

THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Battle Won, but Chancellorsville War Far From Over

Mar. 28, 2003--As Civil War enthusiasts celebrate the unexpectedly overwhelming victory in the latest Battle of Chancellorsville which saw a proposed large development on the first-day field voted down by a zoning board, a few curmudgeons are starting to point out that the land in question is just as far from permanent preservation as it was before.

Members of the Save the Chancellorsville Battlefield Coalition can be excused for taking some time off for celebration after a well-attended Tuesday night meeting was followed by a post-midnight vote by the Spotsylvania County Board to deny a rezoning request the Dogwood Development Company needed to execute their plan. Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, called the board's vote on Dogwood the most significant battlefield-preservation victory since the Walt Disney Co. dropped plans to build a theme park near the Manassas battlefield in 1994. But, he told the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, the vote "is not a total victory" for the National Trust and others in the Coalition to Save Chancellorsville Battlefield.

The property owner, John Mullins, has no zoning impediments in his way if he carries through on his statement that he will develop his nearly 800 acres of land himself to the extent permitted by current regulations. These would allow him to build 225 houses and as much as 55 acres of commercial or business

property. Supervisor Hap Connors, who is a coalition member as well as serving on the county board, said he has faith Mullins will "do the right thing. What he leaves behind for the county and future generations will be important to him."

Connors said the county should consider ways to help preserve the property, including buying the development rights from Mullins, essentially compensating him to leave the property as is. Mullins, however, continues to maintain both that he has never had an offer for the property from preservationists, and that any purchase of the farm must be "all or nothing," that he will not sell the battlefield land to preservationists and the remainder to someone else. Jim Campi of the Civil War Preservation Trust said coalition members plan to contact Mullins, possibly this week, about buying at least 300 acres. The federal government may match any private donations, he said, noting that more than 30,000 people across the country signed petitions against the proposed town.

"Chancellorsville is a magical name, especially given all the national attention this has gotten," Campi said.

One option that would seem to resolve the matter to everyone's satisfaction would be for the Trust, the Coalition or some other organization to buy the entire farm, as Mullins demands, then divide it themselves, keeping the significant battlefield land intact and reselling the rest under a preservation easement as Connors suggested.

Preservation easements are considered preferable to rezoning for long-term protection of historic sites

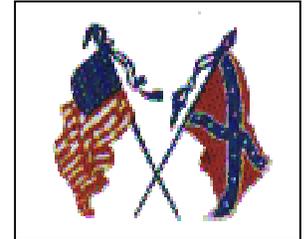
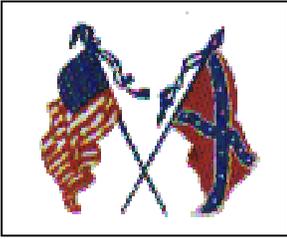
since an easement "runs with the land" and is enforceable on any future owners, while zoning matters are subject to the whims and pressures of the current political situation.

Campi hinted that such a solution might be under consideration, provided as always that funding can be secured. Noting that the coalition had been criticized for its part in the Mullins Farm site development fight, he told the Fredericksburg media that "we're business people. We buy land, too, and that's what we want to do." Nor is Dogwood Development completely out of the picture. Company president Ray Smith could not be reached for comment either on whether he plans to challenge the board's decision in court, but it was noted that the developer had a court reporter at Tuesday's meeting compiling a transcript of the eight hours of public comment and board discussion on the project.

Winchester Museum Moving to New, Expanded Home

Mar. 17, 2003-CWI Premium-While some people celebrate the anniversaries of Civil War battles by going to reenactments, visiting the battlefield or otherwise having a good time, people in Winchester are going to observe the anniversary of the Battle of Front Royal by engaging in a lot of hot, sweaty, painstaking, and entirely unpaid work. With any luck it will be completed by the anniversary of the action itself.

That day, May 23, will see the opening of The Old Court House Civil War Museum in the 1840 building itself, which has just undergone almost two years of renovation costing nearly \$600,000. The exhibit



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is composed in part of the building itself, and most of the rest being a collection of relics and artifacts put together by Winchester resident Harry Ridgeway.

