

THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Franklin Buys Pizza Hut Site of Cleburne's Fall

May 11, 2005 -CW-Those looking for the Most Egregious Example of How Not to Preserve a Battlefield can no longer use the case of the Pizza Hut on the site where Confederate Gen. Patrick Cleburne died. The property has at last been purchased by the City of Franklin at a cost of \$300,000 in city funds.

The purchase was confirmed to CWI by Mayor Tom Miller's office on Wednesday. The store will remain at its present location until its current lease expires, after which it will move to a new site further south on Columbia Pike.

Construction on the new store in the Parkway Commons development has been underway since early April, suggesting that the move may be within weeks or months rather than years.

An article in the April issue of National Geographic magazine is being credited with getting the sale - which had been in negotiation since March - finalized, Miller said.

An employee of Trustsheet Properties, the Orlando FL based company that owns the Pizza Hut site, saw the Geographic story, which covered the threats facing a number of Civil War battlefields. The fact that the magazine included a picture of the store in its article helped further prod the corporate conscience.

The Trustsheet asset manager decided it would "be a great community gesture on their part" to accept the offer Franklin officials had already put on the table.

Local residents were unsure of the age of the restaurant, but Mary Pierce, executive director of The Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, told the Nashville

Tennessean she thought it had been there at least 20 years.

"The Pizza Hut for years has been a national icon of what should not happen to American Civil War battlefields," Pearce said.

The city first voted a letter of intent to purchase the property in August of 2004. At that time Mayor Miller said that if the deal could be accomplished, the corner could form the beginning of a Civil War battlefield park.

The contract must still be approved by both the Board of finance and the Board of Alderman in Franklin.

Details of the next step remain to be worked out. Among the items yet to be clarified are who will be responsible for removing the existing restaurant and parking facilities and returning the land to its 1863 appearance.

Gettysburg Visitor's Center Work Starts with Restoring Stream

By MARK SCOLFORO, Associated Press, June 2, 2005

GETTYSBURG, Pa. - Returning a stream to its Civil War-era condition will represent the first construction step in a \$95 million project to send the Gettysburg battlefield back in time.

The stream project is part of a much wider effort to undo changes to geographic features made over the 142 years since the battle and to build a new visitor center and museum.

A ceremony Thursday will mark the start of work on Guinn Run, a waterway that was dammed up in the mid-20th century for use by a tourist attraction that rented paddleboats. In

2000, the federal government demolished a steel observation tower that offered tourists a sweeping view of Gettysburg National Military Park but was disliked by many historians.

The not-for-profit Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation this week reached \$75 million in donations, its self-imposed target before breaking ground on the remaking of the park, and awarded a \$400,000-plus contract for the stream restoration to Aquatic Resource Restoration Co. of Seven Valleys.

Organizers expect to seek bids for the 139,000-square-foot visitor center and museum later this year.

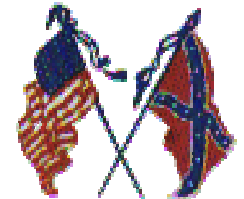
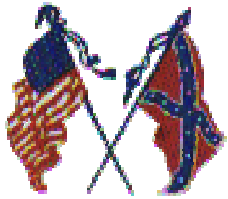
"We're very pleased to be at this point and that this project has become a reality," foundation President Bob Wilburn said Wednesday.

The new museum and visitor center, designed to evoke a Pennsylvania farm complex, will be located on land that saw no major action in the decisive battle that stopped the Confederate Army from penetrating northern territory. They will be located about two-thirds of a mile southeast of the current visitor center and a 1962 building housing a historic cyclorama.

Those cramped and decaying buildings and their parking lots occupy the heart of Union battle lines on Cemetery Ridge, and will be demolished after the new complex opens in fall 2007.

Of the donations received so far, Wilburn said the Pennsylvania state government has contributed \$20.5 million, the federal government pitched in \$11.9 million, and \$43.6 million has come from private sources.

The largest donor so far has been York construction magnate Robert A. Kinsley, who also is chairman of the foundation's 21-member board and



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heads the company that is managing construction on a nonprofit basis. Kinsley has donated \$6.5 million and in-kind gifts, Wilburn said.

Gettysburg developer Bob Monahan Jr., who first proposed a new visitor center in fall 1994 and is currently building a hotel and retail complex east of town, said the groundbreaking was an encouraging development.

"Having initiated this project, I'm pleased to see it moving forward, and I think it will be an addition to Gettysburg," he said.

