



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

In Memoriam

Robert L. Tolson

Bob Tolson was a member of our Round Table for many years and attended most meetings until health reasons kept him away in recent years. He often attended parades and ceremonies in the area including the Confederate Memorial Ceremony at Loudon Park where he was usually the last in line, standing tall and proud in his Union uniform. He was buried in a Civil War era funeral service that he had pre-planned. The Round Table thanks the family and friends for their donations to us. He will be missed.

Jerry L. Russell

Longtime Civil War battlefield preservationist Jerry L. Russell Jr. died Dec. 5 of complications from lung surgery at the age of 70. He was a 1958 graduate of the Univ. of Arkansas and made his living as a political campaign consultant.

Jerry was one of the first and strongest advocates for battlefield preservation. He was the charter president of the CWRT of Arkansas and the founder of the CWRT Associates in 1968 and helped establish over 2 dozen Round Tables. In 1975 he started the National CWRT Congress which meets annually the first weekend in Oct of each year to study battlefields and do tours.

In 1979 Jerry founded the Confederate Historical Institute which meets on the first weekend of April every year. He founded other groups but maybe his most influential was the HERITAGEPAC, the only political action committee whose focus is Civil War battlefield preservation.

Jerry received many awards for his efforts and successes for Battlefield preservation given by groups. He received one of the first "Take Pride In America" awards from the National Park Service, with whom he disagreed often. The CWRT of Chicago, of which he was an Honorary Life Member, gave him its Distinguished Service Award for his work in battlefield preservation. They also gave him his last award, the Nevins-Freeman Award in October

The Civil War Preservation Trust, which recently awarded Jerry its Lifetime Achievement Award, said "Our achievements of today would not have been possible without the yeoman's work done by Jerry Russell during the past four decades". This is certainly true. Jerry Russell will not be replaced. He will be GREATLY missed by All in the Civil War community and battlefield preservation. Our thoughts and prayers go to Alice Anne and the Russell Family.

Mission to Restore Gettysburg Fields Gears Up for New Year's Work

Jan. 5, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- The campaign to restore the look of the Gettysburg battlefield to its 1864 appearance will concentrate largely on the south end of the field this year, with plans to remove some 30 acres of overgrown trees in the Devil's Den and South Confederate Avenue areas. But the year will see trees being added as well as taken away as orchard restoration jobs will commence. The change already brought about on the field is described by visitors, who were familiar with the area's previous appearance, in terms like "awesome" and "incredible." The overgrowth has

frozen and hard, and also in hopes the work will not disturb nesting birds, the Chambersburg (PA) Public Opinion reported.

Contractors will be cutting down non-historic trees in the wood lots on Culp's Hill, which marked the northern end of the Union position. The National Park Service will also be planting trees in other places near Culp's Hill. Culp's Hill is a two-phase project, with the contractors doing the north side this year the south side next year.

"They are taking out the old and diseased trees, and re-establishing an even mix between younger trees, middle age trees and older trees," Lawhon said. "The effect will be a more managed look and it will be easier to walk through and see through when they are finished."

extensive tending, including spraying for diseases and pests, which the Park Service has neither the funds nor the manpower to conduct. The only bearing orchard at Gettysburg park for many years was the famous Peach Orchard where some important battle action took place. Those trees were maintained largely by the efforts of the Friends group, which also picked and sold the peaches produced as a fundraising project. Those trees have largely ceased to bear due to advancing age, and will also be replaced with non-bearing varieties.

"As awkward as it may look to the park visitor right now, in the long run it's going to benefit not only the scholars and the students of the battle of Gettysburg, it's going to benefit anyone who comes to the



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park," said John Heiser, an interpretive historian at the national park. "It's going to help them understand that the battlefield area was never just wilderness. It will help them understand that when the armies came and fought, there were large open areas for them to fight in."

North Charleston Takes Lead in Race for Permanent "Hunley" Home

Dec. 15, 2003 -Courtesy CWI Premium- Possession may be nine-tenths of the law, but a fundraising commitment of \$12-13 million doesn't hurt either, and both seem to be working in favor of the Confederate submarine H. L. Hunley making a permanent home in its current city of residence, North Charleston, South Carolina.

State Sen. Glenn McConnell, for whom the Hunley has been a personal passion for a number of years, told the Charleston Post & Courier that North Charleston's offer of financial support is considerably better than what is currently on the table from its competitors, Mount Pleasant and the City of Charleston. McConnell is head of the Hunley Commission, which was formed to arrange for the permanent display of the submarine and which is considerably behind schedule in making the decision. He has said frequently that he would like to see the Hunley in its own museum, along with a full-scale historical setting, a project he had estimated would require some \$40 million. All three competing cities were encouraged to compete in a bidding war to see which one could come closest to fulfilling McConnell's vision. The winner, it was presumed, would

reap the rewards in tourism revenue. Even in its current setting in the conservation lab at the old Navy Yard in North Charleston, the Hunley has drawn a steady stream of visitors willing to pay \$10 just to look down at the relic sitting in a tank of water. McConnell had appeared earlier in the year to be leaning towards a decision in favor of Mount Pleasant, which already has a state-supported maritime museum including such items as the World War II aircraft carrier USS Yorktown. The town's original offer had included funding from the accommodations tax, but that was later withdrawn after the city encountered financial shortfalls. Charleston, meanwhile, had backed down from an earlier offer to put the Hunley in a waterfront facility. The sub would now go to a special wing in the current Charleston Museum, which was the original plan before McConnell got the three-city competition going.

"With no waterfront property downtown, (Charleston) is out," McConnell said. "I couldn't vote for that." Referring to North Charleston's current offer he said, "I couldn't see leaving \$12 million on the table to go to Mount Pleasant."

"Based on what I know at this point, I'd have to say North Charleston is definitely in the lead," he added. Chris Sullivan of the Hunley Commission said that according to the Hunley Commission's selection timetable, the subcommittee studying the three bid packages is to make its recommendation by the end of this month, Sullivan said, and the full Hunley Commission would then make a final decision in January. "All the commission members I've talked to are anxious to make a decision and get this thing moving,"

Smithsonian Money Plus Wetlands Law Fixes 2nd Manassas Field

Dec. 17, 2003 -Courtesy CWI Premium- It is probably safe to say that the people who wrote the Environmental Protection Act provisions requiring the preservation of wetlands did not do so with the intent of restoring a major Civil War battlefield, but the law works in mysterious ways its wonders to perform.

The field in question was the site of some very significant action in the Second Battle of Bull Run, known in some quarters as Second Manassas. It was destroyed by a developer, then confiscated by Congress, then given to the National Park Service, rather belatedly some might say. Now the 115 acre site has been restored in immaculate detail, including the restoration of slopes to within one inch of their previous stature and the replanting of thousands of shrubs and trees, thanks to two factors: Gen. Fitz-John Porter and the Smithsonian Institution.

In case this is becoming a bit confusing, we will put things in chronological order:

In August of 1862, Gen. Porter was serving under Gen. John Pope in the Union force known as the Army of Virginia, which was supposed to protect Washington, while Gen. George McClellan had the Army of the Potomac off fighting in the Peninsula Campaign.

Pope, who had had some notable successes in the Western Theater, had not endeared himself to his brethren in the East, inspiring at least one to comment that he "did not care for John Pope one pinch of owl



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ding." Porter evidently shared the attitude of distrust, which Pope returned in full measure. When the second battle began on the Bull Run site, things initially appeared to be going well for the Union forces, largely because Pope was completely confused as to the Confederates' whereabouts. Thinking he was facing a small portion of Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's corps, Pope ordered Porter to attack them. The arrival of Gen. James Longstreet and 30,000 troops complicated Porter's attempt to carry out his orders. Pope did not consider this a sufficient excuse, accusing Porter of delay so severe as to constitute disobedience of orders. Three days later he proffered formal charges to that effect. Porter was court-martialed the next year and cashiered from the army.

Never ceasing to proclaim his innocence, in 1878 Porter managed to get a new trial. In preparation, he commissioned a set of maps of the field where the action took place, noting every detail of terrain down to the location of streams, woodlines and clumps of trees.

The maps and testimony of witnesses showed that Porter's men would have been annihilated if he had followed Pope's orders to the letter, the Washington Post reported. The court martial verdict was overturned and Porter was exonerated. His honor and position were restored and his maps went into a file at the National Archives.

A century later another significant action took place at the Second Manassas battlefield. A local developer, John T. "Til" Hazel, bought it, announced he was going to build a huge mall and subdivision on it, and set bulldozers to work. Hills, slopes, streams, woodlines and clumps of

trees were all scraped aside. Sewers and utility lines were starting to be installed.

Eventually, local preservationists convinced Congress that the development would have a horrible impact on the remaining Manassas battlefield, and the project was brought to a halt. Legislation was passed paying Hazel for what he had invested in the project, and the land was added to Manassas National Battlefield Park. Dismal though the scene was, the site of what many consider the greatest tactical victory of the Army of Northern Virginia was now preserved.