As happened to many public buildings in northern Virginia, the courthouse changed hands a number of times over the course of the war. For the majority of the war, the Winchester Star reported, the courthouse on the Loudoun Street Mall housed U.S. troops captured by the Confederates. Later, the tide turned and Confederates became the prisoners.

As the courthouse went through a lengthy restoration process, workers discovered graffiti left by the soldiers. Some of that graffiti has been restored and is now a permanent part of the courthouse's second floor. Along with Ridgeway's Civil War pieces, the results of research on some of the names left behind on the walls will part of the exhibit, he said. The lives of 25 soldiers have been investigated and the photos of some have been found.

Ridgeway announced the opening day of the museum at Thursday's meeting of the Winchester-Frederick County Tourism Board, and he did so while modeling a museum T-shirt, the back of which features a curse on Confederate President Jefferson Davis written by a Federal prisoner. That same curse is featured among the graffiti on the courthouse walls. The collection, or portions of it, have been on display in one venue or other in Winchester since 1998, first at the Kurtz Building and since then at The Door Mouse on Loudon Street. The hot, sweaty, unpaid work mentioned above is the chore of transporting the items currently at the Door Mouse to the new facility.

The Door Mouse exhibit will close on April 1 so the moving process can begin, Ridgeway told the board. In addition to those materials, he said, the new, permanent exhibit will let visitors "see a lot of fresh stuff in this one."

Ridgeway said the museum will have public hours, and museum officials have partnered with The Door Mouse to provide staffing for the museum and its gift shop. Some work still needs to be done in the exhibit space, he said, mainly the creation of museum-quality display cabinets and lighting.

A re-enactment, tentatively scheduled for May 24 in downtown Winchester, will bring a famous part of First Winchester back to life, as CSA Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's forces chase the troops of U.S. Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks down Loudoun Street for capture, Ridgeway said.

Ridgeway also posted a call for volunteers to assist with moving, construction, fund raising, and "everything else." Anyone interested in helping can contact Ridgeway at (540) 662-6786.

Details Described as 140th Anniversary Gettysburg Reenactment Draws Closer

Mar. 27, 2003--The first rule of attendance at the 140th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg is simple. They want you, very much, to come TO Gettysburg for this event. But they don' t want you to come INTO Gettysburg if there' s

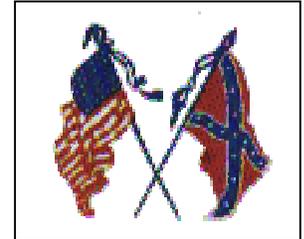
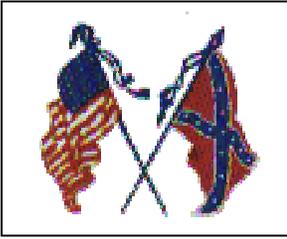
any way you can possibly avoid it. They' re not being inhospitable, they just don' t want you to break their town.

Anyone who has been to Gettysburg in recent years even on an "average" weekend, much less an anniversary weekend and for that matter most of the week before and after the official event, will entirely understand this request. And organizers are doing their best to keep visitors, or at least their cars, up in the reenactment area and out of the town.

"This is a mega-event," said Randy Phiel of the 140th Anniversary Committee at a meeting of a group of invited guests Tuesday morning at the Dobbin House. The meeting was called to offer an overview of this year's event and answer questions people, particularly local people, may have, the Gettysburg Times reported. For those accustomed to the old event site used in recent years on Pumping Station Road southwest of the city, the new site will be something completely different. To be held on July 4, 5 and 6, the action will take place on the Redding Farm on Table Rock Road, north-northeast of Gettysburg.

The entire re-enactment site will cover the Redding Farm and several neighboring properties for a total of 1,000 acres, which straddles Cumberland and Straban townships. "The neighbors and township officials have offered extreme cooperation," Phiel told the Times.

The preparations, especially traffic control, are not coming any too soon. Phiel said that the committee is expecting 15,000 re-enactors from all over the world, including an English group that will portray the 1st Louisiana, as well as others from Australia, Germany and France. Besides the reenactors, there are the



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spectators. Phiel said that they are planning for some 75,000 visitors over the three days of the event. That number would represent a near doubling of the entire resident population of Adams County, which is around 80,000.