The new facility will be larger and better able to accommodate the nearly 2 million people who visit the park each year. The storied three-day battle in July 1863 repelled the advance of the Confederate Army and left more than 50,000 soldiers dead, wounded, captured or missing. The visitor center and museum plans include two film theaters, a book and museum store and a 250-seat snack bar. A major feature will be the restored 1884 cycloramic painting, "The Battle of Gettysburg," displayed as designed to create a sense of immersion in the scene of Pickett's Charge.

The foundation also will build environmentally controlled storage for the park's collection of some 38,000 artifacts and 700,000 documents, maps and photographs.

Their deteriorating condition - many had been stored in 14 unheated rooms in the basement of the current visitor center - was a driving factor in the project. Items that are not currently on display have been moved to temporary storage on park grounds.

The Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation, based in Washington, D.C., will move to Gettysburg and operate the museum and visitor center for 20 years in

cooperation with the park, after which the buildings and land will be donated, debt-free, to the federal government.

Gettysburg Proposes Cutting Park Hours

May 6, 2005--Gettysburg National Military Park (NMP) proposes to modify visiting hours to daylight hours only beginning October 1, 2005. Presently, park grounds are closed to the public from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., with the exception of specified thoroughfare roads.

The park includes 5,989 acres of land, 1830 monuments and cannon, 31 miles of avenues and 147 historic buildings. Park visitation in 2004 was 1,798,820 visitors.

The mission of Gettysburg NMP is to preserve and protect the resources associated with the Battle of Gettysburg and the Soldiers' National Cemetery and provide an understanding of the events that occurred here within the context of American History. Daytime visitation to the park is predominantly educational in nature, while after-dark visitation is "recreational" and not related to the specific purposes for which the park was established.

What is being proposed? The proposal would establish -Sunset to 6 a.m.- as the standard park closure hours for Gettysburg NMP.

Why? The National Park Service has three primary concerns: 1) threats to park resources during after-dark hours, 2) visitor safety, and 3) lack of adequate staffing.

Threats to Park Resources - Over the years, significant resource damage has occurred in the park as a result of "after-dark" recreational use. Damage occurs at Devils Den, Little Round

Top, Peace Light Memorial, the Pennsylvania Memorial, and elsewhere as a result of both deliberate abuse and unintentional acts. Most of the park's more serious criminal activity occurs after dark, including the majority of all vandalism incidents, as well as DUI's, drug and alcohol violations and disorderly conduct. Many of these criminal violations result in damage to park resources and/or threaten visitor safety.

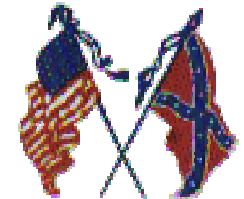
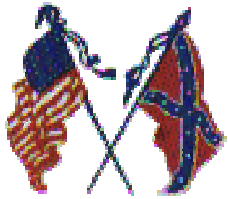
Visitor Safety - The number of "after-dark" visitors has been increasing in recent years. The park has never been managed for after-dark operations, and has no exterior lighting of other improvements to improve the safety of after-dark visitors.

Battlefield terrain is not conducive to safe visitor use after dark.

Unfortunately, visitors who are unfamiliar with the park contribute to accidental damage while attempting to explore narrow park roads, lined with monuments, boulders, trees and fences that pose potential hazards to vehicles after dark. Pedestrian safety at night is also a concern since battlefield terrain is hazardous to pedestrians in darkness.

Lack of adequate staffing - Law enforcement staffing is at its lowest level in the past 24 years. Decreased staffing levels have resulted in reduced ranger coverage in the park. During this same period, visitation to Gettysburg NMP increased by 54%. It is becoming increasingly difficult to manage visitor safety and protection of the park's resources especially after dark.

Are there any exceptions? Park approved special events, such as the popular summer campfire programs, the annual Remembrance Illumination, youth group campground



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operations, and park sponsored public meetings would continue to be permitted. Certain park avenues would continue to be accessible 24 hours/day for vehicular through-travel only.

Would I still be able to watch the sunset in the park? Yes, Gettysburg NMP Ranger Staff would allow visitors to view the sunset from Little Round Top or any area

of the battlefield and allow them time to proceed to their vehicles and exit the park before enforcing the restrictions.

Public Comment Period: A public comment period will begin on May 2, 2005 for a period of thirty days. Written comments on the proposal shall be directed to: Gettysburg National Military Park, Office of the Superintendent, 97 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325, and must be received no later than May 31, 2005. Comments may also be submitted to

GETT_Superintendent@nps.gov.

