



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

### History for sale in Inner Harbor

Civil War Museum site set to be sold  
By Sumathi Reddy, *baltimore Sun*,  
*December 28, 2007*

The little red building is dwarfed by the looming hotels and restaurants filling Inner Harbor East.

Once home to the little-known Baltimore Civil War Museum, the former President Street train station will soon be on the auction block.

Owned by the city, the Baltimore Development Corp. will put out a request for proposals to buy or lease the building this spring, said Sterling Clifford, a spokesman for Mayor Sheila Dixon.

Supporters of the museum say they fear that it will be gobbled up by the same development forces that have transformed much of this waterfront community.

"It's extremely important to the history of Baltimore, in particular because of its Civil War, and its railroad and its Underground Railroad connections," said Ralph Vincent, 68, of the Friends of the President Street Station.

"Those are the stories that the museum has been telling."

Vincent said he had heard that John Paterakis Sr., the H&S Bakery magnate behind much of the Harbor East development, was interested in the building.

Paterakis did not return calls for comment.

Clifford said he does not know if Paterakis is interested. "He may be; if he is, we'll get a proposal from him in the spring," he said.

The museum has suffered its share of setbacks in its 10-year history.

Set in the old President Street train station at President and Fleet streets, the circa-1850, two-story building had one functioning floor, about 925-

square feet. Without a stairwell, there was no access to the second floor.

Friends of the President Street Station had raised about \$6,000 to build a small building on the back of the station to house a joint utility room/office and a restroom.

The museum -- which charged \$4 for admission -- had just 12,000 visitors last year, according to the Maryland Historical Society.



Photo courtesy baltimoremuseums.org

The historical society ran the museum until November, when it was closed. "It was operating at a loss," said Robert Rogers, executive director of the society.

Rogers said some of the museum's exhibits, along with material from the Fells Point Maritime Museum, which also closed in November, will be incorporated into the historical society's main campus in Mount Vernon.

Together, the museums had a budget of about \$100,000 but lost about \$50,000 last year.

Courtney Wilson, director of the B&O Railroad Museum, had expressed interest in taking over the museum. He said the group had made a proposal to the city, requesting funding because the museum was in need of renovations.

"They basically said that wasn't going to work," Wilson said.

"Under the right set of circumstances, it's a good fit for the B&O Railroad Museum because it's a train station and because it gives us an opportunity to talk about railroads in Baltimore during the Civil War."

For supporters, the potential loss of the building to commercial development is akin to a tragedy.

Vincent, whose group travels to conferences and other states to promote the museum, said the site's historical significance can't be understated.

The site was part of the Underground Railroad used by slaves escaping from the South prior to the building of the station.

Also, in April 1862, Massachusetts troops were greeted by angry crowds at President Street and Camden Station. Several soldiers and residents were killed.

### Save the station

*Baltimore Sun Editorial, December 29, 2007*

The glass and steel of the Harbor East skyline dwarf the rundown brick station. Its size, relative to the gleaming office towers and pricey condominiums, by no means reflects its stature or significance, which lie in its history. And that history should be at the center of any effort to rescue the President Street station from indifference and decay.

It looks so out of place on its oddly shaped plot of land, sandwiched on the eastern side of the harbor between the restaurants of Little Italy, the Public Works Museum, a trendy Irish pub and the Marriott Waterfront Hotel. It's hard to recognize it as the 1850s train station where 700 members of the 6th Massachusetts Regiment arrived on April 19, 1861, after Fort Sumter was attacked by the Confederates. As the soldiers made



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their way down Pratt Street, an angry mob confronted them and a riot ensued. The first casualties of the war fell there.

The Civil War museum housed in the station is closed. The Maryland Historical Society, which had control over it for a time, turned the keys over to City Hall a month ago. There it stands, forlorn but not forgotten.

The B&O Railroad Museum was interested in taking over the station, which made sense from a historical perspective. It was a train station, after all. It's where, in 1838, Frederick Douglass, disguised as a sailor and carrying phony papers, boarded a train to escape to freedom. The B&O museum does a robust business in Southwest Baltimore, drawing 200,000 visitors a year. It surely would know how to market the President Street station, but the building is in need of repair, which the B&O can't afford without a city subsidy.

