

THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Disappearing Breed: Their Fathers Fought in the Civil War

May 28, 2004 – Reprinted from the Wall Street Journal

Grand Rapids, Mich. – In the 1920s, Charles Conrad Becker often would lean back in his chair on the front porch after supper and tell his young son Harold about his exploits as a union soldier during the Civil War.

He fought in the "Battle Above the Clouds" on Lookout Mountain in Tennessee. He was among the 60,000 soldiers on Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's march to the sea. And after the war ended, he had the grim duty of helping to maintain the graves of thousands of Union soldiers who died of starvation and disease at the Confederate prison in Salisbury, N.C.

Last week, Harold Becker, now 86 years old, visited a cemetery near his home here, walking quietly among the gravestones of 2412 Union veterans. These men, and 3.3 million other soldiers who survived the Civil War, fathered more than 10 million children. Mr. Becker is one of the last of those children still alive. "I feel lonely," he says.

As of Memorial Day 2004 there are 44 known children of Union soldiers and 217 known children of Confederate soldiers still living. The last widow of a Civil War veteran, Alberta Martin, 97, seemed to be near death last week after a heart attack—an elaborate Confederate funeral was planned in Elba, Ala.—but she has since rallied. Her survival, and the larger population of Confederate vets children is a matter of pride among Confederate heritage groups. "If we couldn't beat 'em, we can outlive 'em," says Beatrice Bielamowicz, 90,

echoing the words of her father, Walter Williams, who was celebrated as the last Confederate vet when he died in 1959, at well over age 100.

People like Mr. Becker and Ms. Bielamowicz are the offspring of old vets who married young women between 1890 and 1930. As the number of such children dwindles, Civil War heritage groups are scurrying to record their memories, and to determine how many other actual sons and daughters are out there.

The 36,000-member Sons of Confederate Veterans (now mostly great-or great-great grandsons) has erected billboards and purchased TV and radio commercials seeking descendants. The 22,000-member United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1994 began a seven-year search for literal daughters, and member Mary Schaller collected their stories in a book, "Papa Was a Boy in Gray." In the North, where many people feel less emotionally connected to the War between the States—membership in heritage groups is far smaller. The Daughters of Union Veterans has 4,000 members. Sons of Union Veterans has 7,000. Scholars believe there may be 50 additional Union children out there, but these Northern groups have trouble getting the word out that they're seeking them.

Mr. Becker was a lucky find. In 2001, he read a newspaper story about a man who was supposedly the last surviving child of a Civil War vet in Michigan. "No he's not. I'm here too," said Mr. Becker in a call to Bruce Butgereit of the Sons of Union Veterans.

Mr. Becker, a retired engineer, has stacks of government papers that document his father's years as a soldier. For Mr. Butgereit, 45, the great-great-great-grand nephew

of two Union soldiers, getting to know Mr. Becker has been an honor. "I can shake the hand of a man who held the hand of a man who fought in the Civil War," says Mr. Butgereit.

After the war, Mr. Becker's father became a well-to-do grocer with a wife and four children. "His wife was five feet tall and 200 pounds," says Mr. Becker. In 1898, when Charles Becker was 52, he got sick, but his wife was too obese to care for him. They hired a 21-year-old maid named Barbara Laesser, and the aging veteran fell in love with her. "That maid was my mother," says Mr. Becker.

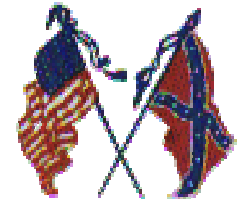
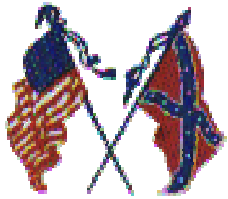
Charles Becker divorced his wife. For alimony, he gave her assets valued at more than \$100,000—in excess of \$2.2 million in current dollars. In 1990, he married Ms. Laesser and had four more children. Harold was the youngest, born in 1917, when his dad was 71.

Some young women married ancient Civil War veterans to collect their pensions of \$50 to \$100 a month when they died. But Mr. Becker says his parents had a real love affair, and he tells racy stories to prove it.

His dad lived until 1934, and often complained about the Confederacy. "His attitude was, 'Those damn rebels. We should have killed them all,'" recalls Mr. Becker. "He felt they divided the country."

The one experience Charles Becker was uncomfortable talking about was his postwar duty at Salisbury prison. Confederate guards had buried the emaciated bodies of Union prisoners in hastily dug mass graves. When it rained, bones protruded from the earth. Charles Becker and others in the 128th Indiana Infantry were charged with re-digging gravesites.

"Burying all those men, he realized



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the sacrifices the North made to keep the nation together," says Mr. Becker. Robert Phipps was a Confederate guard at Salisbury, and the youngest of his 12 children, Effie Whittle, 85, is still alive. She says he rarely spoke about the starving, typhoid-stricken Union prisoners, or about how he and the other Confederate guards were also undernourished. After the war, he lugged home a large brass horn that may have belonged to a prisoner. Mrs. Whittle, who still owns that horn, says recent news about prison abuses in Iraq have her thinking about the cruelties her dad saw at Salisbury.

Likewise, Margaret Carver thinks about her grandfather, a Confederate soldier who survived torturous conditions at the Union prison in Elmira, N.Y. Almost 25% of Confederate prisoners there died from cold, starvation and disease. Survivors called it "Hell-mira," and the prison's surgeon reportedly bragged that he "killed more Rebels than any Union soldier. Ms. Carver's grandfather insisted that no one ask him about his prison days. "If you did, he'd rant and rave and leave you, says Ms. Carver. "He was treated so badly there. He hated those guards." Other children of Civil War vets say their dads had memories they couldn't shake. Garland pool, 76, recalls his father, a Union vet, talking about a battle in which slaves were liberated. One slave asked for a gun, and used it to beat his master to death.

But not all vets' stories focused on the violence. Some spoke of reconciliation-how a Union veterans group in May 1868 helped create "Decoration Day," a time set aside to decorate the graves of Civil War dead. The holiday grew into Memorial

Day, honoring casualties in all U.S. wars.

Verna Bengé, 88, says that her dad, a Confederate vet, liked to laugh about his walk home to North Carolina after the war. Famished, he came upon a mother and daughter selling meat pies. He bought one, it was delicious, so he bought another one. The daughter started crying and said to her mother, "I want half the money because it was my cat, too." Ms. Bengé's father couldn't bring himself to finish his second pie.

James F. Brown Sr., 92, says his dad, a Confederate vet, surrendered with Robert E. Lee at Appomattox. "He was glad it was all settled. He didn't have harsh words for the North at all," says Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown isn't sure he has ever met any sons of Union soldiers. "But I know they'd be fine," he says. "They're just as good as Confederate men. We're all Americans. If I met one I'd say, 'Hello, friend.'"

Major Expansion at Harpers Ferry Passes US Senate

May 21, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- A proposal to expand the size of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park by almost a third has passed the US Senate, with the not inconsiderable clout of one of the most powerful men in that body to push the measure through. Sen. Robert Byrd's legislation would expand the park's boundary capacity by 1,240 acres, from its current 2,505 acres to 3,745 acres, the senator's office noted in a press release. Harpers Ferry, which became part of the National Park System in 1944, hosted more than 250,000 visitors last year.

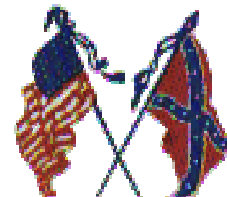
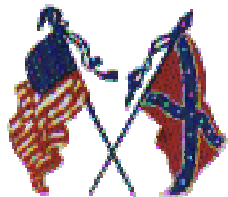
"This is great news for the Eastern Panhandle and truly for all of the country," Byrd said. "Expanding the borders at Harpers Ferry not only protects one of West Virginia's historic jewels, but it also ensures that future generations of Americans will continue to visit and learn from the park's lessons of history."

"I look forward to the day when this legislation is the law of the land," the West Virginia Democrat said.

The expansion also has the support of groups including the Friends of Harpers Ferry, the Harpers Ferry Conservancy, and the Civil War Preservation Trust. Although not technically a "Civil War park," the site portrays an American town in 1859, just as the area and the nation teetered on the brink of the dreadful conflict.

