

THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Swords Taken from Gettysburg

Hagerstown Herald-Mail

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP) —January 23, 2005 - The National Park Service is looking for two bronze swords stolen from monuments at Gettysburg National Military Park, officials said Friday.

The first sword was reported missing Sept. 15 from the bronze Alexander Hays sculpture and the latest was believed to have been stolen between Monday and Wednesday from the stone 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry monument, the service said.

Both were pried or broken off of the monuments, Park Service spokeswoman Katie Lawhon said.

"We're concerned that somebody may be doing it to sell them," Lawhon said. "At the moment, we are doing everything we can to investigate it, but don't have much information yet."

The cost to replace the swords and repair the damage could run as much as \$4,200. Adams County Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of \$1,000 for information that leads to a conviction.

Penalties include up to 10 years in jail and fines of up to \$100,000, Lawhon said.

The Hays sculpture was dedicated in 1915, while the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry monument was dedicated in 1890.

Other bronze markers, such as state seals, occasionally disappear from monuments in the 6,000-acre park, which is home to 1,300 monuments and commemorates the place where the decisive 1863 Civil War battle was fought.

About 20 years ago, a 4-inch thick bronze plaque with a relief of a battle scene was stolen from the Gen. William Wells monument, but turned

up later in a Baltimore scrap yard, Lawhon said.

Naming Rights go to Gettysburg Visitor's Center Donors

By Erin Negley

Hanover, PA Evening Sun – January 24, 2005

Visitors to the Gettysburg National Military Park's new museum and visitors center will learn about the bloodiest single battle in the Civil War through new exhibits and programs.

They'll also see the names of some donors of the \$95 million project.

The McCormick Tribune Foundation recently announced a \$1 million donation that will create the McCormick Tribune Foundation Gallery in the new museum.

The gallery will focus on the contributions of Illinois troops during the battle and honor Maj. William H. Medill. He was great uncle of Col. Robert McCormick, founder of the foundation, and died from wounds he received at Gettysburg. The gallery will also concentrate on journalists during the battle. McCormick edited and published the Chicago Tribune.

Other donors to the new facility also have been granted naming rights, said Elliot Gruber, vice president of external affairs for the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation.

"I can't talk about that yet," Gruber said. "There are a number of naming opportunities available. It's very tastefully done. You're not going to see names or logos."

Gruber wouldn't say what is available for naming opportunities or how many are available.

The cost of putting a name into the new museum ranges, he said.

The museum foundation has raised more than \$60 million for the project, including \$20 million in state grants, \$12 million in financing and \$7 million from the federal government.

The recent \$1 million donation from the McCormick Tribune Foundation comes after more than a year spent determining their interests and how they could fit the museum's goals, Gruber said.

"It certainly is a significant donation and one that reflects not only McCormick Tribune Foundation's interest in their own history but also in helping us bring this important aspect of our nation's history to the visitors," he said.

The museum foundation suggested naming the gallery after the McCormick Tribune Foundation because it seemed appropriate with McCormick's familial ties to the Civil War.

"We would have given the money without having the naming opportunity," DePree said. "It was a generous offer we accepted."

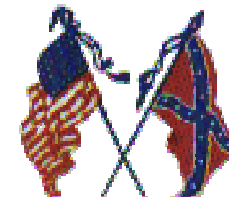
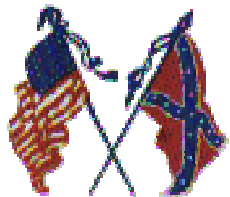
Most of the gallery's artifacts will come from the park's collection, but the museum foundation might borrow some items from the McCormick Tribune Foundation for display in the new visitor's center, Gruber said.

"We haven't really sorted that out," he said.

Donations won't affect which artifacts the museum displays, Gruber said.

"The two do not go hand in hand," Gruber said. "We have to focus on telling the story that we need to tell to our best ability. We focus on an accurate and objective presentation of the facts in the museum."

Naming opportunities help attract big donors, and not just small, private donors, for new visitor center projects, said Jim Campi, spokesman



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for the National Civil War Preservation Trust.

History Comes Full Circle for Battle Painting

A battered Civil War cyclorama is being restored in Gettysburg.

By Amy Worden

Philadelphia Inquirer Staff Writer

When Gen. John Gibbon first glimpsed the colossal, circular painting *Battle of Gettysburg* in Chicago in 1884, he declared to a fellow Civil War veteran that it was "a sight to see before you die."

Gibbon was awed by the painting's three-dimensional illusion, which allowed viewers to "look out upon the field of Gettysburg," where 21 years earlier he had held the center of the Union line during the climactic Pickett's Charge.

Today, visitors stand slack-jawed at a second version of the cyclorama, an enormous 360-degree painting depicting the battle, at Gettysburg National Military Park. This historic painting, done by the same artist a year after the first was completed in 1883, is 359 feet long and 27 feet high, and is a duplicate of the one Gibbon viewed.

One of only four cycloramas left in North America, the 121-year-old painting is now undergoing a \$9 million restoration to save the peeling paint and decaying canvas on its 27 panels and to re-create the illusion that Gibbon found so striking.

When the restoration - one of the largest and costliest art conservation projects in U.S. history - is completed in 2007, the painting will be the centerpiece of a new visitor center at Gettysburg.

This cyclorama was not always treated like a treasured artwork. For years after the cyclorama craze died,

the painting bounced around the Northeast like a gargantuan misfit. While the work was stored in a Boston warehouse, vagrants used pieces of the frame for firewood. Later it was cut up for department-store window displays in New Jersey, before finding a permanent home at the battlefield.

Cycloramas presented a large-format tableau of landmark events and were popular in the late 19th century in major cities in the United States and Europe. Some communities, including Philadelphia, even erected circular structures to house them.

"As an art form, the cyclorama painting is extremely rare," said Scott Hartwig, supervisory historian at Gettysburg National Military Park. "It gives people an impression of a historic event as if you'd been there." Civil War battles were a common theme for cycloramas. Hartwig said that as many as six different battles were painted, but that only Pickett's Charge on July 3, 1863, was the subject of four separate cyclorama paintings.

Soldiers, bathed in a haze of smoke from gunpowder and cannon fire, clash across the canvas, battle flags held high, led by officers astride galloping horses. Amid the fighting are strewn broken wagons, bloody corpses, and shells of burned-out houses. In one scene, a doctor amputates limbs under a lean-to in the field.

In the cycloramas' original displays, dirt, rocks and other items were placed on the floor at the base of the canvas. These props appeared to spring from the painting. That effect, along with the canvas mounted on a curved frame, created the illusion for viewers of being in the middle of the battle.

Because of the cost and enormous labor involved, few cycloramas were painted at the time. Only two others are still on display.

The fourth surviving cyclorama, the original Pickett's Charge work that Gibbon viewed, is in storage at Wake Forest University in North Carolina and is up for sale.

The one now at Gettysburg was designed by French artist Paul Philippoteaux and took him and 20 other artists two years to complete.

When all 27 panels of the second version were finished in 1884, that *Battle of Gettysburg* was unveiled in its own cyclorama building in Boston.

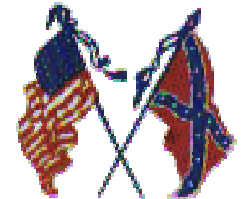
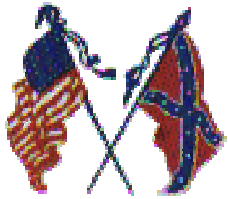
In 1891, the painting was moved to Philadelphia's cyclorama building, at Broad and Cherry Streets, across from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

By the early 1900s, cycloramas were passe, and the Gettysburg painting was rolled up and tossed into a warehouse in Boston. In 1910, it was bought by the owner of the Hahne & Co. department store in Newark, N.J., and carved up to display in his store's windows.