Courtney Wilson, director of the B&O museum, said the museum's artifacts also need some attention and the minimal traffic through the Civil War museum would barely cover the station's utility costs.

So now the city has asked the Baltimore Development Corp. to request proposals from the development community in the hopes of finding a patron. Surely the station could use more attention and more traffic, but any attempt to undermine the history of the property for commercial reasons would be wrong. A plan that would simply retain the outer shell of the station would do an injustice to its significance. History should be preserved and promoted there, not relegated to a few artfully displayed interpretative plaques.

We may be getting ahead of ourselves here, but history buffs,

preservationists and enthusiasts of Maryland's Civil War past should be outspoken on the future and fate of the President Street station. The decision makers shouldn't be the last to know where you stand.

### Monocacy Officials Oppose Proposed Trash-Burning Plant due to Effect on View

By Meg Bernhardt, Frederick News-Post, December 13, 2007

The smokestack from a proposed energy-generating trash incinerator could visually intrude on the Monocacy National Battlefield, its superintendent told the Frederick County Commissioners on Tuesday. The commissioners listened to more than seven hours of testimony Tuesday and Wednesday on the controversial proposal.

More than 200 residents attended the hearings, which revolved around long-standing arguments about the economic, health and environmental impact of different waste strategies. Monocacy National Battlefield Superintendent Susan Trail objected to the proposed plant because it would be adjacent to the battlefield.

The commissioners have asked for construction bids on county-owned land in the McKinney Industrial Park. They are now considering whether to seek final bids on a joint facility with Carroll County, a plant to serve Frederick County individually or abandon the concept entirely.

The Carroll County Commissioners are also deciding if they are interesting in proceeding with a joint plant.

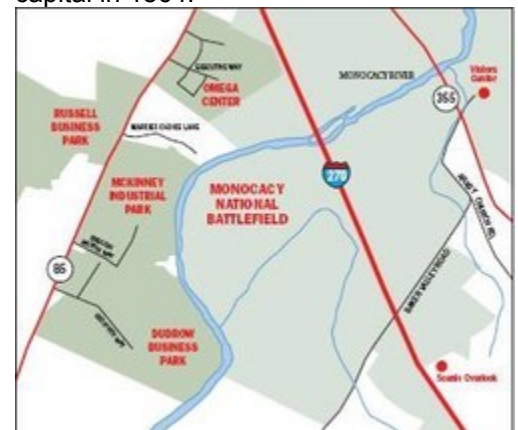
The Frederick County Commissioners picked the McKinney site because they needed a place to obtain real pricing quotes, and this one is zoned industrial, has space and is county-

owned, said Commissioners President Jan Gardner.

Trail said the National Park Service has serious concerns about the site and the commissioners should consider its impact on historic tourism.

"This facility will create a major visual intrusion on the historic battlefield landscape with a stack that is projected to rise 150 to 175 feet in height," Trail said. "Such a prominent structure would be readily visible from all areas of the battlefield, including our brand new visitor center."

Known as the "battle that saved Washington," the one-day Civil War battle that took place at Monocacy delayed Confederate troops as they marched unsuccessfully on the capital in 1864.



News-Post graphic by William P. Sears II

Even though opponents to the site said it could harm historic tourism, Ric Adams, the president of the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce, told the commissioners the chamber believes the overall impact of waste-to-energy will be good for business.

He said waste-to-energy will benefit businesses by creating roughly 45 new high-paying jobs, generate new



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electricity and keep waste disposal local.

Frederick County will spend an estimated \$15 million this fiscal year to truck an average of 800 tons per day 192 miles to Virginia.

"The cost of waste disposal is rising and we can't continue to rely on the mega landfills in Virginia to handle our waste," Adams said.

The commissioners have not selected a final site, but have ruled out land at the current landfill on Reichs Ford Road. They have also decided any plant should be on industrially zoned land.

Gardner said she had not previously considered the impact on the battlefield because she'd primarily thought about the park being on the other side of I-270.

She said holding public hearings helps the commissioners gather information. They will continue to have discussions with the National Park Service.

Trail also raised concerns about persistent, toxic emissions hurting the agricultural land on the battlefield.