Things would have stayed this way had not the Smithsonian Institution decided to place its annex to the Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport. Some of the land was legally considered wetlands, and would have to be filled in to put buildings on it. The law requires that in order to remove wetlands for a project, an equivalent amount of new wetlands must be created somewhere nearby. According to the Post, credit for the idea belongs to Lin Ezell, a pilot who used to work for NASA, who was working on some of the planning for the new museum, technically known as the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. The new wetlands had to be in the same watershed as the ones being removed. Land in northern Virginia being hideously expensive, open spaces are hard to find. Ezell was driving out to Dulles one day and saw the brown highway sign for Manassas Battlefield Park. A light dawned. The existence of the Porter maps was already known to the park service, having been found by a University of Georgia team in the Archives back when the land was added to the park. Nothing was done at the time since the NPS budget did not extend to the

amounts needed to restore what the developer's bulldozers had done. When Manassas Superintendent John Sutton was brought into the discussion, everything came together. Since they didn't have to pay for the land, the entire amount the Smithsonian had budgeted for the wetlands requirement could go into restoring it to the Porter maps' specifications.

Environmental Quality Resources, a company that specializes in restoring wetlands, was hired for the project. Its workers have spent most of the year rearranging 90,000 cubic yards of dirt across a 110-acre section of the battlefield at a cost of more than \$1.4 million. This fall, they planted 8,000 trees and shrubs and 52,000 plants. In the far corner of the restoration area, plants are growing in a marshy depression, an old wetland that is new again thanks to the law and a museum.

The end result, Sutton said, is "an amazing juxtaposition not only from a historic point of view, but it's about the importance of protecting all of our resources. We were kind of stuck with what we were given" after the developer had done his work. "It was very difficult to tell the story of what happened there," Sutton added. "To me it's just a wonderful thing."

McDowell Protected Area Increases By Another 50 Acres

Jan. 6, 2004 -Courtesy CWI Premium- The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation has announced the recent purchase of a 52-acre property on the McDowell battlefield in Highland County. Funding for the purchase came in part, the group said, from a donation



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from the producers of the movie "Gods and Generals" who had promised to contribute to preservation in exchange for re-enactors working in the film without pay.

The land includes the bluff south of the village of McDowell where Federal artillery was located during the battle, fought 8 May 1862. This is the second land acquisition by the Battlefields Foundation at McDowell, bringing the total amount of protected battlefield there to 327 acres when added to land preserved by the Civil War Preservation Trust, Highland Historical Society, Lee-Jackson Foundation, and Valley Conservation Council.

"The Foundation sees the Cemetery Hill property as one of the most critical sites at McDowell to protect," commented Foundation Executive Director Howard J. Kittell in a press release. "This property has great historic significance and it offers a key interpretive vantage point with its superior views of the battlefield. It includes a bluff where Federal artillery was positioned overlooking the village of McDowell. It also wraps around the village, providing the viewshed of the Presbyterian Church that served as a hospital during the battle and the Mansion House, used as a headquarters and recently purchased by the Highland Historical Society to serve as a museum and visitor center."

Cemetery Ridge has also been used by re-enactors during the biannual "McDowell Days," an increasingly popular living history event. For this reason, the re-enactors involved in the making of the movie "Gods and Generals" provided support to the Foundation in preserving the property. Thousands of re-enactors donated their time and energy to the making of the film in return for a

commitment of funds from the movie's producers to battlefield preservation.

The re-enactors formed a non-profit organization called The Center for Civil War Living History to accept and disperse these funds. In early 2003, the re-enactors awarded two grants to the Foundation for the purchase of properties at the McDowell and New Market battlefields. The Cemetery Ridge property was purchased in part with the first of these two grants. Commented Kittell, "The grant awarded by the 'Gods and Generals' re-enactors was crucial to making this preservation project possible. We are incredibly grateful for their support. We also look forward to working with our local partners in Highland County to begin the interpretative work on the property so that the region and the nation can be the beneficiaries of the re-enactors' work on the movie." Center Treasurer Chris Caveness said, "The Center For Civil War Living History is extremely proud to have played an instrumental part in facilitating the purchase of hallowed ground at McDowell. Our organization's mission is to assist organizations like the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation in our common cause of battlefield preservation. Inasmuch as our funds are derived from the premiers and interested parties associated with the production of the movie 'Gods and Generals,' which showcased in part the military genius of Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, we were particularly pleased to assist with preserving the battlefield where Stonewall Jackson achieved his first victory in the Shenandoah Valley." The McDowell battlefield is one of 384 most important Civil War sites in the nation because the battle "had a direct, observable impact on the

direction, duration, conduct, or outcome of a campaign," according to the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, appointed by Congress in the early 1990s. The 1992 Study of Civil War Sites in the Shenandoah Valley conducted by the National Park Service (NPS) found that "(w)arfare in the Shenandoah Valley was largely a rural affair, acted out within the framework of the mid-nineteenth century agrarian landscape." McDowell is the only major Valley site that has retained the character it had at the time of the conflict to the extent that students of the war can still visualize, over a wide area, the topography's influence over decision-making and the lives of the combatants.

The entire 2,258-acre core area at McDowell retains much of its historic integrity. Because the battlefield retains such historic character in close proximity to rapidly growing areas of Virginia, the Washington metropolitan area, and other population centers, it is unique. The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation is a Virginia nonprofit corporation and is the successor organization to the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District Commission. The Foundation was created in 2000 as the first step in implementing the Commission's Management Plan for the National Historic District.

Park Police Chief in Trouble After Noting Problems in Interview

Dec. 11, 2003 –Courtesy CWI Premium- The chief of the US Park Police, an arm of the National Park Service which traces its founding to



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1791, has been placed on administrative leave and her duties taken over by her chief deputy. The suspension was ordered after Chief Teresa C. Chambers gave interviews to several Washington media outlets in which she said that her force was understaffed and underfunded for the missions it was being asked to carry out.

The Park Police, originally a group of watchmen hired to guard public buildings and lands in the capital, still has that job, but the capital has more lands, buildings, parks and particularly monuments which need to be guarded. Recent events in the homeland-security area have added to the need for guards at "icon" sites like the Washington, Lincoln and Roosevelt Monuments on the National Mall.

Chambers told the media that increased attention to the mall monuments has decreased the park police's ability to carry out its other jobs, including traffic control on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and normal police patrols in Washington city parks.

"It's fair to say where it's green, it belongs to us in Washington, D.C.," Chambers said of her department. "Well, there's not enough of us to go around to protect those green spaces anymore."

The force also patrols Rock Creek Park, several major parkways and an assortment of other federal land from Capitol Hill's Lincoln Park to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. US Park Police officers also guard certain sites in New York City and San Francisco. The total force numbers 620 officers at present, which Chambers said needs to increase greatly, perhaps to as many as 1400.

The force has been increasingly pulled between its traditional duties as a police force, including investigating everything from drug crimes and traffic enforcement to possible terrorist incidents, and its assignment to serve guard duties. Chambers and the head of the Park Police union, Jeff Capps, told the Washington Post that morale is low and that many officers may leave the force if conditions do not improve. "They took the job to be a police officer," Capps said. "If they wanted to be a security guard, they'd go to the Capitol Police, Supreme Court Police."

The Park Police is just one of several law enforcement organizations that operate in Washington, along with the District of Columbia police, the Secret Service, and security forces such as the Capitol Police mentioned above. Past attempts to straighten out jurisdictions, regulation of responsibilities, and other functions have often increased the confusion rather than reduced it. A 2001 report by the National Academy of Public Administration found that Park Police spent about 15 percent of their time on activities that "often are extraneous to the park service mission." The study urged Park Police officers to give away some of these duties, such as drug investigations and parkway patrols, to D.C. police or other local and state authorities.

Chambers said she is not inclined to give away any duties, believing that other police departments would not put the same focus on problems in the parks. In neighborhood areas, she said residents are complaining that homeless people and drug dealers are again taking over smaller parks.

Four days after giving the Dec. 1

interview to the Post and several Washington area TV stations, Chambers was ordered to stop talking to reporters "temporarily" by her boss in the National Park Service, who said she violated federal guidelines.

Don Murphy, the Park Service's deputy director, said Chambers's comments broke two federal rules: one barring public comment about ongoing budget discussions, the other prohibiting lobbying by someone in Chambers' position. "The things that we were seeing were troublesome," Murphy said, "and we didn't want her to get into any more problems."

The next day, the NPS posted a statement on their website noting that "U. S. Park Police Chief Teresa Chambers has been placed on administrative leave."

"Because this is an administrative personnel issue, we have no additional comment at this time. Deputy Chief Ben Holmes is acting as the Chief of the U.S. Park Police." Chambers, who came to Washington to head the Park Police just last year after a long career as chief of police in Durham, NC, has at least one supporter in her corner who is in a position to help.

Rep. James P. Moran Jr. (D-Va.), who sits on the committee that determines funding for the Park Service and Park Police, said he was unhappy with the gag order placed on Chambers.

"The cardinal sin in this administration is to speak the truth in public," he said. Moran's comment was made before Chambers' suspension was announced.