



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

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### **Bequest Finances Planting of New Orchards at Gettysburg Park**

CWi, Nov. 27, 2006 - In early December, Gettysburg National Military Park will replant eleven more historic orchards in major battle action areas on the battlefield. Contractors for the National Park Service will replant 30 acres of orchards with hardy varieties of apple so visitors can better understand the fighting and see the battlefield through the eyes of the soldiers fighting in 1863.

According to park historians, almost every farm of any size in 1863 Gettysburg had an orchard, usually of a size in proportion to the farmstead. The orchards played many roles during the battle—cover from observation or from fire for both troops and artillery batteries; concealment during movement; obstructions to observation or clear fields of fire; places to gather to rest or seek medical assistance. The National Park Service is funding this fall's planting project with \$17,972 bequeathed to the park by Frances L. Woolf, deceased, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Woolf included Gettysburg National Military Park in her last will and testament. The project includes replanting the well-known Bliss orchards, the west Codori orchard, and the orchard at Lee's headquarters, among others. The Bliss orchards (south and north) were situated in the middle of the expanse of farmland south of Gettysburg that separated the Union and Confederate lines, the Bliss farm and orchards were highly contested during the battle.

Both sides wanted control of the nearby house and barn, but neither

could hold them long; the position changed hands at least ten times in two days. On the morning of July 3, 1863, Union troops set fire to the buildings.

The park is also replanting orchards on the historic P. Snyder, Fisher, Hummelbaugh, Herbst, Gilbert, McLean, and Culp farms. Since 2000, the park has replanted 43 acres at 18 historic orchard sites. The goal is to replant a total of 160 acres of orchards throughout the major battle action areas of the battlefield.

Peach orchard update: The National Park Service is working with the Gettysburg Foundation to restore the Sherfy Peach Orchard at Gettysburg. In the spring of 2006 the aging orchard was cut down to that the ground could be naturally treated to remove a peach tree-killing organism known as the nematode. The orchard site has now had a full summer of planting to naturally treat the soil and remove the organism. In the spring of 2007 the park will once again plant a cover crop to rid the soil of nematodes and by fall of 2007 the park plans to work with the Gettysburg Foundation to plant new, fruit-producing peach trees at the Sherfy Peach Orchard. Additional Background on Historic Orchards at Gettysburg National Military Park:

#### **Lee's Headquarters Orchard**

This orchard on Seminary Ridge played a significant role during the first day of the battle, when it was used as cover for rallying elements of the Federal First Corps and for batteries attempting to turn back the concerted attacks of Lee's army. A rail breastwork had been thrown up along the western boundary of this large orchard, behind which the desperate Union infantry took a

determined last stand against several converging brigades from two of Lee's corps. After Union forces were compelled to retreat to Cemetery Hill, the orchard fell into the hands of the Confederates who likewise used its cover throughout the remainder of the battle until the retreat on July 5.

#### **Codori West Orchard**

The orchard on the west side of the Emmitsburg Road, opposite the Codori farm buildings, did not long survive the battle—probably as a result of artillery and other damage—but it did play a role in determining the alignment of Union forces on the second day of the battle. When General Sickles moved his Third Corps into an advanced position from Cemetery Ridge, this large and dense orchard was located beyond his right flank. General Carr, whose brigade occupied that right flank, was compelled to stretch his line beyond its limits in order to cover a possible attack from Confederates from that quarter. The orchard obscured any view of Confederate movements from that direction and caused Carr extreme concern in his exposed and isolated position.

#### **Rear Cemetery Ridge Orchards**

The orchards of Jacob Hummelbaugh and John Fisher, located in the rear of the Cemetery Ridge and near the Union center, provided some measure of cover from artillery firing during the second and third days of the battle. These orchards, like those at many of the farms behind the battle lines of the armies, provided shade for wounded who were brought here for care in the temporary hospitals associated with the farm buildings. There is some evidence that Confederate General William Barksdale was originally interred in the Hummelbaugh orchard after dying



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at the farm in the early hours of July 3, 1863.

### **Moses McClean and John Gilbert Orchards**

These two orchards are associated with the fighting of the first day of the battle, north and west of the town of Gettysburg. Both orchards were located on the eastern slope of Oak Ridge and their roles during that day's conflict were associated with providing cover for both armies. The orchard at the McClean farm concealed the movements of O'Neal's Alabama brigade and also provided cover and concealment for batteries in Carter's battalion of artillery when they enfiladed the Union Eleventh Corps battle line in the plain below the ridge. Gilbert's orchard is next to the McClean Grove, which was replanted by the National Park Service in 2005. The orchard provided concealment and cover. These two orchards are associated with the fighting of the first day of the battle, north and west of the town of Gettysburg. Both orchards were located on the eastern slope of Oak Ridge and their roles during that day's conflict were associated with providing cover for both armies. The orchard at the McClean farm concealed the movements of O'Neal's Alabama brigade and also provided cover and concealment for batteries in Carter's battalion of artillery when they enfiladed the Union Eleventh Corps battle line in the plain below the ridge. Gilbert's orchard is next to the McClean Grove, which was replanted by the National Park Service in 2005. The orchard provided concealment and cover for that portion of Robinson's Division charged with protecting the right flank of the First Corps.

### **Date moved for Gettysburg Casino hearing**

By RICHARD FELLINGER, Hanover Evening Sun, November 29, 2006

Saying it needs more time to do background checks on a new investor, the state Gaming Control Board has pushed back a licensing hearing for a Gettysburg-area casino plan.

The hearing on the Crossroads Gaming Resort and Spa will be Dec. 13 at the State Museum Auditorium in Harrisburg. It was previously scheduled for Dec. 4.

The licensing hearings are a key step in the decision-making process because they give gaming regulators a chance to grill the slots applicants before deciding who gets the lucrative slots licenses.

Despite the change in the hearing schedule, the gaming board still hopes to award slots licenses on Dec. 20. Crossroads is vying for one of two licenses for standalone slots parlors outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

Gaming board spokesman Doug Harbach said the hearing was pushed back so that gaming board staffers can do the background work on Silver Point Capital LP, a Connecticut investment firm that recently replaced Morgan Stanley as the plan's largest investor.

Casino foes were disappointed by the new hearing date.

Susan Star Paddock, who chairs No Casino Gettysburg, wondered if the gaming board will find it harder to rule on the Crossroads plan by Dec. 20.

"I'm troubled just because I want the board to vote 'no' as soon as possible," Star Paddock said.

Harbach said the gaming board will have enough time to reach a decision.

"The board feels it will be able to weigh all the information it has already received and will receive at the licensing hearing and be able to vote on Dec. 20," Harbach said.

Crossroads spokesman David La Torre said Tuesday that casino investors are ready to testify and Crossroads looks forward to making its case before the board.

"We certainly respect their need for more time," La Torre said. "They're up against a Dec. 20 deadline to announce the winners of these licenses, and they've got a lot of work to do."

A group of investors led by Gettysburg businessman David LeVan proposed the Crossroads complex at routes 30 and 15 in Straban Township, and the proposal has sparked fierce debate.

Crossroads has argued it would bring jobs and tax revenue to the area, while critics say it would threaten historical tourism and doesn't belong near the battlefields.

The debate intensified Monday when Preservation Pennsylvania, a nonprofit historic group, listed the battlefield as the state's most endangered historic place because of the casino plan.

### **Alcoa Foundation Continues Donations to Gettysburg's New Visitor Center**

Nov. 20 2006-CWi-The Alcoa Foundation today donated \$100,000 to the Gettysburg Foundation to assist the Foundation with the environmental sustainability of the new Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park.



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"We are tremendously grateful for this generous gift," said Gettysburg Foundation President Robert C. Wilburn. "We are committed to preserving this landscape and providing visitors with an understanding of what happened here and how those events are relevant in today's world. This gift allows us to be one step closer to achieving our goals."

The Gettysburg Foundation is working in partnership with the National Park Service to build a new Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg; the new facility will open in spring 2008.

"Alcoa Foundation is pleased to play a part in the enhancement and preservation of this significant landmark in American history. Conservation and sustainability is an Alcoa Foundation Area of Excellence, so we are truly pleased to be involved with this unique and functional, self-sustainable landscape preservation and restoration project," said Meg McDonald, president of Alcoa Foundation.

The Gettysburg Foundation is committed to an environmentally sustainable building and site, which includes landscape preservation and restoration. As an example, preservation of as many wetland areas on the site as possible -- for the 0.682 acres of wetlands that will be disturbed by the new facilities, the Foundation is restoring almost three times that amount -- 1.912 acres. This includes creation of new wetlands as part of the restoration of the portion of the Guinn Run stream bed corridor that runs near the new Museum and Visitor Center.

### Allen bill would allow guns in national parks

By Peter Hardin, Richmond Times-Dispatch, November 26, 2006

WASHINGTON -- Departing U.S. Sen. George Allen, honoring a campaign pledge, has quietly introduced a bill that would let visitors carry a concealed firearm into a national park.

The Virginia Republican wrote to the Virginia Gun Owners Coalition a Nov. 4 letter outlining his gun views and mentioning his efforts to urge the secretary of the Interior to repeal the gun ban in national parks.

"Since no action has been taken, I will introduce legislation in the Senate in the week of November 13 to repeal the gun ban," Allen wrote three days before Election Day.

With Democrats about to take over Congress in January, it is not likely that such a controversial measure would win passage in the current lame-duck session.

In a twist, an Oct. 30 campaign letter by Jim Webb -- the Democrat who narrowly defeated Allen -- shows that he promised to introduce similar legislation.

"And I intend to get it to the floor for a vote," added Webb, who also noted his possession for many years of a concealed-carry permit and his regular shooting activity. A spokesman for the senator-elect said Wednesday that Webb had not studied the Allen bill.

Allen introduced his bill Nov. 16; his office declined to comment on it Wednesday.

Allen's bill, if not passed, would not carry over to the next Congress.

Carrying or possessing loaded firearms in park areas generally is prohibited, a National Park Service spokesman said, though some parks that authorize hunting do permit

firearms use during open hunting season.

While the National Park Service did not take a stand on Allen's bill, the spokesman said serious crimes against individuals in the parks are extremely low and that there is not data demonstrating a need for visitors to carry concealed firearms.

Allowing people "with minimal or no training to carry firearms in national park areas will not lower the already negligible crime rate but will most likely increase the possibilities of basic altercations turning into something much more serious," said Park Service spokesman David Barna.

A champion for Allen's bill, Mike McHugh of Front Royal, is president of the Virginia Gun Owners Coalition.

"It's odd that you can carry in the General Assembly in Virginia, but if you're out in remote areas, like the Appalachian Trail, where two women had their throats slit . . . you can't defend yourself," said McHugh, referring to the slayings of two hikers in 1996.

If Allen gets a recorded vote on the Senate floor, "he'll be viewed as keeping his promise," McHugh said. If the measure goes to the House on a last-minute, "must-pass" basis, "he'll be viewed as a hero," McHugh said.

Paul Helmke, president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, said of Allen's bill, "I would hope that this wouldn't see any further action. But you never can tell in a lame-duck" session.

"I don't think there's . . . any reason why we need this," Helmke said. "The whole idea that more guns make us safer is completely backwards."

Allen's bill says federal laws should make it clear that Second Amendment rights should not be



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infringed at a unit of the National Park System.

It appears the bill would make state laws the standard, whether pertaining to concealed or open firearms, for carrying weapons in a national park.

The Virginia Gun Owners Coalition's Web site urges supporters to contact Sen. Bill Frist, the Senate majority leader from Tennessee, and Allen, who "is desperate to resurrect his political career." Allen had been viewed as a potential presidential candidate before his defeat this month.

The National Rifle Association endorsed Allen, and an NRA spokesman did not return a call Wednesday seeking comment about the bill.

Webb, in his answers to an NRA survey earlier, described himself as an "NRA member for many years." He wrote, "There are side benefits to my membership for me, as I am a hand-weapon enthusiast and shoot often at the NRA range in Fairfax."

Allen has liberally used his press operation to promote bills he introduced, but that was not the case with the latest gun bill. The New York Times criticized the bill in an editorial Wednesday.

### **Arlington House to Undergo Renovations**

By Mina Shaghghi, The Connection Newspapers, November 28, 2006

Robert E. Lee's renowned mansion, Arlington House, will be closing its doors in the winter of 2007 in preparation for the first significant renovation of the home since 1925.

"The primary thing missing is a fire suppression system," said Site Manager Kendell Thompson. "A modern fire-detection system and a climate management system." The entire collection will be moved to a mansion at Friendship Hill in

Pennsylvania. The Friendship Hill estate belonged to Albert Gallatin, secretary of the Treasury under Thomas Jefferson, and is similar in size and age to Arlington House, complete with a fire suppression system; the only thing lacking is furniture.

Before renovations begin at Arlington House, visitors will have the unique opportunity to take part in open room tours — something that has never before been done — granting them a more thorough appreciation of the house's architecture. For instance, visitors will be able to stand in the very spot under the archway where Lee married into the family. Though the mansion will close until mid-summer, the site itself will be open, including the slave quarters and flower garden.

As Thompson explained, "We have a moment ... the moment when Lee resigned his commission in 1861." Renovations will consequently be based around this time period.

The Army was originally responsible for maintaining Arlington House, and throughout the 1920s, it was redesigned in the architectural fashion of the time — the colonial Williamsburg style.

The National Park Service undertook possession of the house in the 1930s, and though it has been preserved adequately up until now, experts are concerned about what damage could occur in the future.

"The humidity swings and temperatures are essentially the same as 200 years ago," Thompson said. "And, to some degree, we need to reflect that to the visitors ... humidity is the problem, not temperature ... the furniture swells and contracts. We're also going to pull up the floorboards to make repairs, put pipes for fire-suppression

in the floor, while maintaining the original laster."

Additionally, the basement will be opened up to the public for the first time; it is the only place to tell the story of Arlington House's field slaves. While examining the bricks, Park Service officials discovered a well beneath the floor, and it was concluded that the field slaves would store dairy goods here to keep them cool. Such a discovery inspired the Park Service to restore the well and forego plans to place ducts beneath the floor.

"This is not like any home renovation," said Thompson. "The renovation must be very delicate. We're dealing with an American treasure."

For the past decade, Arlington House and its surrounding land had been at the center of a controversy, known as the "Battle for the Woodland," regarding the expansion of burial sites.

In its entirety, Arlington House once encompassed 1,200 acres of land. During the course of the Civil War, the Union army took over the house and began building forts on the land.

With his dead piling up, Gen. Montgomery Meigs of the Union army decided to bury his fallen soldiers in one place — the grounds of Arlington House. Today, Arlington House is at the center of Arlington National Cemetery, with more than 300,000 graves.

Arlington National Cemetery's Superintendent John Metzler lobbied to convert part of the woods surrounding Arlington House into more burial sites, while historians, such as Sherman Pratt, wanted to preserve them as a complement to the ouse.

"Most of the big national houses around the country, like Mount



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Vernon, Monticello ... all of these places have been preserved for historical reasons, and have maintained the surrounding land," Pratt explained. "So visitors to the house get some feeling of how it looked when these famous people lived in it."

According to Pratt, conferences were held within the Senate and the House to reach a compromise. As it stands, 12 of the 24 and a half acres were transferred to Metzler for use to expand the cemetery.

These 12 acres will become part of Arlington National Cemetery's "Millennium Project," which encompasses the old picnic grounds on Ft. Myer, an old warehouse complex adjacent to the grounds, and this buffer zone between Arlington House and the cemetery — what Metzler refers to as the internment zone.

These three pieces of land will be joined together and, according to Metzler, will allow the cemetery to provide burial sites until the year 2060.

"The challenge is we have very little land available for expansion," said Metzler. "With the expansion, we're not concentrated on one small geographic location anymore ... it'll provide a relief valve for us, as we have four to five funerals each hour." Despite the woodland controversies and the rehabilitation project it will be facing, Arlington House has certainly stood the test of time, a symbol of the Civil War.

With Arlington House, it's not a matter of whether these walls could talk — the walls do not tell its story, rather, the floor does.

In April 1861, Lee was offered command of the field army to put down a Southern rebellion — in effect, a promotion. However, above

all, Lee was a Virginian. He recognized that if Virginia seceded, the Lee family would go with it. The promotion became a matter of family versus country. In the evening of that day in April 1861, Lee paced the floor outside his bedroom; his family downstairs could hear the floorboards creaking under his footsteps.

Finally, in the wee hours of the morning, Lee wrote his two-line resignation letter to the Army and left Arlington House.

If all goes as plans, Arlington House will reopen next summer, fully equipped to withstand humidity swings and safeguarded against fire. The floorboards shall still creak, Civil War graffiti will remain etched into the attic's beams, and fingers crossed, the Lees' piano will be successfully restored, tuned to perfection, to be played once again.

### **Carter House Association acquires key part of Franklin Battlefield**

Murfreesboro Post, November 29, 2006

FRANKLIN—The Carter House Association Inc. announces the acquisition of a key part of Franklin's battlefield—a portion of the homestead garden of Fountain Branch Carter—from Chris Waller in a transaction that closed on Nov. 14, according to Rusty Womack, president of the Board of Directors of The Carter House Association. "We are pleased to be able to announce this so close to the celebration of the 142nd Anniversary of Battle of Franklin," said Womack. "Through diligent planning and saving, The Carter House Association has purchased this approximately one-half acre of property, which is

part of the core battlefield adjacent to the Carter House. Through the years, the Association has been trying to reclaim the battle site, which was at the epicenter of where the Battle of Franklin occurred. We hope to eventually take it back to the way it was in the Master Plan in 1864, recreating the breastworks, entrenchment and other features of the battle site," said Womack. Currently the property that was owned by Waller is occupied by a house, a mobile home and accessory buildings. According to the sale agreement, these residents will be allowed to remain up to one year, until they are able to relocate, then the reclamation of the land will begin to take place over a period of years as additional funds are raised for restoration and interpretation of historical features of the property. Though the Carter House property itself is owned by the State of Tennessee and operated by the Carter House Association, the ownership of the new property resides solely with the Carter House Association.

Gene McNeil, treasurer, past president and 18-year-member on the Board of Directors, said, "We have had a goal for years to put money back so that some day when adjacent property was for sale, we would be able to purchase it. Sure enough, we had the opportunity, and we negotiated for over a year. We did this without any public funds, and with the assistance of Cumberland Bank, we were able to purchase the property."

McNeil continued, "We are excited about the potential of being able to accurately interpret the site as to what really happened during the war. In a year, after the house, mobile home and accessory buildings are



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vacated, we plan to clear the property of the mobile home and accessory buildings, open up the land by eliminating the fences and make it more a part of the entire Carter House property."

The newly acquired property, at 124 Strahl Street, is bounded on the east by the properties occupied by Franklin Florist and Willowbrook Hospice Inc., which face Columbia Avenue, and on the south by Strahl Street, with other boundaries adjacent to the Carter House property. The entire Carter House Garden was irregular in shape, about 65 yards deep and 125 yards long, and originally encompassed about two acres. The purchase is approximately one-half acre of this portion. The garden, with the inner trench lines for the North and South on its boundaries, was a "no man's land."

Even today, the buildings remaining on the Carter House property are a living testimony to the furious battle that took place on Nov. 30, 1864. Not only does the home itself hold the marks of the bullets, but the wood frame office building, where the business of this working farm took place, is riddled with 207 bullet holes, some of which entered on one side and exited on the other. The Carter farm office has the most bullet holes of any building still standing from the Civil War. Nearby is the brick smokehouse, which also bears the scars from the gunfire. In all, over 1,000 bullet holes can be seen throughout the historic site.

In the chapter, "The Pandemonium of Hell Turned Loose," in the book, *Embrace an Angry Wind*, first published in 1992, and later retitled, *Confederacy's Last Hurrah*, Wiley Sword relates, "So many attempts were made to get across the Carter

garden that one of Strickland's lieutenant colonels counted thirteen separate, repulsed charges. Due to the converging lines, most Confederate regiments and brigades were randomly mixed together, and no one seemed to be in control. . .

.Each time a portion of the Confederate line leapt over the breastworks and dashed forward, they were met with a hail of fire." Thomas Cartwright, executive director of the Carter House emphasizes, "These two acres were among the bloodiest of the whole war." He quotes Confederate General Frank Cheatham, corps commander, "The dead were stacked like wheat and scattered like sheaves of grain. You could walk on the field on the bodies without touching the ground. I never saw a field like that, and I never want to see a field like that again." Cartwright, who daily educates visitors from all over the world about the colorful history of the Carter House property, elaborates on the scene, "The 20th Ohio Four Gun Battery was placed near the Carter's smokehouse overlooking the garden, and they fired 169 rounds. This battery was captured by elements of Brown's Division. Colonel Emerson Opdycke's Illinois First Brigade recaptured the battery in vicious hand-to-hand fighting.

Cartwright tells of the words of Canadian-born Lieutenant Alonzo Wolverton, of the 20th Ohio Light Artillery, when he wrote home several weeks later, "The rebs came on to us in full force, and there ensued one of the hardest fought battles since this war commenced. The rebs, determined to conquer or die, made thirteen desperate charges. Several times, they planted their colors within ten feet of our cannon, and our men would knock them down with their

muskets or the artillerymen with their sponge staffs and handspikes. . . . I never dreamed the men would fight with such desperation. I never expected to come out alive." "The 20th Ohio Light Artillery lost half its men during the battle," depicts Cartwright. "As an example of how bad the scene was, Col. F. E. P. Stafford, of the 31st Tennessee regiment, was found standing up dead and wedged in by the bodies that were six or seven deep stacked like cord wood."

In his official report recorded in the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Colonel Emerson Opdycke, 125th Ohio Infantry, who was commanding the First Brigade for operations November 29-30 and December 15-16, 1864, wrote, "I twice stepped to the front of the works on the Columbia Pike to see the effect of such fighting. I never saw the dead lay near so thick. I saw them upon each other, dead and ghastly in the powder-dimmed starlight." David C. Hinze, author of *The Battle of Carthage*, Border war in southwest Missouri, July, 1861, writes, "The Carter Garden is one of the most critical pieces of ground of the Civil War. It is when men became living demons brutally fighting at an insanely close range, and yet it represents the dogged persistence of both armies, who refused to yield to their foe. The Carter Garden is as close as we humans will get to the vortex of hell on this earth." Built in 1830 by Fountain Branch Carter, the Carter House, a Registered Historic Landmark, is a nonprofit museum and interpretive center for the Battle of Franklin. During this battle, the modest brick Carter House became the Federal Command Post, while the family took refuge in the basement.



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### Albert Cashier house gets ready to move again.

Kankakee IL Daily Journal, November 11, 2006

The one-room house is small and unprepossessing. With its shuttered windows and the multiple padlocks that used to be inside its door, it is secretive, too -- much like the person who lived in it for some 40 years.

Now, to honor one of Illinois' most unusual Civil War veterans, plans are being made to move the humble 130-year-old home of infantryman Albert Cashier house back to its original site in the Livingston County village of Saunemin. For year's it's been 16 miles away at the county seat, Pontiac, where it was hauled for safe keeping.

The house's secret was that Cashier was born Jennie Irene Hodgers in County Louth, Ireland, on Christmas Day 1843 or '44.

Saunemin Mayor Mike Stoecklin said Cashier's house will be moved back to town by the end of the year, though restoring it will take longer.

He said a lecture by former Pontiac tourism director Betty Estes convinced him the house should be restored to its original site.

Estes personally stepped in to save the house 10 years ago when Saunemin volunteer firefighters wanted to burn it as a training exercise. She had it dismantled and trucked to Pontiac for safekeeping.

"They'll probably have to throw a big sympathy party for me when they take the house back to Saunemin," said Estes, 75. "But at least they now know the value of it. It has a fascinating story."

And the story is varied. Some a matter of historic record, some perhaps legend.

Did Jennie come to New York City with her family or as a stowaway?

Was she already posing as a man when she arrived at Belvidere, Ill. Or did she disguise herself just before she enlisted in the 95th Illinois Regiment in 1862 and went off to war -- at 5 foot 3, 110 pounds, the smallest private in the regiment?

By one account, her father, a itinerant horse trader in Ireland, dressed her as a boy for convenience and safety on the road. By another, her step-father ordered her to dress as a boy to work in a factory in New York as his son. By another, she did it herself to stowaway or to work as a cabin boy on her Atlantic crossing from Ireland.

Had she dressed as a man for safety's sake in her travels to Illinois or to get better jobs as a man than she could as a maid?

When she went to war as a man, "some say she craved adventure," Saunemin Historical Society president Cheryl O'Donnell said in a 2001 Daily Journal article. "Some say she followed a love to the war, who was subsequently killed. She may have promised him to never wear women's clothing again."

O'Donnell was in Kankakee to talk with the Kankakee Valley Civil War Roundtable and was campaigning then to have Cashier's home returned to Saunemin and preserved as a historic memorial.

#### Accomplished soldier

Whatever Albert-Jennie's original rationale for enlisting, she accomplished something that no one else among hundreds of females posing as Civil War soldiers did -- finished the war and lived to draw a pension as a man.

Serving as an infantryman through three years and some 40 Civil War battles, Cashier was remembered by

comrades for escaping from captivity by wresting a rifle from a guard, knocking him down and fleeing -- and for climbing a tree under fire to restore the flag to position after it was shot down.

At the battle at Guntown, Miss. June 10, 1864, the 95th was nearly annihilated. Officers and enlisted men "were falling thick and fast from right to left of the regimental line," the Regimental History says, "the ammunition was fast giving out, and none arrived from the rear to replete the empty cartridge-boxes." Of 1,674 men in the brigade, 743 were reported killed, wounded or missing. But not Albert-Jennie.

After the war, Jennie came back to Illinois as Cashier and continued the disguise at Belvedere, then in other towns, including Kankakee and Pontiac, before moving to Saunemin in 1869 to stay, according to sources in earlier Daily Journal articles.

#### Life at Saunemin

At Saunemin, Cashier lived in the tiny home his farm employer, Joshua Chesebro, built for him near the Christian Church, where he also worked as a janitor and bell ringer. He also served as Saunemin's lamplighter, did other odd jobs, chewed plug tobacco, voted in elections half a century before most American women could. He kept a shaving mug, brush and razor as props.

When local kids teased him by calling him "Little Drummer Boy," Cashier would rail that he was not a drummer boy, he was a "fighting infantryman." But he was also remembered for always having treats for neighbor children.

#### Secret discovered

In 1910, a neighbor, Elizabeth Lannon had sent her hired nurse to check on Albert, who had been ill. He



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was so ill that he allowed a more thorough examination than the mustering-in Army doctor's check for a trigger finger in 1862. The excited nurse returned to the Lannons to exclaim: "My Lord, Mrs. Lannon, he's a full-fledged woman!" The nurse as sent back to Chicago and the Lannons kept the secret.

The next year, State Sen. Ira Lish backed his car into Cashier as he worked at Lish's home and broke his leg. The local doctor discovered the truth, but agreed to keep the secret. Cashier was taken to the Quincy veterans home and Lish used his influence to keep the soldier's secret identity undisclosed.

A couple years later, Albert's health deteriorated and two attendants at Quincy betrayed the secret after being ordered to bathe him.

He became Jennie Rodgers again and the news was a national sensation.

Jennie was later transferred to the Watertown State Hospital for the Mentally Insane at East Moline, where she was forced to wear a dress for the first time in half a century, setting off what one of her compatriots called another "little Civil War."

But while she was confined at Watertown, men from the 95th Regiment rallied to her defense, convincing the federal Pension Board to rule in 1914 that she could continue to collect her \$70 a month pension as Pvt. Albert D.J. Cashier.

Albert also continued to rebel against the dress, pinning his skirts together to approximate trousers. One day, he tripped over one and broke his hip., He died Oct. 10, 1915 at age 71.

And at the insistence Saunemin residents, he also was buried in his treasured Civil War uniform. The plain stone in the Sunny Slope Cemetery,

in the Chesebro family plot, was engraved "Albert D.J. Cashier Co. G 95 Ill. Inf."

"Remarkably opened-minded," Illinois State University historian Sandra Harmon said of the local support for Jennie-Albert, "considering the attitude of the time that a woman who dressed as a man was threatening -- even evil."

### **British Soldiers in Canada found desertion to Union Army Lucrative**

By Adam Meyers, Toronto Star, November 17, 2006

One of the strangest chapters in Canada-U.S. relations involving deserters and victims of war occurred during the American Civil War. In this case, however, it was British soldiers who deserted one uniform to fight in another, preferring the rigours of combat as Union soldiers to the boredom of patrolling the border in Canada as soldiers of the Crown.

When the Civil War broke out in the spring of 1861 the war between the northern and southern states was expected to be over by Christmas. A year later it showed no sign of ending and for Abraham Lincoln, the task of building a standing army from the original group of 90-day volunteers was colossal.

In late 1862, he passed the first of several draft laws, but a legal loophole allowed draftees to avoid service by paying someone to take their place.

By then, the early enthusiasm of the volunteers had been tempered by long casualty lists; avoiding the draft became an attractive option. Those who could afford to pay for a substitution happily paid up. According to U.S. government records, 87,000 drafted northern men paid to stay out of the service.

Overnight, the demand for substitutes created an industry in which substitution agents, or "crimpers," offered to secure replacements for a fee. As the supply of American substitutes dried up, the trade moved to Canada, where agents set their sights on British soldiers.

The advantages were obvious. They were well trained, understood the rigours of military life, and unlike civilians, didn't need encouragement to shoulder a gun. The crimpers set their sights on soldiers stationed along the frontier in Windsor, Niagara, Hamilton and Toronto, where the deserters could be easily moved across the border and enlisted in places like Buffalo and Detroit.

Many of the troops stationed in Canada were young Irishmen with little hope of advancement. In addition to the fee paid by the crimper, they were entitled to a bounty when they signed up, instant citizenship and the promise of a land grant at the end of the war.

Typically, the agents approached them in bars, generously buying drinks and playing on the hardships of British military life, noting that discipline was far less severe in the Union army.

Battlefield promotions were easier to be had and the pay was better, too, they said. The agents also played on the anti-British sentiments of the Irish soldiers.

At the Toronto trial of one agent, a non-commissioned officer told the court he was offered \$250 if he deserted and another \$1,250 when he enlisted in the Union army. At the end of the war — if he survived — he would be entitled to 160 acres of land. The same soldier was earning \$1 a day in Canada.

The desertions were embarrassing enough that newspaper editorials



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urged soldiers to stay put and not dishonour their country or regiment. The papers interviewed repentant deserters who rued their hasty decision and said the reality of a life under arms in the U.S. was not exactly as billed.

In late July 1862, 27 men of one company stationed in Toronto disappeared "suddenly and mysteriously" the *Toronto Leader* newspaper reported. A few days later, two of them were found in the hold of a steamer, which plied trade between Toronto and Oswego, N.Y. The men were arrested and charged with desertion and the ship's captain with aiding and abetting.

At their Toronto trial, the two privates, William Walker and Thomas Haycock, claimed they met the captain in a bar and he offered them a boat ride. Once aboard, he plied them with rum. As Haycock admitted to the court: "I got regularly intoxicated." When they came to the next day, they were in the ship's hold lying on a cargo of corn.

The charges were dismissed for lack of evidence — the captain claimed it was an innocent outing that ended in a night of heavy drinking. But had the charges stuck, the penalties would have been severe.

The two privates would probably not have been executed, but the ship's captain would have faced jail for inciting desertion.

The soldiers would have faced hard labour and dishonourable discharges, at the very least. And before their discharges, there would have been a ceremony where, in full view of their regiment, they would have been tied to a post and branded across the chest with the letter "D," preventing them from re-enlisting anywhere else. By the end of 1862, military authorities made it more difficult for

soldiers to desert and for the crimps to ply their trade, so the agents turned their attention to civilians.

Canadian Governor General Viscount Stanley Monck protested to the U.S. government and the posting of rewards for the capture of crimps helped, but didn't really slow the trade.

Monck offered the best hope in a letter to British colonial secretary Edward Cardwell in late 1864 when he wrote: "If no pecuniary advantage could accrue from bringing in a recruit, there would be no inducement to commit this crime."

In the end, Monck was right. With the defeat of the Confederate States in April 1865, the demand for substitutes vanished — and so did the problem.

### **Civil War camp saved in Stafford; Developer, county team up.**

By CLINT SCHEMMER,  
Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star,  
November 16, 2006

Battlefields are the sexy sirens of Civil War preservation. Glamorous, with beautiful landscapes, they get all the attention.

Soldiers' camps are the Ugly Bettys--forgotten, ignored and often bulldozed.

And that's just not right.

"Most soldiers were in battle for eight hours in the course of a year. Marching, waiting, and being in camp comprised the bulk of the soldiers' experience," said John Hennessy, chief historian of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

But it's going to get a little easier for the public to see, and appreciate, that part of the story.

Stafford County--working with a local developer and a preservation group--is going to preserve a historic site that

will tell the largely untold tale of soldiers' daily lives in the months before and after the major and minor battles fought in the Fredericksburg area.

In partial trade for the rezoning of 47 acres near Falmouth, the builder, C.T. Park Inc. of Stafford, will deed easements to the county protecting the land where four Union regiments spent the winter of 1862-1863.

More than half of its Forbes Landing subdivision will be open space.

When handed over within three years, it will be the largest and the first complete winter camp preserved in Stafford--out of hundreds that sprawled for miles north and east from Falmouth to Aquia Landing during the war.

The rest are "fast vanishing or are, at least, forgotten," Hennessy said yesterday.

Which is astonishing, he said, given that 120,000 Union troops were living in Stafford for eight months in 1862 and 1863. Their log, mud and canvas homes amounted to the largest "city" in North America at the time. By contrast, Stafford's civilian population at the time was a mere 8,300 people--4,900 whites and 3,400 blacks, almost all enslaved. Today, Stafford has 116,000 residents.

The Union campsites have no profile now with the public although the soldiers' presence was the single most transformative event in Stafford's history, Hennessy said.

It took more than a century for the county to recover from the war's effects. By the time the Army of the Potomac pulled out, "as one soldier put it, 'Stafford looked like one big scab,'" Hennessy said.

The soldiers had felled the county's forests for firewood and building material, foraged for food, cut roads



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and dug winter quarters all over the place.

"It caused tremendous hardships for the local community. That story and these sites deserve to be preserved," Hennessy said.

A veteran of many preservation battles, the historian praised the partnership between the developer, county officials and preservationists that saved the 5th Corps camp. "The idea that [they] can work together is a very good thing," he said.

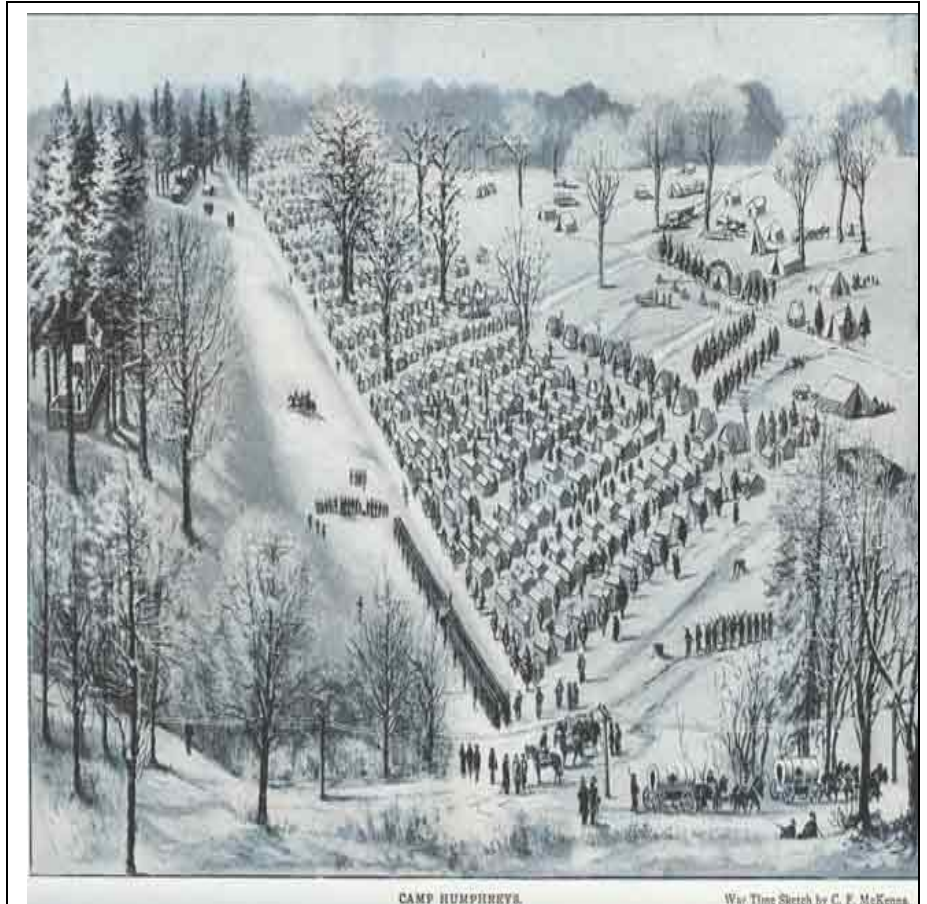
Executives with C.T. Park credited the Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites for its members' months-long efforts to identify and document the site, working closely with the company's archaeological consultants.

"That's something that doesn't normally happen," said Ray Freehling, C.T. Park's chief operating officer. "These guys really care about history."

The onsite work done by the Friends group and Fredericksburg's Dovetail Cultural Resource Group revealed several times as many hut sites--148 in all--as an initial archaeological survey had revealed, said Glenn Trimmer, director of the Friends group.

That persuaded the developer to give up two more lots and preserve a larger area, which includes the entire camp and 31 grave sites of Union soldiers, whose bodies were probably reinterred after the war. Far more men died of illness in the camps than on the battlefield.

The area, which the soldiers named Camp Humphreys after the 3rd Division's commander, is unusually well documented, Trimmer said. Letters and sketches by two of the soldiers who lived there are preserved in the archives of the Army Heritage and Education Center in



A soldier-artist drew this sketch of Camp Humphreys, headquarters of the 3rd Division, 5th Corps of the Army of the Potomac in the winter of 1862-63. His detailed image, which he later had lithographed by a Pittsburgh printer and sold to his fellow soldiers, shows the military telegraph (foreground) built along the road to Falmouth. The 155th Pennsylvania's regimental history said of this picture:

"This camp was remarkable, too, from the fact that it was occupied by all the regiments of Humphrey's Division collocated here together at one time. First, Colonel P.H. Allabach's headquarters, with brigade flag floating, is shown in the left ... of the picture. Next, the 155th Pennsylvania Volunteer regimental headquarters, in the foreground, with the regiment out on dress parade. Next the 123rd Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, Col. John B. Clark. Following this, the 133rd Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, Col. Allabach. And lastly, the 131st Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, Col. F.B. Speakman. The other four Pennsylvania regiments of Humphreys' Division, composing Gen. E.B. Tyler's brigade, are not entirely visible in this picture of Camp Humphreys, being partially concealed by the woods."

Carlisle, Pa. The camp may have been home to the 2d Brigade of the 3rd Division of the 5th Corps, whose symbol was the Maltese cross.

Even to the layman's eye, the camp's orderly rows of hut and tent sites are still visible as depressions in the ground. Dovetail found dozens of cultural features in its study of the



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Forbes Landing tract, and concludes that the campsite is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Camp Humphreys "is significant at several different levels," Hennessy said. Its men, he noted, were recovering from the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862 and the "Mud March," the army's ill-fated try in January 1863 at flanking Gen. Robert E. Lee in Fredericksburg.

After two costly defeats in six months, without the chance to rest and regenerate in the Stafford camps, the Union victory at Gettysburg in July of that year wouldn't have happened, Hennessy said.

D.P. Newton, the Friends group's historian and founder of the White Oak Museum, likened the winter camps to the American bison: "There were thousands of them. And now, they're almost all gone."

### **Confederate sub Hunley may reveal its secrets in a year**

By Bruce Smith, AP, Nov 21, 2006  
NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. - In a year's time, scientists hope to solve the mystery of why the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley sank, the chairman of the South Carolina Hunley Commission said Tuesday.

"Between the science of archaeology and the science of conservation in that laboratory, they will solve the ultimate mystery," state Sen. Glenn McConnell said after a commission meeting. "I think it's reasonable to say we're probably within a year of solving that."

The hand-cranked Hunley sank the Union blockade ship Housatonic in 1864, becoming the first submarine in history to sink an enemy warship.

It was found 11 years ago and raised in 2000 from the Atlantic and is in a conservation lab. But the vessel has been slow revealing its secrets.

### **Two theories for demise**

There are generally two theories why it sank shortly after sending the Housatonic to the bottom. One is that it was damaged and took on water after the attack. The other is that the crew suffocated when they ran out of air.

Scientists are removing the sediment that hardened on the inside of the sub. Next spring, they will begin removing the hardened sediment from the hull.

"The exterior will be the real key to the thing," said Randy Burbage, a commission member. "You will be able to tell if another ship rammed it, which is a possibility, or if any other event may have happened."

McConnell said that includes the possibility the Hunley's hull may have been damaged by rifle fire or debris from the explosion on the Housatonic. Removing the sediment from the inside will reveal the positions of valves used to run the pumps, which will provide a clue whether the sub was taking on water, McConnell said. Another artifact will soon be displayed at the Hunley lab: a watch once owned by Queenie Bennett, the sweetheart of the sub's commander, Lt. George Dixon.

The watch, as ornate as one owned by Dixon and which was found on the sub four years ago, is inscribed with the words "Queenie Bennett Dec. 25, 1862."

It's not known whether the watch was a Christmas gift from Dixon, "but we think that is the last Christmas he spent with her," Burbage said.

### **The project's financial side**

Last week the state Budget and Control Board put off approval of

Clemson University's plans to build a campus in North Charleston focusing on environmental science, materials technology and urban redevelopment. As part of the project, Clemson would assume the conservation of the Hunley.

McConnell said Tuesday conservation will continue with or without Clemson. Income from donations, tours, merchandise sales, grants and other sources "will allow us to go to the finish line" with restoration work, he said.

Figures released by The Friends of the Hunley, which has been raising money for the conservation, show that as of Nov. 5, \$1.1 million has been raised this year for the work. That compares with \$1.2 million for all of last year.

Last year, the Hunley received \$205,000 in government funds. This year that figure was almost \$93,000.

General fundraising this year was \$529,000, compared with \$426,000 last year. The Hunley also gets revenue from tours of the sub and the sale of Hunley merchandise.

### **Forensic tool reveals Gettysburg secrets**

BY M. DIANE McCORMICK,  
Pennsylvania Patriot-News,  
November 28, 2006

Under the blue glare of the Rofin Polilight PL500, dead men -- or at least the severely wounded -- can tell tales.

This month, Detective Lt. Nicholas A. Paonessa pointed the \$20,000 forensics tool, on loan from his Niagara Falls, N.Y., police department, at the floor of the Daniel Lady Farm in Gettysburg. The 178-year-old farmhouse was one of about 100 sites used as field hospitals after the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863.



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Records show that farmer Daniel Lady and his family returned to a home filled with wounded soldiers and bodies.

Paonessa's investigation is confirming that story. In the darkened parlor, on his second trip to the farm since September, Paonessa pointed the bright blue light at a vaguely human outline on the wood floor. The shape became a distinct form, from head to knees, of a small-framed man. Four spots by a baseboard were revealed as the being fingerprints of a person sitting against the wall.

Kathi Schue is president of the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association, which owns and is restoring the farm. The Hummelstown-area resident said she cannot erase from her mind the image of the sitting soldier, pressing his arms against the wall, probably in agony.

"When I give a tour, I just go and sit on the floor and say, 'There he sat,'" Schue said. "I think the thing that's really gotten to me is, did he live or did he die?"

Paonessa, a 20-year police veteran, envisioned Gettysburg in forensic terms during a family trip there. The tool he used reveals evidence by sharpening the contrast between wood and soaked-in pigment. It's different from Luminol, the spray test for blood familiar to fans of the "CSI" television series that creates a chemical reaction with hemoglobin.

Paonessa's earlier work with a new version of Luminol confirmed the presence of Confederate sharpshooters who died at the Shriver House in downtown Gettysburg. At the Lady Farm, it pinpointed places where the Confederate wounded waited for care, amputation or death.

History-related forensics have contemporary value, Paonessa said. In murder trials, he can rebut defense attorneys who argue that the blood evidence was too old to be valid. When he can testify that he has detected blood from the Civil War, "It makes it a little easier for the jury to understand," he said.

At the Lady Farm, Paonessa swept the blue light over the parlor floor. At one end of the room, which Schue believes was a surgical area, the outline of the small-framed man could have belonged to one of the bodies found by the Lady family, because the blood had had time to soak in enough to still be detected 143 years later, Paonessa said.

That soldier's blood channeled between the floor boards and dripped into the basement, Paonessa said. Slight ripples in the bloodstains show where fabric bunched beneath the soldier.

Theoretically, Paonessa said, old blood could reveal the victim's identity. Identification would require a well-preserved blood sample -- from between floorboards, for instance -- and a known descendant for comparison.

Paonessa, whose department supports his investigations of history, presented his findings at the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association's annual dinner.

### **'Gone With the Wind' shown at Constellation Gala in Hagerstown**

*Hagerstown Herald-Mail, November 16, 2006*

The Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau welcomed supporters of the historic USS Constellation Museum to Hagerstown for a gala benefit to

support the restoration of the spar deck armament on the ship to its Civil War appearance.

For this event, The Maryland Theater played host to an evening of entertainment consisting of a concert of Civil War period music by the 28th Pennsylvania Regimental Band of Philadelphia, followed by a showing of "Gone With the Wind" on the "big screen."

"It isn't often that the public has the opportunity to view 'Gone With the Wind' on the big screen in a historic setting," said Steve Bockmiller, Constellation Museum Advisory Board member and coordinator of the event. The 28th Pennsylvania Regimental Band donated its services to the museum for this worthy cause. History enthusiasts and "Windies" (Gone with the Wind enthusiasts) traveled from throughout the region to Hagerstown to support this event.

"It's a natural outreach that we should come to Hagerstown for this event," Bockmiller said. "The USS Constellation is a state and national treasure. It isn't just a Baltimore thing."

The USS Constellation has its own tangible connection to Hagerstown. When the ship served from 1859 to 1860 in a squadron of ships on the coast of Africa interdicting the illegal export of captives to the west, the ship's second in command was Lt. Donald McNeill Fairfax. During that deployment, Constellation rescued 705 captives and set them free in Liberia. After his retirement with the rank of rear admiral, Fairfax lived for the rest of his life on South Prospect Street in Hagerstown in a home which stands to this day. When he passed away in 1891, he was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery (see historical footnote below.)



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"The Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau is proud to be a financial sponsor of this event, which will raise funds to help preserve this valuable part of our national heritage," said Tom Riford, president and CEO of the CVB. Calling the ship an irreplaceable part of American history, Riford said, "The volunteers helping to preserve the USS Constellation are looking to extend awareness into other parts of Maryland and found enthusiastic supporters in Hagerstown with The Maryland Theatre and the CVB. We are very happy to be involved with this event."

Historical footnote:

Fairfax gained national attention during the Civil War when he served as the second in command of the USS San Jacinto in 1861, when that ship stopped the British ship Trent.

Fairfax was ordered by Capt. Charles Wilkes to board Trent and arrest two Confederate emissaries being sent to England and France. Known as the "Trent Affair" this was an international incident that almost led to war with England. The Lincoln Administration returned the two prisoners and apologized to the British, smoothing over the incident.

Later in the war, Fairfax commanded an ironclad "monitor" and finished the war as Commandant of Midshipmen at the US Naval Academy (temporarily removed to Newport Rhode Island for the duration of the war).

### Picture Inspires research of Gen. Pickett and Wife

By Bill Ruhlman, Portfolio Weekly, Nov. 14, 2006

**This is a story** about a woman who tells a story about a woman who told a story.

It starts with an old photograph album dustily disintegrating in a Farmville, Va., antique shop 10 years ago. Billie Earnest, history buff, leafed through the thick pages. Under one of the faded sepia portraits of mothers and sons, written in pencil, were the words: "Mrs. Gen. Pickett and George."

Billie Earnest thought: "?"

She was in town because her husband, Frank, was attending a meeting of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. He is a history buff, too. On the long drive home to Hampton Roads, Billie couldn't get the image of the pretty woman and the grave boy out of her head.

"That," she told her husband, "was really Mrs. Pickett."

Frank Earnest thought: "!"

"I need," she said, "to go back and get it."

They did.

Billie and Frank Earnest reside in an antique-packed Confederate-gray house in Virginia Beach. The doorbell rings "Dixie." At the kitchen table, presided over by brush-bearded Frank, four cats and an array of bygone tins of staples from King's Syrup to Bulk Ice Cream, Billie boils with enthusiasm as she opens that old album and shows the pale image again.

Mrs. Gen. Pickett and George.

"She," reports Billie, "was a strong-willed woman. She was well ahead of her time. She needs to be in the history books, too."

Pause here. Billie —annotated by Frank, part Nez Perce —will note that their allegiance to the southern Civil War past involves no endorsement whatsoever of slavery; they maintain their forebears entered the conflict to defend their homeland, not that racist institution.

"This is our ethnicity," said Frank. "It's not our hobby. We were born Confederates."

But back to Mrs. P. She was the third wife of George Edward Pickett (1925-1875) of Pickett's Charge fame. That wasn't his idea; on the third day of the conflict at Gettysburg, Gen. Robert E. Lee ordered a massive assault on the Federal center. Division commander Pickett coordinated the march across a wheat field into 200 Union cannon.

It was a massacre. Five thousand Confederate troops went in. Eight hundred came out.

Pickett went on to fight in battles at New Berne, Petersburg and Five Forks.

He was relieved of his command by Lee after Saylor's Creek, days before the surrender at Appomattox. The general survived his first two wives; he married Sallie Ann Corbell of Chuckatuck (1843-1931) at St. Paul's Church in Petersburg on Sept. 15, 1863.

He was 37, she was 20, and Billie now has 27 loose-leaf notebooks full of material about the two of them.

"I feel like, some days, that she trapped me," said Billie. She, 59, was reared in Franklin, not far from Sallie's birthplace. "I tell her story for her."

Last year, at 13 public venues; most recently, she appeared before the monthly meeting of the Virginia Beach Genealogical Society.

And Sallie told Pickett's story for him. Her husband became a Richmond insurance agent after the war. He was in Norfolk for a meeting when he sickened and died of a liver abscess at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital.

Ten thousand attended his funeral Oct. 25, 1875.

But Pickett, 50, left his wife, 32, with George Jr., 11, who would attend Virginia Military Institute, and no



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money (another son died of complications from measles). So Sallie went to work writing and lecturing about "her soldier in the war." Sallie's byline for the books was upgraded to LaSalle Corbell Pickett.

Her husband was upgraded, too.

"She embellished a bit in the Victorian era," said Billie, "to support herself."

Support herself she did, at open-air reunions, in Chautauqua theaters and on the vaudeville circuit. The performing trail was not a smooth one. When she was booed off a New York stage, Sallie sniffed.

"That," she said, "is just damn Yankee propaganda."

George Jr., who became an army paymaster in the Philippines, died of Bright's disease in 1911. Sallie became president of the League of American Pen Women and a founder of the Arts Club of Washington, D.C. She died March 22, 1931, with two wishes: that her bills might be paid and that she might be buried beside her soldier.

But Gen. Pickett was in Richmond's Gettysburg Hill in Hollywood Cemetery, which wasn't accepting women in 1931. She would be admitted, though, on March 22, 1998, her ashes relocated there at last after 67 years. Together in death.

"It's a story that needs to be told," Billie said. "It's history. The bottom line is that she was totally devoted to him.

"It's a love story."

### **Spotsylvania Supervisors Approve Plan**

#### **to Save Battlefield Land**

CWPT Press release, Nov. 15, 2006--  
The Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday evening to support

preservation of an additional 74 acres of the First Day at Chancellorsville Battlefield (formerly the Mullins Farm). The vote marks the end of a four-and-a-half year struggle by the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) and its partners in the Spotsylvania Battlefields Coalition to rescue this endangered battlefield from imminent development.

The vote was the result of a compromise plan between national developer Toll Brothers, Spotsylvania County, and CWPT that permits Toll Brothers to build 33 additional houses north of the battlefield in exchange for selling 74 acres of hallowed ground to the Trust. Toll Brothers will convey the 74 acres to CWPT for \$1 million, less than half the market value of the property (estimated at \$2.3 million).

The compromise with Toll Brothers was similar to an agreement reached in 2004 between local developer Tricord, Inc., Spotsylvania County, and CWPT. That agreement resulted in the preservation of 140 acres of the First Day Battlefield adjacent to and immediately east of the 74 acres preserved by the vote Tuesday evening. The two properties will now be joined to create a 214-acre battlefield park.

The victory remarks a dramatic turnaround in the fortunes of the First Day at Chancellorsville Battlefield. In 2002, the Dogwood Development Group announced a plan to build a 2,000-unit development on the property, along with 2.2 million square feet of commercial space. At the time the Dogwood plan was announced, it was considered a "done deal." However, because of the energy and enthusiasm of the Spotsylvania Battlefields Coalition, the Dogwood plan was overwhelmingly defeated and negotiations were able to begin to

protect the core parts of the battleground.

Of course, the job isn't done yet. Now that the entire First Day at Chancellorsville Battlefield is preserved, CWPT, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, and other Coalition groups are moving forward with plans to install interpretive signage and nearly four miles of walking trails on the First Day Battlefield. The Coalition is now working with Spotsylvania County to create a premiere heritage tourism attraction at the former nursery site on the battlefield.