

THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Such a Problem! Round Table Inherits \$1.5 Million from Late Member's Will

Jan. 9, 2003-Courtesy CWI Premium-Frederick W. Holzwarth Jr. was a charter member of the Bucks County Civil War Roundtable in Doylestown, PA. He attended meetings regularly and had mentioned that he planned to leave his collection of some 700 books on Civil War and other military topics to the group when he passed on. Holzwarth did a little better than that. The group announced yesterday that he had left the bulk of his estate, some \$1.5 million, to the group. His will added only three conditions to the bequest: that they buy a building to use as a headquarters, that they name one of the rooms therein after his father, and that they have an annual dinner in his father's honor.

"It's shocking that someone thinks enough of you to leave you that kind of money," said Betty Strecker, a former Doylestown councilwoman and treasurer of the Civil War group. She founded the roundtable in 1993, the year the 1868 Bucks County Civil War Monument in front of the courthouse was restored and rededicated, the Bucks County Courier Times reported Tuesday.

"We're a very poor organization when it comes to dollars," Strecker said. The 40 or so active members paid dues of \$18 a year,

some of which was used to pay guest speakers \$50. The roundtable has not previously had its own meeting place or office. Holzwarth was a lieutenant colonel during the Korean War who asked to be buried in the military cemetery at Fort Indiantown Gap, Lebanon County. After leaving the service he worked as a teacher. No one in the group had any inkling that he possessed wealth to such a degree, much less that he intended to leave the bulk of it to the Round Table. "Evidently, he bonded with us," Strecker said.

Aside from the collection of books he apparently lived frugally. He never married and had no children. He also left bequests of \$10,000 apiece to several cousins, the Northampton Historical Society and a group called Second Pennsylvania.

In obedience to their benefactor's wishes, the roundtable plans to spend \$485,000 for a converted house at 32 N. Broad St. and invest the remaining funds, using the interest to pay for its programs and activities, according to Strecker.

The society plans to use the Broad Street house for its meetings, a research library and a small display of Civil War items. A law office that occupies part of the house will remain.

"We will just stay as simple as we are," Strecker said. "This (bequest) will permit us to do things."

Before the roundtable can buy the house, it needs to get some zoning variances. It will present its case to the zoning hearing board at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 15 in borough hall.

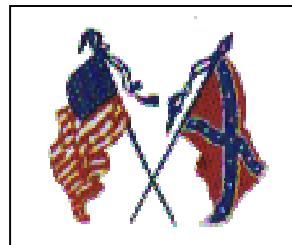
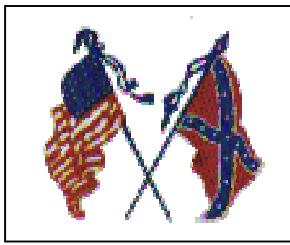
Assistant borough manager Philip Ehlinger said the borough is not opposing the roundtable's proposed purchase, but the zoning hearing board will have to decide whether to grant requested exceptions for use, lot size and parking. He said the board's main concern is that the building does not become a full-scale museum or library.

Springtime for Shuttles in Gettysburg?

Jan. 31, 2003-Courtesy CWI Premium-A new shuttle bus service, usable by tourists and residents alike, could be making the loop around Gettysburg as early as this April, under a program being discussed by community development officials, the National Park Service, and Main Street Gettysburg. Besides increasing exposure for downtown merchants, the plan is expected to have significant impact on the generally dreadful traffic situation in the town, particularly during "high tourism season" which runs from approximately January to December.

Yet to be determined is the exact route the service would cover. At a meeting earlier this week, officials of the groups involved in the project put together a list of the most important stops on the proposed line, including:

- the current national park visitor center,
- the Steinwehr Avenue business district,
- the National Cemetery



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--and the soon-to-be-renovated Lincoln Train Station Visitor Center.

Other suggestions further down the priority list included Alumni Park on Baltimore Pike, Lincoln Square, Gettysburg College, the hospital and the Lutheran Seminary.

