



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

CONGRESS ALLOCATES \$9 MILLION TO PRESERVE AMERICA'S ENDANGERED CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS

CWPT News Release, October 29, 2009

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) today applauded members of the U.S. House and Senate for including the largest ever single-year allocation for the federal Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Interior Appropriations Act Conference Report (H Rept 111-316).

The conference report, scheduled for a final vote in both chambers later this week, includes \$9 million for the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program, a mechanism that utilizes government matching grants and private funds to permanently protect historic Civil War battlefields throughout the nation.

"This is tremendous news that could not come at a more critical time," said CWPT President James Lighthizer. Each day 30 acres of hallowed Civil War battlefield ground are paved over and lost forever. This money will allow us to preserve historic land that would otherwise be lost to development and urban sprawl."

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program targets priority unprotected Civil War sites outside National Park Service boundaries. The program's matching grants formula encourages state and private sector investment in historic land preservation. For example, in 2008 the Virginia General Assembly set aside \$5.2 million to match federal Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program monies. Grants

from the program are competitively awarded by the American Battlefield Protection Program, an arm of the National Park Service.

Since its creation in 1999, the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program has been used to protect more than 15,000 acres of hallowed ground at 60 battlefields in 14 states. Among the sites saved as a result of this program are historic properties at Antietam and South Mountain, Md.; Champion Hill, Miss.; Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, and Manassas, Va.; Chattanooga and Fort Donelson, Tenn.; and Harpers Ferry, W.Va. The program is funded through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Although numerous members of the House and Senate have played important roles in ensuring the program's continued success, the following individuals were pivotal in securing this year's unprecedented federal commitment to battlefield preservation: Interior Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Norm Dicks (D-WA); Senators Jim Webb (D-VA), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Jeff Sessions (R-AL); and Congressmen, Bart Gordon (D-TN), Steve Israel (D-NY), Gary Miller (R-CA) and C.A. "Dutch" Ruppberger (D-MD). In addition, 16 Senators and 29 Member of Congress signed letters of support for the program earlier this year.

"It is welcome news that our \$9 million funding request for battlefield preservation was accepted in the Interior Appropriations bill," said Senator Webb. "As America prepares for the 150th anniversary commemoration of the Civil War, it is more important than ever that we preserve these landmarks for future generations to learn about the history of our nation."

Senator Alexander concurred, saying, "The Civil War was a heartbreaking time in our history that we should never forget. Protecting our Civil War battlefields and historic sites is important both to honor the thousands who fought and to allow future generations to learn their heritage by visiting sites like Shiloh, Lookout Mountain, Fort Donelson and Parker's Crossroads. I'm glad to see that this funding was included to support this important program."

"America's Civil War battlefields are part of our nation's rich heritage, but sadly thousands of acres of battlefields are being lost every year. It is incumbent upon all of us to ensure our children and grandchildren have the opportunity to visit these sacred grounds and experience part of history," remarked Congressman Ruppberger.

This vision was also shared by Congressman Miller, who first introduced legislation authorizing the program in 2002. Miller noted, "I have been a long time advocate for preservation of our nation's historic battlefields. These battlefields offer a porthole to the past. The vivid imagery of an epic conflict can remind visitors of the struggles our country has gone through to preserve the banner of liberty and justice for all."

Like Senator Webb, Lighthizer also stressed that the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Civil War presents an ideal time to redouble efforts to protect this hallowed ground. "I can think of no more fitting – and lasting – tribute during this sesquicentennial commemoration than to preserve the places where these brave soldiers fought and bled."

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program was reauthorized in March 2009 as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (PL



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111-11). The legislation, introduced in the Senate by Senators Webb and Sessions and in the House by Congressmen Miller, Israel and Gordon, reauthorized the program for \$10 million a year for five years. The popular bill enjoyed considerable bipartisan support, earning 33 cosponsors in the Senate and 108 cosponsors in the House.

Gettysburg Park hopes to name interim super this week

*BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER,
Gettysburg Times,
October 28, 2009*

The National Park Service hopes to name an "interim superintendent" at Gettysburg National Military Park sometime this week, and officials are indicating that it won't be Acting Supt. Brion FitzGerald.

NPS Director of Communications David Barna explained that the interim battlefield boss will probably be a park staffer that is not currently employed at GNMP.

FitzGerald has the most seniority in Gettysburg, with 31 years of Park Service experience, but he will likely resume his role as Chief Ranger once an interim chief is named. After that announcement, Barna said that "we'll start a nationwide search for a prominent name to be superintendent of the park."