To help restrain the mob, organizers have even recruited the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to help. Guided by an extensive sign plan, including 4 text-signs from PennDOT, the routes into and out of the re-enactment site have been designed to keep added traffic out of Gettysburg, which will already be busy with visitors.

In addition, a shuttle will run from 4 p.m. until midnight for re-enactors with strategic stops throughout the area. Within the 1,000 acres of the reenactment site itself there will be parking, Federal and Confederate camps, a sutler's village, living history tents and much more, Phiel said. Fireworks displays are planned as well as the usual infantry, cavalry and artillery demonstrations in addition to the battle recreations.

Phiel said that although ticket sales are running strongly enough to justify the estimate of 75,000 visitors, the actual turnout will depend, as usual, on the weather. Organizers are anticipating having to park at least 10,000 vehicles per day. Further information about the 140th Gettysburg Reenactment can be found on organizer's official web site at GettysburgReenactment.com

"Gettysburg Campaign" Driving Tour Set for June Start

Mar. 14, 2003--It's a 90-mile tour covering the route that Gen. Robert

E. Lee's forces, and pursuing Union troops, took in order to spend a three-day visit in Gettysburg, but tourism officials of three states hope visitors will take a good deal more than an hour and a half to cover the round trip.

"Gettysburg: Invasion and Retreat" is the name of the newly organized route connecting some 80 sites of historical interest as well as geographical importance. Set to officially open on June 26, the trail is intended to give a sense of place to visitors as well as possibly provide sites of interest for family members who are not necessarily Civil War nuts.

"We want as broad an audience as possible," said John Fieseler, executive director of the Tourism Council of Frederick County. "We want more than just dad and the dog to get out of the car."

"The magic of this program is that it's based in the landscape," Fieseler, who wrote some of the plaques, adds more tactfully. "People automatically look up and place themselves there."

The tours aim to make historical sightseeing less grueling, more fun and, officials hope, more profitable for both states, the Washington Post reports. The Gettysburg trail continues through a sliver of West Virginia into Gettysburg and its opening is timed to coincide with the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, to be reenacted July 4-6.

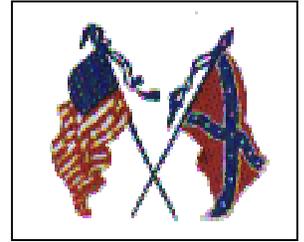
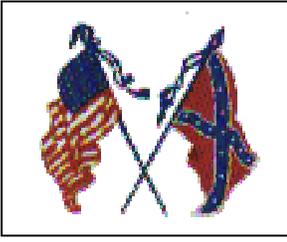
"The interstate cooperation and the quality of the product is exceptional," said Marci Ross, resources development manager for the Maryland Office of Tourism Development, the agency that produced the tour. "We go right to the people and communities that have kept the history . . . the stories that

have been hidden in the landscape for 140 years."

Maryland officials have experience with such trails, having opened the Antietam Campaign driving tour last fall. That one follows the route of Lee's incursion into Maryland and the Sept. 17, 1862, clash with Gen. George McClellan's Union forces along Antietam Creek.

Although some of the sites, particularly the geographical ones, are interpreted with roadside plaques, the designers tried hard to get away from the old-fashioned cast-iron "historical markers" in favor of something more lively. One site on the Potomac explains what it was like for a Marylander to gaze across at Virginia, a neighboring state turned foreign country. Others highlight little-known aspects of the war. Gathland State Park, near Burkittsville, is a mountain pass dominated today by the Civil War Correspondents Arch, where visitors learn the story of famed Civil War correspondent George Alfred Townsend, whose pen name was Gath, and who developed the park and monument. Markers and maps interpret the fighting there and in other passes during the 1862 Antietam Campaign.

