

THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

President St. stop urged for Baltimore rail expansion

By Stephen Kiehl

Reprinted from The Baltimore Sun
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A group of amateur historians hopes the historic President Street Station, where Union troops clashed with an angry mob of Baltimoreans in one of the first skirmishes of the Civil War, will once again welcome trains if the state expands downtown rail service.

At President and Fleet streets, the head house of the 152-year-old station stands today in the shadow of the glimmering new Marriott hotel. From 1850 to 1922, trains carried passengers to the station from points north and east.

A group of history buffs, the Friends of the President Street Station, hopes that will happen once more. They recently wrote letters to Gov.-elect Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. and Transportation Secretary John D. Porcari, urging them to make the station a stop in the new Baltimore regional rail plan.

"We want it to be the way it was," said Robert E. Reyes, vice president of the preservation group. "Historically, it's the right thing to do."

The state announced last month that its priority in building the rail system - which would add 66 new miles of rail to the existing 55 miles in the region - is an east-west line from Woodlawn to Fells Point and an extension of the Metro subway in Northeast Baltimore. The state hopes to win federal approval to build those lines next year and to get trains running by 2012. Plans call for the east-west line to include stops to serve the National Aquarium and the burgeoning Inner Harbor East area. The

preservationists have suggested the President Street Station be used to serve Inner Harbor East.

The two-story brick building with white colonnades houses the Baltimore Civil War Museum, which opened in 1997 after the Friends of the President Street Station saved the building from destruction and won it a place on the National Register of Historic Places.

"All your soldiers, all your ordnance, all your railroad traffic came through the President Street Station," said Ralph B. Vincent, president of the preservation group. "It was the main railroad station until Penn Station opened."

On April 19, 1861, a week after the Civil War began with the Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter, S.C., Union troops from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania arrived at the President Street Station. Their rail cars were uncoupled from the locomotive so horses could pull them down Pratt Street to Camden Station, where another train would be attached so the troops could go on to Washington.

Southern sympathizers pelted the rail cars with stones, bricks and debris, and blocked the tracks. Forced into the street, the Union soldiers, who were fired upon and hit with bricks, returned fire. In all, eight rioters, one bystander and three soldiers were killed, becoming the first fatalities of the war.

On April 20, 1861, The Sun reported on the riots: "As one of the soldiers fired, he was struck with a stone and knocked down, and as he attempted to arise another stone struck him in the face, when he crawled into a store, and prostrating himself on the floor, clasped his hands and begged piteously for his life."

The same day of the Pratt Street riots, there was another battle at the President Street Station between largely unarmed volunteer soldiers from Philadelphia and a Baltimore mob. While the bulk of the soldiers were making their way to Camden Station, ultimately under police guard, several train cars remained at President Street Station.

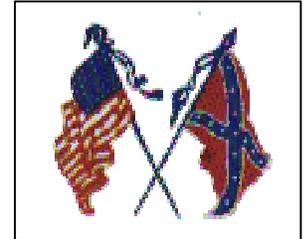
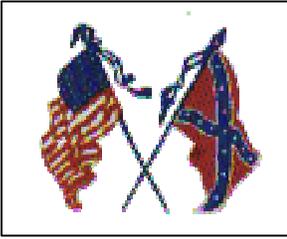
According to newspaper reports at the time, the cars were attacked with stones and iron bars. Several hundred volunteers fled the cars and were set upon by the mob. Five of them were killed and 13 wounded before they reboarded the train and retreated to Philadelphia.

The museum would not have to move to make way for a modern passenger rail stop because the new line would be either light rail, which would run at street level, or heavy rail, which would run underground or above street level. There is room for the state to build a new station adjacent to the old station, Vincent said.

Officials with the Maryland Transit Administration said it's too early to determine where the stations will be, though they do expect the downtown portions of the rail lines to be underground to avoid street traffic. The officials said they will consider Vincent's request, along with the wishes of people who live near the planned lines.

Baltimore's rail plan is generating intense interest from more than historians. Last week, about 130 business leaders and environmentalists gathered for a breakfast at a downtown hotel to hear details of the plan and to learn how they could support it.