"It could be somebody from within the National Park Service or outside the Park Service," said Barna, adding that the "nationwide search" to replace the recently-demoted John Latschar is expected to take up to six months.

"It's a very prominent slot," said Barna.

The interim superintendent will be responsible for running the 6,000-acre park, its restoration programs

and the Eisenhower Farm, as well as overseeing the park's 80 permanent and 35 seasonal staffers. Latschar lost his 15-year job after reports surfaced last week that he searched for and viewed pornographic images on his government computer, during work time. Investigators from the Dept. of Interior Inspector General's Office found the photos during a year-long review of alleged misconduct and mismanagement at the park. According to officials, Latschar was demoted to the Historic Preservation Training Center as the Associate Director of Cultural Resources, where he reportedly began work Monday. He continues to make \$145,000 annually.

Virginia Side of White's Ford Slated For Park

*By Linda Wheeler, Washington Post,
October 17, 2009*

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority officials have announced plans to purchase a 275-acre farm on the Potomac River that includes the ford where the Army of Northern Virginia crossed into Maryland on Sept. 5-6, 1862, bringing the war to the North. Twelve days later came Antietam.

The property, near Leesburg, Va., includes the home and farm of Elijah Viers White, commander of the 35th Battalion of Virginia Cavalry. The ford, named for him, is a wide, shallow crossing on the river where the water is usually only a few feet deep.

On the Maryland side, the shoreline is already protected as part of the C & O Canal National Park. Re-enactors often stage a crossing on the September anniversary but have only been able to enter from the Maryland side, cross over to Virginia, then turn around and march back.

This is the place where historians often note how the Confederates entered the North, with flags held high and regimental bands playing "Maryland, My Maryland," a song written after the 1861 riots in Baltimore when Union troops were attacked as they passed through that city. The song, a powerful indictment of the federal occupation of the state, is now Maryland's state song.

Confederates were expecting hundreds to thousands of Maryland men to immediately join their cause as they marched through the state, but few did so.

White and the 35th Battalion fought in Jackson's Valley Campaign and were among the first units to arrive at Gettysburg.

After the war, White returned to his farm, ran successfully for sheriff and took over operation of Conrad's Ferry, now known as White's Ferry. The ferry, a few miles down the river from the ford, was once one of about 100 ferries that crossed the Potomac River but is the last one still in operation today.

According to a press release, the Authority plans for White's Ford Regional Park to be used for camping, fishing and hiking and will preserve White's house.

Orange County Fights Back

By Robin Knepper, Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star (VA), October 14, 2009

The Orange County Board of Supervisors is asking a court to dismiss a lawsuit seeking to overturn its approval of a Walmart Supercenter in the Wilderness battlefield area.

Calling the complaint filed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield and six individual plaintiffs a "rambling set of



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allegations designed to try to avoid dismissal prior to trial," the response filed yesterday maintains that the plaintiffs have no standing or cause to sue.

On Aug. 25, the Orange Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to grant a special-use permit for a 240,000-square-foot retail development on a 51.5-acre parcel northwest of the intersection of State Routes 3 and 20 and a quarter-mile from the entrance to Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. Walmart plans to build a 138,000-square-foot Supercenter as the anchor store.

On Sept. 25, opponents filed a legal challenge contending the board's decision was "flawed in numerous respects." It claims that supervisors "brushed aside" mounting concerns about the negative impacts the store would have on the battlefield and park.

In its response, the county says the "complaint displays a lack of understanding of Virginia land-use law."

"Digested to its essentials, the complaint does not state a cause of action. Rather, plaintiffs simply have a fundamental policy disagreement with the board," the response states.

The response also notes that neither the federal nor state government has prohibited development on the property, which has been privately owned and zoned for commercial development since 1973.

"Plaintiffs want to prevent use of land that they do not own and this suit is a contrived effort to enable them to do so," the response states.

None of the plaintiffs have standing to challenge the special-use permit because none are "aggrieved persons" under the Orange County zoning ordinance, according to the response.

"It is not legally sufficient to establish standing to sue that the National Trust and the Friends are attempting to advance some perceived public right or to redress some anticipated public injury," it states.

