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Newly found Hunley dime a 'highly valuable' relic

Coin discovered amid crewman's remains

BY ANDY PARAS, Charleston Post and Courier, March 23, 2007

The silver is gone, eaten away by more than 100 years of corrosion at the bottom of the ocean, but the words "U.S. Dime" remain etched on what is the second coin recovered from the H.L. Hunley submarine since the famous \$20 gold piece was found six years ago.

Scientists who recently recovered the tiny dime say it's just as valuable to their fact-finding mission as it was to the European crewman known only as Lumpkin, who likely carried the coin in his pocket aboard the Confederate vessel's final mission.

The coin was found among the crewman's remains, said Philippe de Vivies, a conservator with the Friends of Hunley. A massive coin shortage at the time was likely the reason more coins haven't been found onboard.

"It was highly valuable," Vivies said. "It was very important to him."

Vivies carefully etched the now-brittle coin from a thick, cementlike sediment pulled from the submarine using a dentist's drill. It wasn't until he removed the concretion from the surface that he was able to make out writing. "At the time I found it, I didn't know what it was," he said.

The coin, roughly the size of a penny used today, was minted in 1841. The Lady Liberty on the front of the coin is barely visible. "U.S. Dime" on the back and the date can be clearly made out. Preliminary research indicates that it was made in Philadelphia.

The only other coin discovered onboard the submarine was a gold

coin that is believed to have saved the life of Lt. George Dixon, the sub's commander during the Battle of Shiloh.

A bullet hit the coin, which Dixon engraved to read: "Shiloh April 6, 1862 My Life Preserver."

Lumpkin was one of four European crewmen among the eight who died shortly after the sub sank the USS Housatonic.

Hunley researchers are leaving for Europe next week in hopes of finding more about two of the other European crewmen.

Genealogist Linda Abrams has been investigating the crew's identities for six years. She was shocked to discover that half the crew was European.

"That was a blow to the research I was doing because I thought all these guys were going to be good old Southern boys," Abrams said. "One of them? Fine. But four?"

She will travel to London, Germany and Denmark to try to discover more about crewmen J.F. Carlsen and Arnold Becker.

Carlsen is thought to be a sailor of Danish descent whose family lived in a territory now in Germany. Becker was born in Germany, but Abrams said she doesn't know much more about his origins at this point.

"I don't know if I'm going to come back with the families of these two guys in my briefcase," Abrams said. "But I fully expect to return this year. I intend to make contacts."

Virginia to fund Museum of the Confederacy

By Seth McLaughlin

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine says he will approve a \$400,000 amendment that would fund the cash-

strapped Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, ending its recent struggle to secure state assistance.

The cash infusion will help cover the museum's 2007-08 general operating budget, which includes staffing. The annual price tag to run the museum is estimated at \$2.1 million.

Museum officials hope that a combination of budget cuts and emergency fundraising efforts will help them stay in the black for the fiscal year that ends in June.

"We're really happy that the state is helping us out," said Megan Miller, the museum's director of communications. "We're glad they have decided to take some of the responsibility for our situation. ... This money from the General Assembly, that will allow us to break even [next fiscal year]. But I don't know what that is going to mean for the future."

The state had been staying out of the museum's finances, opting instead to focus on transportation and eminent domain.

"It just has been one of those things that has not been a top priority," said Sen. Charles R. Hawkins, Campbell County Republican who pushed for the additional funding for the museum. "Richmond looked at the state for its response and the state looked at Richmond, and in the process, it fell through the cracks." Meanwhile, museum officials have struggled to raise enough money to maintain its financial health. Ms. Miller said the museum had a debt of about \$475,000, as of June.

In August, officials were forced to cut their budget by closing the museum one day a week and trimming staff. Officials also began considering moving the largest collection of Confederate memorabilia to another locality, such as Lexington, Va., and possibly dropping the word



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"Confederacy" from the museum's name.