"It's a completely doable project," said Kevin Trostle, head of Main Street Gettysburg, after a meeting of the participating groups earlier this week.

Under the plan, the buses would likely run 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week between early April and late October. Initial expense would include buying three vehicles, something larger than a van but smaller than a coach or regular municipal bus, for between \$200,000 and \$300,000. Two would be put into regular service with one serving as a backup.

After purchase of the vehicles, costs to get the system up and running would range from \$50,000 to \$100,000, according to the report, and annual operating costs would likely hover around \$200,000. The plan suggests spending between \$25,000 and \$30,000 to market the shuttle system initially.

Another matter not yet settled involves fares to be charged for the service. Trostle noted that this could range from a low of zero to a high of \$1 per person per ride. Trostle said that although both a route with more stops and a low rider fee would likely attract more riders, they would increase travel time and reduce the system's revenue.

How Safe is Protected Land? Virginia Asked to Overturn Easement on Historic Property

Jan. 29, 2003--An 81 acre parcel of land in Chesterfield County, Virginia, which holds a family cemetery where Civil War veterans are buried, has been in a conservation easement since Mary Moody Northen signed an agreement to that effect with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation in 1976. Now the nonprofit foundation she also established to hold the land after her death is asking the General Assembly to overturn the easement so they can sell the land for development.

Conservationists and historic preservationists are greatly alarmed, saying such a move would cut the heart out of both state and private programs that have helped save land for decades.

"How can you look a property owner in the eye and say their wishes will be carried out when they're dead and gone when those wishes can be overturned like this?" was the response of Patti Jackson of the James River Association, another preservation group.

In exchange for overturning the easement on the Chesterfield County property, the Mary Moody Northen Endowment is offering to create a new easement, on more acreage, on other land the endowment

owns 230 miles west of the disputed site at a place called Mountain Lake in Giles County.

This suggestion doesn't even impress county supervisors in Chesterfield.

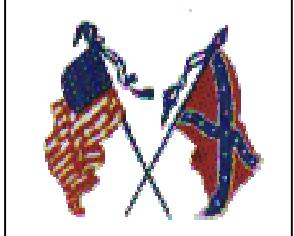
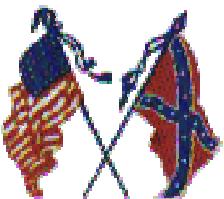
"What's going to happen once someone wants to develop the land in Giles County," commissioner Edward Barber asked. "Are they going to try to swap it with land in Nevada? I mean, how far west is this going to go?"

On the other side of the question is Virginia State Sen. John Watkins, R-Chesterfield. He, along with Delegate R. Lee Ware, R-Powhatan, were the ones the endowment approached to sponsor a bill to overturn the easement. Once news of the proposal got out, local residents raised an uproar and they and the endowment agreed to withdraw the bill--until next year.

Watkins told the Richmond Times-Dispatch that he is opposed to protecting land forever.

"That says to generations yet unborn that we know more about everything they are going to face than they ever will, and we ought to control it," Watkins was quoted as saying. "The property is just sitting there empty, becoming a collection point for trash." Betty Massey, executive director of the Northen endowment, said that she believed Mrs. Northen's main concern was to protect the cemetery on the land, where her paternal ancestor, Confederate Col. William L. Moody, is buried.

Mrs. Northen requested the conservation easement in 1976, and died in 1986. The endowment was created to manage the assets of her



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estate, which are evidently quite substantial in both Virginia and Texas. Col. Moody went to Texas after the Civil War and amassed a considerable fortune. Estimates are that the Chesterfield County property is worth around \$35,000 if sold on the open market with the conservation easement on it. If the easement could be removed the value would skyrocket, with estimates in the local media of \$7 million.

Confederate Monument in York, Maine ?

Following the Civil War many Maine towns, large and small, created monuments to honor the sacrifices of their native sons in the rebellion of 1861-1865. Typically, the monument was a likeness of a Union soldier, cast in bronze and mounted on a granite pedestal. York's monument is unique in that it is a likeness of a Confederate soldier. It seems that the company that crafted the statues mistakenly sent a statue destined for a southern town to York, Maine. No one was able to determine where York's statue of a Union soldier was sent. Being frugal New Englanders, the citizens of York refused to pay for a second statue and erected the Confederate statue in the center of town where it still stands today.