Robert D. Rosenbaum, attorney for the National Trust and other plaintiffs, disputed the main points of the county's legal response. "The complaint made a very strong showing of standing to bring this dispute to the court. The county's motion does not rebut that case in any way," Rosenbaum, senior counsel with Arnold & Porter in Washington, said in an interview.

"The county's motion fails to recognize the seriousness of the substantive allegations in the complaint, and we look forward to litigating the motion before the court." No hearing date on the lawsuit has been set.

The board's approval of the retail project came after months of controversy and three public hearings before the Planning Commission and supervisors.

Opponents say the retail development and the traffic it would bring would denigrate the Civil War battlefield where armies led by Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant first clashed 145 years ago. They have urged Walmart to find another site in Orange farther from the battlefield.

Walmart supporters say the store will bring needed jobs and tax revenue to the rural county. They note that the site is outside the congressionally mandated boundary of the national park, and that convenience stores, a fast-food restaurant and other commercial enterprises already exist in the area.

Walmart officials have said the site is the only one in the area that meets their criteria for zoning, size and road

access. Work has not yet begun on the store.

Franklin Preservationists Target Second Pizza Place

By Kevin Walters, Nashville Tennessean, October 15, 2009
Franklin's reclamation of its battlefield land could take another leap forward in time for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin.

Organizers of local nonprofit Franklin's Charge are negotiating to buy the Domino's Pizza restaurant and Four Star Market at the corner of Cleburne Street and Columbia Avenue and convert them into a new park, where a replica of a cotton gin that once stood there would be built.

The buildings and land are owned by developer and longtime resident Don Cameron, who says he's willing to give Franklin's Charge a chance to buy the buildings for the park, but he says he won't wait forever.

"I want to be more than fair about it," said Cameron, who recently had the site reappraised. "It's time to fish or cut bait with them. I've agreed to do it, and now it's time for them to step up to the plate."

If the deal happens, it would be another reclamation of land where hundreds of soldiers died when four Confederate divisions met Union forces on Nov. 30, 1864, in the fighting of the Battle of Franklin. The 150th anniversary would be in 2014. In 2005 a Pizza Hut restaurant across the street from the land was demolished.

Franklin's Charge is a local coalition of local nonprofit groups first organized for the \$5 million purchase of a 110-acre golf course adjacent to Carnton Plantation that will be a Civil War park.



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Bacon says Cameron's land at that intersection is a key piece to creating the larger plan for land begun years ago. He said negotiations have been ongoing.

"We're reclaiming what land is available to us now," Bacon said. "The property on that corner is significant because of the intense fighting that occurred during the Battle of Franklin."

Sale is 'not a business deal'

Cameron, who can trace his family roots here to the earliest days of the city's founding, said he's previously turned down offers to sell that land to other investors, including a bank.

"This is not about a business deal," Cameron said.

In 2005, city officials paid \$300,000 for roughly a quarter of an acre on the southern side of the intersection where the Pizza Hut once stood. After a public ceremony was held where the restaurant was torn down, a park was built commemorating where Confederate Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne was killed during the Battle of Franklin.

Last year, Franklin's Charge bought a house and property at 1219 Columbia Ave. for \$950,000 to add to land for the park. The Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County already owns the Carter Cotton Gin property, which adjoins this land. Carter House, considered the site of the most intense fighting, is across the street on Columbia Avenue.

Bacon, who was an alderman when the city bought the former Pizza Hut land as well as the Eastern Flank property, said the group would not seek public money to pay for this acquisition.

The group might turn to the Civil War Preservation Trust for grant money.

"We're stepping up our fundraising," Bacon said.

Cameron declined to give the sale price of the land. County records show Cameron Properties bought the site, which includes addresses 1221 through 1225 of Columbia Avenue back in September 1997 for \$620,000. No contract for a sale of the property has been made, and Cameron declined to say what the sale price would be.

Bacon estimated that Franklin's Charge would spend \$3.2 million, including last year's purchase, the purchase of Cameron's property and building a replica of the former cotton gin.

Meanwhile, plans are under way for this year's commemoration of the Battle of Franklin. Volunteers will light 10,000 candles as part of an annual commemoration of the battle, which is set for Nov. 28 at the Confederate Cemetery at Carnton Plantation.

Richmond plans slavery museum

By Michael Paul Williams, Richmond Times Dispatch, October 22, 2009
Richmond, which has stopped running and hiding from a fundamental facet of its history, is poised to give birth to a slavery museum that never should have been shopped elsewhere.