"They want to stay in Richmond, and we want them to stay in Richmond," said Richmond Mayor L. Douglas Wilder, a Democrat and the nation's first black elected governor. "The problem is we don't have money to give them. ... The question is what will it take for them to stay in Richmond?"

The consideration to rename the museum came after a group of historians, preservationists and grant writers suggested the change because the word "Confederacy" carried "enormous, intransigent and negative intellectual baggage with many."

Brag Bowling, former post commander with the Sons of Confederate Veterans heritage group, called the potential renaming an "abomination" and said the museum's message would "be diluted by political correctness." He blamed the museum's executive director S. Waite Rawls III for a "lack of leadership."

The group's leadership was so upset with the possible name change that last month, Frank Earnest, state commander of 4,000-member Virginia division, said his group would offer to take over the museum and move to replace Mr. Rawls. "We don't have to take the thing over, but if there is a way the SCV could exert more influence and help them, we want to do it," Mr. Bowling said yesterday. "I honestly feel they have kind of lost their way and kind of separated themselves from the good general Confederate community."

Mr. Bowling said the group hopes to meet with museum officials as early as this week.

The problems at the museum and talks to relocate it began several years ago when officials said

attendance started to decline.

A General Assembly subcommittee in 2005 found that the museum and the adjacent White House of the Confederacy had been shadowed by the growing Medical College of Virginia hospital, operated by Virginia Commonwealth University.

The subcommittee had said the expanding medical campus was hurting the financial health of the museum and the mansion where Jefferson Davis presided over the Confederate government.

As the campus grew, museum attendance declined "creating a real financial crisis for the annual operating budget," the committee found.

"Fairness requires, at a minimum, a modest, and temporary, state subsidy to preserve the White House [in its original location], because it has been the Commonwealth, through its agents the Medical College of Virginia and VCU, that has at least exacerbated the current crisis, if not caused it outright," the committee said in its findings.

Last year, the museum lobbied the General Assembly for the \$700,000, but only received \$50,000.

Before last year, the museum had not received state support since 1991, Ms. Miller said.

"Before 1991, we received varying amounts of annual support from the state, the most significant of which was the \$1 million we received for the restoration of the White House of the Confederacy in 1986," Ms. Miller said.

The situation has become so bad that the District-based Civil War Preservation Trust has put the White House and the museum on its 2007 "History Under Siege" sites.

"Although not a battlefield, the Museum and White House are as

endangered as any battleground in the U.S.," according to the trust's Web site, www.civilwar.org. "They are literally being strangled by their immediate neighbor, the sprawling campus of Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center."

Monitor legend chronicled

BY BO PETERSEN, The Charleston Post and Courier, March 10, 2007

A museum opened Friday for a first-of-its-kind boat that helped write Civil War history. But no, it's not the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley. It's the USS Monitor.

Four years after an ambitious project was launched to showcase the legendary ironclad, a \$30 million center in Newport News, Va., at one of the country's most prestigious maritime history museums.

The 63,500-square-foot Monitor Center opened in a wing of The Mariners' Museum on the 145th anniversary of the Monitor's battle with the Confederacy's CSS Virginia, "The Merrimack," in the famous first clash of ironclads that took place a few miles from where the museum now stands.

Visitors enter to a "video art installation" of the storm off North Carolina that sank the ironclad, watching like the crew that abandoned her as a red signal lantern appears and disappears in the distance until, as one survivor would write to his wife, "The Monitor was no more."

They emerge from that to learn how the wreckage was discovered in 1973. Then they come upon the actual lantern - the last thing the crew saw before the Monitor went under and the first artifact recovered from the ship.

They can take a swivel seat in a theater in the round to turn 360



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degrees - much like the turret itself - to experience the recovery, feel the concussion of cannons firing as the Battle of Hampton Roads is recreated through digital paintings, lights and at-times startling sounds.

They can tour more than 1,200 artifacts from silverware and sconces to the engine, get an up-close look at the actual turret, cannons and other artifacts, and talk to conservators at work. They can walk the deck of a replica of the boat. That's along with 35,000 other maritime artifacts they can tour, for the museum's \$12 admission price.

