurred May 13-15, 1864 and represents the first

significant confrontation in Major General William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign.

Resaca was the only battle during this campaign where the full might of both armies faced each other in open battle. Here, Sherman hoped to destroy the Confederate Army of Tennessee led by General Joseph E. Johnston - yet there was no clear winner.

When it was over, more than 5,500 men lost their lives - and many believe this was a low estimate. The three days of fighting produced nearly 10 percent of the combined casualties sustained during the Atlanta campaign.

Museum of the Confederacy's Appomattox expansion clears hurdle

By Sarah Watson, Lynchburg (VA) News & Advance, October 28, 2008
A major hurdle for the Museum of the Confederacy's planned site expansion in Appomattox was cleared Tuesday after Town Council unanimously approved a purchase agreement.

The town bought the 4-acre plot just outside town limits near the intersection of U.S. 460 and Virginia 24 for \$325,000 and will lease it to the museum.

Museum officials announced in Sept. 2007 that it would create three expansion sites throughout the state as a way to let the public view more of the world's largest collection of Civil War artifacts than is possible at its current site in Richmond.

Appomattox, along with the Fredericksburg area and Fort Monroe, was chosen because of its historical significance, and exhibits



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

planned for the site will reflect the area's unique Civil War history, museum director S. Waite Rawls said.

Rawls told council that the proposal is past the basic planning stages. "This is real and it's going to happen," he said. "I can personally tell you I'm going to do everything in my power to make it happen."

Among the artifacts to be displayed are the Confederate army's copy of parole logs and Robert E. Lee's uniform, sword and the pen he used to sign the surrender documents in April 1865, Rawls said.

"We don't have Robert E. Lee's underwear, but we have everything else."

Civil War personal ads trend-setting for time

By JESSE CHANEY, Fort Morgan, CO Times, October 16, 2008

It was common in the years before the American Civil War for men to place classified newspaper advertising seeking female companionship, but the trend seemed to take a peculiar and explosive twist during the war years.

So said Patricia Richard, author of "Busy Hands" and professor of history at Metropolitan State College in Denver. During a Fort Morgan Museum Brown Bag presentation, she gave the crowd a few examples of how the so-called "correspondence ads" read.

"Good Union girls between the ages of 16 and 20 can make us more cheerful and happy by writing to us," stated a 19th century ad placed by Civil War soldiers. "...Have pity on two of Uncle Sam's nephews and send them a few lines."

Unlike the advertisements placed before the war, Richard said, Civil War correspondence ads typically

included detailed descriptions of the type of women the soldiers sought. Most of the ads were placed in northern U.S. newspapers, she said, and they typically solicited correspondence with young women who were faithful to the Union and liked soldiers.

Most Civil War correspondence ads were also much longer and more creative than those placed in earlier years, Richard said, and many were even set to poem or rhyme.

Another defining feature of the Civil War ads was their collective placement by two or more soldiers, she said. The roughly \$1 ads commanded a significant portion of the soldiers' \$13 monthly salary, which is probably why many purchased the ads together.

The correspondence ads became a craze during the Civil War, Richard said, and more than 200 ads were placed from April to August of 1863. More than 400 men had placed their names in the ads during this time.

Leading to the correspondence-ad mania was the all-male communal living situation of the Civil War soldiers at the time, Richard said. Additionally, she said, 19th-century society was more concerned with mixing genders than that of prior years.

"You can imagine the kinds of conversations that are going to happen at night in the tents or around the campfires in the evenings," she said. "...Men were really missing women."

Although the men had some limited contact with women, Richard said, they were typically not of the preferred type. The females available to Civil War soldiers were often older women or even prostitutes.

"They did come around women, but not the right women," she said.

What finally persuaded the men to begin placing the correspondence ads were the notes that women from soldier's aid societies inserted into packages of goods sent to the soldiers, Richard said. Some of the women provided information about themselves in the notes that were delivered, she said.