The Richmond Slave Trail Commission unveiled plans Monday for a slave heritage site in Shockoe Bottom that would include a slavery museum. It's hard not to examine what has been proposed by the commission, led by Del. Delores L. McQuinn, D-Richmond, and not sense that we're at the portal of something transformative.

This is all preliminary and costly at \$100 million to \$150 million. But the master plan developed with the help of Stockton Clay Architects makes too much sense not to happen as we

approach the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

We're not talking about an isolated slavery museum juxtaposed upon a Fredericksburg mixed-used development. Richmond's proposal springs organically from the fertile soils of our unique history as America's largest domestic slave market.

Mayor Dwight C. Jones hasn't committed to any specifics surrounding this project but sounds enthusiastic.

"Not only is this African-American history and Richmond's history, this is America's history," he said yesterday. Indeed, this is an international tale of terror, irony and redemption -- all of which can be found in the history of Lumpkin's Slave Jail, whose excavated glass-encased site would be the centerpiece of the Slave Trail.

Robert Lumpkin, the proprietor of the notorious "Devil's Half-Acre," left the property to his black wife upon his death. She leased it to a school that would eventually become Virginia Union University. To comprehend what happened at the Lumpkin's jail site is to gain a greater understanding of race in America.

This project would link 2½ miles of slave history from the south bank of the James River to Shockoe Bottom to the original site of First African Church on Broad Street.

The Shockoe site also would include a U.S. Slavery Museum, an African-American Genealogy Center and a tree-lined area to mark the long-desecrated Negro Burial Ground. All this would be connected by a man-made stream "suggesting passage and return."

Jones said Richmond's history "should be viewed as a national treasure."



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We've moved past pain and shame to unearth the treasure. Now is the time to finally share it with the world.

Letters illuminate first search for the Hunley

By Brian Hicks, The Charleston (SC) Post and Courier, November 3, 2009
In the fall of 1864, a U.S. Navy officer serving in the blockade of Charleston set out on a quest that would consume some men for more than a century.

He wanted to find the H.L. Hunley. William L. Churchill, executive officer on a gunboat and a diver with much interest in submarine technology, had volunteered to survey the wreckage of the USS Housatonic, a blockader sunk by the Confederate fish boat earlier that year.

But according to letters between Union naval officers recently donated to the S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum in Columbia, Churchill was looking for a lot more than debris.

"His is also desirous of exploring the ocean bottom in the vicinity [sic] of the ill-fated Housatonic, with the view of finding the Torpedo Boat, which, by mail and clippings, taken from Rebel Journals, may have sunk very near her," Nipsic commander A.W. Johnson wrote to Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren.

That note, a rare contemporary mention of the Hunley, is part of a set of 27 documents donated to the museum by a private collector. Kristina Dunn Johnson, curator of history at the Relic Room, said the letters offer a view of the war not often found in Southern museums.

"We were especially interested because they were Union letters associated with the blockade," Johnson said. "Even though they are Union correspondence, they are

central to South Carolina's wartime story."



William L. Churchill, a Union Navy officer, searched the waters off Charleston for the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley. Photo courtesy S.C. Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum

The letters, many of which are either to or from Churchill, A.W. Johnson or Dahlgren, date from the early days of the war up to 1869, when Churchill had his own submarine company. Together, they tell the story of one man's journey through the Civil War. The first letter notifies Churchill of his appointment as master's mate on the USS *Susquehanna*, a sidewheel steamer. From the deck of that ship, he watched the battle of Hampton Roads, where the USS *Monitor* fought the CSS *Virginia* (or the *Merrimac*) to a standstill. Soon after that, he wound up on the *Nipsic*, which took part in the blockade of Charleston Harbor.

Dahlgren allowed Churchill to make his survey, and the results have helped tell the Hunley's story.

In his report, Churchill declared the wreck of the *Housatonic* "worthless" and described the massive amount of damage caused by the 90-pound charge delivered by the sub.

But he did not find the torpedo boat.

"I have also caused the bottom to be dragged for an area of 500 yards around the wreck, finding nothing of the torpedo boat," Churchill wrote. "On the 24th the drag ropes caught something heavy (as I reported). On sending a diver down to examine it, proved to be a quantity of rubbish" Churchill did not say, however, whether he searched in every direction around the *Housatonic*. The *Hunley* eventually was found seaward of the *Housatonic* wreck, a surprise that bedeviled archaeologists and treasure hunters for 130 years.