Although much of the Monitor still lies on the ocean floor off North Carolina and the turret, cannons and other recovered artifacts are still - like the Hunley - undergoing extensive lab work to stave off corrosion, conservators in the last year turned the corner and have their boat "stabilized," say museum President John Hightower and David Alberg, superintendent of the federal Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, whose visitor center is also housed in the vast Mariners' museum.

The Monitor project has had the support of one of the nation's most prestigious maritime history centers and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which pushed to get the center built and open quickly.

Of the \$30 million cost, \$27 million has been raised so far - \$4 million of that from private donations as part of a campaign to fund one-third of the facility cost. NOAA and Congress have provided about \$15 million of the \$20 million government share of the new wing on the Mariners' Museum.

The Hunley Museum, which could look much the same as the Monitor Center, is still several years off. So

far, the only money committed to it is \$13 million from the city of North Charleston. Friends of the Hunley, the private group that raises money for the sub's preservation, has thus far devoted all the money it has raised to deferring cost of the sub's conservation.

A museum fundraising campaign has not started.

"I applaud (Monitor Center organizers) on the fact that they're opening, but we're in no hurry," said Rep. Chip Limehouse, R-Charleston, a member of the state Hunley Commission. "We're not competing. We're on our own timetable. We're happy with where we are. Nothing really compares to the Hunley. The fact of the matter is that the Hunley is open to the public. People can go view it right now."



Steve Helber/AP

Tonjit Tieophanitjaroen (left) and Preechaya Tiranasar of Zibits Studios arrange bones in a museum reproduction of the USS Monitor turret as it was recovered from the floor of the ocean. The reproduction bones of the victims of the shipwreck are part of a USS Monitor Center exhibit

Looking to restore the view in Gettysburg

National funds could help park more closely replicate battlefield

By ANGIE MASON, York Daily Record/Sunday News, March 26, 2007

As a licensed battlefield guide, Chris Rebmann helps visitors look at the trees, fields and rocks at Gettysburg

National Military Park and understand what happened there 144 years ago.

Wednesday, he stood at the top of Devil's Den with a group of students from Kansas. In 1863, there was an open view from that point south to the Snyder Farm and beyond. But years later, woods obscured the view.

A few years ago, the park began cutting trees like those, trees that weren't around in 1863, to make the battlefield look more like it did when fighting took place. Work is temporarily stopped because of weather, but when it's finished visitors will have a view more like what soldiers saw during the battle.

During the next 10 years, President Bush wants \$300 million to be spent annually on national parks. If Gettysburg gets any of that money, battlefield rehabilitation is where it should be spent, in Rebmann's opinion.

"For what I do, that's essential," he said. "The continuation of that would thrill me."

Battlefield rehabilitation means taking down trees, putting up fences and planting orchards to show visitors what kind of terrain soldiers were dealing with during the three-day July battle.

On West Confederate Avenue, trees began falling last summer to show that cannons there, pointed into thick woods, are not just decoration. They mark actual artillery points.

Old and diseased trees were taken down in Reynolds Woods, turning a thickly wooded area back into what it once was: a woodlot with room for soldiers to move.

Fences that soldiers were forced to hop over on the fields of Pickett's charge have been rebuilt.

The park plans to keep making the battlefield look more like it did in 1863, but it doesn't have the money



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to do it everything it wants to, officials said.

But if the president's proposed National Park Centennial Initiative is approved, parks could get about \$300 million a year in private and public dollars to get ready for the park service's 100th anniversary in 2016.

Gettysburg National Military Park will hold a meeting this week to hear ideas from the public on what people would like to see in its future, and some say battlefield rehabilitation and land preservation should be at the top of the list.

"The park has done a great job on restoring the battlefield to the 1863 appearance," George Lomas, owner of the Regimental Quartermaster in Gettysburg, said when asked what he'd like to see happen in Gettysburg. "It gives (visitors) a much truer vision of what was here in 1863."