The Maryland portions of the tour tie into Virginia's Civil War Trails system which has been in development for several years. Between the two states the system now includes some 350 Civil War related sites. One of the Maryland additions in Emmitsburg combines a Civil War story with a miracle of nearly Biblical proportions. According to an account left by a nun, Mary Jane Stokes, her co-religionists were moved by the plight of the Union troops marching northward to their destiny at Gettysburg, many too tired from long



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marches to cook for themselves. "The poor fellows," Sister Mary Jane wrote, "looked half-starved, lank as herrings, and barefoot. The Sisters were . . . giving them bread to eat as fast as they came for it. I was afraid there would be no bread left for the Sisters' supper. . . . Then I went to see . . . The baking of the day was there. I did not see it multiplied, but I saw it there!"

Although the tour is primarily designed for drivers of automobiles, some segments offer additional explorations on foot, bicycle or by canoe, such as the Potomac River crossings in Montgomery County at White's Ferry, Edward's Ferry and Rowser's Ford, which were all major Maryland crossings in the Gettysburg campaign.

Internal Conflict Persists in Sons of Confederate Veterans Leadership

Mar. 26, 2003-CWI Premium-A battle for the future of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, which many thought was over after the group's national meeting last year in Memphis, has broken out again as leaders and entire chapters are being threatened with expulsion from the heritage group. The heart of the dispute is whether the 32,000 member organization is in danger of being taken over by the same radical, white-supremacist forces the SCV has struggled in the past to distance themselves from.

Last week's meeting of the SCV executive council at the group's national headquarters in Columbia, Tennessee, saw resignations,

expulsions, and reinstatements. The latest action saw Charles Hawks, head of one of the three main divisions of the group, reinstated to his office on a narrow 9-8 vote. He had been suspended as Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia on charges of violating a gag rule known as the Memphis Resolution that forbids talking publicly about "confidential" group business or criticizing other members. Hawks ran into trouble after joining critics within the group who say national commander Ron Wilson is letting white supremacists gain too much power within the organization, the Associated Press reported earlier this week. Wilson, who won a four-way runoff for national commander at the Memphis meeting, disputes Hawks' claims.

'That's a bunch of baloney,' Wilson said concisely from South Carolina. Wilson did, however, vote against Hawks' reinstatement, sources say. A coalition of SCV members from North Carolina has formed an organization called Save the SCV to combat what they view as extremist and white supremacist political agendas among the SCV's new national leaders.

Save the SCV leaders grew concerned last year with Kirk Lyons run for the top office in the group's Northern Virginia division. Lyons is a Black Mountain, N.C., attorney who has spoken at white supremacist events, including the Aryan Nations World Congress, has walked at the head of a Ku Klux Klan parade, and was married at an Aryan Nations compound by the leader of the group, according to Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center, an organization that monitors hate groups.

Lyons lost by 17 votes after mounting

criticism of his ties to white supremacist groups. However, Wilson is viewed among SCV critics as a close ally of Lyons.

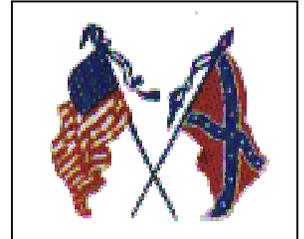
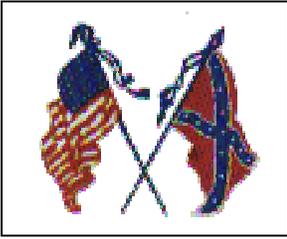
'These are people with ties to groups that support Southern secession and racial segregation,' Potok said. 'They are trying to rewrite Southern history as a fantasy portrait of mint juleps and happy white people.'

Wilson said members of this dissident group are simply upset at results of last year's national elections and are trying to create their own power base by forming a separate group. Lyons and leaders of groups labeled hate groups by the law center say they are being unfairly categorized and that the law center is exploiting racial tensions to raise money.

"The fringe is taking over the group, trying to build their membership on ours," said Walt Hilderman, a retired Charlotte police officer and Save the SCV organizer. Hilderman formed a new Sons of Confederate Veterans camp after the one to which he belonged refused to display the U.S. flag at meetings or to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Since Save the SCV was created last fall, support for the effort has spread to more than 100 members in all 36 states with Sons of Confederate Veterans chapters, its leaders say. Since the end of January, the SCV leadership has suspended the charters of eight camps in North Carolina and discharged four brigade commanders for supporting the Save the SCV faction.