Commissioner Charles Jenkins objected to those statements, asking if the National Park Service has a different position on emissions than the Environmental Protection Agency. Trail said she was wary of long-term effects of air emissions on surrounding land.

"It would seem to me, personally, if there were those impacts, we would have them by now, because these facilities have been in use for quite some time," Jenkins said.

Sean McCabe, the vice chairman of the Monocacy Scenic River Advisory Board, said the board plans to submit comments on the waste-to-energy plant after discussing and voting on it. He personally objects to the location of the proposed site.

"Frederick County must lead the way in protecting the Monocacy River, arguably one of the county's most precious resources," McCabe said.

He said the county should plan for a 500-foot forested buffer between the plant and the river, and he thinks the stack should not be visible from any point on the Monocacy River.

### Hunley Commander's Watch No Smoking Gun

By BRUCE SMITH – Associated Press, December 14, 2007

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — When scientists opened the watch belonging to the H.L. Hunley commander three years ago, they thought they had the key clue to why the Confederate submarine sank off Charleston.

But the 18-karat gold watch now seems to raise even more questions even though scientists announced Friday it did not slowly wind down but stopped quickly — perhaps the result of a concussion or rushing water.

"All of us were thinking the watch pointed to the crucial moment," said state Sen. Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, chairman of the state Hunley Commission. "But I would say instead of the smoking gun, it's more of the smoke that keeps you from seeing."



This undated photo, provided by The Friends of the Hunley, shows the gold watch that belonged to the commander of the H.L. Hunley, Lt. George Dixon. (AP Photo/Friends of The Hunley)

The hand-cranked Hunley rammed a black powder charge into the Union blockade ship Housatonic on Feb. 17, 1864, becoming the first sub in history to sink an enemy warship.

The Hunley also sank that night with its eight-man crew. It was found 12 years ago off Charleston, raised in 2000 and brought to a conservation lab.

The watch owned by Lt. George Dixon was opened in 2004. It read 8:23, tantalizingly close to historical accounts that the Housatonic sank about around 9 p.m.

McConnell said experts from the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors said the damp on the Hunley could have made the watch run slow.

So concussion of the explosion might have stopped the watch and sank the Hunley.

But McConnell also said there is no way to tell if the watch was even working that night. It may have been broken but Dixon may have continued to carry the expensive watch.

And if the time on the watch was right, it doesn't explain how Confederate soldiers on shore reported a blue light signaling from the Hunley about 45 minutes after the attack on the Housatonic, he said.

McConnell said the fate of the Hunley may be revealed by other clues. In the coming months, scientists will X-ray valves on the pumping system that are encrusted with sediment.

The position may tell whether the sub was taking on water.

When scientists start removing encrusted sediment from the hull, they may find evidence of a rope showing the Hunley was anchored waiting for the tide to turn, McConnell said.

One theory is that the sub took on water while waiting to return.



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### Visitors surge to Monocacy Battlefield

Park rangers credit hands-on displays for increase in popularity  
By Pamela Rigaux, Frederick News-Post, December 19, 2007

Since the new Monocacy National Battlefield Visitor's Center opened six months ago, the number of visitors has nearly doubled, park rangers said this week. They credit the popularity to the interactive displays.

"We usually get 16,000 to 18,000 guests a year; this year we're expecting 30,000 to 35,000," said park superintendent Susan Trail. "This is the first time we've really told the story of the Battle of Monocacy -- the other visitor's center had no room."

Before, visitors reported to a display on the ground floor of historic Gambrill Mill near Bush Creek. That flooded often and was not easy to see, Trail said. The new \$4 million center is in a barn perched on the northernmost edge of the battlefield, just off Urbana Pike, at 4801 Urbana Pike.

A tower provides a view of the handful of farms on which the battle was waged July 9, 1864.

Just how the Confederate troops tactically defeated Union soldiers is shown on a fiberoptic map near the tower.

Dots light up to illustrate troop movements and gunfire. Watching the flow of red dots blinking as Confederates advance on the Union lines is helpful to visitors who want a better understanding of how it was done, said Brett Spaulding, the park ranger behind the display.

Yellow flashing lights means a barn is ablaze as skirmishes flare up. Within minutes, the Battle of the Monocacy is in full swing.

"We did a lot of research using journals, diaries, and regimental history to make this accurate," Spaulding said.

The 3,500-square-foot exhibition space at the visitor's center includes a Civil War room for children to try on period uniforms.

"This is so popular, we're thinking about having adult uniforms," Trail said, noting everyone likes role-playing.

Families may also piece together a historically accurate newspaper, then run it through a printing press.

The visitor's center bookstore has more books, pens, pencils, magnets, T-shirts, and cups, than the old one, park ranger Barbara Justice said.

"It's three times bigger," she said.

"Fighting for Time," a memoir by Glenn Worthington is a favorite.

"It is the first full length account of the battle, and it is told by someone who witnessed it from the cellar of his home when he was 6 years old," Justice said. "He did his research. He looked at the records. He included his personal stories. That just made it come alive."

Worthington was the only civilian casualty of the war, she said. The injury occurred after the battle, when soldiers were burning wreckage.

He wanted a bayonet, so he went out to a bonfire to get one, she said. A cartridge exploded as he attempted to grab his prize. He recovered with no permanent damage to his eyes.

As an adult, he urged the U.S. Congress to establish the battlefield as a national park, which it did in 1934, due to Worthington's diligence, Justice said. The park opened to the public in 1991.

Visitors can get an idea of how the 6-year-old felt as he watched the battle by viewing an exhibit depicting the basement of the Worthington House.

When guests approach, a motion-sensitive narration turns on. Glass shatters as a young child's voice describes the scene.

The sound effects can be startling.

"We had secret service and capitol police here when U.S. Rep. Roy Blunt was visiting," Trail recalled. "The sound effects really had the police jumping. They weren't expecting it."

### Compromise would keep Taney statue at Frederick City Hall

NAACP backs plan for new plaque with historical account of slavery ruling author

The Associated Press, *December 12, 2007*

FREDERICK - A sculpture of Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, who wrote the Dred Scott decision affirming slavery, would remain in front of Frederick City Hall under a compromise backed by the local NAACP and the mayor. A new plaque would describe the Maryland native's career and the landmark 1857 ruling that some historians consider a catalyst for the Civil War.

The wording of the plaque hasn't been decided, but Guy Djoken, president of the Frederick County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said it will be thorough. "People will understand the full extent of the role he played in slavery," Djoken told *The Frederick News-Post* Tuesday. "People will come and see the bust and decide on it." Djoken was among a number of local civil rights leaders who urged the city in July to consider removing the statue from the City Hall plaza, where it has stood for 75 years. Taney was born in Calvert County but lived for 20



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years in Frederick with his wife, Anne Key, the sister of Francis Scott Key. Mayor William Jefferson Holtzinger, who sought the compromise, said the plaque "sounds like it could be a reasonable approach" to settling the dispute.

"I think we'll come up with a resolution that will generally be accepted by everyone," Holtzinger said.



Photo courtesy Flickr

The plan provides for input by the Board of Aldermen and the public. Mark Hudson, executive director of the Historical Society of Frederick County, said the plaque shouldn't oversimplify the Dred Scott opinion, which held that black people, whether free or enslaved, were unfit to associate with the white race and could never become U.S. citizens. The court also ruled that slaves were private property and couldn't be taken from their owners without due process.

Dred Scott was a slave who sued for

his freedom after he was taken to states where slavery was prohibited.

### Romney Agitates Confederate Descendants

Elm Springs, Columbia TN Nov. 29  
Sons of Confederate Veterans leader Christopher M. Sullivan issued the following statement in response to the CNN Republican debate Wednesday 28 November.

"Mitt Romney proposes himself to be president of the United States but last night he clearly demonstrated not only his ignorance of American history but also his contempt for Southerners who love and respect their Confederate ancestors.

"Gov. Romney went way over the line when he attacked Southerners for respecting the historical significance of the Confederate flag. Perhaps the citizens of his state of Massachusetts still hate Southerners, but Gov. Romney should not expect us to accept his outrageous attack on Southern heritage."

Responding to a question about the Confederate flag, Romney said,

"That flag frankly, is divisive and shouldn't be shown. Right now with the kinds of issues we've got in this country, I'm not going to get involved with a flag like that."

"That's not a flag that I would recognize so that I would hold it up in my room."

"The people of our country have decided not to fly that flag. I think that's the right thing."

Sullivan went on to say, "We were not aware that the people of the country have had their First Amendment rights abridged as Mr. Romney seems to desire. Whether Gov. Romney likes it or not, Confederate

flags are freely flown throughout the U.S. and in other countries as well."

"The Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc. does not participate in partisan politics. We do speak out when anyone disparages the honorable service of Confederate soldiers and the symbols which identified them." Sullivan concluded.

### John Brown Photo Sells for \$97,750 At Auction

By: Jeff Gulley,  
KCcommunitynews.com, Dec. 12, 2007

John Brown is again making headlines.

On Friday, an unnamed institution outbid three others to acquire a rare daguerreotype of the famous abolitionist, taking home the photo for \$97,750.

"This extremely rare and riveting portrait is double significant," said Theresa Leininger-Miller, associate professor of art and history at the University of Cincinnati.

"Not only as one of the earliest daguerreotypes of the revolutionary abolitionist, but also because the long-lost image was made by the remarkable African-American photographer, Augustus Washington," Leininger-Miller said.

The photograph was auctioned by Wes Cowan, owner of Cowan's Auctions Inc. in Cincinnati. He estimated its initial value at \$60,000 to \$80,000.

Cowan owns one of the nation's leading auction houses, featuring four divisions: Historical Americana, American Indian and Western Art, American and European Fine and Decorative Art, and Historic Firearms and Early Militia.

He said the John Brown piece held great significance.



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"It's the most important photograph we've handled in our 13 years of existence," he said.

According to a news release from Cowan's Auctions, the photograph was passed down directly from Brown to immediate family members but was considered lost until recently. The family auctioned the photograph to pay health care expenses, according to an Associated Press report.

Brown lived in Osawatomie before the Civil War and led a raid on some pro-slavery men in 1856, killing five. His raid brought retaliation from border ruffians, and in what's known as the Battle of Osawatomie, five of Brown's men, including one of his sons, were killed.

His raid in Harpers Ferry, W.Va., designed to unite the enslaved African-Americans in 1859, would lead to his execution but also escalated the tension that some historians say led to the Civil War. According to the Associated Press, only a half-dozen original daguerreotypes of Brown are still in existence.

The report also said the last daguerreotype of Brown sold at auction went for \$115,000 in 1997. It is displayed at the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery.

### Re-enactors to recreate ride to Hanover

By MATT CASEY, Hanover Evening Sun, 12/09/2007

In 1863, a cavalry conflict in Hanover directly preceded the pivotal battle in the Civil War in nearby Gettysburg. And it will again next July.

An estimated 200 cavalry re-enactors will recreate Confederate Cavalry Commander James Ewell Brown Stuart's ride from Union Mills to

Hanover, according to Charlie Dutt, the leader of the 2nd U.S. Cavalry Co., a re-enactment group.

They will arrive in Hanover around noon on July 3 - the day before the Gettysburg re-enactments start in Straban Township - and camp at the Sheppard Farm off Westminster Road.

"We have always been told... that the first bloodshed north of the Mason Dixon Line happened here at Gitt's Mill," Sheppard said. "That mill no longer stands, but the location is out here on our farm."

Dutt said the group will open their camp to visitors interested in how cavalry troops lived, before recreating at 6 p.m. the battle between Stuart's forces and Union Brig. Gen. Elon Farnsworth's brigade.

"It's a minuscule part of what was actually involved in the battle," Dutt said. "(But) 200 horses goes a long way to displaying some of what actually happened there."

The battle actually took place in the streets of Hanover, but Dutt said it would be dangerous to hold the re-enactment there because horses could slip on the asphalt.

Hanover area re-enactors typically remember the Battle of Hanover on a weekend in August with an infantry re-enactment.

Bruce Yealy, an organizer for the August event, said he doesn't expect the two re-enactments to compete with each other.

Yealy said he wished organizers planned the cavalry event to coincide with his own, but he supports their efforts and he and other local re-enactors will appear and pose as militia.

"You can't stop them so you might as well join them," he said.

Dutt said he doesn't know exactly how many re-enactors he will bring to

the event, but said he has received substantial interest in the event, which he calls a "tremendous opportunity if you're a cavalryman."

"We'll have re-enactors from literally all over the world," Dutt said. He said people from as far away as Great Britain and Australia have said they will come - drawn by the prospect of recreating the Battle of Hanover and the Battle of Gettysburg in the same week, 145 years after the original event.

Dutt said the re-enactors will rise at dawn on July 4 and ride to onto the Redding farm near Gettysburg as Union Mjr. Gen. John Buford and his cavalry to open the event.

The Battle of Gettysburg began shortly after Confederate troops spotted Buford's troops arriving south of town.

Sheppard said organizers have yet to cement plans or the price of tickets at the Hanover event.

She said all proceeds will benefit the Land Conservancy of Adams County.

### Confederate White House closing for repairs

NBC News, December 19, 2007

The White House of the Confederacy will soon close for two months while crews work on restoring the museum in downtown Richmond. The executive mansion of Confederacy President Jefferson Davis will be closed in January and February.

During that time, the museum will get new carpets, draperies and a new fire-suppression system. The museum will reopen for daily tours in March.



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### Discovery Channel examines Winans Steam Gun

By Joe Burriss, Baltimore Sun,  
*December 5, 2007*

John Lamb was tracing his great-great-grandfather's involvement in the Civil War when he came across reports of a 19th-century killing machine.

The former Harford County resident and Civil War buff soon turned his interests toward the so-called Winans Steam Gun. A shiny, black, oversized metal contraption, the steam gun was made by an Ohio inventor who boasted that it could take out an entire regiment in one sweep, firing up to 400 rounds a minute from 300 yards away.

There are only a few reports of the steam gun being fired, including in a demonstration before the Baltimore City Council. Still, widespread news of its purported prowess made it one of the original feared weapons of mass destruction. And it just happened to be on display in Baltimore during the riot of April 19, 1861, one week into the Civil War. City officials sought it as protection after a clash between Baltimore's pro-Confederate civilians and Union troops, attempting to cross the city en route to Washington, left 16 dead and scores injured. More than 140 years later, Lamb, a former resident of Darlington who now lives in Chattanooga, Tenn., has become a sought-after source on the steam gun. It was ultimately dismantled for scrap - with no credible evidence of its potential.

The gun was featured Dec 9th on the Discovery Channel's *Mythbusters*. The crew of the show, eager to see whether the gun could do what its founder claimed, consulted with Lamb

to build prototypes, one of which propelled golf-ball-sized projectiles. "This particular device has a legendary element," Lamb said. "If it had worked or had been adapted to work, it could have changed the course of the Civil War." The show comes amid recent news of Civil War-era cannonballs found in debris taken from the Patapsco River near Brooklyn. The Winans Steam Gun, which was inadvertently credited to Maryland industrialist Ross Winans after he exhibited it on his property, is scarcely mentioned anymore beyond Civil War history circles.

But Lamb said that during the Baltimore Riot, widely regarded as the Civil War's first bloodshed, it was the talk of the nation. Newspapers from as far away as Wisconsin and California wrote about the weapon that used steam and centrifugal force to rotate metal spheres inside its belly, then hurl the spinning objects toward the target with precision timing.

Reports called it everything from Dickinson's Patent Centrifugal Gun (after its inventor, Charles Dickinson) to the Centrifugal Steam Gun, the Baltimore Steam Battery and the name that became most popular, the Winans Steam Gun.

"It was a big deal," said Lamb, who grew up in a Darlington house built by his great-great-grandfather, a member of the 2nd Maryland Infantry during the war.

An avid reader of Civil War literature, Lamb was researching the 2nd Maryland Infantry when he came across writings about Winans, a Confederate sympathizer, and the steam gun coveted by both sides in the conflict.

"It was invented by a man named Dickinson who made a number of

strong claims for the gun, probably told to those who attended his demonstrations and later picked up by the press," Lamb said. He added that Dickinson claimed the gun to be "easy to move from place to place and could be built in versions to fire shots from 1 ounce to 24 pounds, with similar range and force of gunpowder weapons."

According to an April 21, 1861, article in *The Sun*, the city purchased the gun from Dickinson for defense after the riot.