Changing the view

The park is trying to "recreate the features that mostly affected what happened during the three-day battle," said Kathy Harrison, a park senior historian. "The visitor can't understand the (troop) movements that took place ... that's the key with vegetation."

So far, about 160 acres of nonhistoric trees have been removed, and the park plans to cut about 416 more acres. About 1,800 acres of wooded area will remain after cuts. About 73 acres of orchards have been replanted, with plans to plant about 87 more. About 10 miles of historic fences have been rebuilt, with about 30 more miles to go.

The effort is focused on major battle areas in the park, said Katie Lawhon, park spokeswoman. But there's a reason it's called rehabilitation and not restoration, she said: The land can't look exactly as it did 144 years ago.

Avenues built by the war department weren't there during the war, and neither were monuments, but both are historically important, she said. And there are limits to what can be done.

For example, on July 1-3, 1863, the wheat was ripe, Lawhon said.

"You can't freeze time," she said. "The wheat field will not always be ripe."

But other parts of history can be brought back. For example, a farm lane near the Trostle Farm fell into disuse after the war department built U.S. Avenue, Lawhon said. But during the battle, the Union army used the lane to bring 70 cannons into play during heavy fighting, she said, so it was restored.

"It was important for visitors to be able to see that," she said.

Land comes first

While money is lacking, in some cases, the park doesn't have the land either.

"I'd like them to purchase more land that was here during the battle," said John Fitzpatrick, a guide out on the battlefield Wednesday.

While the park owns about 6,000 acres where heavy fighting occurred, the battle took place over 25,000 acres, he said, and he'd like to see as much preserved as possible.

"The budget hasn't been there in a lot of national parks for land acquisition," said Mary Goundrey of the Civil War Preservation Trust. "Really, the first step is getting the land preserved, the second step is making it look (as it did during the battle)."

The park hasn't had land acquisition funds since 2001, Lawhon said. There are privately owned areas within boundaries where the park would like to do more rehabilitation, she said.

About 19 percent of the acres in park boundaries are not owned by the park and are unprotected, Lawhon said.

"Those lands are threatened, possibly, by inappropriate development," said Cinda Waldbuesser of the National Parks Conservation Association. She'd like to see future funds dedicated toward land preservation as well as adjusting park boundaries to encompass some historically important lands that currently lie outside the park.

For example, Camp Letterman, east of Gettysburg, was a makeshift hospital during the battle, but it isn't officially part of the park, she said. Much of that land has already been developed, according to the park service.

"Protecting lands that are key to telling the story is what it comes down to," Waldbuesser said.

Historic Watercolor Done By Wife Of Robert E. Lee Goes To Colonial Williamsburg

AP, March 28, 2007

NEW YORK: A haunting portrait of a little slave girl done by the wife of Confederate general Robert E. Lee at her family's Arlington, Virginia, plantation in 1830 is being sold to Colonial Williamsburg for its museum collection, a New York dealer said.

The Virginia foundation confirmed that it has the "Enslaved Girl" watercolor "on approval" and said a final decision is pending.

"The provenance looks air tight. It would be an important acquisition," Colonial Williamsburg spokesman Jim Bradley told The Associated Press Monday.

Laurel Acevedo of Alexander Gallery on Madison Avenue said the rare picture has been with Colonial Williamsburg since last week. "We



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gave them a good price. We wanted it to go to a public institution," Acevedo said.

The portrait went on sale in January for \$400,000 (€300,000) together with other memorabilia from the J.E.B. Stuart Collection. J.E.B. Stuart was the Confederate general who led the cavalry in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Only the portrait went to Williamsburg, Acevedo said, declining to name the purchase price.

Measuring 5 3/4 inches (14.6 centimeters) tall and 4 inches (10 centimeters) wide, the gold-framed watercolor on paper shows a somber girl with delicate features in a red dress with an apronlike white front balancing a wooden wash tub on her head. Trees and a split-rail fence are the background.



Mary Anna Randolph Custis, daughter of George Washington's only grandson, painted the portrait in 1830 on the grounds of what became Arlington National Cemetery, a year before she married Robert E. Lee, her distant cousin.

Before Mrs. Lee gave the portrait to West Point cadet James Ewell Brown

Stuart, class of 1854, while her husband was commandant of the military academy, she inscribed "Topsy" on the dress in pencil, a reference to the slave child in Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin." The novel roiled the conscience of abolitionists such as Mrs. Lee, who had earlier defied strictures against teaching slaves to read.

According to historical background provided by the gallery, Stuart pasted the watercolor onto the back of a drawing of a cavalry soldier on horseback slashing a watermelon with his sword.

"Whether the attachment was a conscious act or whether Stuart was oblivious to its meaning, it fails to diminish the significance of pairing an innocent slave with the highly trained soldier a few years before the outbreak of war," the documentation says.

The real name of the child in the portrait is not recorded, but she is known to have been one of the slaves at the 1,100-acre (445-hectare) Custis family plantation spread out along the Potomac River within view of Washington, D.C.

The plantation in Arlington, previously owned by George and Martha Washington, was confiscated during the Civil War and used as a burial site for Union dead from the Battle of Bull Run. Arlington later became the nation's most hallowed cemetery for military dead.

The Lees fled the plantation in 1861 at the outbreak of the Civil War, when Robert E. Lee sided with the South and became a Confederate general, eventually commander in chief. He died in 1870 as president of Washington and Lee University, three years before his wife.

Acevedo said the gallery purchased the J.E.B. Stuart Collection early this year from a private owner who had obtained it from descendants of the intrepid cavalry general, who died defending Richmond in 1864.

She said the gallery wanted it to go to a public collection "even though they normally can't pay as much as private collectors."

The lot included two pages of signatures from Stuart's West Point class and three fly leaves from a book signed by Stuart. "These pieces remain on sale at the gallery," Acevedo said.

Hagerstown Plaques to mark history where it occurred

by DAN DEARTH, Hagerstown Herald-Mail, March 21, 2007

HAGERSTOWN - George Armstrong Custer nearly died in Hagerstown 13 years before he met his fate during the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

The date was July 12, 1863.

Custer was standing in the bell tower of the Zion Reformed Church on North Potomac Street observing the Confederate retreat from Gettysburg when a sniper fired an errant shot that instead struck one of the tower's bells.

To preserve stories such as Custer's, city officials want to mark the church and other Hagerstown buildings that share Civil War history with interpretive plaques to commemorate what happened at each site, said Kathleen Maher, city planning director.

A team of Civil War scholars helped identify the sites, she said.

Maher said the plaques will spice up the downtown by showing Hagerstown's rich history.

Ideally, the city would like to hang about 12 to 14 of the historic markers,



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including spots where some buildings no longer stand, she said.

The project will cost about \$6,000, Maher said. The city and the Maryland Heritage Area Authority will split the expense, she said.

The Maryland Heritage Area Authority is a state program that helps municipalities pay for the restoration of historic sites.

John Howard, superintendent of Antietam National Battlefield, said the plaques are a terrific way to remind people that Hagerstown played a significant part in the Civil War.

"Although most people think (only) of Antietam ... this area was covered by troop movement on both sides," he said.

Western Maryland was the Union's first line of defense when the Confederates invaded on separate occasions in 1862 and 1863, he said.

"(People today are) walking on ground that was contested and fought over," Howard said. "It was critical."

Brothers help feds in Civil War artifact bust

By TIM PRATT, Hanover Evening Sun, March 26, 2007

Brothers Dean and Jim Thomas are used to reading tales of intrigue and deception. They own and operate Thomas Publications west of Gettysburg and have shelves full of Civil War books and documents.

But the Thomas brothers were recently caught up in a modern day web of thick plots and double dealing.

A rare-book dealer was recently charged in U.S. District Court with selling Civil War documents and letters stolen from the National Archives and Records Administration branch in Philadelphia. And it was the brothers who discovered the stolen items on Internet auction site eBay and reported the matter to federal officials.

Denning McTague, a 40-year-old intern at the Archives, is charged with stealing 165 Civil War-era letters, orders and telegrams relating to supplying guns, gunpowder and swords to troops. He is accused of then attempting to sell the loot on eBay.

If not for the Thomas brothers' assistance, McTague might still be profiting from the theft, officials said.

Nearly all of the stolen documents have been recovered.

The Thomas brothers' saga began in September when Jim was searching the auction site for a gift for Dean.

Jim won bids on three Civil War-era documents and letters that, little did he know, had been stolen from Archives. Dean then began looking at other items the dealer had for sale. Upon closer inspection, Dean realized he had seen at least one of the documents before.

Roughly 20 years ago, Dean was doing research at the Archives and made a photocopy of one of the documents. He then used that information in a book he wrote entitled "Round Ball to Rimfire: A History of Civil War Small Arms Ammunition."

"I called the Archives to see if they were having a sale," Dean said with a laugh.

Archives special agents immediately traveled to Gettysburg to work with the Thomas brothers toward buying more items, Dean said. Agents then sent e-mails from Jim's account to the seller to arrange more buys.

Dean estimates the stolen items were worth a few thousand dollars.

"The interesting thing is if Jim hadn't been searching on the Web, we probably never would have known the stuff had been stolen," Dean said.

McTague is scheduled for an April 4 arraignment at U.S. District Court in

Philadelphia. If found guilty, McTague could potentially face 12 to 18 months in prison, said Rich Manieri, spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office.

Appomattox Station battlefield could be restored

By Christa Desrets, Lynchburg News and Advance, March 21, 2007

A historic spot where the Battle of Appomattox Station took place more than 140 years ago could be transformed into a battlefield once again.

Appomattox officials announced at a town meeting Monday that about 100 acres in the town could eventually become a restored battlefield.

But the feasibility of such an endeavor first has to be determined through a series of historical and archaeological studies paid for through a grant from the National Park, said Chris Calkins with the National Park Service.

A second public meeting with more information on the Battle of Appomattox Station Preservation Plan will be held May 22. Residents will be asked for input when the final results of the study are presented at a third meeting in the fall.

The land, located on and around wooded areas near the Jamerson Brothers Trucking Co., could become a park of sorts. The park would include tours, markers explaining historical significance, reproductions of Civil War weapons and reenactments, said Philip Thomason, president of Thomason and Associates, one of two companies conducting the study.

Creating such a park could take years and much more grant money, said Scott Smith with the Region 2000 Local Government Council.



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Bones feared to be murder victim may be from Civil War graveyard

By Ted Shockley, Salisbury Daily Times, March 20, 2007

PUNGOTEAGUE -- A state crime lab has determined there was no foul play in the death or deaths that produced a string of mysterious bones found last summer under a former doctor's office.

Billy Joe Tarr, sergeant of investigations for the Accomack County Sheriff's Department, said lab results returned showed no cause for further investigation of the findings.

"They are of no forensic value," Tarr said of the bones, which were unearthed in June by employees of a moving company preparing to relocate the old doctor's office. "We wanted to see if there was anything of a criminal value for our investigation. They found no evidence of that."

The bones, which included a human jawbone and what looked like a large human leg bone, were found by an employee of Snyder House Moving about a foot underground while he and other workers prepared to move the office.

The worker, Irvin Dix, placed them in his lunch bag and took them to the Sheriff's Department, sending investigators into the town.

Tarr said he was told by authorities that the bones are more than 100 years old.

A doctor who died in 1925 built the small office, which stands near one of the Eastern Shore of Virginia's oldest and more historic settlements -- just down the road stands the area's oldest church building, and the first English-speaking play in America was performed nearby.

In addition, an adjacent property reportedly housed Union army

officers during the Civil War, according to "Off 13: The Eastern Shore of Virginia Guidebook," by local historian Kirk Mariner -- prompting some to draw a link.

