



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

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### New Alliance Supports Culpeper State Park

By Scott C. Boyd, November 2015  
Civil War News

CULPEPER, Va. — The momentum for a new state park incorporating the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain battlefields in Culpeper County continued with the Civil War Trust announcing the formation of the Brandy Station & Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance on Sept. 25. Alliance members include the Trust, Brandy Station Foundation (BSF), Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield, Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, Preservation Virginia, Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC), Culpeper Department of Tourism and Remington Community Partnership.

At a Sept. 29 meeting, Trust consultants Glenn Stach and Kennedy Smith briefed alliance members and others on prospects for the new state park, according to Diane Logan, president of the Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield. An economic impact study is expected in early November. Reports in the Culpeper and Fredericksburg newspapers said the consultants believe a new state park incorporating both battlefields could draw 100,000 visitors annually. This possible visitor count does not approach the visitation at the long-established Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (870,000 visitors) or the Manassas National Battlefield Park (500,000 visitors), both operated by the National Park Service. Nonetheless, the proposed park "fills a need, bringing a state park to an area under-served in this regard," Paula L. Combs, public relations

manager for the PEC, told Civil War News in an email. The Trust and the BSF own 1,020 acres at Brandy Station. An additional 3,217 acres are protected through conservation easements in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (see October CWN). The preserved acreage will increase — the Trust is under contract to buy a modern house and 10.5 acres on Fleetwood Hill from Page Mitchell. She and her husband, B.B, who died in 2011, were early opponents of major residential and commercial development on the battlefield and helped start the Brandy Station Foundation in 1989. The Trust has also preserved 164 acres at Cedar Mountain through purchase along with 421 acres protected through conservation easements.

"I think a state park will be very beneficial to BSF and for the Culpeper community," said Brandy Station Foundation President Joe McKinney.

"A state park — with the associated advertising and support from Virginia Tourism — should attract many more visitors to the battlefield and to the Graffiti House than are drawn at present," he said.

"Some will come for the history, others perhaps for recreational activities such as horseback riding, hiking, biking, rafting or camping. We anticipate that this state park — like most — will be multi-use." The consultants mentioned that 14 equestrian facilities are within 10 miles of the two battlefields. Currently Culpeper lacks any public trails for horse riding, so this represents an opportunity for the proposed new

state park. Of major importance for McKinney's group is "discussion about locating the park's visitor center at the Graffiti House," the foundation's headquarters.

The Commonwealth has the resources to address several current limitations at the house, according to McKinney. Expanding the restroom facilities, improving handicapped accessibility and increasing the hours open with state employees could be done.

More than one preservation group official endorsed the idea of the two battlefields being administered together as one combined park. "Combining the two parks is the most efficient and cost effective option," said Meg Martin, communications manager for the Civil War Trust. "A good practical example is Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park." "By creating only one park, the Commonwealth can likely conserve resources," McKinney said, citing examples like needing one visitor center instead of two and fewer full-time staff. Maggi MacQuilliam, Southern Fauquier and Culpeper land conservation officer for the PEC, said her group is excited by the prospect and the opportunity for future generations to learn about these two battles and the region's importance during the Civil War. "This proposal brings economic opportunity for the area and allows organizations like PEC and the Trust to build off of the State's investment, allowing for further protection of this critical landscape," she said. "We are moving as one to create a permanent place of education, recreation and reflection," Trust



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President James Lighthizer said in the Sept. 25 announcement, thanks to the tremendous support of its Alliance partners. "With the 80th anniversary of the Virginia state park system on the immediate horizon, this is the moment to act – and secure a legacy for the Old Dominion that will last for generations to come," Lighthizer said.

The Battle of Cedar Mountain was fought Aug. 9, 1862. Confederate Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's troops, aided by troops under Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill, repulsed Union Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks's corps, preventing them from seizing the rail junction at Gordonsville. The battle marked the shift in focus from the failed Union Peninsula Campaign to operations in Northern Virginia. The June 9, 1863, Battle of Brandy Station, was the first battle in the Gettysburg Campaign and the war's largest cavalry battle. Union Maj. Gen. Alfred Pleasonton's troops surprised Confederate Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's forces in camp, but were repulsed after heavy fighting.

