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Civil War museum opens in Centreville

Stuart-Mosby Civil War Cavalry Museum free to public by Gregg MacDonald, Fairfax Times, November 18, 2011

A private building adjacent to Historic Centreville Park is home to Fairfax County's newest Civil War museum, operated by a local nonprofit that hopes to make Centreville a Civil War history destination.

The Stuart-Mosby Civil War Cavalry Museum, 13938 Braddock Road, opened Oct. 22 in a former commercial property, owned by local realtor Dennis Hogge, that couldn't be more fitting to bear the names of two of Virginia's most notable Confederate soldiers.

John Singleton Mosby, nicknamed the "Gray Ghost," was a Confederate cavalry battalion commander probably best known for his guerilla-like raids on Union encampments, most of which were within Fairfax County, according to historian, author and assistant museum curator Don Hakenson.

"Mosby was the father of guerilla warfare," Hakenson said. "His tactics are still studied today by the U.S. Army and Marine Corps. He had no military background, but was probably the most successful guerilla fighter in the history of our country."

Col. J.E.B. Stuart is well known for his actions at the Battle of First Manassas in July 1861, leading a charge aiding in the victory for the Confederacy. Stuart was promoted to brigadier general two months later, and eventually was the one who gave Mosby a small group of rangers to conduct independent partisan operations into northern Virginia, Hakenson said. These rangers eventually became the 43rd Battalion,

Virginia Cavalry, and would grow from nine to as many as 2,000 men.

"The new Stuart-Mosby Civil War Cavalry Museum is housed in a former commercial building constructed with stones from Centreville's historical Grigsby House, otherwise known as the 'four-chimney-house,'" said Hakenson.

"That is significant because it was this house which once served as Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's headquarters; where Mosby met Stuart for the very first time."

Today, it houses the 24-foot by 30-foot free museum operated by the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society, a nonprofit organization comprised of about 200 members. The museum also serves as the society's headquarters, Hakenson said.

"We hope to make Centreville a tourist destination for those interested in Civil War history," he said. "Our primary goal is to educate."

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays and Saturdays and houses Civil War cavalry artifacts such as pistols, swords, saddles, artillery shells, clothing, and a variety of items that were owned by both Stuart and Mosby, according to museum curator Howard Crouch.

"Some items came from the Virginia Historical Society," Crouch said. "Others came from Randolph Macon College, the Fairfax City Museum and both the Mosby and Stuart families."

According to Hakenson, the museum houses at least three very personal items of Stuart's.

"We actually have a lock of his hair on display," he said, "as well as a spoon that is reported to have fallen out of his pocket the day before he died and a saber he used that the society paid \$20,000 for."

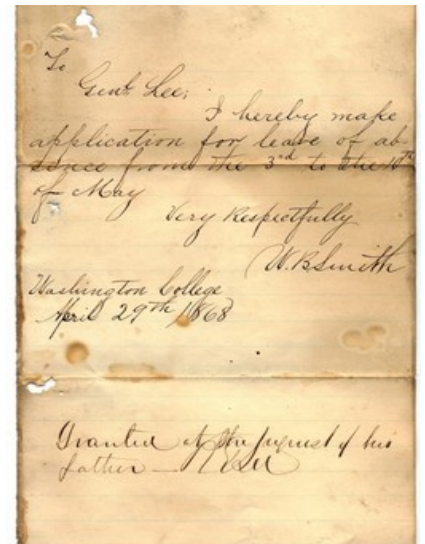
Letter signed by R.E. Lee shows up in house in Petersburg

By: Carol Hazard, Richmond Times-Dispatch, December 06, 2011

People who buy old houses are almost in for a few surprises — some good, some not-so-good.

The McCormack brothers — one a business owner, the other a developer — found a keeper in an old house they bought in Petersburg: a letter to a previous resident apparently from Gen. Robert E. Lee, granting permission for a leave of absence — presumably from Washington College.