Last Widow's Club Down to One Member

Jan. 21, 2003-Courtesy CWI Premium-The last recipient of a widow's pension for service by a soldier in the Union Army has died. Gertrude Grubb Janeway, 93, passed away Friday in the

log cabin where she had always lived, in Grainger County, TN. The only remaining Civil War widow is now Alberta Martin, who was married to a Confederate soldier, and now resides in a nursing home in Enterprise, Ala.

Mrs. Janeway received a \$70 monthly Civil War pension check, with the name of "John January" on it. Her late husband had told a slight fib in 1864 when he was enlisted at the age of 18. He married "Gertie," as she preferred to be known, when he was 81 and she was 18.

He was, Gertie told a reporter for the Greeneville (TN) Sun, on his way to a grist mill to have a bag of his family's corn ground into meal, when he met some men of the 14th Illinois Cavalry. They told him that they had fought their way out of a trap at Knoxville, chased Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan to Greeneville, and were now heading to join Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, who was preparing his army for a campaign of fire in Georgia.

Convinced that this was a great adventure, he was persuaded to enlist. When the Union soldiers asked for his name, he said it was "John January" because he feared that his parents would come looking for him, and he also wanted to protect the family name of Janeway as much as possible. His war career did not live up to the promise of adventure. Two months later, he was captured near Macon, Ga., and he and 700 other Union soldiers there became prisoners of war. John was released by the Confederates in December of 1864, and he

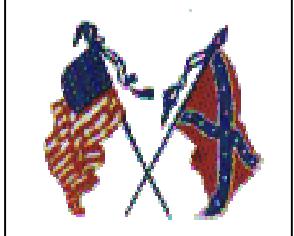
was somehow able to return to his old outfit, but the war would be over in four months.

The story of his life between the end of the war and his meeting with Gertie contains many holes and unanswered questions. She told the reporter that she knew he went to California after the war, but he talked very little of those years. He was 77 when he returned home to Blaine.

Gertie's mother insisted that she and John "court" for three years after they met in 1925, although she relented and allowed the wedding after just two years since Gertie had turned 18. "John said he would wait for me, and he did," she said. "We'd sit and talk for hours, and he was so good and kind to me."

Gertie and John lived together for 10 years, until he died in 1937 at the age of 91, leaving her a widow at 28. She never remarried.

"John was a good man. He helped me and my family. I called him Honey and he called me Gertie," she said. "I loved that man, I adored him, and he was wonderful to me and my family. There was never anyone but John, and after he died, why it just seemed like a part of me went down under the ground with him."



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Chambersburg Dedicates Plaque Noting Underground Railroad Site

Jan. 17, 2003-Courtesy CWI Premium-A large plaque recounting Franklin County's participation in the Underground Railroad as a stop in escaped slaves' flights north was dedicated this week in downtown Chambersburg PA. in a ceremony attended by some 300 people.

"Today, we celebrate Pennsylvania as the gateway of freedom. We celebrate ourselves that we haven't given up," on the fight for civil rights, said Karen James, an official with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

"People were willing to risk their lives for a moment's peace," she said to the packed crowd inside Central Presbyterian Church. She said as escaped slaves made their way north to Franklin County, slavery was no longer just a theory to the northern residents but became a reality to which they could attach a face.

The bravery of those involved in the Underground Railroad - from the slaves who fled for freedom to the white and black residents along the way who provided safe houses - was the start of a new era for the United States, James said.

This is the third historical marker in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to commemorate the Underground Railroad, said James Wolfson, a Chambersburg

historian who researched and applied to the state for the marker. The others are in Lewisburg and Harrisburg.

"We celebrate heroes today. People taking extraordinary risks to help others, often strangers," Wolfson said.

