

THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

NPS Memos Tell Officials to Lie About Budget, Program Cuts

March 24, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- Trying to get a park ranger to speak to your busload of school students at Gettysburg this summer is going to get harder, and if you see trash lying around you may as well pick it up yourself. According to two groups, one composed of retired National Park Service employees and managers, service levels are falling due to budget cuts. And rather than simply fund the parks to the level needed, NPS workers are instructed to lie about the shortages to the public and press.

The Coalition of Concerned National Park Retirees, the Association of National Park Rangers and the nonprofit Campaign to Protect America's Lands have released internal NPS memos from Deputy Director Randy Jones to superintendents in the Northeast and Midwest regions of the park service. The retirees group notes that current NPS employees have been intimidated from speaking out on budget shortfalls by the example of Theresa Chambers, head of the DC Park Police, who is currently on "administrative leave" and in danger of being fired for speaking to the press about the issue. The Coalition of Concerned National Park Retirees describes themselves as "a group of more than 220 retired park service officials who have publicly criticized the Bush Administration's approaches to maintaining national parks. Consisting of non-political career NPS employees, the Coalition includes several former directors, deputy directors, and regional

directors and nearly 70 former superintendents or assistant superintendents. Together, the members of the Coalition represent well over 6,000 combined years of park experience under administrations from both political parties."

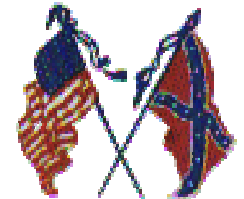
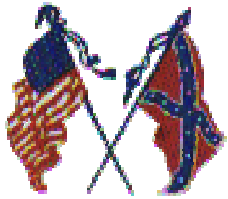
The Association of National Park Rangers (ANPR) is an organization created to communicate for, about, and with park rangers; to promote and enhance the park ranger profession and its spirit; and to support the management and perpetuation of the National Park Service and System. In meeting these purposes, the association provides education and other training to develop and improve the knowledge and skills of park rangers and those interested in the profession; provides a forum for discussion of common concerns of park rangers; and provides information to the public. ANPR's membership is comprised of individuals who are entrusted with, and committed to, the care, study, explanation, and protection of those natural, cultural, and recreational resources included in the National Park System, as well as of individuals who support these efforts. The Campaign to Protect America's Lands (CPAL) conserves our natural and historical heritage by exposing policies that permit destruction of our parks and public lands for private profit. The Campaign to Protect America's Lands is a non-profit, non-partisan organization.

Jeff McFarland, executive director, Association of National Park Rangers, said: "The Park Service is telling the public, the media, and the Congress that everything is fine ... that promises are being kept ... and don't look too closely. And, in the

process, Park Service professionals are expected to present information to the public and the media in a manner that closely reflects current administration policy rather than actual needs.

ABOUT THE MEMOS

One of the regional memos based on the instructions provided on February 17, 2004, by National Park Service Deputy Director Randy Jones reads as follows: "He (Jones) has asked each region to review the 'service level adjustments' of each of their parks and then communicate to him those that are the most sensitive. We will need to be sure that adjustments are taken from as many areas as is possible so that it won't cause public or political controversy ..." Among the possible cuts listed in the memo are the following: "close the visitor center on all federal holidays, eliminate life guard services at ... guarded beaches, eliminate all guided ranger tours ... (and) close the park every Sunday and Monday." Distributed internally just four days before a tourism-promotion pact between NPS and the Travel Industry Association of America, the same NPS memo provides guidance to park superintendents about how to mislead the media about the cuts, in an apparent attempt to give career NPS employees a roadmap as to how to avoid the fate of Teresa Chambers, who was put on administrative leave by the Bush Administration after revealing similar budget cuts. The memo reads: "We also discussed how each park would communicate with and inform your local constituents about your plans ... He (Jones) suggested that if you feel you must inform the public through a press release on this years (sic) hours or days of operation for example, that you state what the



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park's plans are and not to directly indicate that 'this is a cut' in comparison to last year's operation. If you are personally pressed by the media in an interview, we all agreed to use the terminology of 'service level adjustment' due to fiscal constraints as a means of describing what actions we are taking." The emphasis on service cuts in the Northeast regional memo is in keeping with comparable memos sent to park superintendents in other parts of the United States. For example, the memo to Midwest park superintendents reads in part: "As we emphasized in the zone meetings, we are at a point where we can no longer be 'doing more with less.' The realization should now be clear to everyone that we are crossing the line into new territory where we hope to rationally and objectively choose the best things to do and not to do. The key is deciding on those things we need to eliminate and to be able to effectively support those decisions based on hard facts and figures ... We fully understand that getting to these goals will not be easy and will likely take sometime to achieve/implement. It will require sacrifice and adaptability both on the part of you, as managers, and all our employees." Roughly two weeks prior to the Jones meeting, NPS Director Mainella was quoted on February 2, 2004, as saying: "The 2005 budget request for the National Park Service represents the President's determination and strong commitment to reducing the park maintenance backlog, preserving park resources and improving the visitor experience in our parks and special places." On January 22, 2004, the Coalition of Concerned National Park Services Retirees sent President George Bush a letter expressing grave concerns

that "actions are being taken in the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service that are short-changing, ignoring or violating the long-standing legislation and policies comprising the mission of the National Park Service." The unusual letter urges President Bush to halt efforts at the Interior Department, which oversees the NPS, to strip out its "conservation" mandate and, instead, to codify existing rules that already should make that mandate a top responsibility for the Department. The Coalition letter reads: "President Bush, now is the time for you to step up to the commitments of stewardship you have made and to which your Party has historically embraced: ensuring that the natural beauty and cultural legacies treasured by all Americans are protected and preserved for generations to come."

Excavation Starts on Fredericksburg Sunken Road

March 9, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- Although "sunken roads" are common features at a good number of Civil War battlefields, arguably the best known is the one on Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg, from which Confederate soldiers laid down a withering fire against repeated charges up the slope by Union troops.

The road has been closed to vehicular traffic since the Fredericksburg city council agreed to the shutdown three years ago, but the planned archaeological excavation of the pathway just got underway last weekend.

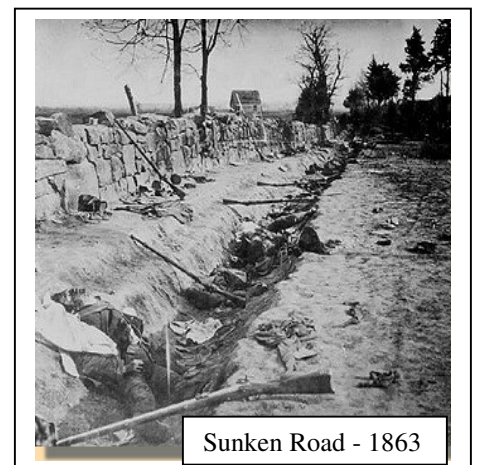
"This would've been I-95 in the mid-

19th century because it had heavy traffic from Fredericksburg to Richmond," said Clarence Geier, professor of anthropology at James Madison University of the historic Sunken Road. Seven archaeologists and three student volunteers from the professor's class are carrying out the project.

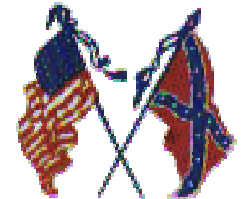
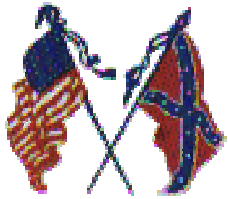
The project begun this weekend is the removal of the modern pavement from the roadway area. After that is out of the way, archaeologists will explore the revealed land until they get down to the level that existed in 1862.

After the investigation is completed the National Park Service plans to restore the road to its 1862 appearance. In addition, a portion of the famous stone wall that ran along the easternmost portion of the road, which has been missing for decades, will be restored.

The portion of the roadway between Lafayette Boulevard and Hanover Street will be permanently closed to automobiles and opened to pedestrians, the Fredericksburg Free



Lance-Star reported. The park service will also do restorative work on the landscape and upgrade interpretive signage in the area.



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The JMU group, which has been working on archaeological projects at the Fredericksburg battlefield since 2000, dug two 2-foot-wide, 25-foot-long trenches across Sunken Road near the visitor center.

The excavations revealed pieces of container glass, broken jars and plates, made mostly of whiteware and ironstone. The items are believed to be remnants of trash that was thrown out on the street during the 1920s. That study indicated that the Civil War-era road was about 20 feet wide and ended near the sandstone wall that stretched from Hanover Street to Lafayette Boulevard on the river side. Sunken Road was previously known as Telegraph Road, for the wires strung along it to carry electric messages. It was later called Courthouse Road because people used it travel to Spotsylvania Courthouse, said Eric Mink, the park's cultural-resource management specialist.

Its name was changed after the war to Sunken Road because the road near Hanover Street had sunken below the surrounding land, Mink said.

Readshaw Proposes More State Help for New Gettysburg Visitor Center

March 26, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- Pennsylvania State Rep. Harry Readshaw, long noted for his devotion to a park that isn't even in his district, has put forth a suggestion that the state use \$10 million in community development funds to assist the construction of the new Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park.

If successful, the proposed grant would send the assets of the

foundation raising the money for the \$95 million center past the halfway mark they say they need to start construction on the building. Readshaw is best known in Civil War circles for his Pennsylvania Monuments Project, which raised money for repairs and restoration of all the state's memorials at the battle site as well as providing an endowment for each for future maintenance.

That endeavor, which stretched over some seven years, relied almost entirely on private and corporate donations.

Three months ago, Readshaw said, he and Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell discussed the park's upcoming museum and visitor's center and the potential for more state funding.

"He said it could be a possibility," Readshaw told the Hanover Evening Sun.

The \$10 million would come from the state economic stimulus package scheduled to be passed at the end of April. Gov. Rendell has told the media he will ask the legislature to increase the debt ceiling to fund a total of \$2.15 billion for economic development projects, said Abe Amoros, the governor's deputy press secretary.

If the change in the debt ceiling is not approved, Rendell still has \$1.51 billion to fund the suggested projects. While this sounds like quite a lot, there are requests for more than \$9 billion in capital projects, Amoros said. He did not know when the governor would grant the funding. The last figures released by the fundraising foundation, which date to last fall, show the foundation has raised \$41 million, including a \$10 million state grant awarded from the same program last year, and a \$7

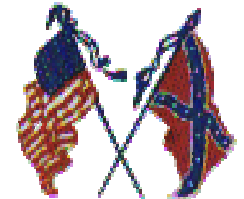
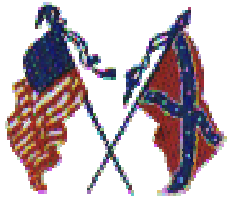
million federal grant, said Elliot Gruber, vice president of external affairs for the foundation. The federal funding is earmarked to assist with restoration of the Cyclorama painting. Park service officials and former foundation spokesman Dan Goldstein have said the group would only solicit private donations, not public funding. Readshaw said he didn't want to "get caught up in that controversy." "How do you say no' to a possible \$10 million appropriation?" Readshaw asked rhetorically.

The new center on Hunt Avenue will replace the existing National Park Service building between Steinwehr Avenue and Taneytown Road. The man who does represent Gettysburg in the state house, Rep. Stephen Maitland indicated that while he would not oppose Readshaw's idea, he did not intend to support it either. Maitland said he understood the new visitor's center and museum would not be financed by taxpayers' dollars.

"I'm not going to fight against going to my district, but this is something I don't want to get involved with," Maitland said. "The vast majority of my constituents are ambivalent to the park."

The foundation focuses the bulk of its time cultivating individual, corporate and foundation donors, not seeking public money, Gruber said. "The foundation has always looked at the project to be funded by the private sector," he said.

While the foundation did not solicit Readshaw's \$10 million request, "it's nice to know we have supporters out there for this project," Gruber said. "I feel it's important that they understand, as we go on, the young people understand how it was," Readshaw said. "[Gettysburg] really was the salvation of the Union.



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Maryland State Office Approves Funds for South Mountain Battlefield

March 12, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- It may be a matter of sheer coincidence of timing, but barely a week after the Civil War Preservation Trust named the South Mountain battlefield to its "endangered parks" list, the State of Maryland has approved a plan to use more than \$200,000 to put 36.6 acres of the site under conservation easements. The Maryland Board of Public Works approved a total package of \$237,297 for the project, which the Frederick County (MD) Gazette noted was a combination of state, federal and private funds.

Conservation easements are essentially payments to landowners who agree not to sell their land for development. The property remains in private hands and on state and local tax rolls. Such easements are regarded by preservationists as superior to zoning restrictions, since zoning can be changed at any time while easements become a permanent part of the land title. The package placed easements on two properties:

--A 25.6 acre parcel known as the Wilson property was the headquarters of Union Gen. George McClellan and the Army of the Potomac's reserves artillery and supply wagons during the Battle of South Mountain in Sept. 1862, according to a statement from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources

--11 acres known as the Devine property, which served as the staging area of Union Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker's Corps during the battle at

Turner's Gap, as well as a historic home that was used as a hospital during the war.

The preserved areas will enhance the setting of South Mountain State Battlefield, one of the few such sites established as official state parks. The state owns 2,500 acres on the battlefield and another 6,000 acres are under conservation easements owned by the state.

Besides saving a major scene of both state and national history, the park and surrounding protected areas are providing a considerable benefit to wildlife, some of it endangered. The Wilson property in particular may also be habitat for grassland breeding birds such as upland sandpiper, eastern meadowlark, grasshopper sparrow, vesper sparrow, Savannah sparrow and American kestrel, the department said.

The Civil War Preservation Trust, the department's Program Open Space and the Maryland State Highway Administration's Transportation Enhancement Program supply funds for the easement purchases.

Two Hunley Crewmen Get Symbolic Hometown Funerals

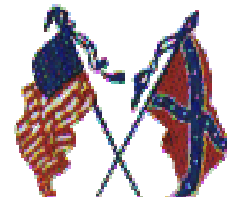
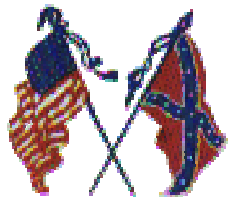
March 29, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- Two members of the crew of the Confederate submarine H. L. Hunley received symbolic funeral services over the weekend in their home states. Frank Collins, a native of Fredericksburg, Virginia, got a memorial service in Richmond, and Joseph A. Ridgaway received a similar tribute in Libertytown, Maryland.

The actual remains of Collins, Ridgaway, and the other Hunley sailors will be buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston, South

Carolina, next month. The memorial services featured caskets containing urns holding some sediment excavated from the Hunley by scientists.

In addition to the forensic work being done by anthropologists in Charleston, researchers of other sorts have been working to learn more about the backgrounds of the Hunley crewmen, starting, in some cases, with their names.

Much of the discovery on the men has been done by genealogists who have rummaged through everything from diaries to the Internet to discover their origins. Thus far they believe they have confirmed the identities of six of the eight Hunley crewmen. Joseph A. Ridgaway grew up on Maryland's Eastern Shore and was an experienced seaman by the time he turned 16. He joined the Confederate Navy in 1863. When he died aboard the H.L. Hunley, near the end of the Civil War, he was in his late twenties. He had no children. He may have had red hair. No photos of Ridgaway have been found. But details of his life have been pieced together slowly but steadily by researchers since 2000, when archaeological crews in South Carolina pulled the Hunley from the bottom of Charleston Harbor. "He served, fought and died in an attempt to open a seaport ravished by war, racked by starvation and disease and subjected to daily bombardment by random artillery fire," the Maryland Sons of Confederate Veterans said. "His is but one voice, long gone, unheard, and nearly forgotten." "This is a physical reminder of the heroism on both sides," Carl Berenholtz, commander of the Maryland division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, said of the symbolic services.



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Editor's Note:

With this issue we continue the serialization of an article written about Mrs. Bradley Johnson by Mr. Gary Baker. Mr. Baker has written many articles on Maryland Civil War History and has an excellent web site at:

<http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Orion/3464/>

Many thanks to Gary Baker for granting BCWRT permission to reprint the following:

Heroine of the 1st Maryland Volunteer Infantry, CSA

By Gary Baker
Part 3

Before she had time to settle into her quarters Mrs. Johnson received a visit from Colonel Jackson and his staff, who called on her to thank her for her outstanding accomplishment. But Jane Claudia was not done, and had little time to rest or accept commendations for her efforts. After a short visit with Captain Johnson she returned to Richmond, where she spent the next three weeks shopping for military equipment, and cajoling spare material and equipment from Governor Letcher.

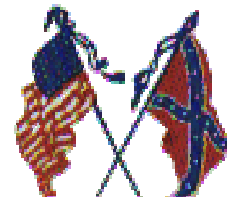
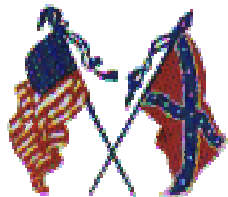
During Jane Claudia's visit to Richmond a number of changes occurred at Harper's Ferry. Colonel Arnold Elzey, a Marylander who had given up his commission in the United States Army, was given command of the First Maryland. Colonel Jackson relinquished his command of the small army he had collected at Harper's Ferry to General Joseph Johnston; and Johnston had elected to abandon the arsenal. Johnston decision was based on the fact that Major General Robert Patterson was moving toward the arsenal from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, with a force of 12,000 men while another Federal force was moving

west along the south bank of the Potomac from Alexandria.

After blowing up the Baltimore & Ohio railroad bridge across the Potomac, and destroying forty-six locomotives and three hundred railroad cars, General Johnston evacuated Harper's Ferry on June 16th. While he had occupied the arsenal, Colonel Jackson had meticulously removed most of the arsenal's gun making supplies and equipment to Richmond. To prevent the remaining stores from falling into Federal hands, Johnston ordered his men to burn the arsenal to the ground. But in Johnston's haste he destroyed valuable material that might have been salvaged. During the firing of the arsenal it came to the attention of Colonel Elzey that one of the buildings set afire contained a store of rifle stocks. The First Maryland extinguished the fire and saved 17,000 rifle stocks from the flames. They in turn sent the stocks to North Carolina in appreciation for all that North Carolina had done for them. (13) Mrs. Johnson rejoined the 1st Maryland on June 30th at Winchester. There she provided the regiment with uniforms, shoes, forty-one wall tents, pots, pans, blankets, axes, shovels, cartridge boxes and numerous other pieces of camp equipment and accouterments, and sufficient under garments for 500 men. Even though General Johnston's Army had moved to Winchester so that they might square off with the Federal forces of General Robert Patterson at Martinsburg, Mrs. Johnson and her son remained in Winchester with Captain Johnson until July 18th, when the newly attired First Maryland departed the Shenandoah Valley with the rest of Johnston's command to join General Beauregard at Manassas Station. Mrs. Johnson waved to the departing troops as they passed beneath the balcony of the Taylor House. Once the army was gone, she and her son were driven to Strasburg

by the brother of Captain James R. Herbert, commander of Company E., 1st Maryland Infantry. In Strasburg she took a train to Richmond. "July 20, she arrived in Richmond. She bore in the bosom of her dress confidential dispatches from General Joseph E. Johnston, which he had commanded to her, in person, with strict injunctions to deliver them only to President Davis himself, which she did. (14)

On the morning of July 21st the forces of General Irwin McDowell attempted to out flank the Confederate position along the Manassas. For several bloody hours Johnston and Beauregard frantically removed their men from the positions they had taken the night before, to a defensive position on Henry Hill. Their makeshift line was attached to the left of the steadfast brigade of Colonel Jackson's, and spread south toward Chinn Ridge. Through out the day the remaining brigades of Johnston's Army arrived at Manassas by train and were rushed forward. The brigade to which the First Maryland was assigned was the last to arrive. Once off the train the brigade quickly moved to the sound of the guns and was placed on Chinn Ridge on the Confederate far left. McDowell tried to flank the Confederate line and sent a brigade under Colonel O. O. Howard over Chinn Ridge. Elzey, who had taken command of the brigade after his commander had been wounded, charged into Howard, sending Howard reeling back. (15) The entire Federal line then crumbled from right to left. Elzey was promoted for his action and command of the First Maryland fell to fellow Marylander, George Hume Stuart. After Manassas, the First Maryland followed the army to Fairfax Court House. Mrs. Johnson soon rejoined the regiment and administered to the sick there. , "She took possession of a church in the neighborhood, an old wooden structure, and fitted up as a hospital.



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When Beauregard moved to the Potomac, taking possession of Mason's and Munson's Hills overlooking Washington, the 1st Maryland and Mrs. Johnson accompanied him. She and her son were constant visitors to the picket line during the lonely summer days when most of the fighting was done by snipers and the occasional reconnaissance patrol. When the Confederates fell back to Centerville and then to Manassas, Mrs. Johnson accompanied them. During the winter of 1861-62 she remained in camp with her husband, and again went with the army when it moved to Brandy Station in March of 1862. At that time newly promoted General "Stonewall" Jackson moved back to the Shenandoah. The 1st Maryland accompanied "old Jack", but Mrs. Johnson returned to her father's home in North Carolina. The 1st Maryland participated in every action of his Valley Campaign, as well the march to Richmond and the battles that raged around the Confederate capital as General Robert E. Lee struggled to force General George McClellan's forces away from the gates of Richmond. After the Battle of the Seven Days, Lee consolidated his forces and pressed north to meet a new threat, General John Pope. After the Battle of the Seven Days Mrs. Johnson reported for duty at Charlottesville, where the 1st Maryland had been ordered to report in order to recruit new men and refit. But the 1st Maryland did not report to Charlottesville, nor accompany the newly formed Army of Northern Virginia northward. The regiment's term of enlistment had expired. On August 17, 1862, Colonel Bradley Johnson, who had taken command of the regiment during the Valley Campaign, disbanded what was left of the First Maryland Infantry, C.S.A. The regimental flag was solemnly folded one last time and tenderly embraced by each member of the command. It was then handed over to the

regimental color bearer, Edwin Selvage, who "with a committee, was appointed to take it to Charlottesville and present it to the noble woman who had faithfully stood by them in their hour of need - Mrs. Bradley T. Johnson." (16)

The committee presented the flag and the following letter to Mrs. Johnson:

"Dear Madam, -- Upon the occasion of the disbandment of the 1st Md. Reg't on the 17th of Aug., we the undersigned, members of the above named Reg't, do unanimously agree and resolve to present to you, as one true and truly worthy to receive it, Our Flag, which has been gallantly and victoriously borne over many bloody and hard fought field, and under whose sacred folds Maryland's sons have fought and bled in a holy cause.

"Our attachment for our Flag is undying, and now the circumstances have rendered it necessary that our organization should no longer exist, we place in your hands as a testament of our regard and esteem, our little Flag, which is dear to us all." (17) Mrs. Johnson gladly accepted the gift with what she later called in a letter to the 1st Maryland as the "emblem of your courage and State pride." She assured the Marylanders that "the trust you have reposed in me shall be sacredly guarded." She kept the regimental flag of the 1st Maryland the remainder of her life, and when she was buried some thirty-seven years later, it was draped across her bier. In accordance with her will the flag was turned over as an heirloom to her son and grandson. (18)

After the 1st Maryland disbanded Colonel Johnson joined General Jackson's staff. He commanded a Virginia regiment at Second Manassas, served as the Provost Marshall of Frederick City during Lee's occupation, and then carried dispatches from General Lee to Richmond. Once in Richmond, Colonel Johnson's legal skills were put to good use and he was placed on a court

martial board, where he remained for the next year. He returned to command in the summer of 1863 at the head of the newly raised Second Maryland Infantry, and that fall took command of the First Maryland Cavalry. In the spring of 1864 the 1st Maryland Cavalry was temporarily attached to General Jubal Early's Valley Army. During this period Union General David Hunter burned numerous homes and farms in the Shenandoah. Among the private residences Hunter burned was the home of former Governor John Letcher. In July of 1864, while leading a cavalry raid in northern Maryland, Johnston repaid his debt to Governor Letcher by burning the home of Maryland's Governor Augustus W. Bradford. Johnson's command also participated in the burning of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, that August. During the final months of the war Johnson supervised the prisoner of war facility at Salisbury, North Carolina.

(13) Goldsboroug, Major W.W., C.S.A., *The Maryland Line In The Confederate Army, 1861 - 65*, Press of Guggenheimer, Weil & Co., Baltimore, 1900.

(14) SHSP- Johnson

(15) Current, Richard N., Chief Editor, *Encyclopedia of the Confederacy*, Volume 3, pg 998, Simon & Schuster, New York, N.Y., 1993.

(16) Goldsboroug, Major W.W., C.S.A., *The Maryland Line In The Confederate Army, 1861 - 65*, Press of Guggenheimer, Weil & Co., Baltimore, 1900.

(17) SHSP-Johnson

(18) IBID

In next month's issue of the BCWRT Newsletter we conclude this series.