"It just blew me away," said Tom McCormack, who owns Saucy's Walk-up Bar.B.Q. in downtown Petersburg.



The letter hasn't been authenticated. But it was found in the attic under floorboards along with other letters from that era, parts of a hoops skirt, a tiny bottle of scotch and the cover of a journal from the 1830s.

"To General Lee," the beautifully scripted letter reads. "I hereby make



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application for leave of absence from the 3rd of May. Very respectfully, W.B. Smith, Washington College, April 29th, 1868.

At the bottom of the letter is Lee's signature where he writes, "Granted at the request of his father. R.E. Lee." Lee, who led the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia in the Civil War, was president of Washington College, now Washington and Lee University in Lexington, after the war.

School records show that Willis B. Smith was an assistant professor of mathematics at the school from 1868-1869 and was from Powhatan County. He also was a civil engineer, a lawyer and clerk of circuit court in Powhatan. McCormack dug up records showing he rented the house in the late 1800s.

McCormack and his brother, Dave McCormack, bought the two-story, wood-frame house, built circa 1790 to 1810, at 18 Perry St. as an investment four years ago.

They stabilized the house, replacing a wall that was caving in, and over the years, they cleaned out areas inside the house.

"But only (recently) did my brother make his way into the attic (where) under the floorboards he found a letter addressed to one of the original owners of the house from General R.E. Lee," Dave McCormack wrote in an e-mail.

He also found a letter from Smith's grandmother explaining what life was like after the Civil War. One of her servants was still with her but some had left.

Tom McCormack said he is not sure what he and his brother will do with the Lee letter. It could be sold with the house, which has been on and off the market for a couple of years, and is now listed for \$95,000.

"We are trying to find a buyer who will restore the house," McCormack said. "I think it's important that all the stuff we found stays with house because they are part of the history of the house."

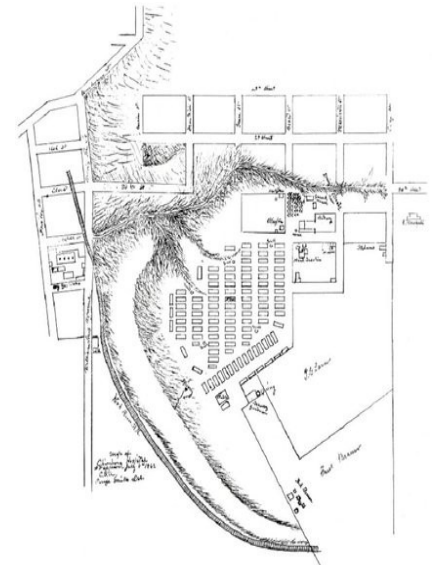
Richmond's Medical Miracle

By LOIS LEVEEN, New York Times, November 22, 2011

During the opening months of the Civil War, the streets of Richmond, Va., filled with bloodied bodies. The thousands of Confederate wounded were treated in a range of makeshift hospitals hastily established in hotels, factories and private homes. But by autumn, as hopes the conflict would be brief faded, it became clear a war of this magnitude required a modernized medical response.

That fall Samuel P. Moore, the Confederate surgeon general, secured both the facilities and the personnel to provide such a response at Chimborazo, a 40-acre plateau just east of the Confederate capital's stately Church Hill neighborhood (the site got its name from Mount Chimborazo, an inactive volcano in Ecuador, famous at the time after being "discovered" by the German explorer-scientist Alexander von Humboldt). Occupying 150 buildings, it was one of the largest hospitals in the world, typically serving around 4,000 sick and wounded soldiers at a time. Over the next three and a half years it treated 77,000 patients — twice the entire population of Richmond at the outbreak of the war. But Chimborazo was remarkable for more than just its gargantuan size. It would prove to be among the world's most efficient, modern and sanitary hospitals of the period, an achievement due in no small part to Moore's appointment of James B. McCaw to run the facility. The son,

grandson and great-grandson of physicians, McCaw embodied the emergence of the modern, professional doctor. After attending medical school in New York, he returned to his native Richmond, accepting a professorship at the Medical College of Virginia and editorship of the Virginia Medical and Surgical Journal. His nascent understanding of the hygienic importance of cleanliness, his ties to M.C.V. (the only medical school in the Confederacy to remain operational throughout the war, allowing Chimborazo to pioneer the practices of a teaching hospital), and his talent as an administrator proved invaluable in superintending Chimborazo.



McCaw Library - An 1863 map of Chimborazo Hospital.

McCaw organized Chimborazo into five divisions, each with its own surgeon-in-chief. Within each were 90 wards measuring about 80 feet by 28 feet and containing 40 patient beds. The wards were spaced along 40-foot-wide avenues and 10-foot alleys, with 3 doors and 10 windows on the



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long sides of the buildings to provide ventilation. During the most propinquitous and bloody campaigns, when the number of wounded exceeded the capacity of the wards, 100 Sibley tents were pitched nearby, accommodating up to 10 patients each. Once the tents filled, additional patients were bivouacked in the open air.

The complex also included bathhouses, ice houses, carpentry and blacksmith shops, a soap manufactory, a stable, a chapel, an apothecary shop, a bakery that produced 10,000 loaves daily, a brewery that produced 400 kegs of beer at a time, and five dead houses, one for each of the divisions. (Although one advantage of Chimborazo's location was its proximity to Oakwood Cemetery, the patient mortality rate was fairly low for a Civil War hospital, between 9 and 11 percent.) Chimborazo maintained a large vegetable garden on a nearby farm, as well as herds of goats and cows. McCaw even secured a canal boat to travel the James River, bringing provisions from as far away as Lexington, Va.

If the bustling facilities were unlike anything the South had ever seen, so were its personnel. In addition to the dozens of physicians, who were organized into a hierarchy of assistant surgeons, surgeons and surgeons-in-charge, the hospital employed enormous nursing and support staffs. Military hospitals had previously been manned largely by convalescing soldiers, but the labor needs at Chimborazo were so great — as was the pressure for any able soldiers to return to the front — that McCaw relied heavily on slaves, free blacks and white women to keep the hospital running.

Indeed, African-American labor was paramount to the running of Confederate military hospitals. Though the Civil War is often thought of as the watershed that opened the field of nursing to American women, female nursing was largely a Union, and not a Confederate, phenomenon; 9,000 women served as nurses in Union hospitals, compared to only 1,000 in Confederate hospitals, primarily because the use of hired-out male slaves in the South preempted the recruitment of white women.

McCaw repeatedly advertised for slave labor throughout the war, and he pleaded with Moore for impressment of Chimborazo's enslaved staff, to prevent owners from removing the slaves in his service. Slaves (and a smaller number of free blacks) cooked, cleaned, and worked in manufacturing — tasks similar to those they'd long been assigned in non-hospital settings. But enslaved men also served in the nursing staff, an arrangement that shocked some of the patients. One wounded infantryman wrote in horror, "There are only two brute attendants, both black (they call them nurses, God save the mark!)."

White women did play a crucial role at Chimborazo, serving as matrons on the wards. Matrons oversaw the preparation and distribution of medicine and meals, as ordered by the physicians. They also provided a range of patient care, from reading Bible passages to writing letters home, and fielding requests for everything from a haircut to a "b'iled sweet pur-r-rta-a-a-tu-ur," as Phoebe Yates Pember, who served as matron from late 1862 through the fall of Richmond, recalled in her entertaining, if occasionally self-aggrandizing, 1879 memoir, "A

Southern Woman's Story: Life in Confederate Richmond."

Unfortunately, the historical record hasn't yielded anything analogous to McCaw's official correspondence or Pember's memoir to provide the perspective of the enslaved and free black staff regarding their wartime experience at Chimborazo. Nevertheless, in a significant post-bellum coda to the story of Chimborazo, the facility that was constructed with slave labor in October 1861 and employed hired-out slaves throughout the war was converted after the war into a freedmen's school. Opened in June 1865, it served hundreds of African-American students, many of whom lived on site. Like other freedmen's schools, Chimborazo attracted a broad swath of the free black population in the years following emancipation; the November 1869 register listed students between ages 4 and 29.

As significant as McCaw's wartime administrative foresight and efficacy were, ultimately Chimborazo's legacy lay in the expansion of gender and race roles, as much as it did the modernizing of medical practices.

Michigan Library Gets Grant for Native American Sharpshooters Documentary

By Indian Country Today Media Staff, November 29, 2011

The Michigan Humanities Council awarded 14 grants totaling \$193,167 to support local cultural and historical projects in November. One of those grants went to the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University to support its completion of a documentary called *The Road to*



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Andersonville: Michigan Native American Sharpshooters in the Civil War.

According to a press release, the film will document the history of the Native American soldiers of the first Michigan sharpshooters during the Civil War, and the grant will support its completion and distribution.

On June 1, 1863, Michigan started recruiting Native Americans to serve in the Civil War. "The result was the famous Company K, an all-Indian company of soldiers," says a Historical Dates in Michigan's History page on the library's website.



Men from first Michigan Sharpshooters, Company K, May 14, 1864, Library of Congress photo

"These men did not have to serve, [but] they realized if southerners were successful, they would be nothing better than slaves," David Schock, the film's producer, told CM-life.com. Frank Boles, library director, told Central Michigan Life the film should be done by late summer or early fall. He said there isn't an official date set, but it will premiere on WCMU, a public television station run by the university.

The film will also be shown through PBS television, local screenings and an interactive website, all of which the \$15,000 grant will help cover. Schock says the grant is a good start, but will need more to complete the project.

"It gets expensive for the time and equipment," he told CM-Life.com. "It would be helpful to raise some more. We've looked toward the tribes [for additional funding], but nothing yet."

Jefferson County, WV Commission Votes 'no' on Battle of Shepherdstown Funds

Lawmakers cite safety and maintenance expenses as chief reasons for turning down \$25,000 request

By Matt Armstrong – Martinsburg Journal-News, December 2, 2011

CHARLES TOWN - John Allen left Thursday's Jefferson County Commission meeting disappointed but hopeful.

Allen, the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) chairman, requested the commission provide \$25,000 to assist the HLC with the purchase of historic property near Shepherdstown and the commission voted against the request.

The property would, in time, be turned over to the U.S. Department of the Interior for inclusion in the National Park Service as an addition to either Antietam National Battlefield or Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Allen said.

The property, site of parts of the Battle of Shepherdstown and home to an historic cement mill, is privately owned and has been appraised at approximately \$339,000. It was previously stated that the selling price would be around \$400,000, but after more than a year of negotiations, the purchase price is now \$375,000, according to the HLC.

The County Commission hosted a public hearing on the matter several

months ago, and numerous attendees were in favor of the commission spending \$100,000, which it had previously been committed to spend, on the project.

The commission voted against helping to acquire the property 3-2, with commissioners Patsy Noland, Dale Manuel and Walt Pellish voting against and commissioners Lyn Widmyer and Frances Morgan voting in favor of the acquisition.

Noland, in a telephone interview, outlined her biggest factors in voting against the acquisition: the liability issue if the HLC, which is monitored by the County Commission, were to own the property and someone was hurt there; the lack of a memorandum of understanding with the NPS concerning a timeline for transfer of ownership; and the current owner wanting to sell the property for more than the appraised value.

While Allen told the commission that the HLC has liability insurance and the County Commission would not be liable if there was an incident on the property, Noland said that was not enough of a guarantee for her.

There were also concerns from the commissioners about property maintenance.

"I shared the same concerns on the maintenance side of it, but I think in this instance the commitment that citizens have made and their commitment to try to get it into the national park system, I feel pretty confident that's going to happen," Widmyer said in a phone interview Thursday. "So \$25,000? I think that was quite a bargain for our role."

Time is limited for the HLC to complete the purchase. While it has raised more than \$350,000 for the purchase, two \$100,000 West Virginia Department of Transportation grants the HLC secured with the help



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of Del. John Doyle, D-Jefferson expire at the end of the year.

"We'll continue to look for other ways of making up the difference," Allen said. "We hope to find \$25,000 or else the project is done because (the DOT) money is going away."

Other organizations contributing funding to the purchase include the Civil War Trust, the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association and the JCHLC.

Jackson Prayer tree reported stolen, now found

Newsleader.com, December 1, 2011
GROTTOES, VA — A "prayer tree" reportedly used in 1862 by Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson and his victorious Confederate troops was reported stolen Tuesday in Grottoes. On Wednesday the tree made famous by the Civil War general was located, and the Augusta County Sheriff's Office determined it wasn't stolen after all.

Still, this tree doesn't have a prayer. Earlier this year the disease-weakened tree, which stood on Weyers Cave Road in Grottoes for about 350 years, was felled on May 27 by high winds during a storm. Although the tree will no longer live on, its legendary status will indeed continue.

According to the Central Virginia Woodturners, which is helping preserve portions of the tree, Jackson and his soldiers used the once-massive oak by praying underneath its shade during the end of the general's Shenandoah Valley Campaign in May and June of 1862. The tree would become known as the Stonewall Jackson Prayer Tree. Some 15,000 men were encamped

between the Middle and South rivers at the time, the woodturners group said.

The fallen tree has been donated by the family who owns the land where it once stood, and the group has embarked on a project, where it plans to create handcrafted pens and bowls out of the tree. The Woodturners of Virginia are also involved in the project, and the groups plan to sell the objects to various Civil War historical venues and donate the proceeds to organizations such as Wounded Warriors.



The prayer tree seen in Mount Meridian years before it was felled by a storm May 27. / File/The News Leader

On Tuesday, the sheriff's office estimated a 2,000-pound section of the tree, roughly 35-feet tall and about 5 to 6 feet in diameter at its base, was missing.

After seeing a media report concerning the prayer tree being stolen, a Mount Crawford man contacted the Augusta County Sheriff's Office and said he had the section of tree in question. Deputy

Jeremy McManaway said the man was promised a piece of the tree, but because of a miscommunication "he ended up getting the wrong portion." No charges were filed, and the missing section of the prayer tree is expected to be returned today, McManaway said.

Civil War Trust aims to save Civil War's 'Kitty Hawk'

Group aims to save Civil War balloon site

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, November 27, 2011

MECHANICSVILLE, Va. — It was the Civil War's "Kitty Hawk moment," and it happened here when balloons manned by Confederate and Union aeronauts floated above a field of battle — the first time warring armies sent their airships aloft simultaneously over U.S. soil.

The historic encounter in the skies occurred June 27, 1862, when two Union balloons — the Intrepid and the Washington — rose aloft only miles west of Richmond while their Southern counterpart, Gazelle, floated over the capital of the Confederacy. These balloons were the unarmed drones of war, collecting intelligence on rival troop movements from 1,000 feet above the earth.

Today a multimillion-dollar preservation effort by the nonprofit group The Civil War Trust is seeking to save the ground where the Union launched its balloons here. Little of the original battlefield has been preserved. But the 285-acre slice of the Gaines' Mill battlefield includes a ravine that shielded the North's balloons from Confederate troops while they were launched.

Gaines' Mill was the stage for the one of the biggest and bloodiest battles of the Civil War.



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It was the battleground where Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee recorded his first victory. The June 27, 1862, battle repulsed Union forces and their Peninsula Campaign, a disastrous attempt starting in March 1862 to occupy Richmond by way of the peninsula between the York and James rivers. The battle involved nearly 100,000 troops and left more than 15,000 dead or wounded.

The trust's Rob Shenk was attending a presentation on Civil War ballooning in June at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum when he made the aeronautic connection.

"I realized, God, that looks like one of the tracts we're about to save," said Shenk, the trust's director of Internet strategy and development. "How amazing it would be if we were saving a piece of battlefield land that had great aeronautical history."

Until the Civil War, balloons were fairgrounds attractions, taking the curious aloft for a few dollars.

A New Englander, Thaddeus S.C. Lowe, changed all that. The father of military aerial reconnaissance, he had planned a trans-Atlantic balloon crossing until he was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln as chief aeronaut of the Union's balloon corps. He dazzled the president by taking a balloon over the White House and telegraphing Lincoln a message in June 1861. That was the beginning of the Union's earliest "air force" and balloons would later be sent aloft on several occasions to spy on enemy lines — but not at the same time by rival forces until Gaines' Mill.

"Military ballooning spreads from here, really, to around the world," said Tom D. Crouch, senior curator of aeronautics at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington.

"The high ground. It is the ultimate high ground," said James L. Green, chief of planetary science at NASA.

Today the Union balloon camp is found beyond a field of grazing beef cattle and in a ravine studded with decaying logs and a thicket of boot-snagging grasses. In this trough, Union aeronauts hauled in wagons to inflate the balloons.

The Gazelle, which was stitched together using silk common to dressmaking, was launched from a rail track close to Richmond.

While Confederate forces had balloons, the North had the technological and financial edge to assemble a balloon corps. Still, even the Union's use of balloons was limited to a couple of years. Military leaders weren't quite sure how to effectively deploy this novelty.

The balloons were tethered as aeronauts relayed observations by telegraph, the communication wire dangling to the ground. Residents in Richmond could see the Union inflatables. It was probably a terrifying sight.

The Union balloons were made of thick silk with a coat of varnish enveloped by a netting of Italian flax thread. The basket was made of willow and cane and had an armored floor.

The hydrogen was concocted in inflation wagons using dilute sulfuric acid and iron filings.

Lowe, whom Crouch described as a showman, designed balloons that were sturdier than the fairground versions, with some able to carry five people aloft. One of the largest, the Intrepid, had a portrait on the balloon depicting Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, who led the Union's Peninsula campaign. The portrait was suspended from an eagle's beak.

The Union's balloon corps, which included seven inflatables, was sent aloft during the Peninsula campaign at Yorktown and at the Union-held Fortress Monroe in Hampton, Va. There was even an early forerunner of an aircraft carrier: two balloons and their gas generators were loaded onto a converted coal barge for observations over water.

Despite the Union's dominance of the skies, Lee's troops had a rare edge in numbers at Gaines' Mill and the Southern forces were able to drive back the Army of the Potomac and save the Confederate capital.

The Civil War Trust is using state and federal funds to preserve the 285 acres of the battlefield, but a capital campaign is needed to raise an additional \$1.2 million to close the deal. The land ultimately could be transferred to the National Park Service.

At the 150th anniversary of the Gaines' Mill battle next June, Shenk is hopeful a replica of the Intrepid can be launched from the same site.

Mary Todd Lincoln Papers Now on Public Display at Frazier History Museum

December 6, 2011, CWi

The historic papers documenting Mary Todd Lincoln's involuntary commitment into an Illinois insane asylum and the details behind the insanity hearing are now on public display at the Frazier History Museum in Louisville, Ky.

The rare 1875 documents, which are well-preserved, provide a unique insight into one of the most controversial episodes in the Lincoln family. The documents detail the First Lady's 1875 insanity hearing and



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commitment to Bellevue Place in Batavia, Ill. These include an arrest warrant, court proceedings and the official Bellevue register.

Many historians thought the papers had been lost or destroyed because they represent such a dark chapter in this famous family's history. For nearly 60 years after Lincoln's commitment, the historic papers were forgotten in the basement of Bellevue Place until being discovered by the asylum owner's daughter, Dorthey Daniels, in 1933. Since then, the documents remained untouched for decades more in her family's Louisville home. After Daniels passed, family members auctioned the documents.

On behalf of the museum, a Frazier History Museum board member purchased the papers at a Cincinnati auction earlier this year for \$37,600. The documents will eventually be on display permanently, but are currently on display in the museum's temporary exhibition, "Civil War: My Brother, My Enemy." The exhibit, which runs through April 8, 2012, examines how Kentucky's distinctive physical and political positioning led to deep and lasting divisions among families and friends.

"Stories of women suffering breakdowns abound in literature and history of the period. It was normal," said Madeleine Burnside, executive director of the Frazier History Museum. "Mary Todd Lincoln had enormous reasons to sink into grief. When you see the hospital register, you see hundreds of women's names. In this, she stands for so many women whose lives proved almost impossibly difficult. It's a real history lesson."

Mary Todd Lincoln, a Lexington, Ky. native, had relatives who fought for the Confederacy, illustrating the

state-divided theme of the current "My Brother, My Enemy" Civil War exhibit. The papers not only provide a chilling insight into one of the lowest points of Lincoln's life, but also into the lives of women at the time.

Bell from CSS Albemarle is back home in N.C.

By Jeff Hampton, The Virginian-Pilot, November 17, 2011

PLYMOUTH, N.C. - One history buff from the North and another from the South maneuvered a heavy Confederate ship's bell into the Port O' Plymouth Museum on Wednesday. Speaking instructions to each other in their distinct accents, Daniel McAuliffe of Worcester, Mass., and Jimmy Hardison of this northeastern North Carolina town pushed a dolly holding the bell, packed in a wooden box, through narrow passageways to the museum's rear display room and hefted it onto a table.

Placement of the bell was a friendly effort between North and South, unlike the circumstances back in October 1864. That's when Union Lt. William Cushing used a small boat to shove a torpedo into the bow of the CSS Albemarle, blowing out a hole big enough to drive a wagon through. The ship sank into the Roanoke River muck, ending its successful six-month campaign against the Union blockade in the Albemarle Sound.

The bell, which has gone back and forth between Worcester and Plymouth in recent years, is back on loan to the local museum for 10 years.

Life on the Albemarle was lived by the bell, said Harry Thompson, curator of the privately funded museum. This bell came from a church and was about three times larger than the typical ship's bell of the time, he said.

Schoolchildren from throughout the region and many others come to the museum, housed in an old train station, to see wall-to-wall artifacts from the 1864 Battle of Plymouth. Most of them are on loan from Hardison, who has spent his adult life searching the region for Civil War relics.

Gilbert Elliott was a 19-year-old lieutenant from Elizabeth City when he built the Albemarle in a cornfield just up the Roanoke River from Plymouth. During several battles, hundreds of cannonballs from Union ships bounced off the Albemarle's armor, and its ironclad strength allowed the Confederates to retake Plymouth and control the Roanoke River. In one battle, the USS Miami fired a round at close range, only to have the shell bounce off the Albemarle back onto the Miami, killing its commanding officer.

The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial of Worcester got the bell from the widow of Horace James, a Union chaplain from Worcester who supervised the Freedman's Colony of Roanoke Island.

Tom Harrison, a board member of the Washington County Historical Society, tried but failed to get the bell about 20 years ago. In 2001, he discovered it had been moved from the Grand Army museum to the Worcester Historical Museum, which was willing to make a loan.

Harrison drove 14 hours there to get it. It remained in Plymouth until this past April, when the bell went back to Worcester for the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. Its return Wednesday begins a new chapter.

The CSS Albemarle was raised and brought to Norfolk, where it was eventually sold as scrap for \$1,600.16, Thompson said. Only



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three known artifacts survive: the bell, a cannon stored at a naval facility in Norfolk and the smokestack on display at the Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City.