After the speechmaking at the church, the group gathered in the northeast corner of Memorial Square for the unveiling of the blue sign with gold lettering that identifies Franklin County as a place of refuge for former slaves escaping their masters.

It also mentions Harry Watson, a black barber who assisted the fugitive slaves through Chambersburg, helping to keep them safe and undetected, the Hagerstown Herald-Mail reported.

The ceremony also honored efforts for racial equality and the creation of the Waters Institute for African-American History, which is dedicated to research and education in examining the significance of black history in Franklin County.

The institute board is working to acquire a site in downtown Chambersburg to house the historical information collected and serve as a museum and research and genealogy center.

Up until the passage of the Fugitive Slave Laws, the Underground Railroad served primarily to settle escaped slaves in Northern states where slavery had been abolished. When the laws took effect and allowed "slave catchers" to work in Northern states as well, the railroad was extended to Canada. The laws required public officials, and even

private citizens, to cooperate in the effort to return slaves to their owners.

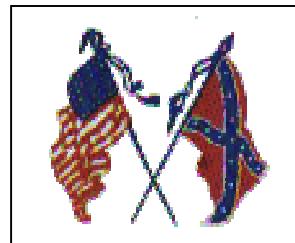
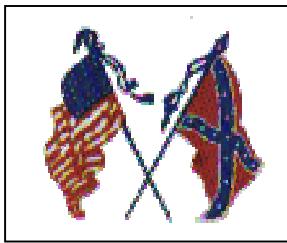
Many historians feel this was regarded as an outrage by many who had not formerly been active in the relatively small circles of abolition causes and fueled the differences that brought on the Civil War.

Modern Military Turns to Civil War Medical Museum for Lessons

Jan. 24, 2003-Courtesy CWI Premium-The National Museum of Civil War Medicine is probably most famous as the final resting place of the leg bones of Gen. Dan Sickles, who often came to visit the limb on the anniversary of their separation during the Battle of Gettysburg. Less well known is the fact that some 2000 other soldiers and others have body parts on deposit at the museum, and that they continue to teach lessons even after 140 years to modern military physicians.

A recent lecture sponsored by Fort Detrick and the National Museum of Civil War Medicine allowed Paul Sledzik, forensic anthropologist and curator of the anatomical collections at the museum, to explain just how useful the remains continue to be, both for students of history and those responsible for the future of military medicine.

"What's neat about [the exhibits] is that we know the name of every soldier



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and the battle they were injured in. We have all the original hand-written surgeon reports...and we can go into our archives and get the photographs of some of these guys, so it forms a nice, comprehensive set of information about Civil War medical history," Sledzik said.

The museum was created in 1862 largely to answer the urgent question of why two soldiers with similar injuries had different outcomes. By having the records, it let surgeons look at the differences in medical treatment and which provided the best survival rate.

The carefully recorded data and specimens also allow historical questions to be settled and myths to be set aside. Forensic pathology work undertaken at the museum has laid to rest speculations surrounding the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the death of John Wilkes Booth.

On Lincoln -- Because Lincoln's autopsy was performed at the White House by several staff members of the Army Medical Museum, not only did they retrieve the ball that killed him, but they also have bone fragments from his skull. The museum staff, then, has answered the question about whether or not Lincoln could have survived his wound if he would have been treated with today's modern technology. "The thing pretty much ripped his brain to shreds, I hate to say. It was a pretty devastating wound," Sledzik said.

On Booth -- "There's been a lot of historical debate about whether Booth committed suicide," the

curator said. Examining the bones and cord, forensic pathologists and anthropologists determined that the bullet entered high on the right side and exited low on the left side of his neck. Though Booth had a rifle and a pistol, either would have been hard to fire to commit suicide, so Sledzik and his co-workers are confident that Booth's was a nonsuicidal wound. Their final analysis: Booth died of asphyxiation from the fire set in the barn on Richard Garrett's farm near Bowling Green, Va., and couldn't move because of his neck wound.

The museum is located at 48 East Patrick Street in Frederick and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on the museum, call 301-695-1864.