"It may be something of a Civil War-type nature," said Tarr, who said he is "working with a few people" in an attempt to dispose of the bones.

Mariner said narrowing the time period might not provide a definitive answer.

"Who knows what went on during the Union occupation?" he said.

Mariner also said its not uncommon for buildings to be constructed on top of old burial plots -- or possibly, for amputations to be disposed of by burial.

Harrisburg prepares to sell Indian artifacts for Old West museum

AP, March 9, 2007

Thousands of American Indian and Western artifacts purchased by the city government will be sold at a four-day auction scheduled for October, officials said Thursday.

Mayor Stephen R. Reed spent about \$8 million (€6.08 million) in nontax city money to assemble the collection -- including Annie Oakley's coat, a card table from Wyatt Earp's saloon and the gun that killed Jesse James -- for an Old West museum he wanted to have built in Harrisburg.

Mayoral spokesman Randy King said the city will retain the collection's most valuable items and put them on display in Harrisburg's [National Civil War Museum](#).

A team from Heritage Auction Galleries of Dallas, Texas, will spend three days in Harrisburg next week to examine the artifacts. They will later clean, catalog and ship the collection to Dallas for the auction that begins Oct. 22.

"I think it was selected with a very keen eye toward relevance and importance," said Henderson Auction Galleries consignment director Gary Hendershott. "Many of the things in the collection are iconic."

He predicted about 400 bidders will attend the sale. The Western and American Indian artifacts will be auctioned separately.

King said he expects the auction to generate at least the \$8 million (€6.08 million) spent to acquire the collection.

"What the mayor got is all very unique, very high-value," King said.

Historic tour journeys to Gettysburg

By MEG BERNHARDT, Hanover Evening Sun, March 9, 2007

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground has reached Gettysburg.

A nonprofit's efforts to get federal recognition for the cultural and historical importance of a 175-mile stretch from Monticello to Gettysburg has been talked about for years, but it's finally starting to show up in Gettysburg.

Even though Congress has yet to pass federal legislation recognizing the swath of land as a National Heritage Area, the leaders of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, a public-private collaboration headquartered in Waterford, Va., are beginning to implement many of their ideas to raise national awareness and attract tourists to the region.

Proponents of the program hope it will bring in tourism dollars, stimulate local businesses and provide funding for preservation efforts.

In Gettysburg, it started with a regional travel guide being placed on sale at Main Street Gettysburg events. Then there were meetings with John Latschar, superintendent of



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the Gettysburg National Military Park, to talk about ways to raise visitation numbers, and a subsequent marketing effort by Journey and the Gettysburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. Local governments around Gettysburg signed on to the project after hearing that it won't restrict current land use and will promote the tourism industry.

Most recently, local officials gathered with Journey representatives and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to establish a plan to have Business Route 15 through Gettysburg recognized by the state as a scenic byway by this summer.

"It will open up the doorways to (local governments) for future funding projects," said Cumberland Township Manager Flo Ford, who is taking a lead in the scenic-byway application process.

A group of Gettysburg Borough and Cumberland, Freedom and Straban township officials agreed to apply for the designation from the Shriver's Corner intersection of Business Route 15 (Old Harrisburg Road) and Route 394, to the intersection of Business Route 15 (Emmitsburg Road) and Route 15 to the south of town. The road travels through Gettysburg Borough and the battlefield and ends close to the Mason-Dixon line.

If successful, the road will be eligible for National Scenic Byway designation, a process made easier by nearby Virginia's willingness to collaborate on a corridor-management plan as part of the application, said PennDOT's byways coordinator Jackie Koons-Felion.

The Virginia Department of Transportation was recently awarded between \$250,000 and \$300,000 by Congress to get its portion of Old Carolina Road, now known as Route

15, designated by the Federal Highway Administration, and has offered to help Pennsylvania as well, she said.

"By becoming a byway it opens the future for funding and it celebrates the positives to enhance and improve the visual impact of specific routes," Koons-Felion said. "It educates residents and visitors on the history and culture of Gettysburg and it maintains the natural resources and intrinsic qualities."