"We're lucky Churchill didn't find it during this expedition," said Robert Neyland, head of the Naval Historical Center's Underwater Archaeology branch. "If he had, nothing would be left of the submarine today and it would have been a major loss for history."

When scientists raised the *Hunley* in 2000, they found a grappling hook that remains unidentified but may have been equipment such as Churchill would have used in his dragging.

As for Churchill, he eventually suffered a fate similar to that of the *Hunley*. Four years after the war ended, he was killed during an underwater demolition job. His body was lost at sea.

**Illinois Courthouse
cannons get new look
thanks to Boy Scout**



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By Vinde Wells – Editor, Ogle County News, October 22, 2009

Elbow grease and several hours' efforts have made the cannons in front of the Ogle County Courthouse almost look like new.

Oregon Boy Scout Danny Daniels, 15, rolled up his sleeves this fall and went to work removing years of rust and grime on the two Civil War guns that stand on the courthouse lawn. A member of Boy Scout Troop 52, Daniels undertook the project as part of earning his Eagle Scout Award — the highest achievement for a Boy Scout. Thirteen Scouts from his Troop also helped sand and prime the cannons.



Danny Daniels, Oregon, kneels beside one of the cannons he refurbished for his Eagle Scout project. The cannons are located on the east lawn of the Ogle County Courthouse. Photo by Vinde Wells

After 35 hours of work, the cannons are once again sleek and black with no rust spots to mar them. Daniels finished up on Monday afternoon.

"I feel good," he said as he stood back to get the full effect. "Now the county doesn't have to pay someone to do it."

Initially, the Ogle County Long Range Planning Committee planned to seek bids for the work.

That was until Scoutmaster Ray Gruber, Oregon, offered a better solution — a scout in need of an Eagle project.

Daniels said his job began with research — lots of it.

He consulted experts on the best way to remove the rust, clean the iron surface of the cannons, and what kind of paint to use. The rust was removed with sanding blocks on most surfaces, and wire brushes on the lettering.

Cleaning with mineral spirits followed, then rust retardant primer, topped off with a coat of flat black paint. "I see a spot I missed. I'll have to come back and touch that up," Daniels told his parents, Randy and Roxy Daniels, as they folded up tarps and put the tools away.

Vermonters Erect Memorial at Peninsula Battlefield

By Mark St. John Erickson, Newport News Daily Press (VA), October 8, 2009

Nearly 150 years after their forebears stormed across the Warwick River, a Vermont-based Civil War preservation group has spent \$20,000 to remember the bravery and sacrifice shown by the Vermont Brigade in a deadly 1862 clash known as the Battle of Dam No. 1.

Several members of group, which calls itself the 18th Vermont Regiment, joined with Vermont Civil War re-enactors and local historian John V. Quarstein Saturday afternoon to dedicate a memorial at the battle site in Newport News Park.

"The 3rd Vermont didn't get any recognition for all the blood it shed there — and all the lives it left on the battlefield," said Russ Slora, a trustee and past president of the preservation group.

"So it's close to home for us in Vermont. They deserved a memorial."

Commissioned after two years of fund-raising, the gray granite obelisk is designed to mark the first test of fire for a legendary brigade that — by the end of the Civil War — had suffered the greatest loss of life of any brigade in the Union army.

Of 200 Vermonters who waded across the shoulder-deep water in the first assault against a heavily defended Confederate position, more than 120 were killed or wounded. Two Vermont soldiers — including a 15-year-old fifer — were later awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroic roles in the bloody engagement.

Union officers badly miscalculated the depth of the waters, Quarstein said, leaving the Vermonters stranded on the opposite bank with hopelessly wet ammunition. They also failed to reinforce the assault when an officer charged with giving the signal was mortally wounded.

"The attack at Dam #1 failed because of mistakes in leadership, not because of a lack of bravery," Quarstein said. "The Vermont Brigade went on to become a legendary unit that proved itself time and time again during the war. They always seemed to show up at pivotal places in key battles."

The 3rd Vermont monument will be the second Civil War memorial dedicated in the park, which spans much of the Confederate and Union lines erected in the summer of 1862 during the Siege of the Peninsula.

But with the 150th anniversary of the siege and the war approaching in 2011, it may not be the last, Quarstein said.

"People are still fascinated by the Civil War," he said.



