

THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Battle may be Brewing over Re-enactors' Request

by Andrew, Schotz,
Hagerstown, MD Herald-
Mail, March 20, 2005

WILLIAMSPORT - After the Civil War's Battle of Gettysburg, more than 13,000 Confederate soldiers retreated 42 miles south to Williamsport.

They were accompanied by 2,000 teamsters (drivers), 200 doctors and 10,000 horses and cattle. Another 2,000 cavalrymen were sent to protect the procession from attack.

When they reached Williamsport, "they converted the entire town into a hospital," said Richard Lank of Forest Glen Commonwealth, a Kensington, Md., nonprofit group that wants to bring the mass evacuation back to life.

On Oct. 8, Forest Glen Commonwealth plans to re-enact the exodus, which is known as a "vast procession of misery" and "wagontrain of woe."

Lank said the re-creation of the event will have modern adjustments.

The 42-mile road trip from Gettysburg to Williamsport on Oct. 8 will be by car and truck, instead of on foot.

And Forest Glen Commonwealth expects the number of participants to be significantly smaller than the original number.

Having 15,000 people descend on Williamsport (population 1,900) "would terrorize the town," Lank said with a laugh.

There are many details to work out in the next seven months - most notably, what, if anything, will happen in Williamsport when the march ends.

For a two-day weekend event, Forest Glen Commonwealth has asked to use nine places and buildings, many of which the town owns:

- Byron Memorial Park for a gathering of sutlers, or vendors
- Riverbottom Park for an encampment
- The canal house as a typical family home where a wounded person was treated and food was prepared
- The Great Barn for presentations, plus shelter if it rains
- The library's lower room for workshops
- The Community Building at Byron Memorial Park for the main speakers
- Doubleday Hill and Riverview Cemetery for part of a walking tour
- The C&O Canal towpath for a tour and hike
- The town museum for visitors to see displays

"That's an awful lot of things to ask for," Mayor John W. Slayman said at the February town council meeting, when the proposal first came up.

"I think we probably should have some more discussion with (Forest Glen) Commonwealth,"

Councilwoman Gloria J. Bitner said at the March 14 council meeting, when the issue came up again.

"And they want all this for free," Assistant Mayor Walter W. Tracy Jr. said.

"I would imagine," Slayman said.

Slayman said he was supposed to talk to the group, but the meeting was canceled when his niece died.

When Slayman said the event likely would feature people selling things in the park, newly appointed Councilman James C. Kalbfleisch said, "I don't think it should be done for free, either, if these people are going to make money for it."

Again, council members said they wanted to know more about the project.

As the chairwoman of the town's Buildings Committee, Bitner was asked to find out more details.

Lank said Thursday that he had not talked to Bitner yet.

Asked if Forest Glen Commonwealth would pay rent to use the town's buildings and grounds, Lank said the topic hasn't been discussed. The event would be a good tourism draw, he said.

Even if the town rejects Forest Glen Commonwealth's request to use buildings and land, the initial caravan from Gettysburg to Williamsport will carry on as planned, Lank said.

When the caravan of wounded left Gettysburg on July 4, 1863, the line of wagons and horses stretched 17 miles, according to Lank.

They went around Chambersburg to Greencastle, then south on what now is Md. 63, through Cearfoss, and across National Pike, before reaching Williamsport.

They stayed in Williamsport about five days because they couldn't get across the Potomac River, which was swollen from heavy rain.

The entire retreat was led by a brigadier general, John D. Imboden.

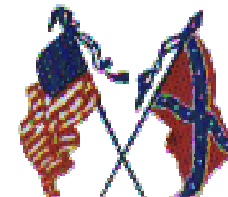
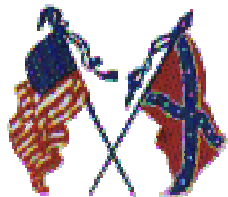
"He was credited with saving thousands of lives," Lank said.

Lank said Forest Glen Commonwealth, which has done other history projects in Washington County, wants to do more than a re-enactment to commemorate the Gettysburg retreat.

He thinks Washington County Public Schools might get involved.

He hopes that at least some of the weekend's activities - perhaps a ghost tour - will appeal to children.