Funding will also be available for governments to develop marketing plans, provide tourist information, protect resources along the byway, make improvements like scenic overlooks, build pedestrian and bicycle facilities, build safety improvements and create a long-term management plan.

PennDOT will erect byway signs at the start and end points and will maintain the signs if an application is made and is approved, she said. The designation will also prohibit new signs and billboards from being erected along the byway, although there are exceptions for things like real-estate signs in front of the property for sale, temporary signs or historical markers.

There are currently 15 scenic byways in Pennsylvania, including Seaway Trail in Erie and the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway in Chester and Delaware counties.

The president of the Journey partnership, Cate Magennis Wyatt, said the group is pursuing the byway designation because it is a successful program already in place which help enhance and protect resources like the Route 15 corridor.

"I don't think any place is more worthy than ours," she said.

The Journey area includes eight presidential homes, about 1 million

acres on the National Register and the largest collection of Civil War battlefields in the nation.

She hopes the designation will encourage Route 15's stewards to create a park-like design for the highway when they implement safety improvements, noting Route 15 is simultaneously one of the most significant historic sites in the country and one that's traveled very heavily.

"Those safety improvements (that are needed) can significantly impact the current landscape," Wyatt said. "The stands of 150-year old trees, the fence lines, the cultural fabric if you will along those corridors. But it doesn't have to be that way."

Ford is compiling the application to submit to PennDOT. She will need to obtain resolutions of support from all the local governments involved and provide additional information to demonstrate significant resources along the byway.

The Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation will make the final determination of designation.

Last Civil War Veteran President may get belated Presidential Museum

**By Harold McNeil, Buffalo News,
March 15, 2007**

Organizers of a plan to turn the former North Buffalo library building into museum honoring Grover Cleveland, America's 22nd and 24th president, have enlisted the help of Cleveland's grandson.

Members of Free New York, a local nonprofit and nonpartisan research group, Wednesday took George Cleveland on a tour of Buffalo, where his grandfather was elected mayor in 1881. The group is hoping to raise enough funds to purchase the vacant, former Fairfield Library at 1659



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Amherst St. and transform it into the Grover Cleveland Presidential Library & Museum.

"We're trying to think of a way to promote our organization and our ideas and also Buffalo. We started to think that a Grover Cleveland Library would be a very good way to do that," said James Ostrowski, president of Free New York, during a fundraiser for the presidential library that was held Wednesday in the Sonoma Grille in Amherst.

Ostrowski said Cleveland, who was the only U.S. president to serve two nonconsecutive terms — in 1884 and in 1892 — embodied the political philosophy of the group, which is a support of local rule by local government instead of by Albany or Washington.

"He was a Jeffersonian who believed . . . in small, locally controlled government," said Ostrowski.

George Cleveland, who is from North Conway, N.H., and had never before visited the city where his grandfather got his political start, is buoyed by the idea of a presidential library in Grover Cleveland's honor.

"Their plans are not grandiose, which my grandfather never would have wanted, like the presidential libraries you see today. So I think the Fairfield Library is perfect. It's a lovely building. It's in a great neighborhood, it's accessible. It near the Frank Lloyd Wright [Darwin Martin] house," Cleveland said.

Grover Cleveland, the first Democrat elected to the White House after the Civil War, was born in 1837 in Caldwell, N.J. He was raised outside Syracuse and in 1855 moved to Buffalo, where he was admitted to the bar in 1859. In addition to serving as mayor of the city, he'd also served as Erie County sheriff.

How could George Cleveland, who is only in his mid-50s be the grandson of a 19th century president? Grover Cleveland, the only president to marry while still in office, got a late start.

"When Grover married Frances, my grandmother, she was actually his ward. He was 48-ish. She was 21 and had just graduated from college. My father was born in 1897. My father met my mother when she was teaching his children from his first marriage, and there was about a 25-year gap there. So, basically we dropped about two or three complete generations," George Cleveland said.