### How a Government Worker Discovered Clara Barton's Missing Soldiers Office

By Matt Blitz, *The Washingtonian*, November 13, 2015

On the day before Thanksgiving 1996, General Services Administration carpenter Richard Lyons was conducting a final review of a decrepit building at 437 Seventh Street, Northwest, that had recently fallen into government possession and was now set for demolition. Coming in from the cold rain, he entered the dusty old building alone. On the first

floor (which was once a shoe store), he checked for infrastructure damage, trash, and whether anybody had made it their temporary home. Then, he moved to the second floor and did a similar sweep. He moved to third floor. "There were no lights... it was dark," Lyons tells *Washingtonian*, "Then, I heard this noise, but saw nothing." Lyons heard a noise again, so he walked back and forth, stopping at the window. "I was at the window and it felt like somebody tapped me on the shoulder... when I turned around, I spotted an envelope between the ceiling and the wall." He got out a ladder and reached for it. The envelope was addressed to a "Edward Shaw, Washington City." Curious, he pulled himself through a small hole leading to the attic. That's where he found an assortment of artifacts—utensils, clothing, Civil War-era newspapers, a bayonet and one small sign written in gold and black lettering. It read "Missing Soldiers. Office. 3<sup>rd</sup> Story. Room 9. Miss Clara Barton."



The sign Lyons found. Photograph courtesy the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

Clara Barton was born into a military and abolitionist-leaning Massachusetts family in 1821. Her father was a militia captain and founder of the community's

Universalist church, one that held progressive views on abolition. At 18, she began her professional career as a teacher in Oxford, Massachusetts. In 1854, she moved to Washington to become a recording clerk at the United States Patent Office. She was so impressive, both in her skills and confidence, that she was paid the same salary as her male co-workers, which was nearly unheard of at the time. Unfortunately, the job only lasted three years: When Democrat James Buchanan became president, the vocal Republican and abolitionist was let go. When Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860, she got hired again, but to the position of copyist—not nearly as prestigious or well-paying a job. When war broke out in 1861, Barton volunteered at the Washington Infirmary. As the conflict dragged on, more brutal than many had anticipated, Barton made her way to the front lines, determined to help those fighting for the cause she believed in.

Barton wasn't a trained nurse, but her ability to organize supplies, help, and treatment was immensely needed during a war that injured and maimed thousands. She became a welcome and morale-boosting sight whenever she showed up at a Union hospital. Frequently written about in newspapers across the country, Barton became a well-known figure to Americans. Due to this and her proximity to soldiers, Barton received scores of letters from families asking whether their loved ones were alive or dead, and if dead where they were buried. Unable to answer every letter, she hired several assistants and ordered stationery. She named her new mobile venture "The Office of Correspondence with the Friends of



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the Missing Men of the United States Army."

In late 1864, with the war finally winding down, Barton moved back to the nation's capital to gather supplies. It was at this time that Edward Shaw, a friend and co-worker from the patent office, offered Barton a chance to move into his boarding house at 488 1/2 7th Street—437 7th Street today. She took him up on it and also convinced him to rent her half of the third floor for an office. Clara Barton's Missing Soldiers Office was born.

Over a period of about four years, Barton and her staff handled over 60,000 pieces of correspondence, helping to give peace of mind to a country scarred by war. She placed ads in newspapers, wrote letters to her military contacts, and urged soldiers to tell her about final resting places of their fellow comrades. She went on to establish the American Red Cross 12 years later.

After his discovery, Richard Lyons became so infatuated with Barton and the Missing Soldiers Office story that he spent a year researching and reading everything he could. "I would go home, walk the dog, then go to the Library of Congress and stayed there until closing time every night," says Lyons. With the help of the National Park Service, the GSA, and the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, many of the found artifacts have been archived—including a blouse with a hole in its sleeve.

"While doing research, I read that (Barton) was at Antietam giving soldiers water," Lyons says. "She wrote in her diary that a bullet went through her sleeve and hit a soldier in the head, killing him ... under that she wrote, 'I never bothered to mend it.'" Lyons believes it's the same blouse—

"Why else would a hole like that be in a sleeve?" he says.

Today, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine operates the DC building's first and third floor as a museum and monument to the achievements, heroism, and willpower of Clara Barton. Lyons still volunteers there on occasion, giving tours and telling people about the historic trove he found. When asked if he thought, perhaps, it was the spirit of Clara Barton that lightly tapped him on the shoulder that cold, rainy November night nearly two decades ago, Lyons responds, "I don't know what it was, but it felt real to me."

### Painting collection of Civil War-era subjects up for auction

By Dawn DeCwikiel-Kane, Greensboro.com, October 26, 2015  
GREENSBORO — Back in the 1960s, Winston-Salem artist Joseph Wallace King captured national attention for buying the world's largest painting on canvas — a famous 1883 cyclorama of the Battle of Gettysburg.

This 410-foot, 360-degree panoramic painting put King in the Guinness Book of World Records and on the TV game show "I've Got a Secret."

So great was his fascination with the cyclorama, King made far less fuss over five other monumental works that he acquired in the same purchase.

King — known internationally as the artist "Vinciata," a painter of portraits, landscapes and nudes — spent his childhood in Greensboro. He died in 1996 in Winston-Salem at age 84.

His widow now plans to sell those five other works depicting Civil War-era subjects in an auction next month open only to pre-approved bidders.

Deborah King said she hopes to sell them to a U.S. buyer who will put them on display.

"They are really beautiful paintings, and they should be seen," she said from Venice, Italy, the country where she and her husband spent most of their years. "I need to divest myself of these paintings just to get them seen and not have them rolled up in storage."

It marks the first time that these pieces have been offered for general sale.

An attorney in Florence, Italy, will handle the auction. Registered bidders can see the paintings on Nov. 9 in Charlotte. Bids will be accepted by telephone, fax, email, letter and online from Nov. 2 to Nov. 30.

These paintings won't fit in just any home or budget.

Two are more than 20 feet wide, one of them more than 14 feet in height. Another two are more than 10 feet wide and 7 feet tall.

All except a smaller, undated portrait of Union General Winfield Hancock have a "guide price" in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Guide prices are amounts that the paintings are expected to bring at auction, said Phillip Jones, the attorney handling the sale.

Now stored in an undisclosed facility in Charlotte, these five paintings on canvas have fascinating histories of their own.

They were owned by Emmett W. McConnell, known as the "Cyclorama King" back in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

"Emmett McConnell was the Steven Spielberg of his day," Deborah King said. "He was a showman."

McConnell arranged for artists to create panoramic paintings of famous scenes. French artist Paul



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Philippoteaux painted "The Battle of Gettysburg," depicting Pickett's Charge, the climactic battle on July 3, 1863. Ultimately, three more versions were created, the second one now on display at Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center.

In 1886, Theophil Poilpot and other artists painted the "The Monitor and the Merrimack," also known as the 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads in Virginia.

"The Monitor and the Merrimack" cyclorama traveled to exhibitions around the world.

By 1965, McConnell was 96 years old and in a nursing home. When Joe King traced the first Battle of Gettysburg cyclorama to him, McConnell allowed his son to sell King that and other paintings, which had been stored in a fireproof Chicago warehouse since 1933.

Among them: a panel from "The Monitor and the Merrimack" cyclorama, depicting Union General Joseph Mansfield and his staff on horseback.

That section alone of the oil on canvas measures more than 21 feet wide and more than 14 feet high. It carries a guide price of \$600,000 to \$750,000, based on insurance value and the cost of replacement, Jones said.

A 1998 report gave its condition as "overall fair."

"It needs some restoration because it has traveled the world," Deborah King said. "This is the only fragment we know of that's left of this painting."

For years, people assumed incorrectly that it depicted the Civil War's Battle of Antietam, because someone wrote it on the back of the canvas, she said.

Research seems to indicate that three other paintings are part of an

11-panel collection titled "Evolution of the Dreadnaughts of the U.S. Navy," Jones said.

They were commissioned by McConnell and painted by a company led by Edward James Austen, who lived in London and elsewhere from 1850 to 1930.

The undated works of gouache on gessoed canvas depict battleship scenes titled "Bon Homme and Richard Starpis," "Death Struggle Between Monitor and Merrimack" and "Fleets of the World Entering San Francisco Harbour."

The latter lists a guide price of \$600,000 to \$750,000; the other two, \$350,000 to \$500,000.

Although "Fleets of the World Entering San Francisco Harbour" isn't a Civil War painting, it could be considered a Civil War-era painting, Jones said.

The three dreadnaught paintings had been missing for 15 years.



**Photo courtesy of Pivotal Legal Services**  
Detail from a panel from "The Monitor and the Merrimack" cyclorama, depicting Union General Joseph Mansfield and his staff on horseback. The widow of the late Winston-Salem artist Joseph Wallace King will offer the massive work at auction.

Deborah King said she didn't know where an agent for her husband had placed them for auction after Joe

King died. They didn't sell, and the auction house rolled them up and put them in the rafters of a storage unit. Then the agent died suddenly, and the auction house didn't know where to turn.

Last year, Deborah King and Jones tracked down the three pieces at the auction house in Hendersonville, near Asheville.

"Most of the staff (at the auction house) had changed and had absolutely no idea what the big brown, paper-covered roll was, in the rafters of the storage unit," Jones said.

That's when, Deborah King said, she decided to sell the five paintings.

Like McConnell and Austen, Joe King was a showman, his wife of 15 years recalled.

"Isn't it bizarre that these paintings have passed from one great showman to another?" she said.

Born in Virginia, Joe King moved with his family to Greensboro as a child after a fire destroyed their home.

When he was 6 or 7, he learned that it was popular for car owners to have their surnames or initials painted on the car doors.

"He went around Greensboro with his little paint box, offering to paint people's names on cars," Deborah King said.

In 1933, while touring the country as a ventriloquist with the Paul Whiteman Orchestra, King visited the Chicago World's Fair. There, he saw the Battle of Gettysburg cyclorama for the first time.

More than 30 years would pass before he tracked it down.

When he died, King willed his cyclorama to Wake Forest University. It was one of the two versions to have survived.

He also left more than 80 of his own paintings to Elon University. Deborah



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King loaned Elon his archives, including a copy of his only movie, a 1975 feature film called "Somebody Moved My Mountain."

Wake Forest never publicly displayed the cyclorama, knowing that it would be complex and expensive to do.

In 2007, three unidentified private investors bought it from Wake Forest. The price exceeded its appraised value of \$5.5 million, but the exact figure was not disclosed, according to news accounts at the time.

Deborah King said she doesn't know where it is now. Now 57, Deborah King married her husband when she was 23 and he was 70. They lived in Florence and Venice, as well as Winston-Salem.

"It was a very long relationship and I'm still carrying it on, still trying to take care of business," she said.

### Photo found of Irish housekeeper of Confederate White House

Jane Walsh, Irishcentral.com, November 08, 2015

A photograph has been found of the Irish woman who was hired as the housekeeper for Jefferson Davis at the White House of the Confederacy in Richmond, VA during the Civil War. Mary O'Melia, who left Ireland for America as a young widow with three children, has always been a mystery. But earlier this year, a woman with an "Irish lilt to her voice" called the American Civil War Museum and said O'Melia was related to her late husband, and that she had a necklace Confederate First Lady Varina Davis had given the housekeeper, reports the Washington Post.

"What really took my breath away is

she said she had a photograph of Mary," said Cathy Wright, curator at the Civil War Museum, formerly the Museum of the Confederacy, located next door to the White House. "Considering that it's been almost 150 years since she left the White House that anyone has been able to look at her face is just remarkable," Wright said.

"One of the more elusive figures was Mary O'Melia."

Mary Larkin was born on April 7, 1822 in Galway and educated in a convent. She wed Matthias O'Melia, a ship captain, but was widowed at age 25 when he was lost at sea. Although details are unknown, she settled in Baltimore with her children around 1850. In 1861, she left her children with relatives while she went to visit friends in Richmond. She was stranded in Virginia when the state left the Union.



Image of Mary O'Melia now at The American Civil War Museum.

Photo by: American Civil War Museum

Friends told her that the First Lady could help her return home and she appealed to the Roman Catholic bishop to help her. Varina Davis persuaded O'Melia to take the position of housekeeper at the White House, where she was among a staff of 20 and served as a confidante to the first lady. O'Melia remained behind to oversee

the mansion when the South's first family left Richmond in April 1865 and may have been in the White House when President Abraham visited that same month.

"Mrs. Omelia behaved just as you described her, but seemed anxious to serve and promised to take care of everything which may mean some things," President Jefferson Davis wrote to his wife from Danville days after his departure.

O'Melia, whose name has been spelled a variety of ways throughout the years—O'Melia, O'Malley and O'Malla, left little by way of a written account of her years in Richmond. O'Melia eventually returned to Baltimore, where she operated boarding houses. In 1889, O'Melia attended a memorial ceremony in the city for Jefferson Davis after his passing. A reporter said she "attracted considerable attention" and described her as "a well-preserved old lady."

She died in 1907.

### The American Civil War surrender on the Mersey

By Paul Burnell, BBC News, November 7, 2015

One-hundred-and-fifty years ago, several months after the end of the American Civil War, the Confederate ship the CSS Shenandoah sailed up the River Mersey to surrender in Liverpool. But why was the last belligerent Confederate flag of the war lowered in the city, thousands of miles away from the deserted battlefields of America? And what was Liverpool's connection with the rebel forces of the South?

In what was a curious footnote to four years of carnage, on 6 November 1865 a figure in a grey Confederate



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uniform strode into Liverpool Town Hall to surrender formally.

James Waddell, captain of the CSS Shenandoah, was a former US Navy officer who had resigned his commission on the outbreak of war.

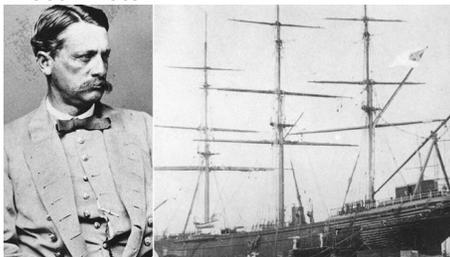
It was for very good reason Waddell chose to surrender the vessel in Liverpool - where it had been purchased, outfitted and registered the year before - as he could have been hanged for piracy if he returned to his homeland.

In the months before their voyage to Liverpool, Waddell, along with his Confederate officers and British sailors, had been wreaking havoc on whalers, as part of the Confederacy's strategy of targeting unarmed merchant vessels.

During its short life as a Confederate vessel, the Shenandoah sank or captured 38 merchant ships.

In June 1865, and with the crew unaware the war had already ended, the Shenandoah fired the last shots of the war in the Bering Sea off Siberia.

"It was the 19th Century version of the Japanese soldier who was found on a Pacific island thinking the Second World War was still on," said Dr Thomas Sebrell, visiting lecturer in history at the University of Westminster.



James Waddell, Cap't - CSS Shenandoah

But on 2 August, as the ship headed for San Francisco stalking a vessel carrying gold, Waddell and his crew

encountered another Liverpool ship, Barrocouta, sailing out of San Francisco Harbour.

They were shown newspaper reports confirming the war was over and Waddell decided to take the ship to its registered port of Liverpool.

Arriving to what local newspaper the Liverpool Mercury called "considerable excitement" on 5 November, the Shenandoah sailed up the Mersey and moored alongside HMS Donegal.

The next morning Waddell surrendered to the Donegal and lowered the war's last belligerent Confederate flag.

Later that day, the formal notice of surrender was delivered to Liverpool Town Hall by Waddell, where he met the Lord Mayor of Liverpool.

Liverpool was a hotbed of Confederate support - a fundraising event at the city's St George's Hall had raised the equivalent of nearly a £1m for Southern prisoners-of-war held in Union camps.

Dr Sebrell said: "Visitors who enter 19 Abercromby Square [later the residence of the Bishop of Liverpool], now part of the University of Liverpool, will likely not understand why there are Confederate and South Carolina symbols in the moulding, ceiling paintings and ornamental features.

"This house, built by Charles Kuhn Prioleau [a prominent cotton trader], boasts the most valuable Confederate art and architectural pieces in the world, and most of them are now well-preserved.

"The fact that some of the South's most wealthy and prominent cotton-trading firms had offices based in Liverpool destined the city to become a hotbed of pro-Confederate activity throughout the four-year conflict," Dr Sebrell said.

### ***The CSS Shenandoah***

1,160-ton steam passenger/cargo ship launched in Glasgow in 1863 as the Sea King

A year later renamed CSS Shenandoah and refitted with cannon for covert military use, setting sail for the Pacific from Liverpool in 1864 as part of the Confederate Navy

In a year of action, during which time it sailed 58,000 miles to the Pacific and back, the ship became a feared raider of Union vessels

It was sold in 1866 to the Sultan of Zanzibar and renamed El Majidi, but the vessel was reported lost at sea the following decade

*Source: The Officers of the CSS Shenandoah - Angus Curry*

Rifles, cannon, uniforms, munitions and medicine were sent across the Atlantic from Liverpool in a bid to beat President Abraham Lincoln's naval blockade of his country's southern and eastern coastline.

Local historian Roy Rawlinson said the city's sympathies were clearly not with the Union.

He said: "It is said more Confederate flags flew over Liverpool than Richmond [the city in Virginia was one of the Confederacy's capitals].

"Years later the British sailors would talk about 'their ship' and 'their war'."

And so while the Shenandoah may have been welcomed in Liverpool, the British Government was less enthused by its return.

Dr Sebrell said: "They wanted to avoid a diplomatic incident and wanted the matter dealt with quietly."

Foreign Secretary Lord Clarendon did not want attention to be focused on the British crew members on the ship.

"Sailors were simply asked of their nationality, upon which each put on a fake Southern accent and lied, and



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they were all also paroled," Dr Sebrell said.

"Whitehall, intentionally, avoided a diplomatic quagmire and international embarrassment."

For Waddell, his time in Liverpool lasted longer than he might have anticipated as he was taken ill on the evening after the surrender.

He spent two bedridden years at the city's Royal Hotel, until he gradually recovered from his illness.

An amnesty in the USA in 1867 meant Waddell was able to return to his native Maryland where he died aged 61 in 1886.

### House panel OKs bill to remove Confederate General Kirby Smith from Statuary Hall

By CHRISTINE SEXTON,  
PoliticoFlorida, Nov. 4, 2015

TALLAHASSEE — Saying that Florida has a new and interesting tale to tell, state Rep. Jose Felix Diaz convinced members of a House panel on Wednesday to pass a bill that would remove a statue of a Civil War general from National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C.

Before agreeing to pass HB 141, the House Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee tacked on a strike-everything amendment that lays out the process for replacing the statue of Civil War general Edmund Kirby Smith with another Floridian. Kirby Smith, originally from St. Augustine, was the last Confederate commander to surrender to the Union Army.

The bill does not remove another Florida-related statue from the hall, though some committee members suggested that Diaz consider doing

that as well. The second statue is of John Gorrie, who is credited with inventing modern refrigeration and air conditioning.

"This is what appears to be a simple bill but it is anything but. It is a heavier bill than most people think," said Diaz, a Republican.

He said that it was a life-changing experience for him when he went to Washington, D.C. as a high school student, and that when he went back two years ago with his legislative peers, they were all stumped after a tour guide asked the names of the two people who represented Florida in National Statuary Hall.

"None of us could answer that question," Diaz said.

He said that when they were told, "We all kind of scratched our heads went back home and started doing some research as to who these folks were."

While the discussion among members in the House subcommittee was supportive, Diaz said several times that he thinks it will be a "difficult lift" to pass the measure.

Testimony from Yulee resident Seber Newsome III, underscored why.

Newsome said there has been an "blatant attempt to erase Southern history and heritage" in the wake of the shooting spree in Charleston, S.C., which left nine black parishioners dead. The shooter, who is white, is facing dozens of federal charges, including hate crimes.

"History is not always pretty, but it is history," said Newsome, who called the bill — and the Florida Senate's decision last month to remove the Confederate flag from the Senate seal — knee-jerk reactions to the event. The seal is seen throughout the Capitol and is included in the

Senate's stationary as well as on the pins that are given to senators.

"There's all kinds of things in history that is not right but it is history and that's just the way it was. To try to erase it and destroy it, in my opinion, is wrong," Newsome said.

Newsome told committee members that there are "tens of thousands or more people who feel the same way" and promised that he, and other like-minded individuals, would keep track of how legislators vote on these issues "and come election time, our voices will be heard."

Committee member Patrick Rooney, a Republican from West Palm Beach, described himself as "old school" and as a "traditionalist," but said that updating the statue with a more recognizable Floridian could attract the tourists who meander through National Statuary Hall to Florida.

"I think that helps sell Florida, for lack of a better term," he said.

Both Rooney and Rep. Ray Pilon, also a Republican, suggested that Diaz consider removing Gorrie's statue from the national exhibit as well.

Diaz said he considered requiring both statues be replaced but said it would be hard enough to replace just one. He also joked that he wouldn't live in Miami-Dade today if Gorrie had not invented air conditioning.

Diaz made clear that if the bill were to pass, Kirby Smith's statue would be removed and put in an honorary place. Diaz suggested that he would like to put the statue in Jacksonville and perhaps procure a sculpture of Kirby Smith's attendant, Alexander Darnes, which would stand alongside Kirby Smith. Darnes became the first black physician in Jacksonville. Some historians believe Darnes may have been Kirby Smith's half-brother.



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Under the amended bill, the Department of State must submit a report — which includes the recommendations as well as the estimated total costs of the replacement statue, including the transfer of Kirby Smith's statue — to the governor, president of the Senate and speaker of the House of Representatives by January, 1, 2017. Thereafter, the Legislature "may" request by memorial that Kirby Smith's statue be replaced. The bill passed unanimously.