When would this be implemented? If, after consideration of public comments, the National Park Service decides to pursue the proposal a grace enforcement period would be established between October 1 and December 31, 2005, to acclimate the public to the changes in park operating hours. Beginning January 1, 2006, fines would be enforced as specified.

Sunken Road Restoration Project Completed

Date published: 5/23/2005

By RUSTY DENNEN, Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star

A four-year effort to enhance and protect one of Fredericksburg's most significant Civil War sites has been completed.

And Memorial Day weekend is a fitting time for the public to see what's been done on and around Sunken Road, the historic byway below Marye's Heights that played such a key role during the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862.

The National Park Service is planning two days of events this weekend, starting with a visit by a noted author and the annual illumination at Fredericksburg National Cemetery on Saturday, and culminating with a full day of events Sunday.

On Saturday at 6:30 p.m., George Rable, professor of history at the University of Alabama and author of the book "Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg!" will talk about how the battle affected both sides, in a speech titled "News from Fredericksburg."

That will be along Sunken Road, adjacent to Hanover Street.

At 8 p.m., the annual illumination of Fredericksburg National Cemetery will take place on the terraced hillside adjacent to the Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center. In the event's ninth year, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts light 15,300 candles—one for each Union soldier buried in the cemetery.

Parking will be available at the University of Mary Washington lot at the intersection of William Street and Sunken Road. Trolleys will transport visitors from the lot to the site of the

events, or visitors can make the short walk.

On Sunday, events—all free—begin at 9 a.m. and continue until 6 p.m. They include Civil War-period music, dramatic readings, special walking tours of Sunken Road, rifle-firing demonstrations and children's programs.

The highlight of the day will be the formal dedication of Sunken Road at 2 p.m. Speakers will include Fredericksburg Mayor Tom Tomzak, Dr. Mike Stevens of the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, and Rable.

Following the ceremony, descendants of Union and Confederate veterans will cut a ribbon formally opening the newly restored road to visitors.

Sunken Road has been rebuilt to resemble its wartime appearance. Closed to vehicles, the pavement was stripped off and replaced with a gravel and clay surface.

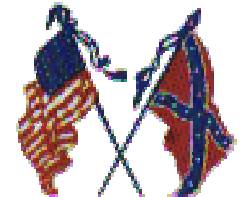
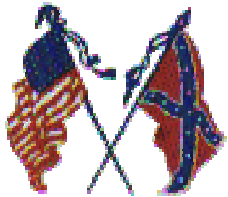
Last fall, along the road, stone masons rebuilt a long section of the stone wall behind which Confederates hid and decimated Union troops as they attacked repeatedly across an open field.

Paths have been added, the sites of the Martha Stephens and Ebert houses that once stood along the road have been marked, and other exhibits have been installed.

Battles Still Rage over Gettysburg Observation Tower

by The Associated Press, May 3, 2005

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - It has been gone for nearly five years, but the courts are still trying to figure out how much the government owes the former owners of an observation



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tower that once loomed over Gettysburg National Military Park.

The privately owned Gettysburg National Battlefield Tower offered tourists a sweeping view of the park from 1974 until 2000, when the federal government seized and demolished the galvanized steel structure as part of a campaign to restore the area to the way it looked at the time of the Civil War.

The U.S. government and the tower's owners have been fighting in court ever since over the fair value of the seized property.

A three-judge panel of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a ruling last week tossing out a \$6.6 million price tag that was set by a federal judge.

The court said that in trying to calculate the property's worth, the judge became "mired in a jungle of valuations," and counted a key component of the land's value twice. The 3rd Circuit, suggesting that the value might have been overstated by as much as \$2.7 million, sent the issue back to a lower court for further analysis.

Government officials initially argued that the tower and its souvenir store were worth only \$2.5 million.

Attorneys for the property's former owners did not immediately return phone and e-mail messages Monday.

The tower was acquired by the government and dismantled at the behest of historians and preservationists who said it was an unsightly modern intrusion. Its creator, Thomas R. Ottenstein, called it a "classroom in the sky." He died a month after its demolition.



Gettysburg Observation Tower falling

Foundation gets more of Fisher's Hill battlefield

Augusta Free Press, May 19, 2005

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation has some new property. The foundation announced this week that it has protected approximately 25 acres of core area at the Fisher's Hill battlefield in Shenandoah County.

The property sits at what historians have called "the throat" of the Valley, the narrowest point between the Allegheny Mountains to the west and the Shenandoah River and Massanutten Mountain to the east.

The newly preserved parcel includes fortifications built to guard the Valley Turnpike during the Civil War and was the defensive position of Confederate Gen. John B. Gordon's troops during the Battle of Fisher's Hill.

With this newly preserved parcel, the total battlefield area protected at Fisher's Hill is 286 acres, about 10 percent of the core battlefield.

Taps Played to Show Bugler Scarcity

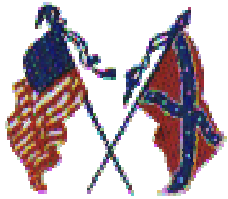
Published: Sunday, May. 22, 2005

BATH, N.Y. (AP) – More than 850 buglers, trumpeters and other horn players fanned out Saturday along 41 miles of roads in rural western New York and performed a cascading rendition of taps to highlight the scarcity of buglers at veterans' funerals.

The 24-note melody started up at Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira, overlapped from one instrument to the next as it reverberated through a string of small towns from Painted Post to Campbell to Savona, and closed out nearly three hours later at Bath National Cemetery.

The Armed Forces Day tribute, dubbed Echo Taps, took in at least 866 musicians from 30 states playing all varieties of brass horns, from trombones and tubas to flugelhorns and valveless bugles. The dramatic musical tableau started up with 15-year-old Hannah Sollecito, a descendant of Union Army Gen. Daniel Butterfield. He was credited with composing taps along with his brigade bugler, Oliver Norton, during the Civil War. Sollecito, of Baldwinsville, N.Y., said being chosen to play first was overwhelming.

"I could barely talk when they asked me, and then I started crying," she said.



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Teacher gives accidental live-fire lesson

Sunday, May 22, 2005

Associated Press

Kettering, OH - A middle school teacher giving an outdoor lesson about the Civil War loaded a rifle and accidentally shot off one round in front of his class, officials said.

Thomas Saylor, a seventh-grade social studies teacher, jammed black powder into the barrel of a muzzleloading .50-caliber rifle and squeezed the trigger, apparently not knowing the weapon was loaded, police said.

A round travelled nearly 600 feet across a field and pierced a construction trailer near the football-stadium stands at Van Buren Middle School on Friday, police said.

No one was injured, but police in this Dayton suburb were investigating whether charges should be filed, said Larry Warren, Kettering police spokesman.

The school district said it was cooperating in the investigation.

Saylor was trying to show about 30 students how battles have changed since the Civil War and "how much time it took for a soldier to load and fire off three shots," Superintendent Robert Mengerink said.

The teacher did not know he had fired a live round until the police came to the school after a construction worker reported about noon that his trailer had been shot, school and police officials said.

The camouflage-colored rifle with a scope was described as a modern muzzleloader that is popular for hunting deer.

Students and staff can't have firearms in school, though there are exceptions for demonstrations or instruction, said Ken Lackey, director of business services for the district.

In those cases, the teacher needs permission from the school board and superintendent, but live ammunition should not be used, said J.C. Benton, spokesman for the Ohio Department of Education.

The district believes the teacher thought he had permission to have the gun in school, but it "did not come through central office," Mengerink said.

Saylor continued teaching his classes after the shot, and the school did not make him available for comment.

The district is investigating but does not anticipate taking disciplinary action against Saylor, Mengerink said. He said Saylor was "an excellent teacher who was trying to do a good thing."

Administrators sent home a letter with students to inform parents that their children were never in danger.

"Every safety precaution was taken for the demonstration and students observed the activity from a distance behind the musket," the letter read.

CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST CONDEMNS PLAN TO BUILD CASINO AT GETTYSBURG

Gettysburg, Pa. - The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) today condemned plans to build a casino adjacent to Gettysburg National Military Park. According to press reports, a group of investors is seeking a license to open a casino at the intersection of U.S. routes 15 and 30, east of Gettysburg. CWPT President James Lighthizer made the following statement in response to the proposal:

"Gettysburg is America's most sacred

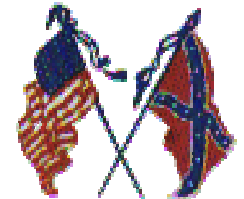
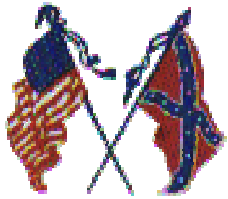
shrine to our nation's Civil War dead. It was here that Lincoln first talked about a 'new birth of freedom' during ceremonies honoring those who fell in that tragic battle. Gettysburg is such an inappropriate location for a casino it is hard to believe that the proposal is receiving serious consideration. Casinos can be built anywhere; land where thousands of Americans 'gave the last full measure of devotion' cannot be moved.

"Unfortunately, the proposed casino is the symptom of a much larger problem - the avalanche of development that is overwhelming the area along the York Pike near the Route 15 interchange. If steps are not taken quickly to insure this area doesn't further succumb to sprawl, it is likely that unchecked development will eventually overwhelm the battlefield park.

"CWPT is particularly concerned about the proximity of the casino and adjacent sprawl to the East Cavalry Field battle site. In recent years, CWPT has invested considerable resources to further protect the cavalry battleground, and it would be a tragedy if this work was undone because of the casino project.

"In addition to being hallowed ground, the Gettysburg Battlefield is a gold mine for the regional economy. According to a study CWPT released last year, non-local visitors to the battlefield spent more than \$121 million in the area, supporting more than 2,650 local jobs and generating more than \$17 million in state and local tax revenue. It would be folly to flood that gold mine with a wave of inappropriate development.

"While we have documented proof of the economic benefits provided to the community by preserving the battlefield, the proposed casino is a shot in the dark."



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CWPT is a 70,000-member nonprofit battlefield preservation organization. Its mission is to preserve our nation's endangered Civil War sites. CWPT has saved 21,300 acres of hallowed ground, including 342 acres on the Gettysburg Battlefield. CWPT's website is located at www.civilwar.org.

Anger Growing over New York Cannon Sales

Associated Press May 10, 2005
ROCHESTER, N.Y. – One New York village got its Civil War cannon back – but at such an inflated price that state taxpayers are footing the bill.

Now another village is awakening to a rising commotion over the sale of its rare Navy cannon to the same private museum in Venetia.

"It is important these artifacts do stay in New York because it was mainly veterans of these conflicts who brought them here to commemorate their sacrifices," Michael Aikey, director of the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs, said Thursday.

In the half-century after the war, thousands of obsolete cannons were given to veterans' groups and municipalities across the nation, chiefly in the Northeast. About 7,000 were melted down in scrap metal drives during the world wars and fewer than 5,700 are known to have survived.

Since the mid-1980s, Civil War buff Ken Watterson has rounded up 26 cannons, howitzers and mortars for limited display at his Civil War Artillery Museum in Venetia. At least four of the cast-iron barrels came from cemeteries in upstate New York.

Residents of Kendall, a town of 2,800 in farm country near Lake Ontario, created such a ruckus when they discovered their town board had quietly accepted \$15,000 for their Union muzzleloader that Watterson agreed to send it back in April.

The retrieval price: \$27,000. Watterson not only tacked on \$7,000 for broker fees, transportation and other out-of-pocket expenses but charged \$5,000 for a replica cannon made in Georgia.

The extra costs will be covered by a \$15,000 state grant obtained by Charles Nesbitt, the minority Republican leader in the state Assembly and a decorated helicopter pilot in Vietnam who has represented Kendall and surrounding communities in western New York since 1992.

The all-Republican town board in Kendall "made an error in judgment and they have now reversed that," Nesbitt said. "These sort of things are sad that we have to go through, but this one has a good outcome."

Only about \$3,000 will be left over to spruce up tiny Greenwood Cemetery where the 816-pound cannon had sat undisturbed since 1909. The 5-foot-long barrel will be clamped in place to thwart thieves and it will be rededicated at a ceremony in late May or June.

The brouhaha over Kendall's Army cannon has ignited a controversy about another little-known sale of an 1861 naval cannon donated in 1901 to a veterans' group in Groton, a village of 2,500 northeast of Ithaca.

The 1,700-pound Parrott rifle, which could fire 20-pound shells, is one of only 78 known survivors from the Civil War. It was sold to Watterson for \$15,000 last year by the private operators of Groton Rural Cemetery and whisked away.

Tompkins County's district attorney, George Dentes, is looking into whether the cannon remains federal property and can be retrieved.

"We do not as a policy make any comments on ongoing investigations," Dentes said in a statement.

Calls to Watterson and his agent, Bruce Stiles, were not returned Thursday.

While Army cannons from the 1861-65 war are much more numerous and valued anywhere from \$20,000 to \$200,000, Groton's naval gun is only worth \$15,000 to \$20,000, said artillery expert Wayne Stark, who maintains a "National Registry of Surviving Civil War Artillery."

"There's not a demand for them," Stark said. "Civil War re-enactors want the Army field pieces, ones drawn by horses."

The cannon was listed as serving aboard the USS James S. Chambers, a schooner bought by the Navy in 1861 that later ran a gantlet of Confederate ships off Mississippi.

Whatever its monetary value, it is a vital piece of New York's heritage, Aikey said.

"It's unfortunate that a number of communities just are really not aware of the importance of these pieces," he said. "I think they're being taken advantage of".