"The centrifugal steam gun of Mr. Dickinson on exhibition in this city for some time past, has been purchased by the city and will be used in its defense," the article said. "The gun is something like a steam fire engine and will throw three hundred balls per minute. It is the intention of the authorities to plant the gun at the head of the street up which the invading troops attempt to march and by signals to clear the streets of citizens and sweep the ranks." Some reports suggested the gun was not purchased, but taken, from Dickinson, Lamb said. He said the gun ended up at a foundry shop owned by Winans, who was also making munitions items for the city at the time. Many believe that is how the gun became known to be invented by Winans.

"The newspaper people probably assumed it was his gun," said Wallace Shugg, a retired English professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County who has written on Winans and Maryland's involvement in the Civil War. "Many people figured here was this crazy guy inventing all kinds of things. They may have given him credit without asking."

Ultimately, the gun was returned to Dickinson. He attempted to take it to



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Harpers Ferry, Va., (now West Virginia) to sell to Confederate forces. But Union forces captured the gun mid-journey and took it to their camp at Relay, in Baltimore County. The gun eventually ended up in Massachusetts, was put in display long after the war, then turned to scrap.

The Discovery Channel became interested in the gun while researching other Civil War weapons. "It was made at the beginning of the steam era, and we're interested in something that has so much power that is purely driven by steam," said Discovery Channel producer and director Eric Haven.

The producers flew Lamb to San Francisco where the segment for the show was produced. He consulted them on the construction of prototypes that are slated to be aired on the show.

"It was a very unique design, an L-shaped barrel that spun around with a timing mechanism," Haven said. "Cannonballs were dropped into the top of the barrel and at just the right time were flung out of the barrel. After small-scale testing on one not using steam power, we brought it up to larger scale and hooked it up to steam using an ordinary household water heater."

Haven added that TV viewers will need to tune in to see whether the prototypes worked.

While there are no remnants of the old steam gun to be found, what appears to be a replica of it sits in Elkridge, behind the Elk Ridge Landing marker along U.S. 1. The paint-chipped, weather-beaten contraption sits amid tall grass. It looks like Dickinson's gun, but it has no signs or markers. Lamb, a director of development and communications for a Chattanooga

branch of Habitat for Humanity, is writing a book about the steam gun. The episode marks the second time he has been involved with a Mythbusters segment. He was a technical adviser about a gun design taken from a Leonardo da Vinci workbook.

Hundreds of accounts of the famed steam gun are mentioned on the Web, he noted, many of which still refer to it as the Winans Steam Gun. He hopes the Mythbusters episode changes that.

"I hope it catches people's attention," he said. "It's a neat reminder of what happened in the past and how a story can get twisted and become more than what it was in the beginning."

### Three teens charged in monument vandalism

By Kenneth Mullinax. Montgomery Advertiser, December 17, 2007  
State troopers arrested three white teenagers in the defacement of the Confederate Monument at the Alabama Capitol after receiving a tip from a Confederate veterans' group.

The 17-year-olds are all white males from Montgomery, said Sgt. Anthony Frost, a state trooper investigator. Information he received from Leonard Wilson, state commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, led to the arrests, he said.

"We are thankful for the information Mr. Wilson gave us from a tip he received, which helped us make these three arrests," Frost said.

Martha Earnhardt, a spokeswoman for the Department of Public Safety, would not reveal the youths' identities because they are juveniles.

The teens are accused of putting black paint on the Confederate Monument on Nov. 11. They were charged with first-degree criminal mischief, a felony that carries a

sentence of one to 10 years in prison if they are tried and convicted as adults. If tried and convicted as juveniles, the sentences would be less harsh, Earnhardt said.

Wilson said Friday that the person who called him with information about the case will receive a \$1,000 reward posted by the group if the suspects are found guilty.

"I had a call from a confidential informant on Nov. 28, and I forwarded the information to investigators at the Department of Public Safety in Montgomery," said Wilson, whose group has 2,000 members in Alabama.

He said he drove from his Walker County home Nov. 29 and met with Frost and the informant, who gave them the names of three 11th- and 12th-grade students from Montgomery.

State troopers began taking the youths into custody last week and arrested the last one within the past few days, Earnhardt said Friday.

