



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

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### In Gettysburg, has monument money gone missing?

By ERIN JAMES, York Daily Record/Sunday News, November 22, 2009

The president of the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association is accusing staff at Gettysburg National Military Park of misappropriating funds given to the park for the repair of more than 140 Pennsylvania monuments.

Kathi Schue said \$77,580 appears to have gone "missing" from money secured by a state committee that dissolved when it reached its goal of raising about \$165,000 - the figure that Schue said park officials provided to fundraisers as the amount necessary for rescuing Pennsylvania monuments from a state of disrepair. "All of these numbers I did not suck out of my thumb. The Park Service gave me those numbers," Schue said.

The mystery of the missing money only gets deeper with the park's response to Schue's accusations.

"We did not receive that funding," said park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon.

Lawhon said the park did receive two checks in 1999 and 2000 from the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association, totaling about \$85,000. All but \$9,236 of that amount has since been spent on monument restoration, Lawhon said.

"We spent these dollars that we received on the Pennsylvania monuments," she said.

But Schue is not the only person questioning the park's diligence in honoring the conditions agreed upon when the park accepted the donations of private citizens -

including school children who raised thousands through fundraisers.

State Rep. Harry Readshaw, D-Allegheny County, said he would like to know "what was done, how it was spent, when it was done."

Readshaw is the man behind the monument project. Spurred to action by a newspaper article that detailed the monuments' sad condition, the Pittsburgh-area Democrat partnered with schools, preservationists and re-enactment units to raise money for repairs. He has been credited in various news accounts with raising more than \$160,000.

Readshaw is also Schue's former boss.

"I am absolutely supportive of her questions concerning accountability by the National Park Service," Readshaw said recently.

Until her retirement this summer, Schue had served as a legislative assistant to Readshaw. When Readshaw decided that he wanted to launch a fundraising effort, Schue was assigned to coordinate the project.

More than 12 years later, Schue said she's still committed to seeing the work done.

"Show me the work's been done, or show me the money," she said. "Why didn't you finish the job?"

Lawhon, however, said there's nothing to fight about.

"We're both on the same side on this," she said. "We both want to see these monuments preserved."

#### 'Famous last words'

One Sunday in 1996, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette published an article about the deteriorated state of monuments on the Gettysburg Battlefield. Though well into his 50s, Readshaw had never been to the historic town.

But he felt compelled to do something.

"It seemed to be a noble cause," he said. "It seemed somebody should do something. I didn't know at the time it would end up being me."

He started researching and found that many of the battlefield's monuments were funded in the late 1800s and early 1900s with state and federal money -- as well as private donations. Early on, Readshaw challenged Schue -- his legislative assistant -- to save "one monument."

Those "famous last words" are what sparked a nationwide effort that included 5K races, Civil War-era balls and annual motorcycle rides all to raise money for the monuments. Readshaw established the Pennsylvania Gettysburg Monument Project and served as vice chairman to a legislative committee dedicated to overseeing the project. He also challenged other states to allocate money for the repair of their own monuments on the Gettysburg Battlefield. And he established an endowment fund for the future maintenance of Pennsylvania monuments.

Because of the effort, Readshaw became known in preservationist circles as "the monument guy."

But Schue - who also sat on the legislative committee - made it all come together.

Her involvement in the project is the reason why Schue was recruited several years ago to become president of the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association. She admits to knowing little about Civil War history, but Schue is more knowledgeable than most when it comes to the monuments at Gettysburg.

She also claims to have a "photographic memory" and can



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remember the details of various meetings over the years. She insists that Gettysburg National Military Park has failed to meet its obligation of documenting how the money was used and then reporting that information to Readshaw's office.

"They were to send a report to us every year," she said.

Readshaw said he has had frequent trouble over the years getting any answers from park officials about the status of the project.

"Many, if not most of the times, when an inquiry was made ... there wasn't a reply," he said. "Wouldn't it be nice if it was all done?"

The legislator calls it "an accountability problem."

That's not the way Lawhon, the park spokeswoman, sees it, however.

She said the park is "happy to be accountable" and "would be happy to answer (Readshaw's) questions."

Lawhon said that the park has not received a letter "or even a phone call" in more than two years from anyone inquiring about the donated money. She said she was unaware that the project's organizers had unanswered questions.

Detailed reports are available to those who ask for it, Lawhon said.

But that doesn't change anything about the fundamental disagreement between the park and the fundraisers.

### **Missing money**

Katie Lawhon and Kathi Schue agree on a few facts when it comes to the monument funds: Former Gov. Tom Ridge allocated about \$1 million in the state's 2000-01 budget through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for Gettysburg Battlefield work. And the vast majority of the money was intended for the restoration of the Pennsylvania Memorial - the largest monument on the battlefield.

The two women disagree, however, on whether \$77,580 of that \$1 million allocation was intended for the other monuments that honor Pennsylvania troops who fought at Gettysburg.

Schue insists it was; Lawhon said she doesn't even know where that figure comes from.

The \$77,580 in state money, Schue said, was to make up the difference between what the legislative committee had already raised and the figure provided by the park as the amount of money needed to restore all Pennsylvania monuments -- a total of \$165,365.

And, in fact, various media over the years have attributed approximately \$160,000 or more to Readshaw's fundraising efforts. Those sources include The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, The Evening Sun and a couple of Civil War sites.

Asked if all those stories were wrong, Lawhon said she could only speculate.

"I think they're reporting what they heard from the fundraising effort," she said.

Schue said she now has reason to question how the park spent the rest of the \$1 million allocation.

That's a particularly important question, Schue said, because it could be the reason why not all of the monument work has been completed nearly 10 years after the money was given to the park.

"There has never been an accounting on that money," she said. "You misappropriated the funds, that's what it says to me."

### **A question of priorities**

Schue points to two monuments as evidence that the park has failed to meet its obligations.

They are the 90th Pennsylvania Infantry and the 17th Pennsylvania

Cavalry - two monuments that have been the victims of vandalism over the years. Though some work has been done on each, neither monument has been restored completely.

The 90th Infantry is still missing a canteen that was pulled from the monument and stolen more than 14 years ago. Several pieces of the 17th Cavalry - like the brim of a trooper's cap and the barrel of his gun - are also missing.

About \$8,000 was raised and given to the park to pay for those repairs.

The park has postponed those repairs because they are considered "aesthetic in nature" and therefore fall lower on the park's priority list, Lawhon said.

Gettysburg's three-person monument restoration staff is responsible for more than 1,000 battlefield monuments and another 400 cannons. According to National Park Service policy, maintenance of those structures is their "primary job," Lawhon said.

Planned work can also be postponed in the event that a monument needs immediate attention - as is often the case when vandals use battlefield monuments as a canvas for graffiti.

"Unfortunately, they have to respond to incidents like that," Lawhon said.

She said the park was not obligated to use the donated money immediately, though most of it was used before 2004. About \$68,000 has been spent on labor, and about \$8,300 has been spent on materials.

"We did dedicate more time and money on the Pennsylvania monuments during the immediate few years after we received the funding because we received the funding," she said, adding that the donations freed up funds "for more maintenance and preservation in the park."



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The park still plans to use the remaining balance to restore the 90th and the 17th, as well as other remaining "aesthetic" work, Lawhon said.

But Schue said that wasn't the agreement.

She said the park agreed to use the money within a year of receiving it. And, Schue said, there's a good chance the work will cost even more today.

"Why isn't it done 10 years later?" she asked.

Readshaw said he, as the project's organizer, also is frustrated that work remains undone.

"What prompted a lot of this from our standpoint is we've got people calling us up," Readshaw said. "It gets embarrassing from our point of view because we don't have a reply."

### Five Forks Battlefield opens new Visitor's Center

Petersburg Progress-Index, November 17, 2009

The Petersburg National Battlefield recently opened a major new addition that will significantly expand the ability to tell the story of one of the pivotal battles during the Civil War.

Last month, the National Park Service unveiled a new \$3 million visitor contact station at the Five Forks Battlefield. The 2,400-square-foot center offers much more exhibit space than the previous center, and a new 8-mile trail system allows visitors a chance to see the battlefield by foot, bicycle or horse.

It took decades of effort to first secure the battlefield itself and then to build a visitors center. In 1962, federal legislation was passed to obtain ownership of the battlegrounds. But it wasn't until 1989 that the National

Park Service became the new owner. It took about 19 years to for the new visitors center to become a reality.

Much of the credit goes to Chris Calkins, former chief of interpretation at Petersburg National Battlefield and now park manager of Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park. He was instrumental in securing the battlefield grounds as federal property and a strategic planner for the visitor center,

In some ways, the Five Forks Battlefield and visitor contact center is Calkins legacy. But in greater ways, the battlefield is the legacy of all of us. "This is our legacy, and it is our legacy that we have to worry about," Calkins said. "Preserving the battlefields is very important to me."

led by Gen. George Pickett. Gen. Robert E. Lee, commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, had ordered Pickett to "Hold Five Forks at all hazards."

The area, located at the intersection of White Oak Road and Court House Road in Dinwiddie County, was all that was left between the Union troops and the South Side Railroad, Petersburg's remaining supply line. With all supply lines cut off, the Confederate troops eventually had to surrender Petersburg as well as Richmond. Eight days later, Lee surrendered his entire army to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse and the Civil War was over.

Petersburg National Battlefield Superintendent Bob Kirby said visitors can finally feel welcome at the Five Forks unit. "More battles of the Civil War were fought in Virginia than in any other state," Kirby said. "And most of those battles were fought in Dinwiddie County."

### Interim Superintendent named at Gettysburg

National Park Service Northeast Regional Director Dennis R. Reidenbach has named Mel Poole as interim superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park. Poole, who is currently superintendent of Catoctin Mountain Park in Thurmont, Maryland, will assume his duties on November 23, 2009. Reidenbach also named Gettysburg Chief Ranger Brion Fitzgerald as acting deputy superintendent.

"I appreciate that Mel has agreed to serve as interim superintendent during this time of transition for the park," said Reidenbach. "Since he has already stated that he will not seek the position permanently, he will return to Catoctin Mountain Park once we have selected a new superintendent in early 2010."



Sabrina Schaeffer/Staff Photo The new Visitor's Center at Five Forks Battlefield is now open to the public.

The Battle of Five Forks, often referred to as the "Waterloo of the Confederacy," occurred on April 1, 1865, when Union troops under the command of Gen. Philip Sheridan attacked Confederate soldiers being



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### Civil War Preservation Trust Announces Ambitious Plan to Preserve Hallowed Ground at Chancellorsville

*Land was scene of heavy fighting during "Stonewall" Jackson's legendary flanking maneuver*  
NPS Press release, November 16, 2009

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), America's largest nonprofit battlefield preservation group, has announced the beginning of a \$2.125 million national campaign to preserve one of the most historically significant unprotected landscapes of the entire Civil War. The 85-acre property, known locally as the Wagner Tract, was the scene of bloody struggle during the battle of Chancellorsville on May 2, 1863. It was here on that fateful day that Confederate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson led his legendary flanking maneuver on May 2, 1863 that turned the tide of battle in favor of the South.

Despite the high price tag and difficult economic climate, CWPT president James Lighthizer found the choice to pursue the property an easy one. "This land at Chancellorsville is arguably one of the most historically significant pieces of hallowed ground CWPT has ever saved, and we have just got to get it," he said. "Just like our purchase of the Slaughter Pen Farm at Fredericksburg three years ago, this is what we are in business to do. This is why we exist!"

Prominent historian Robert K. Krick vehemently agreed with Lighthizer's assessment, not only because of the land's historic pedigree, but for its overall contribution toward protection of the Chancellorsville Battlefield.

"The preservation coup by CWPT in acquiring 85 acres in the midst of the Stonewall Jackson's flank attack deserves universal applause as a spectacular success. The Wagner tract, just east of Wilderness Church, includes nearly 2,000 feet of frontage on the north shoulder of the historic Orange Plank Road. Extinguishing the potential for dense commercial use along that long stretch seems to me to constitute the most dazzling jewel in the CWPT's long and impressive history of preserving hallowed ground."

Timing of the effort is particularly auspicious because it allows preservationists to take advantage of a limited window of availability to receive state funding toward the venture. Through the end of 2009, projects in the Old Dominion are eligible to participate in a 2-to-1 matching grant program for Civil War battlefield protection. This is in addition to federal matching grants available to preserve historic battlefield land outside of national parks, leaving CWPT to raise less than half the purchase price from private donations. But in order to take advantage of this unprecedented opportunity, the transaction must be closed in the next two months.

In recognition of the immense historic value of the property, CWPT is offering a unique opportunity to those interested in contributing to this worthwhile fundraising effort. Each individual or organization that donates more than \$100 to the acquisition effort will be acknowledged on a permanent plaque that will be installed on the battlefield site. Successively larger donations will also be appropriately differentiated as an additional expression of gratitude. Those interested in contributing to the

fundraising campaign are encouraged to visit CWPT's website at <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/chancellorsville/chancellorsville-2009/>.

CWPT has previously preserved other key portions of the Chancellorsville battlefield, including 215 acres that were the scene of the strategically crucial fighting along the Orange Turnpike on May 1, 1863. Now interpreted and open to the public as the First Day at Chancellorsville Battlefield Park, the site has become a popular historic destination in the region. The organization has also participated in the protection of two other locations on the battlefield, including 16 additional acres associated with Stonewall Jackson's flank attack.

### Auction for Lincoln letter that helped bullied boy

By Chris Ayres, The Times (London, UK) November 19, 2009

"Whom it May Concern" — so began the letter written by Abraham Lincoln shortly after his inauguration in 1861. It was an odd introduction for an official communication from the leader of the United States; penned, in all likelihood, at his desk in the Oval Office.

This, however, was no ordinary letter, and the intended recipients were neither politicians nor dignitaries — hence the reason the historic note is being auctioned this week in Philadelphia for \$60,000 (£36,000), with the bidding expected to go higher.

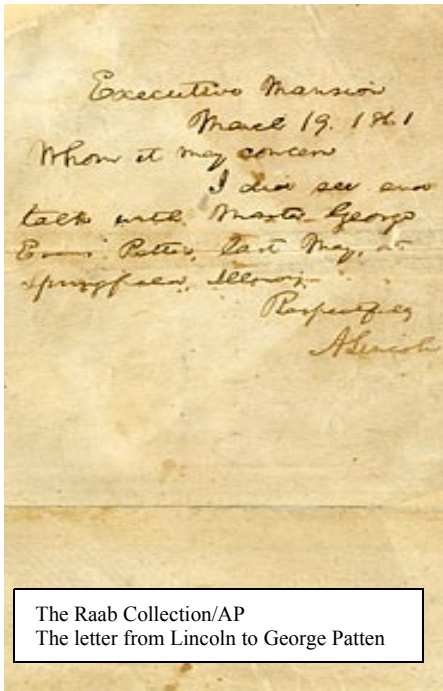
The "whom" mentioned in the letter's opening line were a group of school bullies in the town of Springfield, Illinois, who for several weeks had been taunting an eight-year-old boy named George Evans Patten. The



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reason for the mockery was Master Patten's seemingly absurd claim that he had met the American President, along with his father, a journalist.

No one believed him. And in spite of the boy's protests, the classroom jeers persisted, until eventually a teacher at the school decided to settle the matter once and for all by writing to the White House and asking for confirmation.



The Raab Collection/AP  
The letter from Lincoln to George Patten

It is unlikely a reply was expected. Lincoln had just been elected America's first Republican President, entirely owing to support from the North. His name had not even been on the ballot in ten Southern states. With unrest in the slaveowning Southern states growing, attempts had already been made on his life in Baltimore, and the South had declared that it wanted to break away from the rest of the US and form a new country, the Confederate States of America.

Nevertheless, the Springfield schoolteacher received a brief,

handwritten reply in the post soon after sending her query.

The President wrote: "Whom it may concern, I did see and talk with Master George Evans Patten, last May, at Springfield, Illinois. Respectfully, A. Lincoln."

The letter is being sold by the Raab Collection of Philadelphia, which says that the document's rarity and condition justify the high asking price. The sellers have also noted that \$60,000 is by no means the highest value placed on a letter from the Civil War leader: three years ago a retired gas engineer from Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, paid £1 for a picture frame at a car boot sale, only to discover that it contained a handwritten note from Lincoln, appointing Lieutenant-General Ulysses S. Grant commander-in-chief of the US armed forces.

The letter is now thought to be worth £500,000.

### Gettysburg details early plans for 150th battle anniversary

**The town prepares for its biggest Civil War re-enactment yet in 2013.**

By KATE WILCOX, York Daily Record/Sunday News, November 22, 2009

It might be almost four years away, but Gettysburg needs all the time it can get to prepare for its 150th Anniversary National Civil War Re-enactment.

"Normally, every five years is a national event," said Randy Phiel, Gettysburg Anniversary Committee operations manager. "This will be an international event. We have visitors and re-enactors coming from all over the world."

Planners still have much work to do, including securing permits and agreements for many of the potential

activities, so the schedule is subject to major change at any time.

"Nothing is set in stone yet," Phiel stressed.

Here's a breakdown of what organizers said Saturday they are considering:

--- The normally three-day anniversary will be expanded to four days: July 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2013.

--- Pending permits and agreements, the event will be at Redding Farm, Phiel said. He's hoping to have 1,000 acres available -- more than was used during the 145th anniversary -- because organizers expect 15,000 re-enactors. Registration has not yet started, but the number was capped at 15,000 because of resources, logistics and battlefield safety.

By comparison, Phiel said, the 145th anniversary had 13,000 re-enactors, plus 400 horses and 100 cannons.

--- On each days, two battles will be held: one large battle and one slightly smaller battle.

"A lesser battle for the 150th anniversary will be the size of a large battle on an off year," Phiel said. An off year is anything between the five-year anniversaries.

--- On July 3, the "Grand Review," which was popular at the 145th anniversary, will return.

That's the re-enactment of the march of Confederate Gen. Jubal Early and his division of 5,000 men, who invaded the town, terrifying residents and demanding food and supplies.

--- On June 29 and 30, 2013, will be a living-history Weekend, which Phiel described as the "South Mountain Fair of the Civil War."

--- Other potential events during the four days include a governor's ball, Lincoln activities, a re-enactment of the march from the Potomac River and a re-enactment of the burning of Chambersburg.



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### Gettysburg Casino foes again gird for battle

By JOHN MESSEDER, Gettysburg

Times, December 1, 2009

They claimed victory three years ago, and they intend to do it again — block a casino from being established in or near Gettysburg.

Gettysburg businessman and philanthropist David LeVan is seeking a license to establish a 500-machine casino based on the current Eisenhower Inn, a hotel and convention center on Emmitsburg Road, south of Gettysburg Borough. No Casino Gettysburg has, in the past three days, created a presence on Twitter and Facebook — two social networking sites on the Internet — and has created its own networking site. At 4 p.m. Monday, the Facebook site boasted 1,054 members.

"Before Friday night, we had three members," said Susan Star Paddock, licensed clinical social worker, consultant to social-purpose organizations, and organizer of the No Casino group.

"There's a lot of energy," she said. Membership, according to the Facebook site, includes two officers: Paddock and IT Specialist Rachel C. Evans.

Paddock noted the proposed casino would place an adults-only facility within a half-mile of the Gettysburg National Military Park, and directly on an established Journey Through Hallowed Ground route that connects Gettysburg, at its northern end, with Monticello at the south. The area also is home to a motorcycle shop, motels and bed and breakfast establishments, a so-called sports complex, and a Boyds Bears outlet.

LeVan has been named in at least one other proposal to build a casino

in Adams County, near Littlestown. The most recent speculation was that he would link it with Hanover Shoe Farms, a thoroughbred race horse breeding business.

But Susan Paddock pointed out LeVan had not actually applied for a license, or specified a place to locate the gaming facility.

"Now there is no application, but there is a specific site," she said, "and a ... strong push to get an amendment to the table gaming legislation."

The amendment would allow LeVan, who missed the previous application deadline, to seek the requisite state license.

In the 2006 application, LeVan proposed to build a casino, spa and hotel in the northeast quadrant of the U.S. 15/30 interchange.

Supporters said the facility would attract gamblers from the Baltimore-Washington, D.C metro areas, as well as areas closer to Gettysburg. Led by No Casino Gettysburg and funded in part by Civil War Preservation Trust, opponents pointed out the adult nature of the facility, and noted efforts in Maryland to establish slot machine gaming in that state, separated only by a state line from Adams County.

The state gaming commission ended more than 18 months of controversy in December 2006 when, following a script clearly written during the board's executive session the previous night, it awarded its two available "at-large" casino licenses to Mount Airy No. 1, in the Poconos, and Bethlehem Sands, in the Lehigh Valley.

By direct implication the controversial application for Crossroads Gaming Resort and Spa was denied, in part because of the strength of opposition to it being built near Gettysburg.

According to published reports, LeVan has an option to purchase the Eisenhower Inn complex if he is successful in his quest for a casino license.

### John Warren Cooke dies, speaker of Va. House for 12 years, son of Confederate Veteran

By Matt Schudel, Washington Post, December 2, 2009

John Warren Cooke, 94, who served 12 years as the quietly influential speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, died Nov. 28 at his home in the Mathews County town of Gloucester. The cause of death could not be learned.

Mr. Cooke, the last member of the Virginia legislature who was the son of a Confederate veteran, was the Democratic majority leader in the House of Delegates for 12 years before becoming speaker in 1968.

John Warren Cooke was born Feb. 28, 1915, in Mathews, Va. His father, former Major Giles B. Cooke, who was 76 when his son was born, was an Episcopal priest who had served on Gen. Robert E. Lee's staff as Assistant Adjutant General during the closing days of the Civil War.

Mr. Cooke attended the Virginia Military Institute and returned to his home town to work for the Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal. He was publisher of the weekly newspaper from 1954 until March of this year and was president of the old Tidewater Baseball League.