Save the SCV supporters call the actions a "purge" of those who believe the national organization has become too involved -- and too radicalized -- in current politics. They say the group has drifted from its original charge of preserving Confederate history.



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Lincoln Stepmother Picture Turns Out to Be a Treasure

April 1, 2003-CWI Premium-A picture that's been on display at an obscure Illinois county historical society museum for decades has recently been identified as a priceless relic. It's the only known, original, photograph of Sarah Bush Lincoln, the stepmother of Abraham Lincoln. The other photos of the second Mrs. Thomas Lincoln are copies of an original that has gone missing. The key to the discovery that the photo was an original was an inscription on the back of the 2 by 3 inch ambrotype which reads "Sally Bush - Abraham Lincoln's Stepmother - Thomas Lincoln's second wife." Only a family member or close family friend would have not only used a nickname but mentioned a married woman's first name at all. Suzy Beggin, director of the Stephenson County Historical Society in Freeport, Illinois, said that an amateur historian who asked to examine the relic made the discovery. The researcher, who was visiting the museum to research some unrelated Civil War artifacts, recognized the resemblance to the other photo of Lincoln's stepmother, which is a slightly different pose. After getting permission to take it out of its case, the historian found an inscription on the back. Beggin said she was originally skeptical about the discovery, but the use of "Sally," a common 19th century nickname for Sarah, convinced her. "That 'Sally' really struck me," she said. "I know quite a bit about

Victorian women, and I know that your own husband didn't call you by your first name in public. ... She would have been addressed (in public) as 'Mrs. Lincoln.' " Lincoln scholar Wayne Temple, who was asked to authenticate the photo, agreed that the use of the nickname helps indicate the photo is genuine, the Springfield (IL) State Journal Register reported. "Since only close family members would have called the subject 'Sally,' there can be but little doubt that it is a genuine picture of Lincoln's beloved stepmother," he said. While nowadays anything remotely connected to Lincoln is considered highly collectable, in 1968 a picture of his stepmother would have been of little value to most collectors, and therefore not worth faking. And if someone had wanted to falsify a picture of Sarah Lincoln back then, they would not have called her "Sally." The ambrotype, an early sort of photograph where the image was projected onto a glass sheet, was donated to the museum by a Lincoln collector from Freeport, who apparently purchased it specifically to donate to the museum. Records identify it as coming from the "Frank E. Winston Collection, Chicago," but Beggin said she has not been able to identify Winston or trace the photo's history before 1968. Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln was born Dec. 13, 1788. Her first husband died, and on Dec. 2 1819, she married Thomas Lincoln, whose own first wife had died more than a year earlier. Young Abe would have been 10 years old at the time of the marriage. She outlived her famous stepson by two days short of four years, dying April 12, 1869. The photo was

probably taken just a few years before her death. The picture still is displayed in the museum as it was before its importance was discovered, Beggin said. "We have not changed the display," she said. "'It' s in a good area, under glass, locked and well protected from light, heat and humidity. We knew it was her. We just didn't know it was such a big deal." **Bill Proposed to Ban Sale of Grave Markers** Mar. 11, 2003--If a proposed bill becomes law, at least in Oklahoma it will be a crime to steal, keep or resell grave markers of Civil War veterans originally installed by postwar veterans groups like the Grand Army of the Republic or the Southern Cross of Honor. The proposed legislation, currently designated House Bill 1368, passed the Oklahoma state house by a vote of 96-0 last week under sponsorship of State Rep. Tad Jones, R-Claremore. A companion piece of legislation from Sen. Scott Pruitt, R-Broken Arrow, will now be taken up for consideration by the state senate. Jones told Oklahoma City media outlets that it is difficult for him to believe that people are stealing Grand Army of the Republic and Southern Cross of Honor veteran markers from Civil War graves. "Some markers are bartered on the Internet, while other people are keeping the stolen markers for mementos," Jones said. The bill would make such thefts a misdemeanor punishable by a county jail sentence of up to six months and a fine ranging from \$50 to \$5,000, or both.