Editor's note: As many of you know, Robert Reyes and Ralph Vincent are long-time members of the BCWRT



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Despite Assurances To The Contrary, Gettysburg VC to Get \$10 Million from Taxpayers

Dec. 16, 2002-CWI-The proposed new visitor's center at the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park, which has been under fire for severe cost overruns and a slow pace of fundraising, will receive \$10 million from a state grant program. This comes despite ongoing assurances from the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation that no taxpayer funding would be needed for the project.

Adams County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) received the money from a State of Pennsylvania community capital development bill passed in the legislative session just concluded, local media sources report. They will direct the funds to the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation for construction of the new visitor's center and museum complex on Hunt Avenue.

The request was introduced more than a year ago in Senate Bill 1213, or the capital budget bill. During each legislative session, lawmakers in the state House and Senate make a list of building projects they would like in their districts. Once the bill passes both houses it goes to the governor, who chooses which projects he will approve for funding.

An aide to State Sen. Terry Punt, R-Waynesboro, who represents Gettysburg said in October that representatives from the foundation approached Punt and former state

Sen. Richard A. Tilghman, then chairman of the Appropriations Committee, last year. Tilghman put the Gettysburg project on the capital budget bill in response to their request.

Although Foundation officials have made no comment on the matter, the grant money is expected to aggravate controversy over the new facility.

Gettysburg park officials have long noted that the existing visitor center, once a private home of the Rosensteel family which has been added on to a number of times, was both outmoded and outgrown, unable to either protect the delicate and deteriorating artifacts of the battle or to accommodate the increasing number of tourists and scholars visiting the park.

After a years-long series of public hearings, they proposed a public/private partnership be founded to build a new facility. The only taxpayer contribution was \$5 million from the federal government for conservation of the Gettysburg Cyclorama painting. York developer Robert Kinsley won the right to build it. Project organizers said they would fund it with donations, and projected an overall cost of \$39 million for the complex.

In January, officials with the Gettysburg National Battlefield Foundation announced a new project cost estimate of \$95 million.

Daniel Goldstein, communications manager for the foundation, said in October that he was unable to comment on whether the foundation pushed for state funding. He said the foundation had at that time raised about \$8 million for the project, and plans to borrow another \$12 million.

Those article annotated "CWI" are reprinted courtesy Civil War Interactive- The Daily Newspaper of the Civil War www.civilwarinteractive.com

Lincoln and Son Returning to Richmond

Jan. 3, 2003-CWI-At the very end of the Civil War, almost as the last Confederate troops were completing the evacuation of Richmond, Abraham Lincoln came to town to visit the long-fought-over city. He brought his little son Tad along.

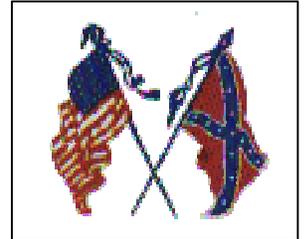
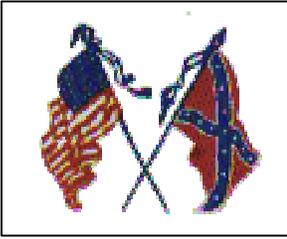
Now this trip is being brought back to life in the form of a statue of the two. Unveiling of the bronze monument is set for April 5 according to news reports.

The life-size sculpture will show Lincoln sitting on a park bench in a contemplative mood, with Tad at his side. Sculptor David Frech said he imagines a private moment between father and son during their historic visit of reconciliation at the beginning of April 1865.

The statue will be located at the Richmond National Battlefield Park Civil War Visitor Center of the National Park Service. The center is on the site of the Tredegar Iron Works, an important supplier of munitions to the Confederate army. It will stand outdoors on a hillside in sight of the James River and the Richmond skyline.

Edward C. Smith, director of the American Studies program at American University in Washington and a noted Civil War scholar, first publicly suggested such a memorial on April 28, 2001, in a Confederate Heritage Day speech at Pamplin Historical Park in Dinwiddie County, Va.

Smith wrote in a later essay that Lincoln had reminded Confederate officials who had not fled Richmond that he meant what he said in his Second Inaugural Address, and his



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assassination effectively destroyed a reconstruction policy based on reconciliation.

The United States Historical Society, which commissioned the statue, announced that dedication ceremonies would take place on April 5. Chairman Robert H. Kline said that Smith's words "have encouraged all of us to move ahead and see that the statue is created and located in Richmond."

Henry Kidd, a former commander of the Virginia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, thinks a Lincoln statue in Richmond "is not a good idea." He said it would be one thing "if everyone were on the same playing field," where reconciliation held sway and "people would stop attacking" the Confederate heritage.

Kidd expressed "the utmost respect for Professor Smith" who, he said, tries to tell truth regardless of whether it is politically correct. "He is in my opinion a great man. But I don't think this is a good idea right now." Too many Virginians would not understand where Smith is coming from, Kidd said.

Professor Smith, who is himself black and an honorary member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, has supported Confederate heritage causes in the past. He opposed a drive to remove banners depicting Gen. Robert E. Lee and other wartime figures from displays along the Richmond Riverwalk.

"The only image of Lincoln that is seen in the 11 states that left the Union is on the \$5 bill and the penny," Smith said. "As long as Lincoln is viewed in the South as the invader and conqueror and not the restorer, then I don't think the war will ever be truly over."

(Editor's note: BCWRT members will probably remember Professor Ed

Smith for his excellent talk and slide show on the Civil War monuments in Washington DC and for his fascinating discussion of the role of blacks in the Confederate Army)

Silverware Found in Monitor Turret Muck

Dec. 11, 2002-CWI-Scientists excavating the turret of the revolutionary Civil War ironclad USS *Monitor* have announced the discovery of several pieces of silverware, all of it personalized with the engraved initials of men who are known to have died when the ship sank in a storm on New Year's Eve, 1862.

Some two dozen utensils, all forks or spoons, were found in the turret, all with initials on the handles. The initials and the men whose names they match are:

"JN" on one of the spoons matches the name of Seaman Jacob Nicklis.

"SAL/USN" on a fork and spoon corresponds with Third Assistant Engineer Samuel Augee Lewis.

"G. Frederickson" on a fork matches the name of Masters Mate George Frederickson

"NKA" on a spoon matches the name of Ensign Norman Knox Attwater.

"It wouldn't be unreasonable to think that the men who were leaving the ship realized they had a little time. The lifeboats were going off and returning and they thought, 'Gee, I can get some of my valuables off,'" John Broadwater, manager of the Monitor project for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, told the Virginian-Pilot newspaper.

Museum officials noted that it was common for sailors to take along personal items like that in the Civil

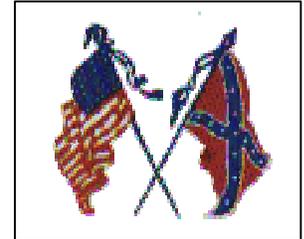
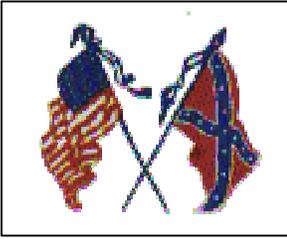
War Navy, What seems like more than an eerie coincidence is that all the initials belong to crew members who died in the sinking.

The skeletal remains of two crewmen were found when the turret was raised from the Atlantic Ocean off Cape Hatteras last summer. It is not yet known if it will be possible to identify the remains to specific crewmen. Four officers and 12 crew members died in the Monitor sinking, either swept into the sea during the rescue attempt or lost when the ship sank before a boat could return for a third evacuation trip.

An account of the events of the night of the sinking by Monitor sailor Francis Butts, reprinted in "Battles & Leaders of the Civil War," details the actions of some of the owners of the tableware.

While not all the details coincide with accounts from other sources, Butts mentions that "...I saw our ensign, Mr. Frederickson, hand a watch to Master's Mate Williams, saying, 'Here, this is yours, I may be lost'--which, in fact was his fate. The watch and chain were both of unusual value. Williams received them into his hand, then with a hesitating glance at the time-piece said, 'This thing may be the means of sinking me,' and threw it upon the deck."

Later, Butts recounts that he was taken off the *Monitor* on a lifeboat sent by the USS *Rhode Island*, which was towing the Monitor that night. Attempting to get from the small boat into the larger ship, at night, with the sea pitching both vessels up and down at different rates, was a struggle. Butts managed to grab one of *Rhode Island's* ropes, and "...I hung dangling in the air over the bow of the Rhode Island, with Ensign Normal Atwater hanging to the cat-head, three or four feet from me, like



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myself, with both hands clinching a rope and shouting for some one to save him. Our hands grew painful and all the time weaker, until I saw his strength give way. He slipped a foot, caught again, and with his last prayer, "O God!" I saw him fall and sink, to rise no more."

If Butts' account is correct, allowing for possible lapses of memory after passage of time after a horrible event, Atwater must not have succeeded in retrieving all his dinnerware from the doomed Monitor. Or perhaps, like Frederickson, he decided at the last minute to drop the heavy objects to better his chance of survival. The pieces have been put on display at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News, VA., where the Monitor excavation and preservation process is underway.

Historic Commission Rules Against Huge Lee Statue on Antietam Lot

Dec. 6, 2002-CWI-A proposed 24 foot tall bronze equestrian statue of Robert E. Lee near the battlefield of Antietam has been rejected by the Washington County Historic District Commission as "historically inappropriate" for the site where a local landowner wanted to build it.

The board voted 3-2 against the request for approval by William Chaney, of Lothian, MD, who owns the Newcomer House Civil War Museum on Shepherdstown Pike. The property was either a farmstead or a mill at the time of the battle, but in either case the only time the Confederate general was ever on the

land in question was during the retreat.

The statue is one of three originally proposed by Chaney to be situated on his property. He had announced plans to erect monuments, on an even larger scale, to Lee and two other Confederate generals. After objections were raised locally to that plan, he scaled the Lee statue back to 24 feet, moved it to a slightly different location on his property, and eliminated the other two.

Dennis Frye, a historian and co-founder of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, urged the commission to vote against the statue, saying it would be an embarrassment to Lee because the general stopped at that location only while retreating from South Mountain. He said the site would be the only one in the country to have a monument denoting a retreat, the Hagerstown Herald-Mail reported.

"Lee never defended this position," Frye said. "The Yankees held this position the entire battle. General Lee is certainly on the battlefield, but he was here for a fleeting moment and he was retreating. Historically, it's quite inappropriate to place this monument at this location ... and frankly, it's an embarrassment to the general."

Chaney said the site is an appropriate place for the statue, which would depict Lee looking towards the battlefield through a pair of binoculars, because it depicts Lee stopping at Antietam and that the battle was the turning point in the Civil War.

He added that, besides honoring Lee, part of his purpose was to increase the number of monuments dedicated to Confederate soldiers at Antietam. He said Antietam has 105 monuments dedicated to Union

troops but just five for the Confederates.

This explanation did not sit well with at least one commission member. Jane Hershey said she feared others who owned property at the battlefield would turn it into a "monument park." Frye agreed that approving the statue would set a precedent for others who own property at the battlefield to erect monuments. He added that the statue would confuse visitors into thinking the location was held by the Confederates.

"This is the wrong place, the wrong picture, the wrong person and the wrong precedent," Frye said.

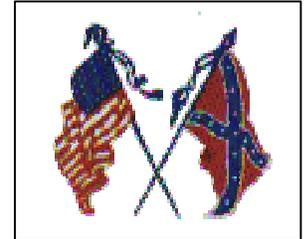
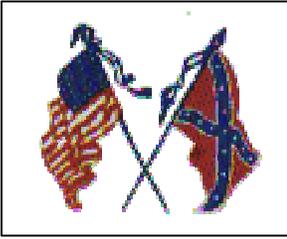
Chaney said after the meeting he plans to appeal the decision to the Board of Zoning Appeals. He has 30 days to appeal. The Herald-Mail reported that the statue, which is to be painted silver, is due to be completed in January.

"I've done everything I could do," Chaney said. "I've tried to be a good neighbor to the Park Service. I truthfully have tried to work with everybody. I don't know what more I can do."

Historic House for "Fallen Women" To Be Preserved in Springfield, IL

Dec. 20, 2002-CWI-The old house at the corner of 12th and Cass Streets in Springfield, Illinois was so big it took two years to build, from 1855 to 1857. It started out as the home of a judge, and over the years has served a number of useful functions, including a decade as it spent as a "home for fallen women."

And it was just a few days from being "fallen" itself, condemned by the city and due for one last date with a



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wrecking ball, when preservationists managed to put together a package to save the structure from that fate worse than death. The next challenge is to arrange some badly needed plastic surgery. A makeover is a little further down the road.

Save Old Springfield, an organization set up to preserve precisely this sort of old structure from being lost to the onslaught of modernity, pulled the salvage project together after city code inspectors flunked the building in nearly every category.

SOS, with financial help from the Historic Preservation Association of Springfield and local preservationist Dick Hart, a former president of the Elijah Iles Foundation, is acquiring title to the house and financing repairs currently under way by local restoration contractor Tom Bundy.

The last owner of the building had died, and the title was held by an estate that included so little cash that it couldn't even pay the cost of the demolition. If the city had gone ahead and torn it down, the expense, \$9,000, would have fallen on the taxpayers.

"We're correcting the violations (of the city code)," SOS head Jerry Jacobsen said. "There's foundation work to do and at least one support beam that needs to be replaced, along with general cleanup."

"It's important for Springfield to save what it can of our dwindling number of Lincoln-era buildings," he said. "The Judge Taylor House is an outstanding representative of the homes of well-to-do citizens of Lincoln's time, of which we have only a handful left. These can be seen as satellites of the Lincoln Presidential Museum."

The house was originally built for John Wickliffe Taylor, a farmer and county judge who arrived in

Springfield in 1833, the Springfield Journal Review reported. The building is in the Federal style and has been added on to at least three times, at least once in the 1850s, Jacobsen said.

As time went on, the house was converted into a home for "fallen women" for about 10 years during the 19th century, Jacobsen said. Details about this are somewhat hard to come by, but in this period the term "fallen woman" did not necessarily refer only to a prostitute. A girl who had a child out of wedlock, was divorced, or a destitute widow might qualify. Those with problems with alcohol or drug addition, which was rampant after the Civil War, might also have resided there.

The two-story, 3,500-square-foot building may be the largest unrestored pre-Civil War residential building in the city, according to Jacobsen.

Gettysburg Guide Association offers rare maps

The Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides (ALBG) of Gettysburg wishes to announce the duplication of two important Gettysburg maps. The S. G. Elliot "Burial Map," which was originally published in 1864, lists locations of mass graves on the battlefield. The Library of Congress holds an original copy of this work. The size of this map is 24" X 36."

The "Cope" Map, circa 1903, illustrates the crops grown on the battlefield during those fateful days in July 1863. The size of this map is 32" X 48." The Association's copy of the Cope Map is unique for it includes hand written additions made by Chief Historian Kathy George Harrison The

ALBG is asking for a donation of \$10.00 per each map or \$15.00 for the set of two to help defray reproduction costs, as well as shipping and handling. These two maps are indispensable primary resources for any student of Gettysburg. Checks made payable to the ALBG should be sent to: ALBG, P. O. Box 4152, Gettysburg, PA 17325, ATTN: Wayne Motts. All maps will be shipped via regular US mail, folded flat. US mailing addresses only please.

Antietam Battle May Have Hit Cutting Room Floor

Dec. 10, 2002-CWI-The people of Sharpsburg and Washington County, Maryland, may have to wait until the "director's cut" DVD of the movie "Gods and Generals" comes out. It looks like the area's claim to historical fame, the Battle of Antietam, may not make it into the "short" version that opens in the nation's movie theaters in February.

"Short version" is, of course, a relative term. As shot by director Ron Maxwell, the movie runs about six hours. That's the version that will be on the DVD, according to movie publicist Vic Heutschy.

In the cruel world of reality as interpreted by movie distributors and theater owners, though, six hour movies are considered impractical. Therefore the theatrical version will have to be cut to a running time closer to 3 and a half hours, the Hagerstown Herald Mail reports. Heutschy said Maxwell is still engaged in editing the movie for release.