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Former auction house owner, TV appraiser sentenced to prison

by Catherine Saunders-Watson, Auction Central News, October 28, NORRISTOWN, Pa. (ACNI)

Yet another unsavory chapter has been added to the life story of former auction company owner Russell A. Pritchard III, who plied his trade in an exclusive Philadelphia suburb before the FBI caught up with him.

Pritchard III, 46, was already serving a 4 to 8-year prison term for crimes involving theft by deception when he was called to appear before the Montgomery County Court on Wednesday, Oct. 21 to face the latest round of charges brought against him. In a deal accepted by Judge William R. Carpenter, Pritchard III, former owner of Bryn Mawr Auction Co., entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to an additional four to eight years in prison, to be served concurrently with his present jail term. Described by Assistant District Attorney Tracey Potere as "a common thief" and a "wolf in sheep's clothing," Pritchard III pleaded guilty to a list of charges including deceptive business practices, theft by deception and theft by failure to make the required disposition of funds. All of the charges pertained to dealings with three residents of Lower Merion Township, Pa., over a three-year period beginning in 2003.

Prosecutors said Pritchard III - a former appraiser on PBS Television's *Antiques Roadshow* - had inappropriately used his association with the popular and highly reputable television show to gain the confidence of wealthy, retired individuals or relatives settling family estates. Pritchard III took possession of his victims' valuable antiques and

profited handsomely from their sale at auction, but then failed to pay the consignors.

Throughout the most recent round of proceedings against Pritchard III, prosecutors emphasized that their main interest was in seeking restitution for the one-time auctioneer's victims. As part of the plea deal, Pritchard III is required to pay back a total of \$65,784 to the three people he most recently conned.

Pritchard III's questionable dealings in the antiques trade, which date back to 1996, were first revealed in an indictment filed in Philadelphia on March 15, 2001. In a case investigated by the FBI, a grand jury was told that Russell A. Pritchard III and associate George Juno, who were engaged in the business of appraising, purchasing, and selling military-related artifacts through their business, American Ordnance Preservation Association (AOPA), had engaged in staged or phony appraisals to enhance their reputation as militaria experts. This indictment might have garnered less national publicity had Pritchard III and Juno not also been two of the more prominent appraisers on the *Antiques Roadshow*.

The FBI became involved in the case in July 1999, when the appraisers were sued by the descendants of General George Pickett for defrauding them of their ancestor's property. In July 1996, Pritchard III and Juno met with a man named "Steve" to rehearse a story about a Confederate Civil War sword that they supplied to him. On July 20, 1996, the three men staged a phony *Antiques Roadshow* session for a later broadcast. "Steve" recounted that the sword had been in his family for years and that, as a child he used

it to cut a watermelon. While the cameras rolled, he acted surprised when Pritchard III and Juno appraised the "watermelon sword" at \$35,000.

While Pritchard III and Juno used their appearance on the *Antiques Roadshow* to bolster their reputations, they also relied on false appraisals and misinformation to obtain valuables from unsuspecting collectors.

In early 1997, descendants of Major Samuel J. Wilson, a Union officer in the Civil War, contacted AOPA after watching the "watermelon sword" episode. They asked the association to appraise a sword once used by their ancestor. Pritchard III and Juno gave it a value of close to \$8,000 and persuaded the family to sell them the sword so it could be displayed in the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The Wilson family had no intention of selling the sword prior to their meeting with the appraisers but, believing their descendant would have a place of honor for all time, the family sold it.

But instead of giving the Wilson sword to the museum, George Juno used it as collateral to secure a loan. Then he helped a family member sell the Wilson sword to a private collector for \$20,000 - two and a half times the value at which he and Pritchard III originally appraised it.

Another case involved a gun belonging to Civil War Major General George C. Meade, who commanded the victorious Union forces at the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War and repelled the invasion of the North by the Army of Northern Virginia under General Robert E. Lee. After the Battle of Gettysburg, Major General Meade was presented with a pistol that had been in the Meade



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family since the Major General's death.

In August 1997, Pritchard III reached out to a Meade descendant and represented himself as an expert in the field of Civil War artifacts. He offered to appraise the mahogany-cased, .44-caliber, Remington presentation pistol with engraved ivory grips, silver-plated frame, and gold-washed cylinder and hammer. Pritchard III appraised the Meade firearm at between \$180,000 and \$200,000 and, once again, falsely stated that he was acquiring the firearm for the National Civil War Museum, for permanent display.

In October 1997, a private collector paid Pritchard III \$385,000 for the firearm; in return, Pritchard III paid the Meade descendant just \$184,000. Then, Pritchard III faxed a letter to the mayor of Harrisburg, stating falsely that the Meade family was not interested in selling the firearm for inclusion in the city's National Civil War Museum.

In September 1996, a descendant of Lieutenant Colonel William R. Hunt, an officer in the Confederate States of America during the Civil War, asked Russell Pritchard Jr., (himself a cousin of the Hunt descendant) to appraise a Hunt uniform. Pritchard Jr. delivered the uniform to his son, Russell Pritchard, III, who made repairs to the uniform. In December 1996, the Hunt uniform was sent to a textiles expert to confirm its authenticity.

In January 1997, the Pritchards falsely advised Mr. Hunt that the uniform was not authentic and that they had given it away to a clothing collection agency. More than a year later, Pritchard III, sold the uniform to a private collector for \$45,000. It eventually made its way back to a museum in Tennessee which bought

it from a private dealer for \$67,500. In May 2001, Russell Pritchard Jr. was indicted for the theft of the uniform.

In early 1995, AOPA, Pritchard III, and Juno acquired a collection of Civil War-related artifacts from Mr. Ronald Weaver. A sergeant's Union Zouave uniform was included in the Weaver collection. Pritchard III and AOPA sold the collection, including the Union Zouave uniform, to the National Civil War Museum for \$1.8 million. In March 1997, Pritchard III purchased what he thought was another authentic Zouave uniform. He later learned that the uniform was from a Belgium rather than Union military unit, and was of negligible value.

In March 1997, Pritchard III stole the Union Zouave uniform from the Harrisburg museum's inventory and replaced it with the Belgium Zouave uniform. In the fall of 1997, Pritchard III and Juno sold the stolen Union Zouave uniform to a private Civil War dealer for \$20,000.

In total, the three men - Russell Pritchard III, Russell Pritchard Jr., and George Juno - were responsible for more than \$1.2 million in historical memorabilia fraud. In early 2001, Juno pleaded guilty to the theft of the Wilson sword.

On December 21, 2001, Russell Pritchard III pleaded guilty to more than 20 counts including wire fraud, mail fraud, theft from a museum, and Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property. On January 18, 2002, Russell Pritchard Jr., and a former museum curator at the Civil War Library and Museum in Philadelphia with 20 years of experience, were found guilty of theft from a museum and aiding and abetting after the fact in the case involving the Hunt uniform.

On July 11, 2002, Russell Pritchard III was sentenced to one year in prison and was ordered to repay \$830,000 for staging phony appraisals and defrauding Civil War militaria collectors. Pritchard III, 39, pleaded guilty to making false TV appraisals. He also admitted defrauding artifact owners by giving them low appraisals on items, then reselling them at much higher prices and keeping the profits. In May 2008, Pritchard III was sentenced to state prison after he pleaded guilty to theft-related charges and admitted to bilking six clients out of more than \$100,000 in connection with incidents that occurred between June 2004 and December 2006. At that time, Pritchard III told the judge he had had to deal with a string of problems including a vendor who defrauded him, and auctions that had performed poorly. He said he never intended to defraud anyone.

Uncovering an Abraham Lincoln Not Often Seen

By Edward Colimore, Philadelphia Inquirer (PA), October 25, 2009
He's typically depicted in paintings and sculptures as sullen and melancholy. His cheeks are sunken, and he has a long neck. His huge, veined hands are crossed over an ill-fitting, wrinkled suit.

But a different side of Abraham Lincoln has emerged in recently discovered accounts by those who knew him well and witnessed historic moments in his life and presidency. In notes compiled early last century by artist and interviewer James E. Kelly, and uncovered by New Jersey historian William B. Styple, Lincoln is animated and athletic, passionate and engaging. He weeps and prays as he walks the streets of Washington, assessing the Civil War's cost. He smiles, laughs, and erupts in anger.



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After collecting stories for at least 16 years, Kelly planned to write a book about the Lincoln few knew. He also hoped to produce a sculpture of the president, but he died in 1933 without finishing either.

Styple discovered Kelly's unpublished notes and correspondence - from civic leaders, politicians, artists, and soldiers - in the New York Historical Society about 70 years later and has turned them into a book. "DO NOT represent him as if he were half asleep, or in mourning," wrote a Lincoln secretary, William Stoddard, in a 1919 letter to Kelly. "Make him living! For he was one of the most 'all alive' of men. . . . Remember that he was exceptionally vigorous physically, and notably outspoken in all his utterances - NEVER WEAK. I have seen his face light up as if God had kindled a bonfire behind it."

Styple devoured 27 boxes of Kelly's documents and learned of the artist's unusual friendship with a physician whose descendant - a South Jersey resident - inherited some of the artist's sculptures and sketches. "When I found Kelly's notes, I knew how important they were," said Styple, 49, author of several Civil War books and a resident of Chatham, Morris County. "After 150 years, to find 50 new personal accounts [of Lincoln] is a rarity."

Eight of Kelly's bronze statuettes, four figurines, and a dozen plaster bas-reliefs were passed through the family of a Kelly friend to Henry Ryder, a professor of economics at Gloucester County College.

"Kelly's artwork has been pretty much forgotten," Ryder said. "His accounts and conversations were never known until Bill uncovered them." Many critically acclaimed artistic works by Kelly, including equestrian

pieces, are in parks, public places, and battlefields at Freehold, N.J.; Gettysburg, Pa.; Frederick, Md.; Washington; New York; and other East Coast cities.

To complete them, Kelly did extensive homework in the same way he had begun preparations for his Lincoln project.

He sketched, painted, and sculpted aging generals while chatting about historic events in which they and others shaped the Civil War. He was enthralled by their eyewitness descriptions of the opening shots at Fort Sumter, the killing fields of Gettysburg, the Appomattox surrender, and the assassination of Lincoln.

His interviewing ability intrigued Styple, who studied Kelly's papers, including those about his conversations with Gens. Ulysses S. Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman, Philip Sheridan, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, and Alexander S. Webb. The public can see the documents at the historical society. "While they sat, Kelly talked to them, and they told him things they wouldn't write in their memoirs," Styple said recently, in this 200th anniversary year of Lincoln's birth. "It was like talking to a barber or bartender." Kelly got the idea for a book and bronze sculpture of Lincoln in 1917 after sharing some of his notes about the 16th president with a librarian. "If you write what you have told me - what the generals and other friends of Lincoln have told you, it would make a Life of Lincoln," the librarian said, according to Kelly's notes.

The artist took her advice. "From that very moment, I became desirous of gathering material - to justify me in making Abraham Lincoln an active, vigorous leader so much as inspired the poem of Walt Whitman, 'O

Captain! My Captain!' " wrote the artist.

Kelly was influenced by Henry T. Blake, a civic leader in New Haven, Conn., and a businessman who met the 6-foot-4 Lincoln in 1860 and later was appalled by statues in his honor. "He is generally represented with his head bowed down meditating, or depicted grasping his coat, as if he were sick to his stomach, while he was full of animation. . . .

"His soul was bigger than himself - a common figure with the soul of a prophet," Blake told Kelly around 1917. "When he spoke he seemed to rise, and became transfigured with fire and vigor."

Many who met Lincoln were impressed by his appearance. "There was always about his mouth a suppressed play of humor," said artist George Henry Story, who painted Lincoln's portrait. "I never saw him in shabby clothes. He was one of the best dressed men in Washington. . . . "He was called uncouth and coarse, and all sorts of stories were told of him which were not true. He was not at all coarse or rough in build. . . . It is wrong to represent him drooping; he was alert."

There was a "solemnity, dignity and a general air that bespoke weight of character that was convincing at our first meeting," Story said. "Honesty was written in every line of that face." The more interviews he did, Kelly wrote, the more he became convinced that Lincoln "had seldom been depicted correctly in art." He continued his research while receiving critical acclaim for his evocative painting and his sculpture of Sheridan's ride to rally troops at the Battle of Cedar Creek in 1864. Kelly was commissioned to portray, in bronze, 40 Union generals. But he often found himself in financial



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difficulties that were eased by George Ryder, a New York physician and friend who admired Kelly's work, Style said.

Kelly "was not a good businessman," Henry Ryder said. "If it wasn't for my great-uncle, a lot of the artist's work certainly would not have been saved. . . . Much of it was in a basement, and my uncle had it cast in bronze so it could be saved."

Though never completing a Lincoln book or sculpture, Kelly did leave a legacy, said Style, who edited the artist's notes in a book released this month called *Tell Me of Lincoln: Memories of Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War and Life in Old New York* by James E. Kelly.

"He lets us see Lincoln as a human being, as a man, not the godlike figure at the Lincoln Memorial," Style said.