"The story of Harpers Ferry is the story of America. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Meriwether Lewis, John Brown, 'Stonewall' Jackson, and Frederick Douglass are just a few of the men and women whose notable events in American history are intertwined with Harpers Ferry," Byrd explained. "By expanding the park while also investing in the educational resources there, we can ensure that the lessons of history come alive for decades ahead."

A longtime supporter of the park, Byrd has worked to provide millions of dollars in federal funding for the National Park Service (NPS) to update, renovate, and refurbish buildings and educational resources at Harpers Ferry. In addition, in 2001, Byrd shepherded \$2 million through Congress to allow the NPS, in conjunction with Civil War preservation groups, to purchase the Murphy Farm property adjacent to the park.



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Also in 2001, Byrd facilitated the conclusion of more than four decades of negotiations between the NPS and CSX Corporation, resulting in the Park Service's acquisition of the historic U.S. Armory Grounds in Harpers Ferry. The property includes both the Baltimore & Ohio (B&O) train station and the site where John Brown and his raiders barricaded themselves in 1859.

Hagerstown Library Creates Index for Civil War Era Newspapers

May 24, -2004 Courtesy CWI Premium- The world may be divided between people who, if given the job of reading every issue of a local newspaper between 1860 and 1865, would think they had died and gone to Heaven, and those who would be pretty sure they had died but headed to a different destination altogether. Members of the former group, fortunately for all of us, include staff and volunteers at the Washington County (Maryland) Free Library. The group recently announced that they had completed an index of not one but two local newspapers for the years 1860 to 1862. The periodicals in question were named the Herald of Freedom and the Torchlight. The readers went through each issue of the weekly publications and listed each item by name and subject matter. The workers listed material from both news stories and advertisements. "Newspapers without an index are tedious, difficult, laborious, and often not used as a result," local historian Dennis Frye told the Hagerstown Herald-Mail. "This is a remarkable resource." Frye said he plans to write a book about the war's impact on the

area using the index as a guide. The Civil War years index is part of a larger project the library began some 20 years ago to index every issue to which they had access from 1790 to 1890. It was decided to jump ahead and do the 1860s out of order because a cache of papers from those years turned up at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore.

Work on the issues of 1864 and 1865 is underway.

Newspapers of the period suffered from the same handicaps as media do today, workers noted, from blatant partisanship to inaccuracies caused by having to report on events as they happened rather than after all the facts could be assembled. The immediacy is prized by scholars as a "primary source," a record of what people saw and thought of events as they were going on. Few research libraries in the country have such a valuable resource on file, Library Director Mary Baykan said. Eventually, the library hopes to put all the information online, she said. Grants from the Washington County Historical and Fine Arts Trust Inc., also known as the Bowman Board, paid for about half of the indexing project.

The index is available in the library's reference department and in its Western Maryland Room. The Washington County Historical Society, the Library of Congress, the Maryland State Archives, the Maryland Historical Society and Enoch Pratt Library also have copies. The newspapers themselves are on microfilm at the library. The best known event that occurred during the period just indexed was, of course, the Civil War's bloodiest single day of fighting at Antietam on Sept. 17, 1862, Frye said.

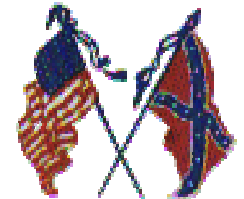
"It was day after day. That's our story and this is part of it," Frye said. "Nothing documents that better than the weekly newspaper."

Survey Shows Park Problems Worsening, NPS Retirees Say

May 28, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- A new national survey based in part on information from 12 representative U.S. national parks reveals a combination of significant cuts in budget, staff and visitor services at all of the parks. The finding casts into doubt the truthfulness of March 24, 2004 testimony by National Park Service Director Fran Mainella, who told angry members of Congress that Americans would not see major park cuts this summer and that "outstanding visitor services" would be provided.

Compiled by the 250-member Coalition of Concerned National Park Service Retirees, the new report is entitled "Pretending to Protect the Parks: Mainella and Norton's Legacy of Neglected National Parks in Decline." The study, which covered both "nature" parks and "historic" ones, including two Civil War battlefields, finds that:

- budgets were down at eight of the 12 parks;
- employee levels were reduced at all of the parks;
- six of the 12 parks already have or will cut visitor center hours;
- all six of the surveyed historic parks will allow key facilities to further deteriorate without needed maintenance;
- nine of the 12 parks have made cuts that will result in a reduced experience for visitors;



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--some parks are even cutting vital law enforcement positions needed to protect visitors and natural resources – even though NPS policy specifies "no net loss" in these positions. The Coalition of Concerned National Park Service Retirees made national news on March 17, 2004, when it revealed internal NPS memos directing park superintendents to make cuts in summer 2004 park services and to then mislead the news media and public about the cuts, which were to be referred (and only if necessary) as "service level adjustments."

The ensuing public flap led to a March 24, 2004 hearing by the House Appropriations Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives at which NPS Director Mainella testified: "... our parks will be open ... resources are protected ... and outstanding visitor services provided. And, we will get that job done." She added that the Park Service has "more funds per acre, per employee, and per person [visitor] than any time in our history. Even though we have some lapses of positions, our full time employees are up 4 percent compared to where they were before."

Bill Wade, spokesperson for the Coalition of Concerned National Park Service Retirees and former superintendent at Shenandoah National Park said: "Contrary to the rosy picture painted for Congress by NPS Director Mainella, the Coalition survey found a much darker and sobering reality: widespread and often deep cuts in budget, staff, maintenance and key services that will diminish the experience of national park visitors. In addition, there will be a reduced capability to monitor and protect natural resources, meet the needs of visitors

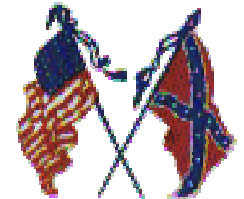
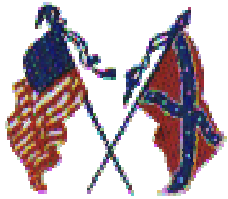
and support service-wide responses to homeland security and wildland fire needs."

Commenting on the report findings, Laurel Angell, counsel for the Campaign to Protect America's Lands, said: "These reductions in budgets, resource protection, opportunities for visitors and safety flatly contradict the claims that Director Mainella made before Congress. In addition, they are at odds with the upbeat message that Director Mainella and Interior Secretary Gale Norton have been trying to sell in their public appearances and to the media. The fact that, in nearly every case, these cuts have not been publicly disclosed suggests that NPS has elected to continue their controversial policy of covering up park cuts and hoping that Congress, the public and the news media will not find out about them." The Coalition undertook its May 2004 survey of what ended up being 12 representative national parks to test the veracity of the assurances provided by Director Mainella to the irate members of Congress on March 24, 2004. The dozen parks covered in the Coalition's survey include: Assateague Island National Seashore (MD and VA); Death Valley National Park (CA); Devil's Tower National Monument (WY); Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park (VA); Gettysburg National Military Park (PA); Great Smokey Mountains National Park (TN and NC); Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (WA); Mount Rainier National Park (WA); Olympic National Park (WA); Rocky Mountain National Park (CO); Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument (NM); and the western Pennsylvania parks (PA).

KEY REPORT FINDINGS

The Coalition's survey and related report reveal an entirely different picture from what Mainella promised to Congress. All 12 of the survey parks will operate during the summer of 2004 with some combination of lower budgets, fewer employees and/or reduced services for visitors. Specifically, the Coalition's survey of 12 national parks found the following:

- * Eight of the 12 national parks are operating with 2004 budgets that went down – not up. For instance, the budget at Great Smoky Mountains went from \$15,608,000 in 2003 to \$15,329,000 in 2004. This is consistent with the overall situation in the national park system. According to the NPS's own publicly available data, 85 percent of all national parks with their own operating budgets were given a lower budget in FY 2004 than in FY 2003. As such, it is simply dead wrong to suggest that national parks are getting the same – much less more – resources as in the past.
- * All of the 12 national parks have 2004 employee levels that are down – not up. For instance at Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, seasonal employees have dropped from 70 in 2002 to 41 in 2004. At Gettysburg National Military Park, seasonal employees hired with operational funds dropped from 20 in 2002 to five in 2004. Almost all parks were found to have critical permanent positions lapses because of lack of funding to fill them. The situation found in the surveyed parks is representative of what national parks are experiencing nationwide. According to NPS workforce data obtained from the Office of Equal Opportunity, as of September 30, 2003, there were 17,035 permanent employees; and as of March 31, 2004, there were 16,930 permanent



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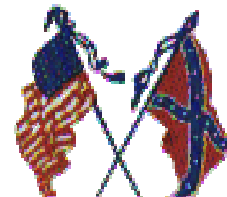
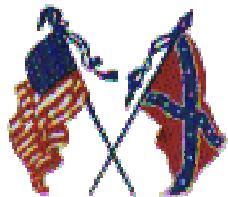
employees – a cutback of 1 percent. Though the decrease is small, when it is combined with evidence that the seasonal staffing this summer will be reduced, the result is plain: NPS Director Mainella's claim of "more" staff being on the job in America's parks is simply incorrect. * Six of the 12 national parks already have or will cut visitor center hours or days. For example, in Olympic National Park, the main visitor center was open seven days a week in 2003. In 2004, it is closed two days a week as the popular park heads into the summer season. All of the six historic parks reported further deterioration in key facilities. The irreplaceable archival collection at Gettysburg is now in serious jeopardy, with inadequate funds and staff to properly care for it. Repair of masonry of historic Civil War site elements at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park are being cut back, permitting the sites to further decay. * Nine of the 12 national parks reported circumstances that will diminish in a material way the ability of visitors to enjoy the national parks. Fewer rangers will be seen by the visiting public during the summer of 2004. For instance, at Lake Roosevelt, interpretive programs are being reduced by over 50 percent. At **Gettysburg**, interpretive programs will be scaled back sharply from an average of 150 per week in 2003 to 136 per week in 2004. Moreover, a greater percentage of those scheduled programs in nearly all of the parks will be provided by less-trained volunteers and other non-NPS staff. Nearly all parks will reduce custodial, routine and preventive maintenance, or will be deferring maintenance needs.

At **Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania**, mowing in the National Cemetery will be cut 50 percent. At Lake Roosevelt, garbage service will be reduced and some public toilets will be closed. * Some parks will see less visitor and resources protection and reduced emergency response capability. This is an alarming development that is directly contrary to assurances from NPS as recently as this week that no such dangerous cuts will be made. Despite the NPS policy of "no-net-loss" in commissioned law enforcement positions, some parks still have fewer of them, and therefore protection patrols and emergency response will be reduced. For example, patrols for resource protection and visitor safety are down by about 25 percent in 2004 at Assateague Island National Seashore. Total law enforcement commissioned employees at that park has fallen from 11 in 2002 to seven this year. In Death Valley National Park, the shrinking law enforcement team has fallen by about a full third, from 23 in the recent past to just 15 this year. In view of the findings of the report, the Coalition in a press release urged Secretary Norton and NPS Director Mainella to:
Stop misleading the Congress and American public about the state of our parks;
Stop muzzling park managers about the conditions in the parks; and
* Return to the practice of allocating appropriated funds to the parks as the appropriators intended and stop siphoning off scarce dollars for wasteful spending.
Token travel cuts proposed so far will not get the job done, according to the report. The Coalition notes: "... it is unlikely that Director Mainella will be

able to fulfill her 'outstanding visitor service' and 'resources are protected' pledges. In order to cover the NPS budget shortfall, Mainella said she would immediately terminate all foreign travel and cut domestic travel for NPS headquarters and regional offices by 10 percent. "However, NPS foreign travel spending for all of 2004 was slated to be just \$300,000 – a savings of about \$900 per park. This, and planned cuts in domestic travel, will make little difference in services at the park level. The miniscule potential savings are dwarfed by the estimated \$600 million shortfall of what is needed to properly staff, maintain and otherwise preserve our national parks."

Gettysburg Advisory Board Schedules Next Meeting

May 25, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- The next meeting of the Gettysburg National Military Park Advisory Commission will be June 17, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Gettysburg Cyclorama Center, 125 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg. While this may sound like an alternative to insomnia for anyone whose prescription for sleeping pills has expired, meetings of this body have been known to be loud and contentious in the past. This meeting's agenda will include:
-- sub-committee reports from the historical, executive, and interpretive committees;
--federal consistency reports on projects within the Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District;
--operational updates on park activities, including the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation and National Park



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Service.

The Museum Foundation is the body organized to raise the money for the "public-private" creation of a replacement for the old Visitor Center and Cyclorama buildings.

Also to be discussed are activities related to the new museum and visitor center; updates on the Wills House and the Train Station; National Park Service and Gettysburg Borough efforts on the shuttle system; land acquisition within the park boundary or in the historic district; and a citizens open forum. The public is invited to attend the meeting and anyone may submit comments on the agenda to the Commission Chairperson, care of Gettysburg National Military Park, 97 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.

The purpose of the Commission is to advise the Secretary of the Interior on coordinating activities within the Gettysburg National Military Park and Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District with local government and the community.

For more information contact Gettysburg National Military Park at (717) 334-1124.

Civil War Author Received Prestigious Invitation

May 24, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- One of the premier scholars of the lives of women and other civilians during the Civil War era has received a rare honor in academic circles.

Drew Gilpin Faust, dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, and Lincoln Professor of History at Harvard University, has been elected to membership in the

American Philosophical Society (APS). Election to the APS honors extraordinary accomplishments in all fields. There are currently more than 700 APS members around the world. Prior to joining the institute in January 2001, Faust was the Annenberg Professor of History and the director of women's studies at the University of Pennsylvania. A leading historian of the Civil War and the American South, Faust is the author of five books, including "Mothers of Invention: Women of the Slaveholding South in the American Civil War" (Vintage, 1997), for which she won the prestigious Francis Parkman Prize.

From 1999 to 2000, Faust served as president of the Southern Historical Association, and from 1992 to 1996, she was vice president of the American Historical Association. Faust received her B.A. (1968) from Bryn Mawr, magna cum laude with honors in history, and received her M.A. (1971) and Ph.D. (1975) in American civilization from the University of Pennsylvania. As founding dean of the Radcliffe Institute, Faust has a special connection to one of the first women admitted to the APS. In 1869, Elizabeth Agassiz, who was associated with the work of her husband, 19th century naturalist and Harvard professor Louis Agassiz, was elected to membership.

Elizabeth Agassiz later founded what would become Radcliffe College and, ultimately, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, a press release from the Harvard public affairs office noted.

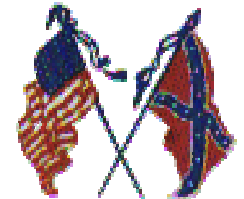
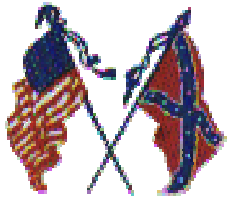
"Mothers of Invention" was one of the earliest looks at the wartime experience for upper-class white Southern women if you don't count "Gone With the Wind" as a work of

history. The book was also widely praised for its vast array of primary sources, many of which had simply never been examined by scholars as they had no references to battles. As Publisher's Weekly noted in their review at the time, "Faust (also the author of *The Creation of Confederate Nationalism*) makes a major contribution to both Civil War historiography and women's studies in this outstanding analysis of the impact of secession, invasion and conquest on Southern white women. Antebellum images based on helplessness and dependence were challenged as women assumed an increasing range of social and economic responsibilities."

Spotsylvania Event a Big Success, Organizers Say

May 20, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- Last month's 140th Anniversary Reenactment of the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse was such a hit, organizers say they may do it again. And keep doing it again, all the way up to the sesquicentennial of the actual battle in 2014.

The key, all involved agreed, was the recreation of the trenches which played a crucial role in the battle. While Civil War earthworks still exist in nearly every theater where the battles took place, the originals are fragile and historic, meaning that visitors are forbidden to walk on them or examine them up close. In contrast, the trenches created for the event at Belvedere Plantation, as close to the original scene of the action as it was possible to get without encroaching on National Park Service land, were raw and new. They looked more like the real thing than the real things do.



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Moviemakers Announce New Project on Battle of Monocacy

May 7, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- Historical Entertainment, LLC and LionHeart FilmWorks, LLC, announced today they are partnering to produce a new feature-length dramatic documentary about the Battle of Monocacy and the 1864 Confederate campaign against the U.S. Capitol.

The film will be directed by Kevin R. Hershberger, director of the award-winning Civil War drama, "Wicked Spring", now in world-wide distribution. The film will be produced by Historical Entertainment, LLC, the leading provider of re-enactors extras for film and TV, in conjunction with Hershberger's Virginia production company, LionHeart FilmWorks. "Monocacy is a very under-appreciated battle," said director Hershberger in a press release. "The Confederates pulled off a spectacular achievement, from Petersburg, up-and-down the Shenandoah Valley, eventually reaching the very gates of Washington. Both the Federal capital – and Lincoln's 1864 re-election were at stake. Although the Confederates won the battle, General Lew Wallace's actions bought the Federals crucial time and saved Washington," he added. "We aim to increase awareness of this important battle."

The Western Maryland Heritage Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) organization, has provided some of the seed money, and 10% of the net profits will benefit their historical property and battlefield land preservation efforts. In addition to the 80+ minute feature version of the film, a 20+ minute version will be created

and donated to the Monocacy National Battlefield Park, outside of Frederick, Maryland for future interpretive use.

Producers Russ Richards and Kathryn Coombs of Historical Entertainment, along with Hershberger, will bring together the same creative team behind "Wicked Spring" for this new feature; including Cinematographer Stephen M. Lyons, Composer David G. Russell, Editor George T. Kelly, Jr. and Co-Producer DJ Perry; along with Production Manager Jim Choate and other leading historical film professionals associated with Historical Entertainment. The script and story were written by Hershberger and historian John D. Pagano.

Shooting will begin in Boonsboro, MD in July, before and during the 140th anniversary Monocacy re-enactment "To the Gates of Washington" (July 17-19, 2004). Additional shooting will continue through August in Richmond, Petersburg and elsewhere in Virginia.

The style of "No Retreat From Destiny" will be more like a 'big-budget' feature film versus the typical documentary. This film can be compared to the HBO, Spielberg / Hanks production of "Band of Brothers" and the intense British motion picture "Bloody Sunday." The filmmakers will use live action and strong characters to tell the story rather than relying on the usual documentary devices of maps, period photographs, historian commentaries and narration.

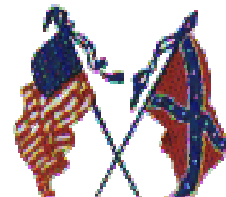
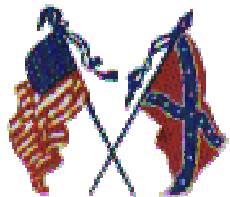
The film, company officials said, will feature "intense special effects, dramatic original music, countless optical and digital effects and a professional motion picture screenplay."

The picture will be told through the eyes of the participants of the July 1864 campaign – both, the private Union and Confederate soldiers, as well as the dynamic military and political personalities involved. Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, George G. Meade, Jubal A. Early, John C. Breckinridge, Edwin M. Stanton, Lew Wallace, John B. Gordon, Colonel Ely Parker, Horatio Wright, etc. will all be portrayed by actors in the film.

Casting is on-going for the nearly 70 speaking parts in this mini-epic. A "Core Group" of nearly 100 re-enactors (both Union and Confederate) is being formed to work on the film. For more information on auditioning for speaking roles or participating in the Core Group, visit the film's website at MonocacyMovie.com

Every ounce of effort is being employed to make this the most dynamic and authentic film of its kind ever produced.

The final film, including a basket-full of behind-the-scenes extras, will be premiered and released on DVD and VHS before the end of 2004. Several film festival screenings are also planned to run through 2005-2006. The production company will be taking advance DVD and video orders at the Monocacy reenactment and Gettysburg reenactment earlier in July – as well as online at their website. Advance purchasers receive a discounted price, preference for tickets to the film's Gettysburg premiere in late fall and will be entered into a raffle for prizes such as original artwork by leading Civil War artists, battlefield tours, Civil War books and videos, and other items of interest to history buffs.



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER