



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Bush Proposes Large Increase for Parks

By JENNIFER TALHELM, Associated Press, February 5, 2007

WASHINGTON -- National parks would get extra money next year to prepare for a big birthday bash -- their own.

President Bush's 2008 budget, unveiled Monday, would give the National Park Service its largest-ever funding increase in preparation for the park system's 100th birthday in 2016.

In all, Bush allots \$2.4 billion for the National Park Service for 2008, \$230 million more than he requested last year. His plan would add \$100 million each year leading up to the centennial, and pledges another \$100 million to be matched by private donations.

The plan would add 3,000 new seasonal employees and increase money for park maintenance -- two areas that advocates say have suffered for years.

Combined, the public and private investments could equal a \$3 billion investment over 10 years, Park Service officials said.

A park watchdog group applauded the move. But House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., panned Bush's proposal, calling the plan to leverage private donations "an illusion conjured by this administration."

The new funding is largely the result of shifting funds from existing important park programs, such as construction, into a new budget column with a new label, Rahall added.

"Our national parks are national treasures -- and their funding is a national responsibility," Rahall said.

Ron Tipton, senior vice president for

programs at the National Parks Conservation Association, said the president's proposal would be a significant step toward solving some of the parks' major problems, including crumbling facilities, growing pollution and lack of park staff.

The group has estimated that the national parks are underfunded by more than \$800 million.

Other key features of the proposed budget include:

- * \$20.0 million for cultural and natural resource programs at 20 parks to meet specific improvement goals, such as upgrading historic structures, eradicating exotic species and restoring disturbed lands.

- * \$22.5 million for federal land acquisition, including completing land acquisition for the Flight 93 National Memorial and funds for Civil War battlefield grants.

Maryland nonprofit buys second oldest train station in U.S.

By CHRIS BROWN, Martinsburg Journal, January 26, 2007

DUFFIELDS — An area nonprofit organization recently acquired the rights to the second oldest surviving train station in the United States, with the hope of turning it into a museum. Duffields Station Inc. finalized the sale on Jan. 19, after securing the station's purchase with the help of Arcadia Building Co. The station was purchased from the previous owners for \$25,000, and then it was donated by Don Miller of Arcadia to the Duffields nonprofit agency. Jack Snyder, president of Duffields Station Inc., said his interest in restoring the historic train station began in August 1993. Snyder and others interested in railroads, particularly those interested

in Duffields Station, formed the nonprofit group in July 2003 with the purpose of purchasing the station and converting it into a museum. Snyder said railroad technology was vital to America when Duffields Station was constructed in 1839. "It was the (technology) of the day, like the Internet is now. It was the one thing you didn't dare be without," he said.

The station is not only important to the history of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, but also to the Civil War. Union troops of the 10th Maine unit were garrisoned at Duffields as early as February 1862, according to information provided by Snyder. This garrison was assigned to the station because it was an important resupply point for Union forces, Snyder said. A battle on June 29, 1864, between Confederate troops commanded by Lt. Col. John S. Mosby and the Union garrison, is just one of many clashes that happened near the site. "Civil War re-enactors will probably act out Mosby's raid (on Duffields Station) in the future," Snyder said. Snyder said the archaeological interest of the site will be protected, and he hopes to have archaeology students from Shepherd University help examine the area. He said he was proud that the second oldest surviving train station in the United States is now in the hands of the public. He hopes to eventually have a museum on the premises, which will be open for special occasions.

Snyder's agency almost missed the opportunity to own the station. Duffields Station Inc. originally made an offer of \$13,000 for the building, but the owners were not interested in the sum, and were quickly offered \$20,000 by another party. Luckily for Snyder's group, Miller was



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able to buy the station for Duffields Station Inc. Miller was involved with the project for several years, ever since he and other people involved with the nearby Harvest Hills subdivision were receptive to the idea of helping restore the station. After completing the station's sale, Duffields Station Inc. immediately started planning for safety improvements.

John Restaino, one of the vice presidents of Duffields Station Inc., said critical work needs to be done immediately to stabilize the historic structure. He said the wooden lintels that hold the roof up are so rotten they could give way, the stone work needs repair, and the basement is flooded.

"I want to stress how threatened the building is right now," Restaino said. He said the work on the lintels is the most urgent, and likely should have been completed two years ago. Restaino estimates a \$20,000 initial investment will be required just to make the building safe. "We sometimes underestimate the holding strength of this old wood, but it's getting kind of iffy," he said.



A cargo train passes by an old train station near the Duffields MARC station on Tuesday. (Journal photo by Martin B. Cherry)

Civil War museum may leave capital

Richmond's Museum of Confederacy studies a move to Lexington

BY JANET CAGGIANO, Richmond Times-Dispatch, January 25, 2007
Museum of the Confederacy officials are considering moving the world's largest collection of Civil War artifacts to Lexington.

"I don't know if the conversations will go anywhere," said Waite Rawls, the museum's president and CEO, who visited Lexington this month. "But they have started."

Lexington, about 140 miles west of downtown Richmond in Rockbridge County, could be a good fit for the museum's collection of Confederate artifacts, manuscripts and photographs. Confederate Gens. Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson are buried there, it is home to Washington and Lee University, and the town takes pride in its Civil War history.

"The mission of the museum is consistent with the historic attractions and educational institutions already in our community," said Lexington Mayor John Knapp in a joint statement with Harvey Hottinger, chairman of the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors.

The museum at 12th and East Clay streets has been struggling for survival beside Virginia Commonwealth University's sprawling medical campus for years. Annual visitation has dropped from 92,000 to about 51,500 since the early 1990s. Rawls announced in October that the museum will relocate its collection but that the adjacent White House of the Confederacy will remain where it has stood since 1818. A committee had looked at the feasibility of relocating the Civil War

home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

"We have said all along that our preference is to be in Richmond," Rawls said. "But given Lexington's historical character . . . we said, 'Let's go up and take a look.' We are no further along than that."

During their visit, Rawls and three members of the museum's board toured a possible site, the historic Rockbridge County courthouse complex on Main Street. Lexington is set to break ground on a new courthouse in February. When the two-year project is completed, the 1897 building will be vacant.

The courthouse complex also includes the town's old jail, which dates to 1841, the First American Bank building and the "lawyer's row" building. All are vacant and would require renovation work.

"We want to keep the historical integrity of the buildings," Rawls said. "The question is, can you do that and meet the needs and demands of both sides?"

It would be a big blow to Richmond if the museum should leave town, said Jack Berry, president and chief executive officer of the Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"It would be a very big loss," he said. "We'd be losing a huge asset. We hope it doesn't happen."

While talks with Lexington will continue, Rawls said, that doesn't mean the search is over.

"This is all very preliminary," he said. Whether the collection stays in Richmond or moves outside the city, Rawls said he hopes the museum will be in its new home by 2011, the beginning of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.



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Price of Gettysburg visitor center to rise

By MEG BERNHARDT, Hagerstown Evening Sun, 01/10/2007

The price of building a new museum and visitor's center in Gettysburg has more than doubled since it was proposed more than 10 years ago, and current \$95-million price tag is going to get even higher.

The Gettysburg Foundation is expected to make a public announcement soon increasing both the cost and the scope of its project to build the new center at the Gettysburg National Military Park. But a spokeswoman said today exact figures will only be released once the number is "more firm."

"As with any project of this scale, there have been some adjustments," said foundation spokeswoman Dru Anne Neil. "When we have a more firm number, we will let the public know."

The foundation – a private entity created to raise money for the new center – originally estimated the project would cost \$39 million. Then it was \$42 million, then \$52 million, and then \$70 million. In 2002, the \$95 million figure was unveiled along with the site plans.

In a letter sent this week to a foundation critic, Park Superintendent John Latschar said the foundation has since proposed raising and spending even more than the \$95 million. Those changes include doubling the acreage of the site because of environmental concerns and building two additional bridges. They also include the increased cost of the restoration of the Cyclorama painting. In addition, he said, the foundation has decided to spend more than twice the original estimated amount on exhibits in the new museum.

"In each of these cases, the NPS has approved the Foundation's proposals, since they have increased the overall quality of the project," Latschar wrote. When asked about the increase and how much more money the foundation will need to raise, Neil said no announcement is currently needed.

"I wouldn't say anything huge to report right now but certainly as we need to let people know we will do so," Neil said.

But she acknowledged all the changes Latschar listed in his letter, saying they were "conscious decisions."

In the past, the foundation has said the \$95-million price tag covers more than the cost of the new visitor center. It includes a \$10 million endowment to maintain the center; \$10 million to run the foundation; \$7 million for exhibit costs and \$6.5 million for design fees.

Rather than relying on the federal government to fund the project, the Park Service decided to enter into a private-public partnership, whereby a private entity would guide the project, raise the money to finance it, and operate the visitor's center for a number of years before turning it over to the government.

The foundation has raised close to \$90 million to pay for the center at the 97-acre site located south of Gettysburg near Hunt Avenue and Baltimore Pike, including \$12 million in federal funds which are being set aside for the conservation of the massive Cyclorama painting, Neil said.

The painting was originally anticipated to cost only \$1 million, but because a restoration of that scale is unprecedented, she said it's increased to \$11.5 million, and the Foundation is setting aside another

\$500,000 of federal money in case the cost increases even more.

Latschar's letter was made public by foundation critic Eric Uberman, who said he wanted all correspondence to be public knowledge. Uberman owns the American Civil War Museum, formerly the National Civil War Wax Museum on Steinwehr Avenue across from the current visitors center. When plans for the new visitor's center were originally discussed, many downtown merchants, especially those along Steinwehr Avenue, expressed concerns the move across the park would hurt their businesses.

Uberman has criticized the foundation for years about the location of the new center's site and said he believes the Park Service and Foundation went back on their word to not take taxpayer money. He's been sending letters to the foundation, director of the National Park Service and the deputy assistant secretary of the Department of Interior since this summer, and this is the first reply he's gotten, he said.

In his letter, he raised concerns about the increasing cost of the project and the use of federal and state funds, despite promises by York developer Robert Kinsley and the National Park Service to build it without using taxpayer funds.

Uberman said he's had concerns for some time about increased costs to the project and the increase of the foundation's maximum allowed long-term borrowing amount – \$20 million up from the original \$12 million. After receiving Latschar's letter, he said he was most concerned about the fact no one knew about this and the overall increase of the project above \$95 million.

"Why are they doing it in secret?" Uberman asked. "Why doesn't the



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public have any interest at all in doubling the cost of the project?"

In his letter, Latschar said the foundation plans to make a public announcement shortly, and also defended the federal funds put toward the project. He said it was the original intent of the National Park Service that the project would be completed without asking Congress for federal tax dollars and that the Park Service has not asked for any.

"However, the United States Congress made it(s) own determination that the value of the project to the Gettysburg National Military Park and the NPS warranted to the appropriation of \$12 million in federal funds," he said. "The decisions of Congress, of course, are beyond our control."

Uberman pointed out that the land added to the project since the original plans – the former Fantasyland property along Taneytown Road – also increased the costs to taxpayers because that is federal land given to the site. Latschar's letter did not specify if the property value of the increased land will be included in the increased cost estimates.

Latschar could not be reached for comment on the letter today.

No 4-lane Highway in Wilderness battlefield

County supervisors douse proposal for new State Route 20 through Wilderness park land.

By ROBIN KNEPPER,
Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star,
1/11/2007

Orange County supervisors have let go of the idea of a four-lane road through the Wilderness battlefield.

"It's time to accept the reality that Route 20 is never going to be four-laned through the battlefield," said board Chairman Mark Johnson. "It's not going to happen."

Johnson's comments preceded the unanimous vote Tuesday night to accept the Route 20 Corridor Plan into the county's comprehensive plan for growth and development.

The corridor plan stirred controversy by recommending that State Route 20 be widened on its present alignment or a new road built west of it next to Lake of the Woods to accommodate the expected increase in traffic.

The county Planning Commission added language, however, to "discourage development that would necessitate construction of a four-lane highway over any portion of the route in Orange County."

"It is the intent of the county not to undertake improvements that would encourage more non-county related traffic," the commission's language continued. "The study did not seriously explore options other than realigning Route 20 through one of the most significant historical resources in the county."

At Tuesday night's public hearing, representatives from the Civil War Preservation Trust, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and the Piedmont Environmental Council joined local no-growth advocates in asking supervisors to accept the Planning Commission's restrictive language.

Russ Smith, superintendent of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park--which includes the Wilderness Battlefield in Spotsylvania and Orange counties--had voiced the Park Service's objection to an enlarged or realigned road through the battlefield.

The present alignment of the two-lane highway, the only road into Orange County from the heavily populated northeastern corner of the county where it adjoins Spotsylvania,

crosses land owned by the Department of Interior and leased to the Virginia Department of Transportation..

Although the board's vote was unanimous, Supervisor Rich Wallace, who represents residents of Lake of the Woods and adjoining areas along Route 20, added his caution.

"It's a dangerous highway," he said, "and something has to be done about it. Too many of our local citizens are dying on that road. Something has to be done to address that."

Supervisor C.L. "Sonny" Dodson, whose district includes the town of Orange and north along Route 20 to U.S. 522 at Unionville, agreed.

"Something has to be done," he said, "and will be. But it will be in some other location other than in the present footprint."

Mariners' Museum Raises \$4 Million to Match Monitor Center Donation

Courtesy huliq.com, January 19, 2007

The Mariners' Museum President and CEO Timothy J. Sullivan announced the successful completion of the 2:1 matching grant set by media executive and Museum Trustee Emeritus Frank Batten, adding a total of \$6 million to the \$30 million USS Monitor Center Capital Campaign. Hundreds of donors contributed during the three-year challenge period, helping meet the \$4 million goal needed in order to receive Batten's \$2 million pledge. Currently \$27 million in cash and pledges have been received towards the ultimate \$30 million capital campaign goal. More than \$2 million in other related gifts and improvements for the new Center have also been received.



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In 2003, The Mariners' Museum announced a \$2 million 2:1 challenge grant from Batten. This challenge launched the \$10 million dollar private sector portion of the Campaign. For every \$2 the Museum raised from a corporation, foundation or individual, Batten provided \$1.

"I am delighted that my challenge for The Mariners' Museum's Monitor fund drive has been met," Batten said. "Now the Trustees can enjoy the splendid exhibit they and the Museum's staff undertook so successfully."

Batten served on The Mariners' Museum's Board of Trustees from 1995 through 2003. He is chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of Landmark Communications, Inc., which publishes The Virginian-Pilot newspaper. In 1982, he launched The Weather Channel under the auspices of Landmark Communications.

The Mariners' Museum is entering the final year of the \$30 million Capital Campaign for the USS Monitor Center. With the backing of another challenge grant from the prestigious Kresge Foundation of Troy, Mich., The Mariners' Museum plans to conclude the private sector campaign by raising the remaining \$3 million required to fund the project from corporations, foundations and individuals. Once the challenge is met, The Mariners' Museum will receive \$600,000 from the Kresge Foundation.

On March 9, 2007, exactly 145 years after the historic clash between the Civil War ironclads USS Monitor and CSS Virginia, The Mariners' Museum and its partners at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will open the doors to one of the premier Civil War attractions across the nation—the

USS Monitor Center. This dramatic new \$30 million, 63,500-square-foot facility will enthrall families with exciting exhibits, bring students face-to-face with history, house state-of-the-art conservation labs and offer historians rich resources for research. NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Program protects the wreck of the famed Civil War ironclad USS Monitor located 16 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., in 240 feet of water. Designated the nation's first marine sanctuary in 1975, the Monitor has since been the subject of intense investigation. In 1987, NOAA, on behalf of the federal government, designated The Mariners' Museum as repository for artifacts and archives from the USS Monitor. NOAA is the Museum's partner in the USS Monitor Center project. -- www.mariner.org

Falling Waters Preservation Group not deterred by lost bid

By NAOMI SMOOT, Martinsville Journal, January 10, 2007

MARTINSBURG — Members of the Falling Waters Battlefield Association say they aren't giving up on their efforts to save the historic Porterfield House.

In early December, the group offered to purchase the home and its surrounding 14-acre parcel for \$800,000, hoping to keep the property out of the hands of developers. Their bid fell short of the \$1.6 million that the property's owner, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, had requested, and the offer was rejected. But group members say that the decision will not be the end of their battle. On Tuesday, group president Tom Ressler said his association was planning to make a second bid on the

property in the coming weeks.

"Our main objective is to save the house. ... The Porterfield House is a very significant part of the historical landscape of Berkeley County," Ressler said.

The home was built by one of Davy Crockett's ancestors in the 1760s and later became the site of a Civil War battle. According to local lore, a cannonball from that day in July 1861 remains lodged in the home's rafters. Ressler and other members of the group want to ensure that this piece of history is preserved for future generations and they plan to make a second attempt at purchasing the property.

This second offer, however, is contingent upon funding from the Berkeley County Commission, Ressler said. He wants to ensure that \$95,000 worth of funds the group had pledged for the purchase are still available. Obtaining that information could take several weeks though, he said. Ressler was on the agenda for Thursday's meeting, but the meeting was canceled earlier this week.

Tuesday, Ressler said that he expects the group's second bid to be slightly less than the one his group offered up late last year. He and the group are hoping to offer a proposal that would include the purchase of the house and a part of the 14 acres that surround it, in exchange for a lower price, he said.

"If we cannot have all 14 acres, five acres would be good," he said.

The group has high hopes that the offer will be approved and is already making plans for how the property could be put to use. A portion of the surrounding grounds could be used for parking, and the house could be used for tours, Ressler said. Gardens and orchards could also be part of a plan for the property.



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Adams County Historical Society houses pieces of the county's past

By MATT CASEY, Hanover Evening Sun, January 17, 2007

Ben Neely recently discovered a tooth at work, but he's not a dentist.

A volunteer brought him a small cloth pocket she found in the collections of the Adams County Historical Society, where Neely serves as the collections manager. She said he should look at it.

Inside, he found a number of tailor slips, the tooth, and a note that explained where it came from.

William T. King of Gettysburg wrote that he pulled the tooth out of a skull at the Gettysburg battlefield, and it belonged to William L. Daniel of the 2nd South Carolina Infantry. It did not include an explanation of why King took the tooth. It just said that he did.

Neely said he was initially unsure whether or not it was legal for the historical society to have human remains. It is, he found out, as long as the society acquired it second-hand.

Executive director Wayne Motts said he researched the soldier. He died unmarried and without children, but he did have brothers and sisters.

Motts tracked down the soldier's great-grand-nephew in South Carolina and asked him if he wanted the tooth. The great-grand-nephew said he would.

Now Motts plans to bring the tooth to South Carolina with a military headstone and bury it.

Neely said he and volunteers make discoveries like this all the time at the historical society, located on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg.

"It's like Christmas every day," he said.

He estimated the society's has 20,000 pieces, and that's just objects. When you count in photos and documents, the number swells to more than 1 million.

Most of those are in storage, and not all of them have been properly catalogued.

Neely said he's working on it. The society only employs two full-time historians – Neely and Motts – but he has an army of volunteers and a collection of interns that help preserve and catalog the collection.

Kate Mihalov stands somewhere in-between. Motts said he treats her as an intern, but Mihalov, 19, a sophomore at Shippensburg University, said she has never received college credit for her work in Gettysburg.

"This is all on my own time because I love it down here," she said.

Mihalov said she started helping out at the historical society last winter. For a total of eight days over the winter break she numbered and catalogued bullets from the Civil War.

The collection she worked on sits on the bottom right-hand corner of a wood and glass case in the society's Civil War room. The bullets have turned brown with age.

She took each of the 160 bullets out of the case, painted a small white spot on the underside, and marked them with a unique number.

Currently, she's working with other objects from the collection including a hunk of artillery shrapnel and a grapeshot.

She removes each piece from the case, numbers it, and photographs it before putting it back. She downloads the photos onto a computer and matches them to correlating files on a program called Past Perfect.

Eventually, workers at the historical society will be able to take a number

off any object, enter it into the computer, and get a full description of it.

But first, the pieces have to be charted. Volunteers have been tracking this information on paper for years, but without the direction of a professional historian, some of the information got confused.

In the first week of the year, Karin Bohleke, a professor at Hood College in Frederick, Md., worked to preserve a child's undergarment. She found a record of it in the ledger by it's unique number, but the record said it was insect-eaten. The piece she worked with was nearly pristine.

Despite the society's extensive collection, Neely called the building "our greatest artifact."

During the Civil War, the building served as a hospital, Neely said.

"Very few people got a cot," Motts said. "Most people got a floor. We have accounts of union and confederate soldiers in the same room."

Prior to that, Neely said it served as both a dormitory and academic building for the seminary. They took classes on the second floor, and lived on the third.

But the building comes with its problems.

The temperature difference between the first and third floors is striking.

A T-shirt would be comfortable in the basement. The second floor is chilly, and the third floor feels barely insulated from the cold weather outside.

Neely explained that the building still works off the heating system installed by the seminary in 1895.

And that was an upgrade. When the building was constructed in 1832, fireplaces provided the building's heat.

But the biggest problem is space.



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"We have to be very selective in what we take here," Motts said.

He said the society does not accept most things people try to donate, though he will often refer donors to other historical groups that might be interested.

While some of the rooms are set up as exhibits, others serve as storage. An eclectic collection of pieces ranging from an egg incubator to a pair of mannequin hands crowd in a corner room on the fourth floor. Furniture fills another in a similar fashion, and shelves full of documents pack others.

Not even Motts' or Neely's offices are exempt. They both have desks, but they're in rooms that function as storage. Historical books line a wall in Motts' office.

In Neely's office, volunteers pop in to pull volumes from the shelves on three walls of his office.

Modern history

The clutter extends to his desk. A pile of photos in acid-free sleeves rest on the surface, and a "No Casino" button sits on top.

Neely said the button is for the collection. He plans to get a pair of "No Casino" signs, and reach out to Crossroads Gaming Resort and Spa for "Pro Casino" material.

He doesn't express an opinion on the casino – a project organized by a group of Gettysburg investors that lost their bid to build a gaming parlor near routes 15 and 30. But Neely notes that it's not the first time there's been tension between historical preservation and recreational development.

An exhibit in the same room as the Civil War rifles and souvenirs carved from wood taken from the battlefield with bullets still in them explains what he means.

A collection of photographs hang next to a rough wooden tie from the Gettysburg Electrical Railway.

The description explains that the railway ran from 1893 to 1916 and attracted tourists to the battlefield, however "the construction of the trolley line was seen as 'ruthless vandalism' by veterans of the battle." It continues to explain that the tracks were removed in 1917, but the path is still traceable today.

But most people that visit the historical society don't see this. Visitors can see the museum by appointment only. Mostly, they come to search through records.

That's what Candy Lehning and Darlene Rice did a week ago.

They both live in Winter Haven, Fla., but a family funeral brought them to the area.

Lehning said she saw the research as "kind of bringing them back to life a little bit by researching what they had."

With the aid of a volunteer, Lehning and Rice, her mother, found a genealogical volume written by a relative in Adams County.

"We have found (Rice's) grandfather's will," Lehning said. It included minute details of his belongings. Rice's grandfather left his wife cows, chickens, a mare, a saddle, half a pound of all spice, half a pound of pepper and twelve bushels of potatoes, two sheets and half of the kitchen furniture, among other things.

"If they didn't put the fork in the will, she wouldn't have anything to eat with," Lehner said.

A volunteer named Bob Cluck brought in a thick volume to show the mother and daughter. He opened it to the deed of Andrew Hart, filed in 1793.

The deed included not only Hart's name, but where he came from,

allowing Rice and Lehning to tie their lineage back to England.

Cluck, a resident of Reston, Va., has been volunteering at the historical society for four years. History didn't interest him in his younger life, he said, but he recently developed a passion for it.

"You get to work with the really old documents yourself, directly," he said.

Cluck said he travels to the society once a week to help visitors investigate their genealogy through deeds, newspaper clipping, censuses reports and other resources.

"Sometimes you just run into deadends, but other times it's rich what you find," he said.

He said he never really gives up when looking for a family or person. He keeps a mental "cold case" file, and occasionally finds what he was looking for where he wouldn't expect it.

Volunteers like Cluck are also one of the society's sources of funding. Non-members that visit to research pay a flat fee of \$5 to use the records, but sometimes people can't make it to the historical society.

For those people, Cluck bills his research at \$25 per hour, all of which goes to the historical society's coffers.

Neely said he also sells prints and digital copies of photographs from the society's collection at \$10 for a 4-by-5, and \$22 for an 8-by-10, or a flat fee of \$50 to buy one-time rights to publish a photo.

The society also receives a stipend from the County Commissioners and State of Pennsylvania. The group also sells books and other products as fundraisers.

Motts said Adams County National Bank sponsored the society's lectures



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in 2006 and 2007, but most of their funds come from donations.

And the money helps, Neely said, because historical preservation is expensive.

He opens a catalogue and turns to a page on preservation kits. A kit to store one uniform costs \$47.19. A hanger costs \$57.65.

Neely explains that the hanger is padded, and takes stress off the seams, but even on the padded hanger an old shirt would eventually tear itself apart at the seams under its own weight.

And then there's sleeves for documents and photo negatives and boxes to store them in.

Neely said he occasionally gets financial help from volunteers. A project they want to work on might require hundreds of dollars of storage material – beyond the society's means – and the volunteer will pay for the sleeves and boxes out of their own pocket.

Outside his office last week, a visitor reaped the benefits of these donations.

Brandi Barra, a New Oxford resident and student at Polytechnic University in Brooklyn, sat at a table and researched her grandfather's house.

After an hour of research, she found a list of names associated with the property. She didn't find a narrative to tie those names together, she said, but she plans to keep looking.

"It's an old house and I just want to know about the house and the property itself," Barra said.

Cannon battle may head to court

By JOEL ELLIOTT, Kennebec Journal, January 25, 2007

Two veterans' organizations fighting for possession of a pair of bronze Civil War cannons are squaring off in

preparation for the next skirmish, which could take place in court.

The cannons disappeared from the grounds of Togus Veterans Affairs Medical Center as long as half a century ago. They were discovered by Winslow antiques dealer Todd Violette two years ago in Richmond, where they were mounted in front of the Emerson-Lane American Legion Post 132.

Violette became concerned that the cannons -- exposed to the elements and scrubbed clean of their protective patina by a well-meaning but misguided Legion post member -- were deteriorating in the Legionnaires' custody.

Togus is seeking the cannons' return, but Legionnaires said they won't allow that, even if it means chaining themselves to the 1,200-pound guns. Both sides are exploring their legal options for what could be a messy battle.

Togus Police Capt. Arnold Ridley, who conducted an initial investigation, said the effort to retrieve the cannons apparently stalled when Togus' general counsel Bruce Williams took over the case.

"I'd love to see these cannons back where they belong," Ridley said. "I've put a lot of time and effort into this investigation."

Ridley said Togus revived its quest when articles on the matter appeared in Tuesday's Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel. Now, Williams said, he is waiting for the Legion to make a move.

"At this point, we were really hoping that the Legion would do the right thing -- the right thing being to return them to Togus," he said.

But the Legion has no intention of returning the cannons, according to Lester Dearborn, commander of the Richmond Legion post.

"The cannons that are at Togus; the members of my post have taken up fundraisers to pay to maintain them," Dearborn said on Tuesday.

"So for them to say that we can't take care of them is laughable."

As the two sides define their positions, the American Legion state leadership is keeping its distance from the fray.

"We do not micromanage the individual posts," American Legion Department Commander Donald Simoneau said. "This is something that goes on within that post, and I have no authority to step in and tell them what to do."

Simoneau said his office will provide Post 132 with political support if members ask for it.

All four members of Maine's congressional delegation took a similarly hands-off approach, either urging for compromise or declining comment.

"These cannons are an important piece of our nation's history and should be preserved," Rep. Michael H. Michaud, D-2nd District, said. "I believe that the Richmond American Legion Post and Togus understand and support this need, and that they will quickly reach a solution that protects the cannons and satisfies all parties."

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said through spokesman Kevin Kelley that she is "hopeful that the two groups can work toward a solution, the goal being that the Legion post is treated fairly and the public interest served."

Both Rep. Tom Allen, D-1st District, and Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, said through spokesmen that they were communicating with various parties involved in the dispute, but declined further comment.

Violette, the man who called attention to the situation in the first place, is



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urging that Legionnaires return the cannons in order to halt their deterioration.

"The fact is that these historical cannons must be preserved for future generations. They can't be replaced," he said.

"No one questions that members of the American Legion are honorable people -- so I hope they will do the right thing."

Gradual deterioration is destroying Graffiti House inscriptions

By: Hilary Lewis, Fauquier Times-Democrat, January 2, 2007

A piece of rich history and one of the most extensive collections of Civil War artifacts discovered in recent decades may be in jeopardy. According to the Brandy Station Foundation, the non-profit organization that protects the Brandy Station area of Culpeper County, the Graffiti House is slowly crumbling to the ground.

The two-story house, located six miles north of Culpeper, was built in 1858 and served as a field hospital and office for Union and Confederate troops during the Civil War. Soldiers from both sides made drawings with charcoal from a central fireplace and inscribed their names and units on the walls.

The walls on the second floor of the house contain more than 200 inscriptions, including the signature of J.E.B. Stuart and Lieutenant James Marshall of Fauquier. However, these Civil War treasures may soon be lost, as the walls of the house are cracking with age and fatigue, destroying the precious inscriptions.

Della Edrington, a volunteer coordinator for the Brandy Station Foundation, walks through the house every day and collects pieces of the

broken walls. She has made it her mission to see that this important historical landmark is preserved.

"I just love this old house," she said.

"Every name on the walls has a story behind it."

Recently, Edrington voiced her concerns about the landmark and the action that must be taken to preserve it to members of the Virginia House of Delegates at the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce breakfast. She said the Graffiti House will eventually collapse without proper funding from the state. According to the Brandy Station Foundation, the Graffiti House is technically in sound condition, but the plastered walls that contain the graffiti are covered in cracks running in all different directions. The only solution to fixing this problem seems to be patching over the cracks, thus covering the artwork, a risk the Foundation refuses to take. Helen Geisler, a long-time member of the Foundation's board of directors said, "There is just so much to do. We need so many things to maintain the house. We just can't lose those names on the walls or we won't have anything."

Geisler added that the cracked walls of the house suffer from a number of problems. They were constructed of an old-fashioned wooden lath and covered with horse hair plaster. Diagonal cracks that run through the plaster are said to be caused by stress in the foundation. The horizontal cracks are caused by movement in the wooden lath. The main issues the historic plaster walls face today are:

*Age. The house was built nearly 150 years ago and has never received the attention that an old structure should in order to be preserved. The previous owner of the house tried to preserve the walls on the first floor of

the house and consequently covered what was believed to be a large collection of the graffiti with drywall, losing it forever.

*Changes in climate. The house currently has no central heating or cooling system so the temperature inside is constantly changing. The constant rise and fall to accommodate visitors causes the plaster to crumble. During the winter months, the house is warmed by gas heaters in each room only when someone is present. It is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, so the rest of the week the house must stay at whatever temperature it is outside.

*Vibration. For the past 150 years, the house has sat within several yards of railroad tracks. Every time a train passes by the house, the vibrations cause the aging wood to crack and crumble even more. The vibrations have caused the walls to simply fall apart. In the course of one hour in the house, three trains passed by.

*Moisture control. Another key issue to the preservation of the house. Most artifacts of this caliber are preserved by a humidity control system. But the poorly insulated house allows cold air and moisture to pass freely through the walls.

The house also experienced water damage when a hurricane came through a few years ago and ripped off the roof. "Water was pouring in and the house just cracked," recalls Geisler. "Rain was coming in and pouring out of the electrical sockets on the first floor."

The Foundation repaired the lost roof, but the damage to the graffiti artwork and walls could not be undone. They know that it would only take one big storm to destroy the house and its unstable structure completely. With such problems mounting, the



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Brandy Station Foundation feels it's necessary to consult an historical architect to produce an architectural conservation survey. The survey would determine the best way to undergo the restoration of the house while saving the graffiti on the walls. Such surveys have been conducted on several other Civil War-era houses in Virginia such as the Blenheim House in Fairfax, which also contains graffiti and suffered from the same problems. The Blenheim House has since undergone a meticulous restoration process and its graffiti preserved.

There are just too many unknowns for us right now to even begin to speculate what has to happen, that's why we need to have a report made, so that we know where we need to go in the future," said Edrington. The Brandy Station Foundation has applied for a grant for historic preservation funds from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for \$11,675 to cover costs of developing an architectural report, but the funds are yet to be received. "I know somehow we will get this done through the generosity of others," said Geisler. "Our foundation operates on a lot of faith."

In Douglass Tribute, Slave Folklore and Fact Collide

By NOAM COHEN, New York Times, January 24, 2007

At the northwest corner of Central Park, construction is under way on Frederick Douglass Circle, a \$15.5 million project honoring the escaped slave who became a world-renowned orator and abolitionist.

Beneath an eight-foot-tall sculpture of Douglass, the plans call for a huge quilt in granite, an array of squares, a symbol in each, supposedly part of a secret code sewn into family quilts and used along the Underground

Railroad to aid slaves. Two plaques would explain this.

The only problem: According to many prominent historians, the secret code — the subject of a popular book that has been featured on no less a cultural touchstone than "The Oprah Winfrey Show" — never existed. And now the city is reconsidering the inclusion of the plaques, so as not to "publicize spurious history," Kate D. Levin, the city's commissioner of cultural affairs, said yesterday.

The plaques may go, but they have spawned an energetic debate about folklore versus fact, and who decides what becomes the lasting historical record.

The memorial's link between Douglass, who escaped slavery from Baltimore at age 20, and the coded designs has puzzled historians. But what particularly raised the historians' ire were the two plaques, one naming the code's symbols and the other explaining that they were used "to indicate the location of safe houses, escape routes and to convey other information vital to a slave's escape and survival."

It's "a myth, bordering on a hoax," said David Blight, a Yale University historian who has written a book about Douglass and edited his autobiography. "To permanently associate Douglass's life with this story instead of great, real stories is unfortunate at best."

The quilt theory was first published in the 1999 book "Hidden in Plain View," by Jacqueline Tobin, a journalist and college English instructor from Denver, and Raymond Dobard, a quilting and African textiles expert. It was based on the recollections of Ozella McDaniel Williams, a teacher in Los Angeles who became a quiltmaker in Charleston, S.C. "Ozella's code," the book says, was

handed down from slave times from mother to daughter. Ms. Williams died in 1998.

According to "Hidden in Plain View," slaves created quilts with codes to advise those fleeing captivity. What looked to the slave master like an abstract panel on a quilt being "aired out" on a porch in fact represented a reminder, say, to be sure to follow a zigzag path to avoid being tracked when escaping. In Ms. Williams's account, there was a sequence of 10 panels to guide an escaping slave, beginning with a "monkey wrench" pattern meaning to gather up tools and supplies and concluding with a star, a reminder to head north.

The authors say that people have tried to make too much of the book, which they intended to be one family's story. "I would say there has been a great deal of misunderstanding about the code," Dr. Dobard said. "In the book Jackie and I set out to say it was a set of directives. It was a beginning, not an end-all, to stir people to think and share those stories."

Even before the book was published, the codes in "Hidden in Plain View" got a boost from "The Oprah Winfrey Show," which had Dr. Dobard, a quilter himself, as a guest in November 1998. The show was rebroadcast on Martin Luther King's Birthday in 1999, the day before the book was published, according to Janet Hill, who edited it and is now a vice president of Doubleday. That same day, Ms. Hill wrote in an e-mail message, the book was featured in USA Today. "The book seemed to take off from there," she wrote.

There are currently 207,000 copies in print, she said. The codes are frequently taught in elementary schools (teachers have been eager to take up the quilting-codes theory



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because of its useful pedagogic elements — a secret code, artwork and a story of triumph), and the patterns represent a small industry within quiltmaking.

Algernon Miller, who designed the memorial site, said he "was inspired by this story line," which he discovered in the library. His was a re-interpretation, he said, noting that he was "taking a soft material, a quilt, and converting it into granite."

"Traditionally what African-Americans do is take something and reinterpret into another form," he said.

The team of Mr. Miller and a sculptor, Gabriel Koren, were selected in January 2003, from six proposals in a competition organized by the Studio Museum in Harlem. While the project, which involves rebuilding roadways, will cost more than \$15 million in city, state and federal money, the 15,000-square-foot plaza and sculpture were commissioned for \$750,000. It's unclear how much it would cost to redesign it now. The memorial, at 110th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard, is expected to be completed in fall 2008.

Professor Blight raised his concerns shortly after reading an editorial column in *The New York Times* in November praising the project and treating the quilting codes as fact. He posted a message at an online discussion group for historians of slavery. "Unfortunately, this UGRR quilt code mythology has also managed to make its way onto the very permanent and very important Frederick Douglass Memorial," he wrote, using initials to refer to the Underground Railroad. "Douglass never saw a quilt used to free any slaves in his day. Why do we need to pin this nonsense on him now?"

Dozens of postings later, one commentator this month posted a

note cautioning that the discussion was threatening to "degenerate into an episode of 'Historians Gone Wild.'"

"We are watching in real time an unfolding of belief in a story," said Marsha MacDowell, a quilting expert and an art professor at Michigan State University. "It will take years to undo. It's like Washington chopping down the cherry tree. It has finally been written out of the history books." Giles R. Wright, director of the Afro-American History Program at the New Jersey Historical Commission, rattled off the historians' problems in a telephone interview: There is no surviving example of an encoded quilt from the period. The code was never mentioned in any of the interviews of ex-slaves carried out in the 1930's by the Works Progress Administration. There is no mention of quilting codes in any diaries or memoirs from the period.

Mr. Miller responded to critics: "No matter what anyone has to say, they weren't there in that particular moment, especially something that was in secret."

John Reddick, who works for the Central Park Conservancy and helped shepherd the project through its financing and community board approval, noted that in less than a decade "Hidden in Plain View" had become "a touchstone to creative people" and compared the quilt code to the coded language in Negro spirituals. "Take 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,'" he said, "the slave master thinks you are talking about dying, and the slaves are talking about getting away." He also noted the paradox of historians demanding written evidence when slaves were barred from learning to read and write.

On Ms. Winfrey's show, Dr. Dobard appeared with the black descendants of Thomas Jefferson. That relationship was preserved in oral history across the centuries, even as historians of the past generally dismissed the claim. DNA tests published in 1998 are considered to have confirmed Jefferson's paternity.

A spokeswoman for Harpo Productions, which produces the show, had no comment on the controversy.

A historian, Christopher Moore, who is research coordinator at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, was consulted on the printed material in the memorial, which includes many quotations from Douglass.

In an interview, Mr. Moore said that as an unpaid consultant reviewing the project, he focused on the Douglass material, and gave cursory attention to the quilts.

When told of the historians' objections, Mr. Moore said "it was a mistake" to include the text explaining the codes. He said he has since been asked to write a historically accurate text for the memorial.

Ms. Levin said she thought the memorial's larger quilting theme was appropriate. "Something can inspire an artist that is not based in fact," she said. "This isn't a work of history, it's a work of art."

Lincoln Bedroom is restored to its 19th-century glory

By Michael Beschloss, *Newsweek*, Feb. 12, 2007

A hundred and ninety-eight years after Abraham Lincoln's birth, the White House's Lincoln Bedroom finally looks like a room the great man would recognize.



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Until recently, Lincoln furniture and a copy of the Gettysburg Address were displayed against the pale walls, curtains and carpet of a 1950s city hotel—not the vivid golds and purples, heavy fabrics and large patterns of Lincoln's era.

One reason for this mild historical fib was to focus attention on the chamber's historic objects. Another: midcentury Americans disdained Victorian décor, which they equated with the horrific house in Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho."

But now, under First Lady Laura Bush and White House curator Bill Allman, the bedroom has been impressively restored to the time of the Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation, which Lincoln signed there in 1863.

The chamber, of course, was never Lincoln's bedroom. It was his office, as it was for later presidents until Theodore Roosevelt built the West Wing in 1902. Harry Truman, though he was descended from Missouri Confederates, felt that Lincoln should be honored with the old mansion's only room named for an ex-president, its centerpiece, the haunting mahogany bed in which 11-year-old Willie Lincoln died.

Facing agonizing choices, chief executives often wonder: what would Lincoln have done? In its newest incarnation, the Lincoln Bedroom will allow them more than ever to sense that mystical aura of the Civil War martyr and the storm through which he guided us.

Man cleared of dumping oil on battlefield

By BRENDAN deROODE WEST, Hagerstown Evening Sun, January 6, 2007

A Gettysburg man accused of dumping oil on a little-traveled section of the Gettysburg battlefield pleaded

guilty Tuesday to transporting the oil without a permit.

The guilty plea will require Daniel A. Bowers to repay about \$7,000 spent to test the substance spilled on Confederate Cavalry Road in May. In addition, Bowers could face up to a year in jail and \$25,000 in fines when he's sentenced Feb. 16 in Adams County court.

Bowers, 32, of 201 Longstreet Drive, drew the attention of Gettysburg National Military Park ranger who spotted Bowers' truck and trailer parked in the grass of east Cavalry Field. The trailer was carrying two 55-gallon barrels lying their sides, and Bowers was picking up oily soil from the battlefield when Ranger Charles Callahan approached, Callahan testified in November.

Bowers has said the spill, which according to court documents dumped between 30 and 40 gallons of oil on the battlefield, was an accident.

He initially told Callahan he got the two barrels from his employer, SKR Paving, and that his boss told him to take the drums to a recycling center, court documents said. Bowers indicated he was parked in the area because he was reading the newspaper, Callahan testified.

He provided a different story two days later, indicating instead he had taken one of the barrels from an engine-repair shop on Roth's Church Road that was closing, and was transferring the contents from the shop's barrel into an empty barrel, court documents said.

When questioned by investigators from the Environmental Crimes Section of the Attorney General's Office, Bowers told yet another version of what happened, saying he got waste oil from a friend's uncle and was transporting it to his boss' garage

when he noticed a leak at the battlefield.

Bowers pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of transporting oil without a permit to an area that did not have a permit to receive it. He was originally charged with dumping the oil as well, but that misdemeanor charge has been dismissed.

Adams County District Attorney Shawn Wagner said Bowers had already paid restitution to the fire company that put out absorbent pads to soak up the 30-foot-long spill, and no restoration of the battlefield will take place because of archeological issues.

Bowers owes \$6,833.75 in restitution to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for lab fees for determining what was spilled, and could face up to a year in prison and \$25,000 in fines.

Discovery suggests York's rebel helper

Civil War mystery now centers on author of note hidden in girl's roses

By JAMES McCLURE, York Daily Record/Sunday News, Jan 21, 2007
One of York County's most compelling whodunits now appears to have an ending.

Who was that young girl who handed a bouquet of flowers to the Confederate general as his rebel brigade marched through York toward Wrightsville and its coveted covered bridge in late June 1863?

This story has been told and retold since Gen. John B. Gordon recounted the tale of the anonymous floral gift in his 1904 auto-biography.

It's not just a local mystery.

Biographers and military historians writing about the famed Confederate general often tell the tale.

Now they apparently have a name to attach to the story: 12-year-old



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Margaret Small, part of an obscure branch of York's most prominent 19th-century family.

It wasn't the flowers that made the moment important. Many belles socialized with butternut-and-gray-clad invaders during the 40-plus hours they were in and around York.

The bouquet hid a note showing Union troop defensive positions in Wrightsville and the best route to go around breastworks to capture the mile-long bridge.

The charm of the story surrounding the note written with a dainty hand, construed by Gordon to have been penned by a woman, shrouds the traitorous information it disclosed.

As it turned out, Union troops barely had time to torch the monstrous wooden structure and bar the Confederates from reaching the Susquehanna River's east bank. Had the rebels crossed, they would've had a clear shot at Lancaster or Harrisburg's lightly defended rear.

And at least two Union defenders lost their lives in fighting around Wrightsville. Nine men in blue were wounded. A rebel cannonade and flames spreading from the burning bridge damaged or gutted numerous buildings in the town.

The story is, in a sense, a murder mystery.

The 6,000 or more battle-hardened Confederates invading lightly defended York County in those days before the Battle of Gettysburg terrorized residents.

The note, apparently delivered by Margaret Small, abetted the enemy. But her identity puzzled Civil War researchers until December.

Lila Fourhman-Shaull, York County Heritage Trust archivist, discovered an account stating that the then-

unnamed girl was reportedly a young daughter of storekeeper William Small. She learned of this Small link in reviewing Charles Baum's eyewitness account of the invasion described in a history of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in York.

Following this lead, Fourhman-Shaull and archivist emeritus June Lloyd then gathered pieces of the Small puzzle, identifying young Margaret as the likely message bearer.

In the process, more questions emerged.

Why did the daughter of William Small deliver the note? Who gave it to her? Was it indeed in female handwriting? And how did the writer get such detailed positions and troop strength?

Such questions may never be solved. But the quest to find answers reveals a lot about York County in the 1860s when the ominous gray cloud covered most of its 900 square miles.

Gordon and his men, perhaps a quarter of the rebel force invading York County, marched into Paradise Township on June 27, 1863, on their way east to the Susquehanna.

That night, the town's fathers surrendered York to Gordon at his headquarters in Farmers, 10 miles west of York.

The next morning, General Gordon's advance guard entered undefended York and took down the 35-foot flag in the town's Centre Square.

Now that York was officially in Confederate hands, the general rode along East Market Street toward his brigade's destination that day: Wrightsville and its bridge about 12 miles east.

The general stopped to address young women gathered on the porch of leading York businessman P.A. Small's East Market Street house.

In his best courtroom address, the lawyer-general reassured the belles that he would have the head of any soldier who destroyed property or even insulted a woman.

Gordon slowly proceeded east and presently observed a girl, maybe 12 years in age, running up to his horse.

The rebel occupation caused churches all over town to cancel services.

St. Paul's Evangelical English Lutheran Church on West King Street was the exception.

Its pastor, the Rev. William M. Baum, was a staunch Unionist.

In recent weeks, he had been drilling with other citizen-soldiers, carrying a wooden gun.

Baum and seven others other worshipped that morning.

One missing family, a prominent St. Paul's name, was that of William Small.

And the Smalls did not have far to travel. They lived next door to the church on South Beaver Street.

The young girl reached up and handed Gordon a big bouquet of flowers.

But the general did not pause to admire the roses.

Inside, he found an unsigned note written in delicate hand.

He read and reread it on his journey east. He found it bereft of politics, but its urgency and attention to details inspired his confidence.

Dr. Charles Baum, son of St. Paul's pastor, was fond of recounting the Confederate invasion he witnessed as a youngster.

Word got around that a member of St. Paul's flock had wandered away that day to hand the bouquet to Gordon. In fact, one of the daughters of



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William Small, Baum's former neighbor, was at the center of the rumors.

If Gordon was any judge of age - he had 4- and 6-year-old sons - 12-year-old Margaret Ann probably was the girl. If his aim was low, her next oldest sister was 15-year-old Laura Catherine.

Their father had established himself as a butcher, passed that business on to his son and then tended a store. He was a respected businessman, though an undistinguished distant cousin to the mighty P.A. Small. And his wife, Catherine, was a Lanian, one of York County's most respected families.

But had he and his family walked the few steps to St. Paul's that day, Margaret might have been in church instead of handing flowers to Gordon.

Nearing Wrightsville several hours after passing through York, Gordon mounted the high ridge, probably Strickler's Hill, prompted by the note. A look through his field glasses verified the message. He scanned the defenders in blue crouched in curved trenches and the bridge beyond them.

And he saw the ravine, known to locals as Kreutz Creek, skirting the enemy's left flank all the way to the river.

That ravine would be hard to defend and offered an opportunity to outflank the thin blue line. The correspondent, Gordon concluded, had displayed a genius for war.

If presented the opportunity, he wrote, she might have equaled Catherine the Great, powerful Russian empress of the late 1700s.

Most Union defenders hustled to safety across the bridge in the face of Gordon's best assault.

An attempt to blast a span into the Susquehanna failed, and the defenders set it on fire.

The rebels would march no further east.

Gordon's commander, Gen. Jubal Early, later assessed his men's performance, with 20 hot-weather miles on their legs that day:

"... (T)he enemy beat him running."

That, despite the note among the roses that had given the Confederates a head start.

William Small's apparent association with the deliverer of the bouquet did not appear to harm his community standing.

It was likely common knowledge that his daughter gave Gordon the roses. The streets were crowded that day, and her handoff would have been observed. That would have been enough to spark comment among the Unionists.

Its enclosed note also likely became public, small towns being as they are. But his daughter's link to the note does not mean William Small or his wife were behind it.

In fact, Gordon could have been wrong that a woman wrote the note. Extant documents from that era show that men penned finely written documents, too.

Perhaps someone else surveyed Wrightsville's defenses, committed the details to paper and rushed back to York. They could have handed the bouquet to Margaret, an innocent bystander, for delivery. Perhaps Margaret never knew the bouquet bore a note.

The county teemed with potential correspondents empathetic with the politics of their gray-clad visitors. Indeed, thousands of them.

The Confederate invasion presented just a brief intermission in York

County's own civil war. That conflict pitted Peace Democrats, called Copperheads, versus Lincoln men. Copperheads felt a war over slavery was unconstitutional. Unionists countered that the constitution did not permit secession.

In his memoirs, A.B. Farquhar, the young factory owner who catalyzed York's surrender, summed up the county's ambivalence toward the war: "The beginnings of the events which developed into the Civil War did not much move us. York was distinctively Northern but not bitterly anti-Southern."

Put another way, a majority in York County backed the so-called Copperhead slogan, "The Union as it was, the Constitution as it is and the Negroes where they are."

The local civil war reached its high-water mark after Gordon's men withdrew to fight in and around Gettysburg just days after dipping their boots in the Susquehanna.

Copperheads blamed Unionists for giving up the town to protect their business interests. Union supporters ostracized their Democratic neighbors for associating with the rebels.

As years turned into decades, no known investigations emerged to find the writer of the note and the deliverer of the bouquet to Gordon. In fact, when Gordon returned to give a speech some years after the war's end, he received a hero's welcome.

In that sense, the rebels won York County's civil war.

As late as the 1960s, historian W.S. Nye noted, Wrightsville-area residents lacked curiosity about the penman.

Or penwoman.

These swirling, opposing county political forces possibly blew away



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criticism of William Small and his family.

Small remained a respected businessman and an exemplary member of St. Paul's.

And young Margaret Small, if she was indeed the flower bearer, perhaps did not live long enough to realize the deadly implication of her actions.

She did not survive far into her teens, common for that day. Her death the next year drew just a brief notice in the newspaper.

Straight from the source

'This girl was said to have been the daughter of William Small of South George St., York, Pa. As the parsonage was not in condition to receive a new pastor, our family resided for some months with Mr. Isaac Kepner, whose next door neighbor was the said William Small.'

- Charles Baum in
Paul J. Kane's "A History of St. Paul's Lutheran Church"

"As we moved along the street after this episode, a little girl, probably twelve years of age, ran up to my horse and handed me a large bouquet of flowers, in the centre of which was a note, in delicate handwriting, purporting to give the numbers and describe the position of the Union forces of Wrightsville, toward which I was advancing. I carefully read and reread this strange note. It bore no signature, and contained no assurance of sympathy for the Southern cause, but it was so terse and explicit in its terms as to compel my confidence.

"The second day we were in front of Wrightsville, and from the high ridge on which this note suggested that I halt and examine the position of the Union troops, I eagerly scanned the prospect with my field-glasses, in order to verify the truth of the

mysterious communication or detect its misrepresentations. There in full view before us, was the town, just as described, nestling on the banks of the Susquehanna... .

"Not an inaccurate detail in that note could be discovered. I did not hesitate therefore, to adopt its suggestion of moving down the gorge in order to throw my command on the flank, or possibly in the rear, of the Union troops and force them to a rapid retreat or surrender... ."

- John B. Gordon,
"Reminiscences of the Civil War"