

## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

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### PA DEP Approves 'BAT' Application to Hasten Downtown Gettysburg Revitalization

GETTYSBURG, Pa., Feb. 1 /PRNewswire/ -- On behalf of Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell, Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty announced the approval of an application for a Brownfield Action Team (BAT) designation that will hasten the redevelopment of several properties in historic downtown Gettysburg. The public/private revitalization effort is expected to create as many as 200 jobs.

Secretary McGinty stressed that the Gettysburg revitalization project has all the elements of success: it is located in a key downtown area, it has widespread local support, it has the potential to provide environmental and economic benefits to the community, and it is part of a well-planned redevelopment effort.

Gettysburg Borough, Gettysburg College, Main Street Gettysburg, private donors and the National Park Service are working on making downtown more attractive for the 2 million tourists who visit each year to walk the historic grounds where one of the most decisive battles of the Civil War took place.

Renovations are under way or planned for three key downtown historic structures, including: the David Wills House, where President Abraham Lincoln stayed and put the finishing touches on the Gettysburg Address; the historic Majestic Theater, which will be renovated to a 1,000-seat performing arts center; and the Gettysburg Lincoln Railroad Station, where President Lincoln arrived in town prior to his famous speech. A modern transportation

center is planned adjacent to the old station, which will become a Welcome Center for tourists.

Key to the downtown revitalization plans is the relocation of several social service agencies from current rundown buildings, adjacent to the Gettysburg Lincoln Railroad Station and Majestic Theater and just one block from the David Wills House, to the reconstructed Columbia Gas Building. Once the relocation of the social service agencies is completed, plans include demolishing the dilapidated buildings and using the space for tourism-related commerce, greenway areas for the enjoyment of local citizens and tourists, office space with parking, and upscale multi-family housing.

### Gettysburg Crews Find Train Platform Where Lincoln Arrived

February 15, 2005 - **GETTYSBURG, Pa.**

Crews working on the renovation of the Lincoln Train Center in Gettysburg have discovered part of the platform that existed when President Abraham Lincoln arrived to deliver the Gettysburg Address in 1863.

The workers were excavating beneath an 1886 addition to the train station on Wednesday when they saw that it was built on top of the foundation of the original train station platform.

Still there were the nearly 120-year-old rail bed, several railroad ties - and the platform, which Lincoln would have used as he got off the train. He delivered the Gettysburg Address on Nov. 19, 1863, in dedication of the Soldiers National Cemetery. Gettysburg Borough planning director

Walter Powell said historians, "just didn't imagine it would be here."

"To see the original footers for the original platform is pretty exciting," Powell said.

The \$2 million train station renovation is one of almost a dozen downtown renewal projects under way in Gettysburg.

### Delaware Monument at Gettysburg to Stay Put Battlefield restoration had threatened to dislocate Delaware state memorial

By RANDALL CHASE / Associated Press 02/21/2005

DOVER -- Delaware is keeping its place in Civil War history, or at least its place at Gettysburg.

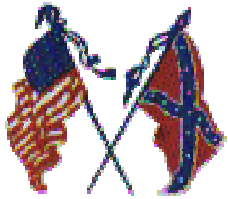
Delaware officials were told a few years ago that the state's commemorative memorial at Gettysburg, Pa., would have to be moved to make way for a battlefield restoration.

After reviewing their plans, however, National Park Service officials now say Delaware's memorial, the last to be approved before a moratorium on new monuments and markers at the historic site took effect, won't have to be moved after all.

"It's going to stay where it is," said Katie Lawhon, spokeswoman for the Gettysburg National Military Park.

The decision is welcome news in Delaware, where lawmakers were concerned enough to draft legislation in recent years directing state officials to ensure that, if moved, the memorial retain a position of prominence.

"This language has been in our bond bill for a couple of years," said Dan Griffith, director of the state Historic Preservation Office.



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In bond bill legislation introduced in January, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs was instructed to ensure "that any such relocation be conducted so that the monument is re-established in a position of prominence."

"There's really nobody who's a custodian of it, so it made sense to instruct the division to take care of it," said House Majority Leader Wayne A. Smith, R-Brandywine Hundred North, a history buff and founder of the Delaware Civil War Society, which raised money for the \$300,000 memorial.

State museum administrator James Stewart, a founding member of the Central Delaware Civil War Roundtable, journeyed to Gettysburg with Griffith a couple of years ago for a park service briefing on plans to relocate the memorial.

"It was all of about 30 feet," said Griffith, adding that state officials opposed the move.

Stewart said he's glad the memorial will remain where it is.

"We're very happy, after having put all that work into it, to have it stay put, and I'm sure the park service is happy not to have to move it," he said.

The 11-foot, 21-ton memorial, dedicated in April 2000, pays tribute to the 691 members of the 1st and 2nd regiments of Delaware Volunteers, part of the Union infantry at Gettysburg, as well as an unknown number of Delawareans who fought for the Confederacy. The marker depicts troops of the First Delaware helping repel the ill-fated frontal assault by three Confederate divisions that came to be known as Pickett's Charge.

The failed assault marked a turning point in the war, forcing Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee to retreat and ending his hopes for a sustained offensive against the North.

State officials were told when the memorial was erected that it might have to be moved.

"It's essentially in a position along the Union battle line on Cemetery Ridge," Lawhon said.



AP/National Parks Service, KATIE LAWHON

The Delaware state memorial on the Gettysburg battlefield depicts the 1st Regiment of Delaware Volunteer Infantry repulsing the Confederate attack known as Pickett's Charge on July 3, 1863.

As part of a \$95 million, 15-year project to improve the battlefield, the park service, which is working with the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation, decided a few years ago to raze a visitors center and cyclorama center and restore that area of Cemetery Ridge to a condition better resembling the terrain of July 1863.

"We know it's a major battle action area," said Lawhon, noting that more than 900 soldiers were killed,

wounded or captured on land now occupied by the two buildings and their parking lots, one of which butts up against the plaza that is home to the Delaware memorial and nearby Maryland memorial, erected in 1994. Lawhon said a stone wall behind the Delaware memorial will be removed but that the memorial itself, and its Maryland neighbor, will remain in place.

A June groundbreaking is scheduled for a new visitors center, which is scheduled to open in late 2007 or early 2008.

### Lansdowne Christian Church

#### "The G.A.R. Church"

By Janice L Harding

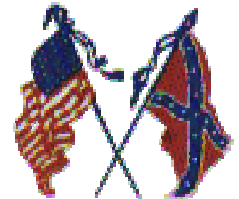
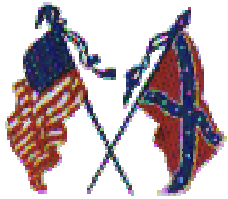
On June 10, 1904 a deed was issued by Charles W. Hull and his wife Mary of Baltimore County in the State of Maryland. This deed was granted to the directors of the Lansdowne Christian Church of Baltimore County (a body corporate), and their assigns in fee simple forever. The property contained a newly constructed church. It was transferred for the sum of \$1.00.

This in itself was a wonderful act of generosity.

The second condition of the deed reads:

"That the second Lord's Day in May of each year is to be set apart and observed as Memorial day of the Grand Army of the Republic of the United States of America, and suitable services are to be held in commemoration of the brave men who remained loyal to the Government and sustained the Union."

Thus began what was to become "Grand Army Day" in Lansdowne



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Baltimore Co., Md. When the cornerstone was laid its inscription read, "Hull Memorial Christian Church". June 10th was the day of completion and the Church was dedicated June 12, 1904. Charles Wesley Hull was a member of the Dushane Post #3 and had been its Commander. We know he was proud of his service and extremely loyal to the men and his beloved Union. Charles Hull had served with the Ohio Artillery and moved to Baltimore.

He died March 17, 1926 and is buried in the family plot at Baltimore's Loudon Park Cemetery. On June 12, 1904, the dedication day, Mr. Daniel Tatum, Assistant General Inspector, National Staff, Custer Post No. 6, Department of Maryland, Presented the National Flag in the name of the Department of Maryland, to the church organization, this being the only church building in the United States in which the G.A.R. had a vested interest, and above which the National Flag Floated.

The first annual memorial service of the Grand Army of the Republic was held in the Lansdowne Church May 14, 1905.

The Memorial Windows of the Grand Army of the Republic were presented by the Department of Maryland the following October 22, 1905. Thru the years the life of the Church has ebbed and flowed. It celebrated its 75 birthday in 1978 and had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior in 1977, because it was the only church in the country dedicated to the Grand Army of the Republic. In the last 5 years the church has been beautifully renovated. It has a new organ and the glorious windows stand as

beautiful and fresh as the day they were dedicated.

The service on the last Sunday in May continues to this day.

### Northrop Grumman Employees Reconstruct History with USS Monitor Replica

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Feb. 21, 2005 (PRIMEZONE) -- Northrop Grumman Corporation has teamed with The Mariners' Museum, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Navy to construct a full-scale replica of the Civil War ironclad USS Monitor. The replica will be the centerpiece of the \$30 million USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, VA.

More than 100 employees of Northrop Grumman's Newport News sector will build the replica in 22 steel sections inside the shipyard's steel production facility from Navy-donated materials. Construction of the ship's

hull is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2005. The sector's Apprentice School recently completed the first section, the keel unit.

Weighing approximately 18 tons and about the size of a rail car, the keel unit will be transported to the USS Monitor Center on Feb. 26 for a public keel-laying ceremony on Mar. 6 at 3 p.m.

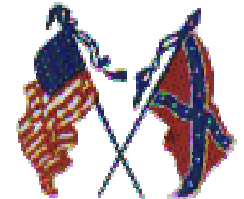
"We are proud to be a part of this special project and to have the opportunity to rebuild a piece of history that our employees, their families and the entire Hampton Roads community can visit and learn about for many years to come," said Mike Petters, president, Northrop Grumman Newport News. Nancy Petters, Petters' wife, will serve as keel authenticator for the ceremony by chalking her initials onto a metal plate. Her initials will then be welded onto the plate and permanently affixed to the Monitor replica.

Since 2000, Northrop Grumman Newport News employees have volunteered their help and expertise to the Monitor recovery project by off-

Northrop  
employ



Northrop Grumman Newport News employees will build the USS Monitor replica in 22 steel sections inside the shipyard's steel production facility. Pictured is the first section, called the keel unit, which weighs approximately 18 tons and is about the size of a rail car.



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loading artifacts at shipyard piers and docks, constructing conservation tanks at The Mariners' Museum and performing topographical ultrasonic inspections and X-rays of the recovered items. The sector also made a \$250,000 contribution to the USS Monitor Center Capital Campaign in 2004.

"Northrop Grumman's involvement in the USS Monitor project at The Mariners' Museum has been nothing short of phenomenal," said The Mariners' Museum President and CEO, John B. Hightower. "The Monitor project would simply not be possible without the shipyard's involvement. From welding, rigging, chemistry coating experts, metallurgists and financial support, the help from Northrop Grumman has been invaluable."

In 1987, The Mariners' Museum was designated by NOAA, on behalf of the federal government, as the repository for artifacts and archives from the USS Monitor. The museum has received over 1,100 artifacts from the Monitor, including the steam engine, propeller and revolving gun turret. This past October, the museum, in partnership with NOAA, broke ground for the new \$30 million USS Monitor Center, which will be the national authority and repository for the recovered artifacts and other materials, research and programming related to the history of the famous ship. The center will open on March 9, 2007. For more information, visit [www.monitorcenter.org](http://www.monitorcenter.org).

### Artwork Screens History

By Val Van Meter  
*The Winchester, VA Star*

Historic and practical — the Old Court House Civil War Museum has cut the glare in its second floor exhibit hall and given visitors a glimpse of the building as it looked in September 1864.

The vision was provided by James Taylor, an artist sent to the Shenandoah Valley in 1864 by Leslie's Illustrated Magazine to cover the exploits of Union Gen. Philip Sheridan.

In the days before photography was common, Taylor followed the Union army up and down the Valley, reporting and sketching the troops and the action to send back to his New York publisher.

Taylor's many sketches of the Valley area, people and places, were collected in a coffee-table book, "James E. Taylor Sketchbook," published by Western Reserve Historical Society.

Trish Ridgeway, a member of the board of the museum, said the sketch on page 387 of the book was the museum board's choice for the new scrims.

Hung from the top of the 9 feet by 5 feet windows on the second floor, the scrims block the bright sunlight of the summer seasons.

"They are designed to filter light," said Georgiana "George" Dearing, creative director for Lefkowitz Design in Winchester, who worked on the project.

The material can be ordered to specify what percentage of light should be admitted, Dearing explained.

"Light affects artifacts," Dearing said. But besides their practical value, she proposed they do "double duty" by

adding a graphic that showed a scene significant to the museum's purpose.

The scene chosen was Taylor's sketch of the courthouse, surrounded by a wrought-iron fence and patrolled by Union troops. Inside the fence are some of the 1,500 Confederate troops captured at the Third Battle of Winchester, according to museum historian, Harry Ridgeway.

The sketch was divided lengthwise into quarters and one panel was placed in each window.

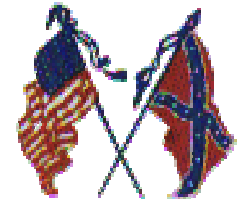
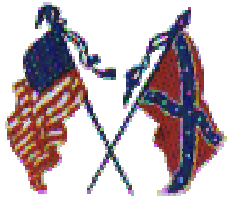


The soldiers are "close to life size," Trish Ridgeway said. "You feel like you are in among the soldiers."

It is interesting to think that men like 1st Lt. John E. Wells may be among the faces Taylor sketched which are reproduced on the panels.

Wells left his mark on the courthouse. He scratched his name and his unit into the plaster on the wall near the stairs, Trish Ridgeway pointed out.

"He was probably sitting here as a prisoner," she said, as she leaned



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down to read Wells name in the plaster. His is one of the graffiti which has been preserved under glass and which can be seen by visitors. It was helpful, she added that Wells "wrote real big." It's less helpful that he wrote so near the floor.

The new scrim, which cost \$1,300 each to create, are part of a continuing renovation of the former Frederick County courthouse. The next phase will begin returning the downstairs courtroom to the way it looked during the Civil War.

The museum also hopes to put scrim in the four windows on the north side of the building at some future date, she said.

The photo chosen for that side will be a sketch that appeared in Harper's Magazine of Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, leading his men down Loudoun Street in triumph following the First Battle of Winchester.

The former courthouse faces Loudoun Street.

The courthouse served as a prison for the first time following First Winchester, Harry Ridgeway pointed out.

### **SCV in Chaos as Faction Ousts Top Leadership**

**CWInteractive February 23,  
2005**

In a move that has stunned many, what is being described as "a coup d'etat" at the national level of the Sons of Confederate Veterans has left that organization in chaos.

A chain of procedural moves which began on February 16<sup>th</sup> with a hastily called meeting of some members of

the SCV Executive Council culminated on February 18<sup>th</sup> with the issuance of a court order in which the Commander of the group and three other high officials were stripped of all power.

An order from a Tennessee Chancery Court judge on Friday ousted the top leadership of the Sons of Confederate Veterans national organization, replacing Commander-in-Chief (CIC) Denne Sweeney with former Lieutenant Commander Dr. Anthony Hodges.

The court action was requested after a conference call meeting of several of the members of the SCV board, known as the General Executive Council or GEC, on Feb. 16. Minutes of that meeting were accepted as evidence by the court and are part of the public record.

Audio tapes of the meeting reveal that at least one participant was under the impression that the conference call was merely a planning session, with no voting taking place.

Adjutant in Chief James Dark can be heard first asking who was reading the roll, and being told it was "none of your business". When he attempted to protest further, a voice is heard telling him "you don't have your 100-pound gorilla here to protect your ass. You're going to do as you're told like you should. You are our employee....and the first item of business, if someone has the motion, is to fire you." Dark was fired by voice vote minutes later.

The reading of the roll is normally the job of the Adjutant in Chief, according to the SCV constitution.

Thirteen resolutions were then quickly passed, including the dismissal of CIC Sweeney. Members of the council presented the minutes of the

meeting two days later as a foundation for a restraining order.

Judge Robert L. Jones of the Maury County TN Chancery Court issued a temporary restraining order forbidding Sweeney and "...persons acting by and through or in concert " with him from conducting SCV business.

No date was set for any further action by the court. Questions have been raised by various regional SCV heads as to the legality of the change in commanders under the group's constitution and bylaws.

Sweeney and Hodges were elected at the SCV's last national convention in Dalton, Georgia, in July 2004.

Besides ousting Sweeney from the commander's position, the meeting voted to fire three other officials of the national group:

--James Dark, adjutant-in-chief;

--Frank Powell, editor in chief, and

--Rondel Rumber, chaplain-in-chief.

No reason for the removal of the three was given.

The new leadership was also granted powers over the group's financial, legal and other business arrangements, and Sweeney was forbidden to involve himself in the business affairs of the group.

The primary complaint of Hodges and his allies was that Sweeney had made "disparaging and libelous comments regarding members of the board of directors in the Confederate Veteran magazine," including referring to certain board members as being "like cockroaches." The resolution of removal also states that Sweeney improperly attempted to expel members from the General Executive Council (which is made up in part of past Commanders in Chief of the group) and from the SCV itself.