"Part of the reason it was treated so badly is that it was not thought of as art, but rather entertainment," Hartwig said.

Over the years, 15 feet of the sky was lopped off the canvas panels, and the three-dimensional elements were never installed when the painting moved to Gettysburg in 1913 for the 50th anniversary of the battle.

At Gettysburg, the painting was exhibited for its first 60 years in temporary quarters with no climate control. Its current home was built in 1962 and has not displayed the painting in its original, circular format. In addition, humidity in the building fluctuates as much as 80 percentage



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points, and the roof has leaked for decades, curators say.

Chief conservator David Olin, of Virginia-based Olin Conservation Inc., said the restoration effort was launched just in time. "Millions of fragments of paint have been lost, and the canvas is shredding," he said.

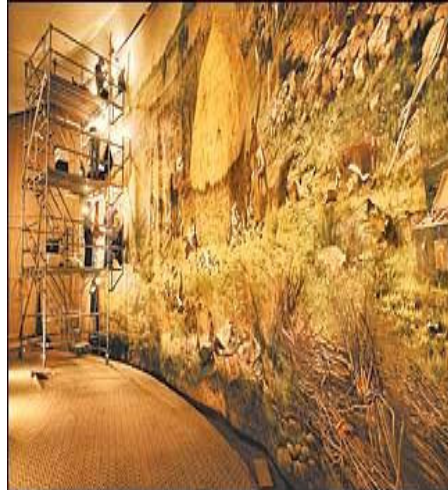
Hartwig said the last time the painting was properly displayed was during its Philadelphia tour in the early 1890s.

By late 2007, for the first time in more than a century, visitors will be able to see the painting as Gibbon saw it, with its three-dimensional effect restored.

When it is completed that year, the painting will be the centerpiece of the new \$95 million visitor center for the park, which is scheduled to open a half-mile away from center's current location.

For the next nine months, Olin and his crew will be working on-site, cleaning off more than a century of grime and fire and water damage, and reversing botched restoration attempts. Later, they will return the missing swath of sky and other lost features in the painting, before returning the three-dimensional objects to the foreground.

For information, call 717-334-1124 or visit the Web site www.nps.gov/gett.



The painting of the Battle of Gettysburg measures 359 feet long and 27 feet high. Restoration of the 1884 work is expected to continue into 2007, but the painting will remain on view at Gettysburg National Military Park until November. Restorers are now cleaning off more than a century of grime and fire and water damage. (Courtesy Phil. Inquirer)

Adams historical society names acting director

By Erin Negley

Hanover, PA Evening Sun

The historical knowledge of the acting director of the Adams County Historical Society stretches far from the hallowed Civil War battlegrounds. Wayne Motts, 38, researched the lives of Adams County men who died during the Vietnam War.

Motts also is a licensed battlefield guide and spent the last year as the society's collections manager. Before that, he served as the curator of the Cumberland County Historical Society and worked as staff historian for Civil War artist Dale Gallon.

Motts took over as acting director when former director Russell Swody resigned earlier this month.

And he'll hold that position for at least three more months, said Harry Seifert, executive director of the

society's board of trustees. After that time, the board will decide whether to advertise for a new director or permanently promote Motts, Seifert said.

"We feel he's well qualified for the position," he said.

Motts said he's interested in becoming executive director, but "happy to serve the society in any capacity."

Swody is now working for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission as manager for the Conrad Weiser Homestead in Berks County, Motts said.

Since Swody became executive director in 1999, he brought the historical society into the 21st century with computer archives and the aquisition of a possible new home, Seifert said.

The society bought the former Adams County Prison property on Biglerville Road last year for \$1 and may relocate from its current headquarters on West Confederate Avenue.

Volunteers also started scanning photos and documents to create computerized copies and a searchable database, Seifert said.

