



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

### Rebuilding Stone Walls at Gettysburg

Gettysburg NMP Blog, December 1, 2016

Since 2000, Gettysburg National Military Park has undertaken numerous and significant projects to rehabilitate the battlefield to its 1863 appearance. Projects have included removal of non-historic trees, planting of wooded areas that no longer had trees, health cuts to improve historic woodlots, re-planting historic orchards, building fences, removal of modern buildings, overhead utility lines, and more.

Now we've started rebuilding missing stone walls at Gettysburg at five sites along Cemetery Ridge and on the David McMillan farm near present day West Confederate Avenue.

These projects improve the visitor experience on the battlefield and overall understanding of the fighting of the battle. By seeing the open terrain, fences, fields and farm lands, visitors get a better sense of the opportunities and obstacles faced by the soldiers and their commanders. In the Civil War, if you couldn't see it, you couldn't shoot it, so the long views we're re-opened at Gettysburg help tell the story of sweeping infantry charges, and the artillery positions that dueled with each other and sent iron missiles into the infantry formations.

Orchards could provide cover and concealment. Fences were often obstacles and stone walls could provide cover. All of the elements affected the fighting of the battle and each one contributes in important ways to our visitors being able to see the battlefield through the soldiers' eyes.

Stone walls were originally created by farmers as they cleared their fields and pastures, placed as boundaries

for fields and sometimes heightened with split rail "riders." Using horses and rope slings, the largest rocks were dragged from nearby fields to the edge with medium-sized to smaller stones carefully stacked on top to add height. Many of the original surviving stone walls in the southern end of the park still have look this way. The walls along Taneytown Road and adjacent to Culp's Hill have boulders built into them too. By the mid-1850's, years of farming and clearing fields yielded substantial walls throughout Adams County. Little did the farmers know, prior to 1863, that their well-constructed walls would be used by two armies during a major battle where in several cases these stone walls defined the Union and Confederate battle lines.

Soldiers alternately added to or tore down the walls in the path of the battle. Barricades and defensive works built during the battle were typically composed of medium-sized to small stones, easily picked up from the surrounding area or lifted from nearby walls.

But the soldiers knew that small stones only made their defensive work a hazard, since the small rocks could easily become projectiles if hit by a ball or shell fragment. It was backbreaking work, sometimes accomplished while under fire and the barricades built by soldiers of both armies still define the lines of battle today at Little Round Top and Culp's Hill.

Many of Gettysburg's historic stone walls disappeared over time. Our work to bring them back is based on research using historic maps, namely the Bachelder Isometric map (1863-1864), the G. K. Warren Map (1868), the U.S. War Department survey maps of 1893-1895, and rigorous

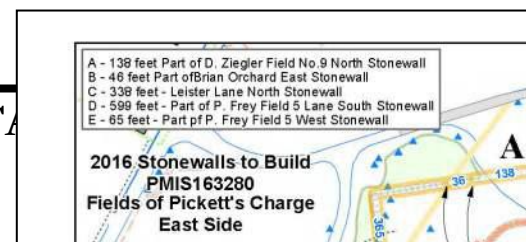
research that has been completed by National Park Service (NPS) historians over the past three decades. Additionally, the photographic work of Alexander Gardner, Matthew Brady, Frederick Gutekunst and others guide this effort.

Insert map here

Wall A and Wall B (on the map below) were both located on the property of David Ziegler. Ziegler owned a number of acres of meadow in 1863 just to the west of the Taneytown Road. According to the Warren Map a wall ran along the northern edge of the field, with another running north-south along its western boundary. Just to the south was property owned by Peter Frey, and to the southwest the farm of Abraham Brian. William Kepler, of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ohio, recalled that his unit "marched forward into position between Woodruff's Battery and the Taneytown road, on the brow of the hill in Zeigler's Grove, with a rise of ground to the right toward the Cemetery. From this point but little could be seen in any direction, whilst the occasional crack of a rifle could be heard, and whizzing of a ball through the air. The men soon busied themselves getting their arms in the best possible order....The position of the brigade was soon changed by the left-flank, until it was clear of a ravine and in the rear of Woodruff's Battery."<sup>14</sup>

Leister Farm Lane ("C" on the map above) ran just to the south of Ziegler and Frey fields. Along the northern stretch of Lydia Leister's property was a farm lane that allowed access from the Taneytown Road to her barn and western fields. It would have been used by many of the high-ranking officers of the Union Army, along with elements of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, Artillery