Richard said most correspondence ads placed by the men requested correspondence, provided a physical description of themselves, listed the qualities they were seeking in a female, and indicated whether they were seeking a simple correspondence partner or if they ultimately wanted marriage.

Eventually, Richard said, women bolstered enough courage to begin placing their own ads. Tradition of the time held that women could ask men for marriage only during leap year, she said, and 1864 was one of the more interesting leap years of the time.

"Women could be bolder in leap year, and we certainly see it in the ads," she said.

While men were seeking partners with looks, personality and character, Richard said, women sought patriotic men with large incomes and plenty of facial hair.

Although the editor of a northern U.S. newspaper began warning the public of the potential dangers of correspondence ads, Richard said, some of the advertisements did result in marriage.

Richard said the way correspondence ads were used bears a striking resemblance to the Internet of today, which indicates that women and soldiers during the Civil War are similar to modern Americans.

She said the early American craze also challenges the idea that 19th-century women typically stayed at



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

home and did not mix with male company.

Contraband Camp: First bronze sculpture unveiled

By Brant Sappington, Daily Corinthian, October 14, 2008
Corinth, MS - The skilled hands of artists Larry and Andrea Lugar are slowly bringing new life to the once almost forgotten story of thousands of freed slaves who began their new lives at Corinth.

Larry Lugar brought the first of seven bronze sculptures that will eventually be installed along the walking trail at the Corinth Contraband Camp site on North Parkway to town on Monday so plans for its concrete base could be completed.

The bronze sculptures will depict daily life in the camp where more than 6,000 former slaves lived behind Union lines in the period following the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. They established a thriving community complete with a school, 400 acres of farmland, a laundry and much more. The camp was also the location where the First Alabama Infantry of African Descent, an all-black unit, was established on May 21, 1863, to protect the camp and participate in the occupation of Corinth. Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission Chair Rosemary Williams, whose organization led the effort to preserve a portion of the camp property and begin the process of turning it into a memorial site, said she believes the sculptures will be the crowning addition to the historic site. "It's amazing. It's just really going to bring life to the place. It's a wonderful interpretive tool," she said. The statues will all be life-sized, a deliberate choice designed to help people understand what went on in

the camp and develop an emotional connection to the people who began their new lives there.

"I think the life-size statues are going to make it easier to relate," said Shiloh National Military Park Superintendent Woody Harrell, who will oversee the site as part of the park's Corinth Unit.

Williams said they plan to place the statues along the trail in phases as they're completed by the foundry. The first two will be in place by the end of this month and several more will be installed by the end of the year. They plan to have the project completed by next spring and will hold a grand opening celebration at that time.

Lugar said the first statue completed, of a woman who will be depicted leaning against a wooden fence, is one of his favorites. The bronze is based on a photo of a woman at another contraband camp that can be seen at the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center.

"She's cool. I'm glad she was the first one finished," he said.



Staff Photo by Brant Sappington
Sculptor Larry Lugar of the Lugar Foundry (at left) explains how he and his wife, Andrea, created this life-sized sculpture of a Corinth Contraband Camp resident as Jerry Finger listens intently.

The artist said the process of creating the sculptures is time consuming. He and his wife must first sculpt the figures in clay. The clay is then used to create a rubber mold and the final bronze sculpture is cast from that mold. Special acids are used to help color the bronze and create its final finish. Lugar said the process is much the same as the way bronzes were created thousands of years ago. "What excites me is that sense of continuity," he said.

In addition to the bronze statues, plans are being considered to add electricity and lighting to the site. The first phase of work at the 21-acre site was completed in 2005 and included the entry gate, walking trail, benches and parking area.

Confederate fighters brought the U.S. Civil War to Montreal

JOHN KALBFLEISCH, The Montreal Gazette, October 26, 2008

"The attack upon St. Albans was made by Confederate soldiers under the command of Lieut. Bennett H. Young, of the C.S.A., all having served in the Confederate army within the Confederate States, and being still in that service."

- Gazette, Thursday, Oct. 27, 1864

"Still in that service": It was a vital point, as George Sanders insisted in his letter to the editor.

Sanders was a Montreal-based agent of the Confederate government in Richmond, Va., and he was deeply involved in the infamous St. Albans raid. There's little to suggest he was in on its planning, but its aftermath had him fully engaged.

Eight days before, 21 raiders had shot up the Vermont town, killing one man and wounding several others before heading back to their base in Canada. Fourteen were arrested and



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

jailed here. If they were deemed common criminals, acting on their own, they faced being sent back to the United States for trial. But if they were soldiers at war, extradition would not apply.

Sanders had been born in Kentucky 52 years before. He was a passionate, even fanatical Southerner. Once he had openly urged that Emperor Napoleon III of France be assassinated, so it was no stretch for him to desire a similar end for Abraham Lincoln.

In the fall of 1864, John Wilkes Booth was in Montreal plotting against Lincoln. Sanders was among the Confederate agents whom Booth met here, and in him found a ready listener. Sanders's hatred of the North was intensifying: His son, Capt. Reid Sanders, had been captured and imprisoned that summer near Boston, where he had died just a few weeks earlier.

In the wake of St. Albans, Clement Clay, an official Confederate commissioner in Canada, sent \$6,000 to Sanders for the raiders' defence. Sanders immediately hired the best Montreal lawyers this money could buy, Rodolphe Laflamme, William H. Kerr and John J.C. Abbott, a future prime minister of Canada.

At several different hearings, Abbott hammered home the point Sanders made in his letter to *The Gazette*: The raiders were soldiers, not criminals. In any event, the judge eventually decided he had no jurisdiction as the new law on extradition was not properly in force. Young and his comrades were released on Dec. 13. Washington was furious. There was loud talk that the Union army, soon to finish off the Confederacy, should march north and deal with Canada once and for all.

Booth's murder of Lincoln on April 13, 1865, a few days after the South's surrender at Appomattox, launched the greatest manhunt the United States had ever seen. Confederate agents who had stayed on in Canada at the Civil War's end were widely suspected of complicity in Lincoln's death, and a price was put on their heads. Sanders had no intention of returning to his homeland.

On Aug. 7, a man named O'Leary knocked on Sanders's McGill College Ave. door. The magistrate wanted to see him, O'Leary said. A carriage was waiting; please come this way. Unbeknownst to Sanders, O'Leary was a police agent. A few days earlier a man named Carlos Hogan offered O'Leary \$10,000 to help kidnap Sanders and deliver him into U.S. hands. O'Leary feigned to agree but then informed Frederick Penton, Montreal's police chief. Penton laid a trap. When Hogan and another man drove the carriage - with the unwitting Sanders in it - west from Montreal as Penton expected, the police would be waiting.

On Sherbrooke St. the two hoods pushed O'Leary out of the carriage. Three more hopped in, Sanders was tied up and, sure enough, they all raced off westward. Out on St. Antoine St. they saw the tollgate was closed; Penton had guessed right. As the kidnapers tried to burst through, the police pounced.

"Before they could reach the carriage," *The Gazette* reported, "the ruffians jumped out and took to the bush. Shots were now exchanged." Sanders was rescued, and two of the kidnapers were chased down. Others waiting at Dorval to take Sanders across the river and on toward the border were rounded up later.

Like Bennett Young and his men, the kidnapers claimed they were acting for the government - in this case the U.S. government. In truth, they appeared to be freelancers anxious to claim the bounty for Sanders's capture. It was, *The Gazette* said, "the most atrocious outrage ever attempted in this city."

That November Sanders left Montreal. In 1870 he was in Paris, supporting the Commune. He returned to the United States in 1872 and died the following year in New York.

When the Civil War came to Alaska

By Ned Rozell, Alaska Report, October 28, 2008

About 150 years ago, a few days after summer solstice, the gray skies above the Diomed Islands were heavy with smoke from whaling ships set ablaze by Confederate sailors who didn't know the Civil War had ended.

"The red glare from the eight burning vessels shone far and wide over the drifting ice of these savage seas," wrote an officer aboard the *Shenandoah*, a ship commissioned by Confederate leaders to wreak havoc on Yankee whalers harvesting bowhead whales off the western and northern coasts of Alaska.

Though their timing was off-the Civil War was over for two months when the *Shenandoah* reached Alaska waters from England (after an eight-month trip around the southern capes of Africa and Australia)-the captain and crew of the *Shenandoah* succeeded in destroying the Yankee fleet, burning 22 whaling ships and capturing two others.

"It was the last hurrah of whaling-the place where commercial whaling died in the U.S.," said Brad Barr, a biologist with NOAA's Office of



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

National Marine Sanctuaries in Woods Hole, Mass.

Southern general's name may come off Fla. school

By RON WORD, AP, October 28, 2008

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Nathan Bedford Forrest was a millionaire slave trader, a ruthless Confederate general, an early Ku Klux Klan leader — and the namesake of what is now a majority African-American high school.

After almost a two-year delay, the Duval County School Board next week will consider whether to change the name of Nathan Bedford Forrest High School to Firestone High, after the street it sits on. The board joins other Southern districts that have hotly debated whether to strip Confederate leaders' names from schools and other buildings.

The squabble is part of the modern South's never-ending soul searching over the Civil War and its legacy, a discussion that often finds Forrest at the center.

"This guy was a brutal monster," said Steven Stoll, an adjunct sociology instructor at Florida Community College who is white and supports changing the name of the high school. "Why would you want to keep honoring a person like this? It is an insult to black people."

Forrest is hardly the lone Confederate hero whose name adorns streets, buildings and other public projects, or used to.

But efforts to strip Confederates' names and take down memorials to them have mostly been thwarted throughout the South, often after being denounced as part of an effort to remove all references to the Confederacy. In Hampton, Va., for example, attempts to rename Robert

E. Lee Elementary School and Jefferson Davis Middle School failed. Some say Forrest's deeds have been exaggerated and have to be considered in the context of the Civil War.

"Forrest was revered all over the world and his tactics are still studied today," said Lee Millar, president of the General N.B. Forrest Historical Society in Memphis, Tenn. "He became a hero to all."

Born poor in Chapel Hill, Tenn., in 1821, Forrest amassed a fortune as a plantation owner and slave trader, importing Africans long after the practice had been made illegal. At 40, he enlisted as a private in the Confederate army at the outset of the Civil War, rising to a cavalry general in a year.

Some accounts accuse Forrest of ordering black prisoners to be massacred after a victory at Tennessee's Fort Pillow in 1864, though historians question the validity of the claims.

"He did not order a massacre. He did order wholesale killing, but I do believe he lost control of the battle and there were people killed who should not have been killed," said Brian Steel Wills, a professor at the University of Virginia's College at Wise, who wrote a biography of Forrest.

In 1867, the newly formed Klan elected Forrest its honorary Grand Wizard or national leader, but publicly denied being involved. In 1869, he ordered the Klan to disband because of the members' increasing violence. Two years later, a congressional investigation concluded his involvement had been limited to his attempt to disband it.

After his death in 1877, memorials to him sprung up throughout the South, particularly in Tennessee.

Forrest High School in Jacksonville opened as an all-white school in the 1950s, getting its name at the suggestion of the Daughters of the Confederacy. They saw it as a protest of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that eventually integrated the nation's public schools.

Now, blacks make up more than half of the student body.

Two 17-year-old seniors at the school say the consensus among students is to leave the name alone.

"As students, (the name is) not a big deal to us," said Jamal Freeman, a black student, who noted it would cost a lot to change uniforms for the band and sports teams, nicknamed the Rebels.

Sabrina Lampp, a white student, said a change "takes all the memories away."

Jacksonville has three other schools named after Confederate generals, none as sensitive as Forrest.

"He got a bad rap," said L.A. Hardee, a member of the board at Jacksonville's Museum of Southern History. "He was an honorable man. People don't take into consideration the times. It's a Southern thing. They ought to keep the name."