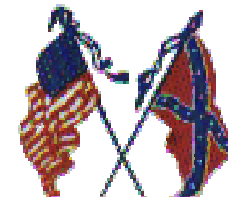
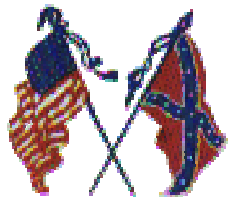
Editor's note: Many BCWRT members will remember Wayne Motts for the fine presentations he has made at our meetings in the past as well as his outstanding guided tours.

Friends Organization Names David Booz New Director

By Erin Negley

Hanover, PA Evening Sun

Thirty years of teaching history and a love for the Civil War prepared David Booz for his next job as the new executive director of the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg.



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Booz, a Westminster, Md., resident, started his new position Saturday. He replaces acting executive director Barbara Finfrock.

Former executive director Vickey Monrean resigned in October after spending six years with the organization.

A board of directors search committee interviewed three candidates for the position, said Dru Anne Neil, communications and marketing director.

Since 1989, the nonprofit organization has preserved more than 400 acres of the battlefield at Gettysburg, directed volunteers to fix fences and barns and educated people about the battle. The group includes 25,000 members and supporters.

Booz, 55, started his career teaching in Carroll County Public Schools 30 years ago. He taught seventh-grade history, high school history, sociology, civics and physical education before he became a high school principal. Most recently, Booz had taught education and history at Carroll County Community College.

"I've always had an extremely high interest in Civil War history and Gettysburg has always been one of those places that's a mecca for the Civil War," Booz said.

"I thought this was a great way to combine my skills and my passions," Booz said.

"Whenever you come into a new position, the first thing you have to do is listen and try to plan with the people who are here," Booz said. "Helping supporting and honoring the national parks at Gettysburg, that's pretty important. I just want to help achieve that and continue to achieve that."

Manassas Battlefield May Get Northern Bypass

By Lillian Kafka
Potomac News Online
Sunday, January 23, 2005

A five-year study on how to direct traffic around the Manassas National Battlefield has produced a preliminary recommendation for a northern bypass route.

The Federal Highway Administration is expected to release a draft environmental impact statement within the next week that recommends alternative D, one of five narrowed down from years of studying and public hearings, according to project director Jack Van Dop.

Congress mandated the study in 1988 to find a way to close Va. 234 and U.S. 29 in the Manassas National Battlefield, which is operated by the National Park Service and sees about 800,000 visitors annually. No money has been appropriated for right-of-way acquisition or construction.

The Manassas National Battlefield is the site of the Battles of First and Second Manassas in 1861 and 1862 during the Civil War.

The park encompasses 5,000 acres among a growing Northern Virginia population that stresses two-lane roads that divide the park into four sections.

Van Dop, a Federal Highway Administration official, said a public hearing on alternative D will be scheduled about a month after the draft statement is released to the public.

Upon release, the report will be available online at <http://www.battlefieldbypass.com> and at several libraries in the battlefield area, he said.

The agency analyzed the five alternatives based on the required acreage, cost, impact on residential neighborhoods and similar alignments of local and state road proposals.

"Of those five, there's one of them that makes more sense to implement," Van Dop said. "We're putting it out there for people to react to."

Project costs range from between \$123 million and \$168 million, according to a draft copy of the statement obtained by the Potomac News and Manassas Journal Messenger.

He said alternative D was introduced in December to a citizens' advisory board, which "did not disagree with that at the time."

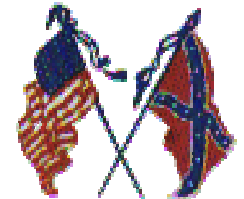
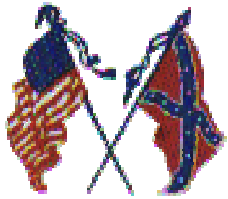
The Friends of Manassas National Battlefield Park, however, would rather see a southerly bypass, according to Vice President Harvey Simon.

He said the Friends group, which includes some people who live around the battlefield, prefers alternative G, which directs traffic from the Luck Stone quarry in Fairfax County south to a road parallel to Interstate 66 and the Battlefield Parkway.

Alternative G proposes to reconnect the bypass to U.S. 29 just east of the Conway Robinson Memorial State Forest.

According to a draft copy of the report, alternative G would affect the most land and the least number of households with highway noise.

That report, which has not been officially released, states that alternative D has less impact than other northerly routes on the Sudley Manor Estates, Bull Run Overlook and Fairfax National Estates neighborhoods.



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It would also have the most noise impact to the most properties -- a majority of which are on Pageland Lane -- according to the study's executive summary.

Alternative G would use 42 acres of what is now the battlefield; alternative D would bisect a Fairfax County Park Authority site.

None of the alternatives have a source of funding, Van Dop said.

"The only thing that funds are available for is the study. As far as construction goes, there are no funds," he said. "In 1988, Congress authorized \$30 million [for construction] with a 25 percent local match required, but authorization is not appropriation."

A portion of alternative D is proposed for the Va. 234 bypass extension that Prince William County has in store for a 2010 road bond referendum.

Another portion of it could be aligned with a proposed tri-county parkway on the west side of the battlefield.

Prince William's Chairman of the Board of County Supervisors Sean T. Connaughton, R-at large, said the board does not have a position on the bypass alternatives.

His personal opinion on it, however, is one that depends on the preservation of rural land in the surrounding areas, he said.

"I would not support any of these proposals unless we can get an iron-clad guarantee that the current land use designation in western Prince William will remain the same," he said. "That means making the road with very limited access and we need to have some sort of state or federal guarantee that the designations of the rural crescent would not be violated."

Simon said the community around Pageland Lane is "in an uproar" about the recommended alternative D.

"We're entering the final phase and there are lots of concerns," he said.

Historic Morris Island For Sale

Associated Press January 28, 2005
CHARLESTON, S.C.

Historic Morris Island, where black troops of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment charged to glory during the Civil War, is for sale and an ad has even been posted on eBay.

Last year Harry Huffman, who owns development rights to the island, ran into opposition trying to get zoning approval for 20 homes on 125 acres of high ground.

The island was where the 54th Massachusetts mounted an 1863 attack against Confederate defenses at Battery Wagner, a battle recounted in the movie "Glory."

The asking price for the property advertised as Cummings Point is \$12.5 million. The tract is being marketed for one large home, not a development project.

"That's about \$100,000 per acre. I figured I couldn't go to Costa Rica and buy beachfront property for that," he said.

The Civil War Preservation Trust has listed Morris Island among its 10 most endangered battlegrounds.

Huffman has been negotiating with several conservation groups who want to buy the island but said it was posted on eBay to see if there was any other interest.

"It's sad to see such a priceless piece of American history put up for auction like some unwanted holiday gift," said Jim Campi, spokesman for the Civil War Preservation Trust.

The property is for sale on eBay, not up for auction.

"If the developer really wants to sell Morris Island, the preservation community is ready to buy," Campi added. "But to do so, he needs to stop the gimmicks and get down to real bargaining based on fair market value - not a \$12.5 million pipe dream."

Huffman said several potential buyers have told him they want to see the island. He is telling potential buyers there are severe building restrictions and the island is accessible only by boat.

The island severely eroded after the Charleston Harbor jetties were built in the late 1800s.

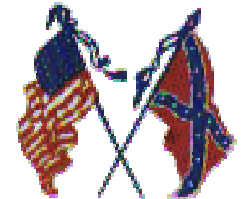
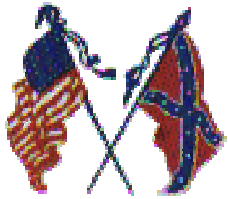
The Morris Island Lighthouse, which went into service in 1876, was originally built 1,200 feet from shore but now the waves wash around it at high tide. Efforts are underway to preserve the lighthouse.

The lighthouse is owned by the state and is not included in the sale tract.

Thousands of Civil War Maps on Web

By Carl Hartman, Associated Press
WASHINGTON - Civil War buffs are getting access to a treasure trove of information -- thousands of original maps and diagrams of battles and campaigns between 1861 and 1865, all posted on the Internet.

The Library of Congress is posting 2,240 maps and charts and 76 atlases and sketchbooks, while The Virginia Historical Society and the Library of Virginia are adding about 600 items. Much of the collection is online now; the rest will be by the spring.



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The items depict troop positions and movements, as well as fortifications. There also are reconnaissance maps, sketches and coastal charts and theater-of-war maps.

One plan of the Mississippi port of Vicksburg was done in 1863, the year Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant forced its surrender on July 4 in one of the war's most decisive operations. It gave the Union control of the river and cut the Confederacy in two.

It also won the attention of President Lincoln to his most successful commander. Lincoln wrote Grant a letter of congratulation and promoted him to major general.

The Vicksburg map includes fortifications, railways, levees, drainage, vegetation and even the names of a few residents.

The same day Vicksburg fell, more than 900 miles away Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee began retreating to Virginia from Gettysburg, Pa., following his defeat there.

The National Archives and Records Administration recently drew attention to a map of the Gettysburg campaign in its own collection. It records positions of troops on July 2, 1863, when the South came close to winning the battle.

The agency has been looking at the back of some of its documents since it worked with Walt Disney Pictures on the current film "National Treasure," a fictional story about a map to hidden treasure on the back of the original Declaration of Independence.

The Gettysburg map, which is not online, went with Lee's report on the battle to Confederate President Jefferson Davis. On the back of Lee's 14-page report was written: "Read with satisfaction and returned to War Dept. Jeffer Davis Aug. 6. 1863"

Davis may have been relieved by the failure of Union Gen. George G. Meade to pursue and destroy Lee's retreating forces.

The contribution of the Virginia Historical Society includes maps of Virginia locations, created by Confederate officers. They detail roads, bridges, waterways and buildings, including farms and plantations with the owners' names.

The Virginia society also presents the viewpoint of the Union side in a diary and scrapbook that belonged to Robert K. Sneden, an Army mapmaker. It includes battle plans and fortifications. The society acquired it recently after it had been locked in a bank vault for decades.

The Library of Virginia has maps that went with reports to the governor and field maps of the southwestern part of the state, found in books that belonged to Confederate Gen. William W. Loring. Items already posted can be seen at: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collecti ons/civil_war_maps

Tabasco Sauce Origin Traced to Civil War Hagerstown

By Dorry Norris, Hagerstown, MD Herald-Mail, January 30, 2005

On Oct. 15, 1815, in Hagers-town, the McIlhennys, owners of McIlhenny's Tavern on the northeast corner of the city's public square, welcomed a newborn son, Edmund, into the family.

Edmund lived in Hagerstown until he was 27, when he moved to New Orleans and took a job with the Bank of Louisiana. He worked his way up from bookkeeper to independent banker, eventually owning several banks. In 1859, Edmund married Mary Eliza Avery,

whose family owned a sugar plantation on what was then known as Petite Anse Island (now Avery Island).

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, the McIlhennys and the Averys sought refuge on the island - which is really a dome of salt. This mineral, essential for curing hides, preserving meats and warding off disease in livestock, was vital to the Confederate cause. It made the island a target for an invasion in 1863 by Union forces. To escape, the family fled to Texas.

The families returned to the island after the war. The company history says Edmund went to New Orleans seeking work. There, he met a traveler known as Gleason who gave him some pepper pods and told Edmund to season his meals with them. McIlhenny, pleased with the taste, saved some of the pods and planted them in the Avery's garden, where they flourished.

Around 1866, his experiments with making a pepper sauce from those peppers, salt from the island and vinegar proved so popular with family and friends that he began to market it.

For distributing the sauce to family and friends, McIlhenny bottled his sauce in discarded cologne bottles topped with sprinkler fittings. The sprinkler top was important because his hot pepper sauce was concentrated and was best when sprinkled, not poured on. In 1870, McIlhenny patented his sauce under the name Tabasco, a Mexican word meaning "land where the soil is wet and hot."