## BALTIMORE CIVIL WAR ROUNDT





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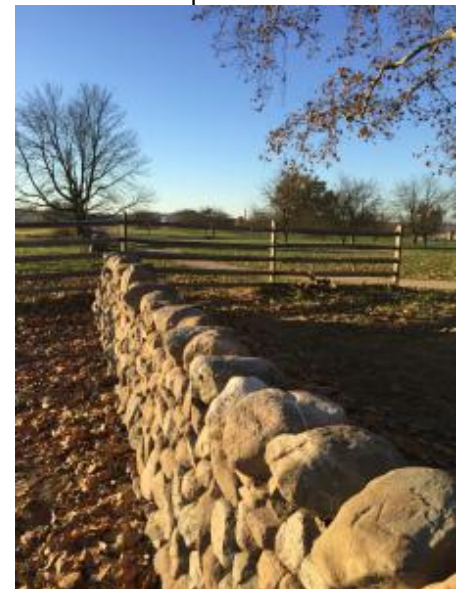
original wall was removed in the early 1930's by the War Department following the reconfiguration of Meade Avenue, which once connected the Taneytown Road with Hancock Avenue.

Like the Leister Farm Lane, the Peter Frey Farm Lane ("D" and "E" on the modern map above) provided access to the property from the Taneytown Road and would have been utilized by elements of the Army of the Potomac during their occupation of Cemetery Ridge. This wall is prominently visible in Bachelder's Isometric Map, as well as the G. K. Warren Map.

On Seminary Ridge the park will be adding 340 feet of stonewall on the David McMillan property (See map above). This wall, which in 1863 ran east to west along the southern boundary of the McMillan Orchard before transitioning into a Virginia worm fence, is clearly indicated on the Warren Map.

Reserve, Ambulance Corps and other regiments and batteries that needed to access Cemetery Ridge. A soldier in the 14th Connecticut recalled that his regiment moved into "a field opposite Meade's headquarters on the Taneytown road." He remembered that his regiment "...moved across the road, and passing over the wall at the low place below the cottage ...advanced up the

field and filing right past the barn to the field beyond the barn lane was placed in rear of the brigade on the slope at rear of the Brian premises.... The stonewall lining the Leister Farm lane is visible on the Warren Map, John Bachelder's 1864 Isometric Map, and is barely visible in photographs of Meade's Headquarters taken within days of the battle by Alexander Gardner. At the time of the battle this was most likely a low-stone wall with a wooden rider across the top. The



Newly completed wall near Ziegler's Grove – NPS Photo

For most of these stone walls there is no photographic evidence of what



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they looked like, how high they were built, and whether they were stacked elegantly or thrown hastily together. Few, if any, would have survived the battle unscathed. The walls being rebuilt are not meant to be a perfect recreation of what once existed, but rather a representation. Their height, configuration, and proportions are modeled after similar walls photographed following the battle. The project is funded by the NPS. The NPS Historic Preservation Training Center is doing the work, using 1200 tons of field stone which came from eight counties in Pennsylvania. The materials cost \$198,000. The work will continue for the next 1-2 months, depending on the winter weather.

### **The True Story of Pain and Hope Behind "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"**

By Justin Taylor, The Gospel Coalition, December 14, 2014

In March of 1863, 18-year-old Charles Appleton Longfellow walked out of his family's house on Brattle Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and—unbeknownst to his family—boarded a train bound for Washington, D.C., traveling over 400 miles across the eastern seaboard in order to join President Lincoln's Union army to fight in the Civil War.

Charles (b. June 9, 1844) was the oldest of six children born to Fannie Elizabeth Appleton and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the celebrated literary critic and poet. Charles had five younger siblings: a brother (aged 17) and three sisters (ages 13, 10, 8—another one had died as an infant).

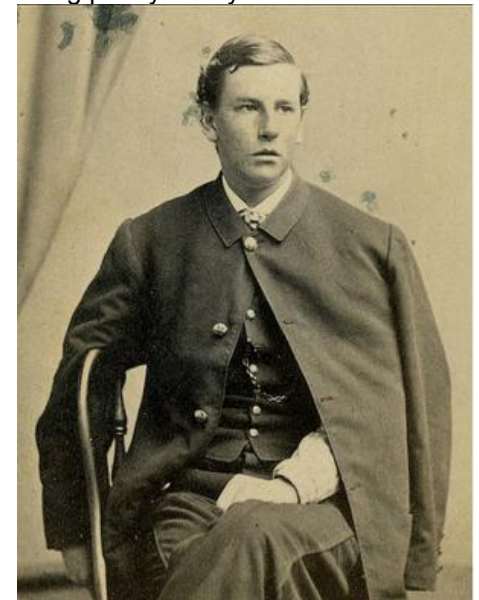
Less than two years earlier, Charles's mother Fannie had tragically died after her dress caught on fire. Her husband, awoken from a nap, tried to extinguish the flames as best he could, first with a rug and then his own body, but she had already suffered severe burns. She died the next morning (July 10, 1861), and Henry Longfellow's facial burns were severe enough that he was unable even to attend his own wife's funeral. He would grow a beard to hide his burned face and at times feared that he would be sent to an asylum on account of his grief.

When Charley (as he was called) arrived in Washington D.C., he sought to enlist as a private with the 1st Massachusetts Artillery. Captain W. H. McCartney, commander of Battery A, wrote to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow for written permission for Charley to become a soldier. HWL (as his son referred to him) granted the permission.

Longfellow later wrote to his friends Charles Sumner (senator from Massachusetts), John Andrew (governor of Massachusetts), and Edward Dalton (medical inspector of the Sixth Army Corps) to lobby for his son to become an officer. But Charley had already impressed his fellow soldiers and superiors with his skills, and on March 27, 1863, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry, assigned to Company "G."

After participating on the fringe of the Battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia (April 30-May 6, 1863), Charley fell ill with typhoid fever and was sent home to recover. He rejoined his unit on August 15, 1863, having missed the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863). While dining at home on December 1, 1863, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

received a telegram that his son had been severely wounded four days earlier. On November 27, 1863, while involved in a skirmish during a battle of of the Mine Run Campaign, Charley was shot through the left shoulder, with the bullet exiting under his right shoulder blade. It had traveled across his back and skimmed his spine. Charley avoided being paralyzed by less than an inch.



Charles Longfellow – USAMHI Photo

He was carried into New Hope Church (Orange County, Virginia) and then transported to the Rapidan River. Charley's father and younger brother, Ernest, immediately set out for Washington, D.C., arriving on December 3. Charley arrived by train on December 5. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was alarmed when informed by the army surgeon that his son's wound "was very serious" and that "paralysis might ensue." Three surgeons gave a more favorable report that evening, suggesting a recovery that would require him to be "long in healing," at least six months.





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On Christmas day, 1863, Longfellow—a 57-year-old widowed father of six children, the oldest of which had been nearly paralyzed as his country fought a war against itself—wrote a poem seeking to capture the dynamic and dissonance in his own heart and the world he observes around him. He heard the Christmas bells that December day and the singing of “peace on earth”, but he observed the world of injustice and violence that seemed to mock the truthfulness of this optimistic outlook. The theme of *listening* recurred throughout the poem, eventually leading to a settledness of confident hope even in the midst of bleak despair.

You can read the whole poem below:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
 Their old, familiar carols play,  
 and wild and sweet  
 The words repeat  
 Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
 And thought how, as the day had  
 come,  
 The belfries of all Christendom  
 Had rolled along  
 The unbroken song  
 Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
 Till ringing, singing on its way,  
 The world revolved from night to day,  
 A voice, a chime,  
 A chant sublime  
 Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
 Then from each black, accursed  
 mouth  
 The cannon thundered in the South,  
 And with the sound  
 The carols drowned  
 Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
 It was as if an earthquake rent  
 The hearth-stones of a continent,  
 And made forlorn  
 The households born  
 Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;  
 “There is no peace on earth,” I said;  
 “For hate is strong,  
 And mocks the song  
 Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”  
 Then pealed the bells more loud and  
 deep:  
 “God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
 The Wrong shall fail,  
 The Right prevail,  
 With peace on earth, good-will to  
 men.”

### Civil War Trust Preserves 355 Acres at Chancellorsville and Wilderness Battlefields

(Spotsylvania County, Va.) CWT Press release, December 5, 2016 – The Civil War Trust today declared victory on a 355-acre property associated with the 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville and the 1864 Battle of the Wilderness. With this additional land, the Trust has helped save over 1,100 acres at these two battlefields. The blood of more than 61,000 soldiers in blue and gray was shed during these conflicts, including that of Gen. Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” Jackson, who was mortally wounded amid the fighting at Chancellorsville.

“These crucial acres will physically connect and help complete the story of two of America’s most important battles,” said Trust President James Lighthizer. “The land will serve as a bridge through history and enhance the visitor experience at both battlefields.”

The land was purchased for \$1.75 million. Funding was provided by matching grants from the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, foundation grants, a generous

contribution from the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, and major gifts from several Trust donors. The remaining funds, totaling \$350,000, were raised from Trust members during a fundraising campaign announced in April 2016.

Gen. Robert E. Lee’s victory at Chancellorsville is one of his greatest military achievements of the entire war. On April 30, 1863, Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker’s crossing of the Rappahannock fords placed his Army of the Potomac on Lee’s vulnerable left flank. Rather than retreat before this sizable Federal force, Lee opted to attack Hooker while he was still within the thick wilderness. On May 2, 1863, Gen. Stonewall Jackson, with 30,000 Confederates, attacked the exposed Union right flank and stunned the 11th Corps, threatening Hooker’s entire army.

On May 5, 1864, almost exactly one year later, the Army of the Potomac once again locked horns with the Army of Northern Virginia in the dense thickets known as the Wilderness. Fighting was fierce but inconclusive as both sides attempted to maneuver in the woods. The two armies fought to a bloody stalemate, inaugurating a new era of violence in the war in the East. Though badly bloodied in the fighting, the Federals continued their march south toward Richmond.

The Civil War Trust is the largest and most effective nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of America’s hallowed battlefields. Although primarily focused on the protection of Civil War battlefields, through its Campaign 1776 initiative the Trust also seeks to save the battlefields connected to the Revolutionary War and War of 1812. To date, the Trust has



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preserved over 44,000 acres of battlefield land in 23 states.

### How Civil War Soldiers Gave Themselves Syphilis While Trying to Avoid Smallpox

By Mariana Zapata,  
Atlasobscura.com, November 30, 2016

Bullets fly, the cold creeps in, and your body is so malnourished that you can barely walk. You know that if smallpox gets a hold of you, you don't stand a chance. You look at your fellow soldier's pus-filled lesion and realize there is only one way to survive the smallpox outbreak in your unit. You breathe in deeply, cut your arm open with your rusty pocket knife, and fill the wound with the liquid coming out of your comrade's pustule.

Strange as it may sound, this was the reality for many Union and Confederate soldiers of the American Civil War. In the 1860s, before germ theory had taken hold in the field of medicine, medical facilities often lacked the necessary hygiene to prevent infections. Because of this, thousands of soldiers were killed by simple infections and diseases we now consider non-threatening or obsolete. Of these, smallpox was perhaps the deadliest and most feared.

Plaguing the world since ancient times, smallpox brought down powerful rulers like Pharaoh Ramses V, and has been credited with aiding the fall of Rome and the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire. It also led us to discover vaccination.

By 1861, the year in which the Civil War broke out, the western world had been vaccinating against smallpox for

over half a century. This feat is accredited to Edward Jenner, an English scientist who demonstrated that infecting people with the less threatening cowpox disease would result in immunity to smallpox. Injections were yet to come, so doctors' preferred vaccination method was to gather fluid from an active pustule of an infected cow or person and introduce it into the patient's bloodstream by making a cut in the skin. While prone to certain complications, this method proved effective enough to be exported from Europe to the rest of the world.

During the American Civil War, vaccination was not easily achieved—though it was highly desirable. It was difficult to either find a cow or a suitable person with an active pustule that could be harvested to vaccinate others. Smallpox outbreaks were common on both sides, as were resulting deaths. According to the *The Encyclopedia of Civil War Medicine* by Glenna R Schroeder-Lein, the most accepted method was to look for small children to infect with cowpox. Once infected, doctors would wait seven or eight days for a pustule to fully form, puncture it, and take the lymph (fluid) from it. Alternatively, they would wait for a scab to form and then take it out. Depending on whether it was the lymph or the scab, the virus could stay active from a couple of days to two or three weeks. Doctors would deep cut or scrape off the skin of new patients and introduce the lymph or scab directly into their bloodstream. After the virus took hold, the lesions from the newly vaccinated could be used to infect more children and more soldiers, in a never-ending cycle of purposefully transmitting festering body fluids from one person to the next.

But why would doctors specifically target children to help infect soldiers with cowpox? The simple answer lies in one of humanity's least favorite topics: venereal diseases. Doctors knew that these diseases were common among soldiers, and that there was a risk of transmitting them through this method of vaccination. There was also the fact that smallpox and cowpox lesions look very similar to syphilis lesions, and can be easily confused. Children, then, provided the perfect solution to the risk.

Perhaps in peace time this would have worked, but not in the middle of a war. Joseph Jones, a southern scientist who after the war attempted to recover medical data, calculated that there was one doctor for every 324 soldiers in the south and one for every 133 soldiers in the north. Add to this appalling numerical disparity the shortage of medical supplies, the lack of sanitary conditions, and the high number of wounded soldiers, and you can see how extensive vaccination was almost impossible.

If you were a soldier out on the field, threatened by a smallpox outbreak, practicing arm-to-arm vaccination on yourself often seemed like the best, if not only, solution. After all, this informal method of vaccination seemed like a smaller risk than the ones they faced daily.

How would soldiers with no medical experience achieve this process? As Margaret Humphreys graphically describes in *Marrow of Tragedy: The Health Crisis of the American Civil War*, with the doctor too busy or completely absent, soldiers resorted to performing vaccination with whatever they had at hand. Using pocket knives, clothespins, and even rusty nails (again, most people had no concept of germs yet), they would cut themselves to make a deep



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wound, usually in the arm. They would then puncture their fellow soldier's pustule and coat their wound with the overflowing lymph. Afterwards they could do nothing but hope for the best.

The best, however, was not very common in this scenario, as it too often led to spurious vaccination, or an attempt at vaccination whose result was unsuccessful or harmful. As common sense in the 21st century dictates, self-inflicted wounds made with unsterilized materials led to infections. While in some cases, the pain ended at that, it sometimes led to serious complications that would cause a need for amputation, and in extreme cases, death.

As if that wasn't enough, there was also the problem of the commonality of venereal diseases. In the transmission of lymph into the bloodstream, soldiers would often get infected by their fellow soldier's diseases, particularly syphilis. As you recall, there is an unfortunate similarity between smallpox and syphilis. This meant that some soldiers, untrained in medical matters, could easily confuse a syphilis pustule with a cowpox one. Thinking they could be immune to the terrifying smallpox, many Civil War soldiers accidentally infected themselves with syphilis.

Certainly, most cases of syphilis contracted during the war were, so to say, orthodox. Sex workers were common in stations and occupied cities, and the last worry on a soldier's mind in that moment were venereal diseases. There were those unlucky enough, however, to contract the horribly painful disease through a self-inflicted wound rather than carnal pleasure.

### Franklin Civil War site plan unveiled

Jill Cowan, The Tennessean, November 2, 2015

Franklin preservationists and state officials on Thursday night unveiled more than a year's worth of work on a master plan to revamp a key site in the bloody Battle of Franklin.

the home of the Carter family as closely as possible to its condition in the days just before the Nov. 30, 1864, Civil War battle.

That will involve, among other projects, the demolition of an old gym at the site. The state recently approved spending \$500,000 to tear the building down — though at one point, it had been slated to be



"We've gotten to where many of us thought we were going to be by this point — past it, actually," said Eric Jacobson, CEO of the nonprofit Battle of Franklin Trust, which operates the Carter House State Historic Site. "This plan, I believe, takes us to that next place."

The long-range plan calls for the construction of a 4,000-square foot visitors center and the restoration of

refurbished to house a museum. E. Patrick McIntyre Jr., executive director of the Tennessee Historical Commission, said on Thursday that implementing the plan will cost about \$7 million, subject to funding availability. About \$3.2 million will go toward building the slick, "agrarian"-style visitors center.





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Preservationists say that efforts to attract visitors are already bearing fruit.

Jacobson said that in the roughly six years since the Trust took over management of the Carter House site, as well as Carnton Plantation — also a key Battle of Franklin site — yearly visitor numbers to the house and its existing small visitors center have increased by more than 40 percent to about 32,000 per year.

The state-owned Carter House is slated to anchor a planned roughly 20-acre Civil War battlefield park — part of a years-long push to “reclaim” Franklin’s battlefield from development.

Officials and members of the preservation community have said that the park, which will eventually be deeded to the city, will make Franklin a nationally known Civil War heritage tourism destination.

To that end, local nonprofits have, over the course of years, raised millions of dollars to buy land surrounding the state-owned Carter House site in recent years.

In April, community members applauded as a Domino’s Pizza was demolished. A local developer and philanthropist has pledged to fund the construction of a replica of a cotton gin that stood nearby.

Ultimately, preservationists and city officials hope the Carter House site, as well as Carnton Plantation — which the Trust also operates — will tell a coherent, balanced story of a stunning defeat for the Confederacy in a battle that raged for five hours.

The plans are big, Jacobson said, but the organization aims to marshal its fundraising power in the community to help move the projects forward.

At the event, he said, the Trust was launching a campaign to raise \$250,000 to preserve the bullet-

riddled outbuildings on the Carter House site.