Having music, games and other demonstrations of Civil War life, even



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

the mundane things, should make the event livelier than a typical battle re-enactment, Lank said.

"What fun is it to watch people get shot and fall down dead," he said.

Battlefield Plight Gains National Attention

By Rusty Dennon, Fredericksburg, VA Free Lance-Star

National Geographic magazine has put Spotsylvania County on the map. In the just-released April issue, the county is featured prominently in a 23-page story about Civil War battlefields being gobbled up by sprawl.

"Civil War Battlefields: Saving the Landscapes of America's Deadliest War," by Adam Goodheart, will go to the magazine's 6.6 million-plus subscribers worldwide.

Goodheart quickly puts Spotsylvania's wartime role, and subsequent preservation challenges, in perspective.

"Places that were at the front lines 140 years ago--Manassas, Antietam, Gettysburg--are at the front lines again today," he wrote.

"Exactly at a moment when Americans seem more interested than ever in finding connections to the wartime past, much of that past is in danger of being lost. Nowhere is this more true than in Spotsylvania County"

With a population topping 112,000, it is the state's third-fastest growing county.

Last summer, Goodheart donned a Confederate uniform to take part in a re-enactment of the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, held at Belvedere Plantation, a farm in the county's New Post area.

He stopped at well-known local Civil War sites--Salem Church, Jackson's

Flank Attack, and Chancellorsville--accompanied by John Hennessy, chief historian of Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park.

"I think this is one of the first times in a popular forum that Spotsylvania has been so rightly identified as the cradle of so much that was significant" during the war, Hennessy said yesterday.

"My greatest hope for an article like this is that people in the community will read it. Sometimes when you live here you don't realize what a big deal it is," Hennessy said. "All of us live in the midst of something that is incredibly significant" and disappearing.

Salem Church--where Confederates led by Gen. Robert E. Lee stopped Union army Gen. John Sedgwick's advance during the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863--is an example, and something not lost on visitors.

Goodheart saw it, noting, "The ground that Lee's men fought to defend now sits beneath a Hardee's, a Chick-fil-A, and an empty grocery store."

"The church is almost invisible now," Hennessy said, and a handsome stone monument across State Route 3 is practically lost in the traffic congestion.

Hennessy said no one--not the community, not the Park Service, not the county--realized what was happening there until it was too late.

In the case of Salem Church, "We failed to act at every step along the way and we all share the responsibility for what has emerged." The National Geographic story includes a wartime photo of a Union camp juxtaposed with a modern aerial view of tract housing in Spotsylvania and, later, a photo of a newly restored section of the stone

wall along Sunken Road in Fredericksburg with a wartime view strewn with debris and bodies.

Over the years, the National Park Service acquired 8,000 acres in four major battlefields and several other related sites here. Organizations such as the Civil War Preservation Trust and Central Virginia Battlefields Trust have also been acquiring significant parcels that come up for sale.

Chancellorsville, Hennessy said, is an example of what can be done.

The CWPT, working with the county and a developer, Tricord Inc., last year purchased 140 acres of privately owned battlefield land that will be preserved.

"That was truly one of the best examples of how to achieve preservation," Hennessy said.

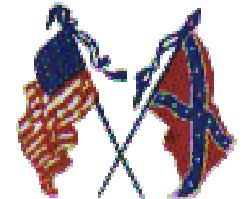
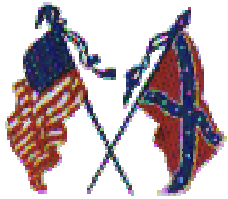
Last month, the CWPT listed all of Spotsylvania on its annual list of the nation's 10 most endangered battlefields.

Four of the bloodiest battles of the war were fought in and around Spotsylvania between December 1862 and May 1864--at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House.

The trust says that without quick action, 200,000 acres of important land still in private hands across the nation will be lost to sprawl within the next two decades.

"It's a great honor being recognized by [National Geographic], said Spotsylvania Supervisor Hap Connors. "Again, it's a two-edged sword that highlights the challenges and the opportunities" facing local officials.

The county needs to continue working with both preservationists and developers "to find ways to balance growth with preserving historical lands," he said.



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

He noted that the county recently enacted a purchase-of-development-rights program and is looking for ways to fund it.

Also, "Preservation pays, not only by increasing land values and design standards," but by bringing in more tourists to historical sites, Connors said.

Connors and Board of Supervisors Chairman Bob Hagan attended a Capitol Hill reception yesterday hosted by preservationists and the National Geographic Society.

Jim Campi, a CWPT spokesman, said the story marks the beginning of a joint effort by the trust, National Geographic and the National Park Service to create online resources and maps for visitors to Civil War sites.

"We see this generating tourism while bringing international attention to the plight of Spotsylvania's battlefields, and how [preservation] decisions are being made locally."

Historic Carriage Rolled In

Carried Lincolns on last ride to Ford's Theater

By PETE SHERMAN, STAFF WRITER, Springfield IL. State Journal-Register – March 23, 2005

March 22nd was not the best day for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum to receive the carriage that took Abe and Mary to Ford's Theater on April 14, 1865, the night the president was assassinated.

"Anything beyond no sun, 70 degrees and 45 percent humidity makes me nervous," said William Snyder, registrar at the museum.

Snyder was among several museum officials helping unload the carriage at the museum early that afternoon. It took Chicago-based art movers Terry

Dowd Inc. a while to shrink-wrap the carriage inside the back of their truck and erect a plastic-tarp tent to protect the carriage from near-freezing temperatures, gusty winds and lots of rain.

Eventually, the carriage was rolled safely into the museum, past dozens of workers and guests and a replica of the White House.

"It's been 140 years since this carriage drove by the White House," said Richard Norton Smith, director of the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. "This is what it's all about."

The carriage is on loan from the Studebaker National Museum in South Bend, Ind., for the Lincoln museum's six-month temporary exhibit that premieres on opening day, Tuesday, April 19. The carriage will be one of the centerpieces of the exhibit, an in-depth examination of Lincoln's assassination.

The temporary show also will include Lincoln's deathbed and several other loaned artifacts, many of which have rarely or never left their current homes.

The black, leather-clad carriage is significant in many ways. It was a gift from the people of New York City, who presented it to the president in 1865, shortly before his second inauguration. The mountings are solid silver, and the door was engineered so that the steps automatically folded out when the door opened.

The carriage also played a central role in an intimate moment between the Lincolns, which Mary later related to William Herndon. Mary and her husband had been riding in the carriage earlier on the 14th, Good Friday. The Civil War, though finally over, had taken its toll on the couple, as had the death of their son Willy in 1862. They sat in the carriage and talked.

"We must both be more cheerful in the future," Lincoln told Mary. "Between the war and the loss of our darling Willy - we have both been very miserable."

Government May Invest Millions in Five Forks

By Ben Bagwell, Petersburg, VA Progress-Index

DINWIDDIE - Five Forks Battlefield, described as the Waterloo of the Confederacy, has been designated for welcome center development by the National Park Service in its final General Management Plan.

The anticipated development cost at Five Forks, found today on Courthouse Road, is \$3 million in federal funding.

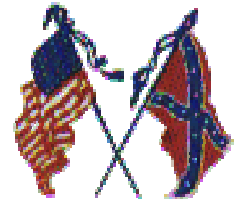
"The development will be on land already owned by the Park Service," said Bob Kirby, superintendent of Petersburg National Battlefield.

The current visitor center door has measured 5,000 visitors to the site in a recent year. There is a possibility there will be a Civil War movie available for viewing at the greatly enhanced tourist site.

Guy Scheid, Dinwiddie's new economic development director, said the development will have a positive ripple effect.

"Due to the plans of the Park Service, Pamplin Park and the Virginia Motorsports track, there will be a growing need for more Dinwiddie motels and restaurants in addition to new retail businesses," he said. "There will be new job opportunities and the county's tax base will be enhanced."

Funds at Five Forks will also be used for an enlarged parking lot, two maintenance vehicles and two tour buses. Between three and four acres will be developed, Kirby said.



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

If the plan stays on schedule, some work should be evident by December 2007. "The likelihood is good as long as the national economy is strong. Bumps could come from Congress or the National Park Service," he said.

"So far we have only received funds for planning and environmental assessment," Kirby said.

The site has major historical significance.

"The Five Forks battle was the beginning of the end for the Confederacy. As Gen. [Ulysses] Grant encircled Petersburg as far out as Dinwiddie, tremendous fighting went on at Five Forks on April 1, 1865. Union Forces broke through the Confederate lines. It was like a domino effect," Kirby said.

After the Five Forks battle was lost, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee dispatched Confederate headquarters in Richmond, telling them both Richmond and Petersburg must be evacuated.

Lee and his remaining troops began their hasty retreat to the southwest, where the final surrender of the Civil War occurred just days later at Appomattox Courthouse.

The Confederate defeat at Five Forks on April 1 meant the Union would control the Southside Railroad, the only supply route left to North Carolina for both Petersburg and Richmond, according to the final General Management Plan written by the Park Service staff in Petersburg.

The Park Service management document also lists enhancements for the battlefield in Petersburg and the headquarters for Grant in City Point.

Kirby said, "This development should enhance heritage tourism. The Park Service goal is to preserve and protect cultural and natural resources."

In putting together the final General Management Plan for the area battlefields there have been 539 people who attended public meetings sponsored by the Park Service. Other state and national groups have provided input in the Park Service's preparation process. Other comments will be accepted until March 30.

Tracy Chernault of the Park Service is the site manager for the Five Forks tourist site and can be found there on most days.

Gen. Lee's orders to Gen. George Pickett were, "Hold Five Forks at all hazards. Protect road to Ford's depot and prevent Union forces from striking the Southside Railroad."

Pickett's troops were greatly outnumbered and failed to stop the Union forces. So the long war was over eight days later.

Historic Wall Slowly Being Rebuilt, Brick by Brick Fredricksburg VA Free Lance-Star

By Rebecca J Barnabi

Repairing of Confederate Cemetery wall, after Hurricane Isabel damage, is resuming

After Hurricane Isabel's visit through Fredericksburg on Sept 18, 2003, the wall was coming down.

But, now, thanks to the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation Inc. and other donors, the historic wall around the Confederate Cemetery in Fredericksburg is going back up.

According to David King, the city's assistant director of Public Works, a 50-foot section of the brick wall collapsed after Hurricane Isabel's visit.

However, King said that sections nearby already were leaning and in need of repair prior to Isabel's assistance in bringing down the wall.

"The basic scope of the project itself," King said, "is we're completely replacing a 180-foot section of the wall."

Rods in the sections of the wall adjacent to the portion that fell held the wall in place or more would have fallen, said King.

The wall will be taken down all the way to the foundation so a new foundation can be built, and a new wall will be constructed with brick from the original.

The original wall was constructed in May 1870 from the bricks of city buildings which were damaged during the Battle of Fredericksburg.

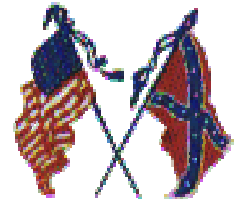
The Battle of Fredericksburg occurred on Dec. 11-13, 1862, between troops under the command of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee and Union Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside.

The battle was considered to be a victory for the Confederate side of the Civil War.

According to Barbara Crookshanks, president of the Ladies Memorial Association, which owns the Confederate Cemetery, HFFI was the first to make a donation for the rebuilding of the wall. Its donation of more than \$6,000 came from the Candlelight Tour in Fall 2004.

More than 100 contributors donated funds totaling \$35,000. The City of Fredericksburg matched that, enabling the ladies association to reach its goal of \$70,000 to rebuild the wall.

"We're just delighted how everything's coming along," Crookshanks said. "We're grateful to everyone, including the city." Some contributors donated as much as \$1,000.



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

"Each donation is equally appreciated because [the donor] is doing it because they want to," said Crookshanks.

The Ladies Memorial Association was organized on May 10, 1866, and since then has held an annual Memorial Day ceremony at the cemetery to honor the soldiers and five generals buried there.

Crookshanks said the wall should be completed in time for this year's ceremony on May 30 at 10 a.m. Carter Hudgins, professor of early American culture and historic preservation at UMW, will be the speaker.

Judge Reinstates SCV Commander in Chief

By LEON ALLIGOOD
Staff Writer

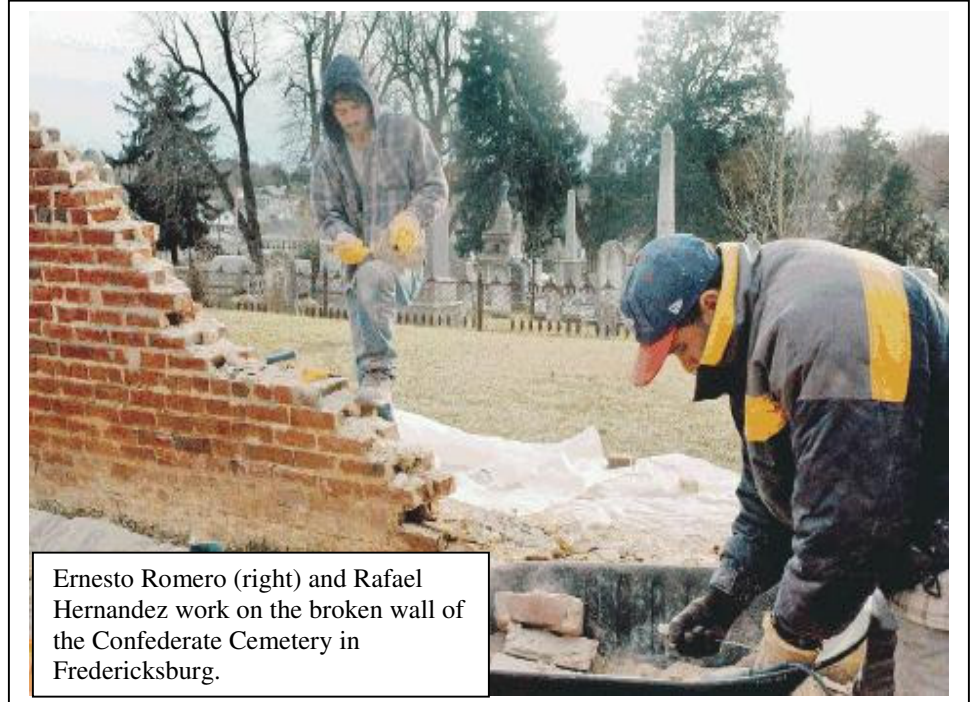
Civil War group divided over purpose, politics

COLUMBIA — Denne Sweeney, the controversial commander in chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans who was ousted in court last month by a temporary restraining order, was given back his title recently during a court hearing.

But not before Chancellor Robert Jones took Sweeney, who lives near Dallas, to issue for taking his title too seriously.

"The evidence suggests that Mr. Sweeney, on occasion, has exceeded his powers at the detriment to the organization," the judge said near the conclusion of a seven-hour hearing.

Although Sweeney was renamed to the top post of the 30,000-member organization, the judge noted specifically that the commander in chief does not have the authority to suspend, either permanently or temporarily, any member of the General Executive Council. The GEC, which has members who are elected



Ernesto Romero (right) and Rafael Hernandez work on the broken wall of the Confederate Cemetery in Fredericksburg.

and appointed, acts as the group's supervising board of directors.

Sweeney will replace C. Anthony Hodges, a Chattanooga doctor who held the post for about a month.

The fight has been brewing for several years as the organization has become divided along ideological lines that pit "progressives" against "traditionalists."

The traditionalists contend that the SCV should remain non-political and should serve as a tool for living history exhibits for schoolchildren and continue to promote events such as Confederate Memorial Day. The traditionalists contend the lawsuit was needed to keep the organization from being unduly influenced by radicals who are in favor of Southern "re-secession" from the remainder of the country.

The progressive wing is more confrontational, vocal and political,

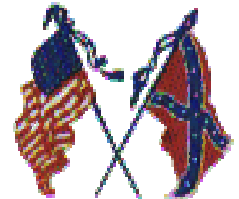
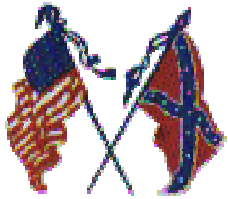
believing the group should speak out when issues such as the Confederate flag and Southern heritage are raised. They call the other group, the "old guard," stuck in their ways.

Tom Hardin, a Columbia lawyer representing several members of the "old guard" in a lawsuit against the commander in chief, told Jones that Sweeney suspended five GEC members at a meeting of the group last December.

"He did that to allow his supporters to have a quorum so that a number of items that he wanted passed could be voted on," Hardin said.

"We would not be here if Mr. Sweeney had not engaged in suspending people. Mr. Sweeney forgot that he works for the board of directors and took powers that he did not have."

Ironically, the defense fired back a similar argument, alleging that three members of the GEC, who opposed



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Sweeney, organized a teleconference meeting Feb. 16 and ousted the commander in chief from office.

According to the SCV's bylaws, three members of the GEC can call a meeting of the group. The next day the trio filed a lawsuit in Maury County Chancery Court alleging that Sweeney had repeatedly violated the SCV constitution and bylaws.

Defense attorney Thor Y. Urness of Nashville said the meeting violated the group's rules because Sweeney and others were not given adequate notice about the phone session.

With a meeting of the GEC scheduled for three days later, Feb. 19, Urness questioned why the three board members could not wait until then to make their concerns known.

"The only reason they didn't wait for the 19th is they didn't have the votes then. What they did was completely over the top. There's a political process to accomplish what they wanted, but they chose to ignore it," Urness told Jones.

The defense lawyer played a tape of the Feb. 16 GEC meeting, during which it quickly became evident that two members did not know what the session was about and hung up once the group began voting on 13 resolutions, one of which included a motion to remove Sweeney.

Urness charged that at least two of the GEC members were "tricked into making the call. A quorum achieved by trickery is not valid," the defense attorney said.

However, Hardin, the plaintiff's lawyer, said it was unreasonable for his clients to "expect the commander in chief to call a meeting if he was going to be the subject of the meeting."

In the end, Chancellor Jones, who had taken care during the proceeding to make sure he understood the

leadership structure of the SCV and how it had operated in the past, said he could not condone how the Feb. 16 meeting was conducted.

"With considerable sympathy for why the three members of the GEC called the Feb. 16 meeting, this court cannot bless the very restrictive way in which it was done.

"All of us, as human beings, have been tempted at times to make the ends justify the means," he said.

At the same time he restored Sweeney to his post, he revoked the suspensions that Sweeney had arranged in December.

After the hearing, Sweeney shook hands with supporters. About 65 men attended the daylong court session.

Most of them were dressed in suits, with lapel stickers that read: "Sweeney is my commander in chief." Asked if he thought the organization could rebound from its recent division, he was optimistic.

"We're going to make a valiant attempt at it. That's for sure. We're going to see if we can work a little better together in the future," he said.

Sweeney said he will follow the judge's order and not suspend members of the GEC.

"I never had suspensions on the brain. All those suspensions were done for cause. Now the judge says we can't suspend people, and I won't suspend people. It's real simple."

Mark Lea "Beau" Cantrell, a longtime member of the SCV and a member of the GEC who opposes Sweeney, said he, too, hopes the feuding is coming to an end. He said the problem was nothing less than a power play.

"My view, and the view of those who agree with me, is the driving force of the organization is the board of directors, the General Executive Council. It's my view that Mr. Sweeney believes the CIC

(commander in chief) should be, in effect, an absolute dictator. But it can be healed. This is an institution. It's like a bank or church. They have problems, but we still have banks and churches," Cantrell said.

The first test of the reconciliation will occur April 23, when the GEC has its first meeting since the legal trouble. Tentatively, the meeting will be held in Charlotte, N.C.

Meanwhile, the lawsuit continues, although no date for the next hearing has been scheduled.

Storied Civil War Quilt Draws Eyes and an \$82,250 Bid among Americana Lots in Boston

BOSTON, MASS. - All eyes were drawn to the dazzling array of quilts offered at Skinner's Americana sale here February 20, where a Civil War appliquéd example was top lot when it sold for \$82,250, twice the high estimate.

The quilt was made in 1864 by Margaret Hazzard of Bainbridge Township in Berrien County, Mich., for her husband Philetus to take with him when he went to fight the war. The quilt was executed in warm beige and brown tones with complementary greens, black and red, comprising 20 blocks, each depicting a building with meaning for Hazzard, such as his home, his school and other buildings in the towns where he lived. Hazzard died within months of joining the army, and the quilt was subsequently returned to his widow. The quilt was deaccessioned from the Pennsylvania Quilt and Textile Museum in Lititz, Penn.