"Our investigators had very strong leads and evidence and followed it aggressively until it led them to these suspects," Earnhardt said Friday. She would not say if video surveillance cameras helped apprehend the suspects.

A state official said the monument on the north grounds of the Capitol is undergoing a successful restoration.

Christy Carl, the Capitol's site director, said the restoration process has cost the state \$3,500 so far and still isn't complete.

Bill "Deacon" Cox Jr., commander of the Wetumpka camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, said the memorial's vandalism made him physically ill.

"To deface any memorial that sits on the grounds of our state Capitol, whether it honors the Civil War or civil





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rights, is a slap in the face to all Alabama residents," Cox said.

A civil rights activist and state legislator echoed Cox's sentiments.

Rep. Alvin Holmes, D-Montgomery, commended law officers for their swift apprehension of the suspects. He said the deed was wrong, whether the suspects are black or white.

"I compliment them -- law enforcement -- for the job they have done in making arrests in this crime," he said, "but also hope that they will do as good a job in the future should it be a civil rights monument."

### **VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION ENDORSES BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION INITIATIVE**

( Richmond , Va. ) –CWPT - At its meeting last Wednesday, the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission unanimously adopted a resolution endorsing the Civil War Preservation Trust's (CWPT) Virginia Sesquicentennial Battlefield Initiative. The Initiative encourages state funding for battlefield preservation in Virginia prior to and during the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War (2011-2015).

"This is an immensely promising development for Virginia's battlefields," said CWPT President James Lighthizer. "As we approach the Civil War's sesquicentennial, these hallowed grounds are more threatened than ever before. There is no better way to commemorate the sacrifices of our ancestors than to permanently protect the land where they fought and bled."

CWPT has spent two decades working to protect hallowed ground in the Commonwealth and throughout the nation. While the Trust has already preserved nearly 12,000 acres of battlefield land at 40 sites in Virginia, significantly more historic land in the Old Dominion remains vulnerable to development. As part of the Initiative, CWPT has identified in excess of 50,000 acres within the state that should, if possible, be preserved prior to the Sesquicentennial, lest they be lost forever. Nationally, an average of 30 acres of hallowed ground is destroyed daily.

"The Commission feels very strongly that preservation must be a central part of our commemoration activities," said Virginia House Speaker Bill Howell, Chairman of the Virginia Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. "As the stewards of these sacred places, it is incumbent upon us to see them protected so that future generations may learn from them."

The upcoming commemoration is expected to generate increased interest in both Civil War history and visitation to Civil War-related sites. Since preserved battlefields function as both outdoor classrooms and tourist destinations, the Virginia Sesquicentennial Battlefield Initiative is an ideal way to enhance this period of remembrance.

"Through its actions, the Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission is ensuring that for generations to come, students of history will be able to come to the Old Dominion to follow in the footsteps of heroes," Lighthizer noted. "We at CWPT are proud to have such a visionary partner in our preservation efforts, particularly one which unanimously recognizes the importance of this undertaking."

In the Initiative, CWPT calls for a yearly appropriation of \$5 million for battlefield preservation to be considered along with each annual state budget. If approved, the money will be made available in the form of matching grants requiring two dollars in private funds for each dollar allocated by the state. This mechanism effectively triples the power of the state's contribution and creates a powerful public-private partnership. Previously, in fiscal years 2006-07 and 2007-08, the state legislature has approved a total of \$700,000 in appropriations for battlefield preservation, funds that have been used toward the acquisition of the Slaughter Pen Farm in Spotsylvania County and portions of the Glendale battlefield in Henrico County.

Although the Commission's vote does not guarantee the funding, it is an important step in formalizing the group's stated intention that preservation, along with education, must be an important component of the sesquicentennial commemoration.

In addition to their historical importance, preserved battlefields maintain valuable open space in some of the state's fastest growing regions. Many of these battlefields lie within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, giving them key environmental importance. Others, moreover, contain threatened wildlife habitats, riparian zones and endangered streams and creeks.

With 65,000 members, CWPT is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Since 1987, the organization has saved more than 25,000 acres of hallowed ground. CWPT's website is located at [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org).



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**THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER**