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Ford's Theatre Closes for Renovations

By Michael E. Ruane, Washington Post, June 1, 2007

Ford's Theater, the site of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination and one of Washington's premier tourist stops, will close for an 18-month renovation, the National Park Service said late yesterday.

The theater, at 511 10th St. NW, will get an \$8.5 million upgrade that will include its first elevator, new restrooms and renovations to the heating, air conditioning, lighting and sound systems, the Park Service said.

It will be the biggest renovation to the 144-year-old theater since it underwent restoration in the 1960s, said Park Service spokesman Bill Line, and is being done to improve access for the disabled and to enhance and modernize the theater.

Although the announcement was made with little public fanfare, Line said the Park Service has alerted tour operators that Ford's was to be closed. He noted that Petersen House, the home across the street where Lincoln died, would still be open to tourists.

The Park Service hopes the theater will reopen in November 2008. About 1 million people visit each year.

Lincoln was shot in the back of the head the evening of April 14, 1865, as he sat with his wife in a private box watching the comedy "Our American Cousin."

The assassin was the well-known actor John Wilkes Booth, a Confederate sympathizer who was enraged over the South's defeat in the Civil War. The main Confederate army had surrendered five days before. Booth crept into Lincoln's box and shot him with a derringer. Lincoln

was carried to the Petersen house and died the next morning at 7:22.

In addition to being a historic site, Ford's also is a working theater. Four shows are produced annually during the September-to-June theater season, said Hannah Olanoff, marketing and communications director for the Ford's Theatre Society, which puts on the performances.

"We're going to improve overall the visitor's experience," she said yesterday evening, adding that the renovations should not be intrusive. "Hopefully a lot of it will be invisible, but parts of it will be visible."

She said the society has cleared its calendar for the coming season, except for its annual holiday production of "A Christmas Carol," which will go on as usual from late November through December. It's "our annual holiday tradition," she said.

The theater is a "national treasure," Olanoff said. "And in order to preserve it, in order to keep it around for the thousands of people who come here locally and from across the country and enjoy it as a working theater, we need to take care of it.

"It's in everyone's interest to get the theater back open and in the best condition possible," she said. "This is the best plan for everyone to get the work done."

Line, the Park Service spokesman, said the assassination artifacts in the theater's basement museum will be put into storage.

The theater, which also served as an army medical museum and then a pension office, underwent a major renovation from 1964 to 1968. It reopened Jan. 21, 1968, with a dedication speech by Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey.

University of Texas researchers say Lincoln suffered from smallpox

By KEVIN MORAN, Houston Chronicle, May 18, 2007

GALVESTON — President Abraham Lincoln suffered from a potentially fatal case of smallpox when he delivered his famed Gettysburg Address, according to two medical researchers at Galveston's University of Texas Medical Branch.

The pair's findings, based on numerous descriptions of Lincoln's illness in November and December of 1863, appear in the current issue of the Journal of Medical Biography, published today.

"Smallpox was rampant in the United States at that time," said Dr. Armond S. Goldman, an emeritus professor in UTMB's pediatrics department and lead author of the study.

In the 1860s, about a third of those infected by smallpox died, Goldman said today.

Symptoms recorded after Lincoln first complained of illness on his way to Gettysburg on Nov. 19, 1863, and that saw him carried on a stretcher to the White House from the capital's train station late that night match only those of virulent smallpox of the day, Goldman said.

Lincoln remained in bed many days after he delivered the famously brief speech at the Pennsylvania battlefield, Goldman said.

"By Dec. 7, he could walk around briefly but he was emaciated and sallow-faced," Goldman said. "It wasn't until Dec. 15 that he felt well enough to conduct official business for several hours a day."

There is a "vast difference" between Lincoln's appearance in a photograph taken in late October or early



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November and one taken in early 1864, Goldman said.

"There were rumors at the time that the president was gravely ill or perhaps dying," Goldman said.

But few historians have noted the gravity of the illness, he said.

The illness included high fever, weakness, severe head and back pain and blisters that broke out around the 10th day, Goldman said.

The symptoms contradict some historians' assertions that Lincoln suffered from a mild smallpox infection, Goldman said.

Lincoln resumed a full schedule 25 days after he fell ill, according to records, Goldman said.

Lincoln had at least a 30-percent chance of dying from the disease, Goldman and fellow researcher Dr. Frank C. Schmalstieg said in their study.

Although Civil War might have ended the same way, "we don't know what the outcome of the war might have been," Goldman said.

But Lincoln's death would have "undoubtedly changed the subsequent history of the country," Goldman said.

While some people in the 1860s were medically immunized against smallpox, there is no evidence that Lincoln had been, according to the UTMB study.

Conference ponders Lincoln's survival from gunshot wound

By ALEX DOMINGUEZ, Associated Press Writer Fri May 18, 7:26 PM ET BALTIMORE - Abraham Lincoln might have survived being shot if today's medical technology had existed in 1865. Given that scenario, the question is whether Lincoln would have recovered well enough to return to office, a doctor and a historian said

Friday at an annual University of Maryland School of Medicine conference on the deaths of historic figures.

While the conference has traditionally re-examined the deaths of historic figures to determine if the diagnosis of the time was correct, this year's event asks if Lincoln could have been saved and what impact that would have had.

Dr. Thomas Scalea, the physician in chief at the University of Maryland's Shock Trauma Center, said brain injuries are unpredictable but Lincoln would have stood a good chance of surviving.

"I don't believe that the president had a uniformly fatal injury," said Scalea, who explained how Lincoln would have been treated at his center, the world's first dedicated trauma center.

The trauma center can conduct CT scans, X-rays and a host of other tests within minutes of arrival. Physical therapy, nutrition and other rehabilitative treatment also can make for dramatic improvements, though recovery varies from patient to patient, Scalea said.

"He probably would have been left with substantial disability, but you never really know," the surgeon told the conference.

Lincoln died within 10 hours of being shot in the head at Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865. If modern methods could have saved the 16th president, he may have also retained his cognitive abilities because the fatal shot did not damage the frontal lobes of Lincoln's brain, which are responsible for language, emotion and problem solving, Scalea said.

However, Lincoln would have faced months of recovery before he could have returned to office, and whether he would have been able to

communicate is unclear, the surgeon said.

U.S. presidential historian Steven Lee Carson said Lincoln's secretary of war, Edwin Stanton, who made a number of important decisions the day after the assassination, would likely have played a greater role if Lincoln had survived.

Vice President Andrew Johnson would not automatically have taken charge had Lincoln lived because the 25th Amendment, which deals with the transfer of power when a president is incapacitated, was not in place until after the Kennedy assassination. The decision as to who took charge was handled on a case-by-case basis until then, Carson said.

For example, Woodrow Wilson's wife essentially took over when her husband fell ill, Carson said.

Johnson, who took office after Lincoln's death, was the only Southern senator not to leave office upon secession. Lincoln had put him on the presidential ticket as a symbol of unity, but Johnson was a southern Democrat who was not sympathetic to Lincoln's Republican party or to helping the newly freed slaves, said Carson, who spoke at the conference Friday.

If Lincoln had survived and "could reason and somehow get his thoughts across, the United States certainly would have been a better and more just nation, especially on matters of race, and in a far quicker fashion," Carson said.

Johnson eventually tried to replace Stanton, an abolitionist and a close friend of Lincoln, which led to the attempt by Republicans to remove Johnson from office by impeachment. Previous conferences have examined the deaths of Alexander the Great, Mozart, Beethoven, Edgar Allan Poe



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and others. This year's event is part of the School of Medicine's bicentennial celebration and the annual reunion of its Medical Alumni Association.

Civil War Battle Flag Returned

by Don Johnson, Maine Antiques Digest, May 11, 2007

The return of a Civil War battle flag to the state of Indiana is a reminder that certain antiques can't legally be owned by collectors.

In January the Indiana War Memorial Museum in Indianapolis accepted the return of a 6' x 6½' flag of the 25th Indiana Volunteer Regiment. Once part of the museum's inventory, the flag was valued at \$60,000 and had been missing since the mid-1990's. It was discovered last year in plain sight in the collection of the former First National Bank of Fremont in northeast Indiana, where it had been displayed on the ceiling of a bank branch. Cincinnati auctioneer C. Wesley Cowan saw the flag last year, after the bank was sold and a holding company was preparing to liquidate the antiques.

Cowan eventually contracted to auction those items. He understood, however, that there was a big difference between selling the bank's art glass desk lamps and offering the battle flag. "I knew we couldn't sell it," Cowan said.

Not legally. "At the end of the war, the federal government requested all regimental battle flags issued by U.S. arsenals be returned to the adjutant general of each state. And each state was responsible for caring for their battle flags," he explained.

War relics such as the flag are covered under Title 10, Section 4565 of the U.S. Code. "Title to colors, standards, and guidons of demobilized organizations of the

Army remains in the United States," the code reads, in part. "No color, standard, or guidon may be disposed of under this section unless provision satisfactory to the Secretary has been made for its preservation and care."

The flag from the Fremont bank was protected under those provisions. Cowan contacted the Indiana War Memorial Museum, which worked with the FBI in recovering the flag.

The colors were those of the 25th Indiana Volunteer Regiment, which mustered from Evansville. The flag was flown as the regiment fought at Shiloh, Vicksburg, and Atlanta. After the war, the flag made its way into the collection of the Indiana War Memorial Museum, which cares for hundreds of historic flags. How it was removed remains uncertain, and FBI Special Agent Wendy A. Osborne said no new information is available.

Osborne also said it is not known how the bank acquired the flag. The financial institution's former owner was a voracious collector of all types of antiques, including those pertaining to the Civil War.



Photo courtesy Cincinnati Inquirer

Not all Civil War battle flags are accounted for. According to Cowan, some of them may have innocently been acquired by collectors. "A lot of this material fifty years ago wasn't

thought to be valuable," he said. Historical societies and governing agencies were more apt to loan out a piece, then it might have never made it back into the collection.

"Historical materials escaped from their intended resting place or intended repository by purely innocent means and got out onto the market," Cowan said. "I guarantee you there are a number of these in private hands right now. I think most collectors don't realize it."

Fairfax City to break ground on historic Civil War site

William C. Flook, The Washington Examiner, May 29, 2007
Fairfax City will break ground early next month on a \$1.5 million project to preserve a house whose walls bear more than 100 inscriptions from Union soldiers and erect a historical Civil War center next to it.

The 3,800-foot center would sit on the 12-acre property at 3610 Old Lee Highway, next to the historic Blenheim house. A groundbreaking is set for Saturday at noon.

The Blenheim house's first two floors and attic walls bear the writings of soldiers from three periods between March 1862 and June 1863, according to Andrea Loewenwarter, the city's historic resources specialist.

"The sentiments [on the walls] are varied," she said. "You have people who are sick there, you have people who are boastful, others full of bravado."

Some were sarcastic; one soldier farcically lamented what a shame it was they had to destroy the walls with their graffiti, Loewenwarter said.

The first round came when Union troops passed through the area from D.C. to fight in the Battle of Second Manassas. The second round of



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markings at the house were from "the hospital period," from some of the hundreds of sick soldiers recovering at the nearby Fairfax courthouse.

The third came from soldiers on their way to the Battle of Gettysburg, Loewenwarter said.

City officials hope to open the site to public tours and programs in mid-2008, she said. The new center will include a full-sized reproduction of part of the attic walls and a 925-square-foot multipurpose room for adult lectures and youth programs.

The estate is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Appomattox studies preserving battlefield

Associated Press, May 30, 2007

LYNCHBURG, Va. -- Appomattox officials are studying a plan to preserve a Civil War battlefield in the middle of town, along with an antebellum house in the woods near where the fighting took place.

The site, now owned by a trucking company, is in excellent shape, according to a preliminary report from the archaeological engineering firm compiling the preservation plan for the land where the Battle of Appomattox Station took place.

The wagon roads instrumental in the April 8, 1865, battle that led to the South's surrender at Appomattox Court House the following day mostly are visible from the ground. The one-story home is nearly in ruins, but can be fully restored, said Philip Thomason, director of Thomason & Associates.

"I've seen buildings in this condition or worse restored back," Thomason told the Appomattox Town Council at a recent meeting.

Though some parts of the 25-acre former battlefield had been logged, it remains largely undeveloped because its hills make it more difficult

to use other than as farmland, Thomason said.

Preliminary recommendations from the study, which was paid for by a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program, include figuring a way to purchase the several parcels of land that were part of the battlefield.

The story told at the Appomattox Court House national park is incomplete because it only shows the picture of the surrender, Thomason said.

"The reason you have the surrender is because of the fighting that took place all around here," he said. "It's not the bloodiest fight, but it's of great strategic importance."

It also was unique because the fighting involved mounted Union cavalry troops attacking about 28,000 Confederate artillery troops, Appomattox Court House historian Patrick Schroeder said.

"You don't have to just hit the man, you have to hit the horse," he said. Schroeder urged town officials and representatives to start putting together a preservation group to save the battlefield.

Organizers expect a completed draft report within several weeks. The plan will then be reviewed by both local officials and the National Park Service. A meeting to discuss the proposal likely will happen by the end of the summer.

"It's a unique story that has been overlooked for a long time because people always focus on the surrender," Schroeder said. "They forget why the surrender took place."

Winston-Salem, NC trio buys second Gettysburg Cyclorama painting

By Craig Jarvis, Winston-Salem, NC News & Observer, May 4, 2007

The painting is the size of a football field. It took a team of artists two years to complete the depiction of the battle of Gettysburg, and when they had finished, the work weighed six tons.

For four decades, the 124-year-old oil painting has been rolled up in cylinders and stored at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem. Now, three unidentified investors from the Triangle have revived hope that people might see the cylindrical panorama again.

The trio paid at least \$10 million for the painting, known as a cyclorama. Now they hope to find an institution that will buy it, construct a big round building, and put it on public display, according to the dealer who arranged the sale.

"It still has the drawing power," art dealer Larry D. Laster of Winston-Salem said Tuesday. "Even when lying on the ground, it still pulls you in. I imagine once it's properly displayed, it will be just commanding."

"The Battle of Gettysburg" was the first of four cycloramas by French artist Paul Philippoteaux depicting the climax of the Confederate assault on Union forces during the three-day battle that marked a turning point in the Civil War.

The second cyclorama, a smaller version, spent nine decades on display at the Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania; it's now being restored. Philippoteaux's other two renderings disappeared. The first cyclorama also was presumed lost until the late Joseph Wallace King, a Winston-Salem artist and scholar, found it in 1965, rolled up in cylinders in a burned-out Chicago warehouse.

King brought the monumental painting home and had it unrolled on the football field of what was then



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Wake Forest College. The goal posts had to be removed to make room for it all. King gave the cyclorama to the university, and after his death in 1996, Wake Forest began looking for a buyer.

Last month, Larry D. Laster Fine Arts & Antiques arranged the acquisition for the buyers.

"This is probably the single most exciting piece we've ever had," said Laster, who has been in business 33 years and is helping the investors in their search for a permanent home for the art work.

Eight figures

Laster said the investors don't want to be identified and also asked him not to release the purchase price. A Wake Forest University spokesman also declined to disclose the purchase price.

However, a Vermont-based monthly newspaper called Civil War News recently stated on its Web site that a trio calling itself BPW Investment paid eight figures for the cyclorama. Laster had disclosed the information before the investors asked him not to say anything.

Civil War News publisher Kay Jorgensen said Tuesday that she had one question for the investors.

"If it took that long to sell, what makes them think they can sell it?" she said. Laster said the investors hope that a buyer will commit to constructing a building with a 360-degree interior view where the painting can be spread out to its full length of 276 feet and height of 22 feet.

Ken Wilson of Winston-Salem, one of the agents who tried to find a buyer for the painting, says the purchase price is just the beginning of what it would cost to display the work. Several million more dollars will have to be spent on restoration and installation in addition to the cost of

building a place to house it. Still, he's encouraged by the purchase.

"It deserves being put on display," Wilson said. "I'm pleased it's been placed in responsible hands."

Viewed in 1883

"The Battle of Gettysburg" depicts the clash of July 3, 1863, known as Pickett's Charge. Gettysburg was both the South's most rousing offensive and the deadliest battle of the war. More than 45,000 casualties were reported over three days.

Four and a half months later, President Lincoln delivered his most famous speech, the Gettysburg Address, at Soldiers' National Cemetery, where the bodies of Union soldiers were moved from makeshift graves on the Gettysburg battlefield.

About 20 years after the battle, Philippoteaux sketched and photographed the battlefield, and interviewed a Union general who had survived. Over the next two years the artist and as many as 20 other painters completed the work, which was displayed in Chicago in 1883. The painting was so popular that three more versions of the battle scene were commissioned.

The original painting went on tour to eight other U.S. cities before returning to Chicago in 1933, where it disappeared into a warehouse.

In 1944, Congress designated the second painting as a National Historic Object.

It was thought to be the only one that existed, but that all changed when King's 30-year search paid off.

Heather Childress, collections curator at Wake Forest University, said this painting is slightly different in style and substance from the Pennsylvania work. If it ever finds a home where it can be displayed, scholars will be able to study it more closely, she said.

Perryville Battlefield Association wins Bearss preservation award

Lexington, KY Herald-Leader, May 29, 2007

The Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, a non-profit organization charged with preserving and interpreting Kentucky's largest Civil War battleground, has received the Edwin C. Bearss Preservation Award for 2007.

The award, named for the chief historian emeritus of the National Park Service, is given annually by the Civil War Round Table of Chicago to a preservation organization that Bearss himself deems most deserving of recognition and support. The award includes a \$1,000 contribution.

In a letter to the PBPA office, Bearss and the Round Table noted their "thanks and respect" for the association's "devoted and effective preservation activism," and concluded by saying, "Those of us who live a distance from the 'hallowed grounds' of your back yard deeply appreciate your stewardship."

The association oversees the Perryville Enhancement Project, which, since 1991, has preserved and interpreted more than 500 acres of crucial battlefield land as well as several original structures in the city of Perryville. Oct. 8 will be the 145th anniversary of the Battle of Perryville, the largest battle ever fought in Kentucky.

Vicksburg's Texas Monument Hit by Vandals

By David Kenney, WLNB-TV, Jackson, MS, May 14, 2007

Federal officials are looking of those responsible for a recent vandalism at



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the Vicksburg National Military Park. Investigators believe it was done by scavengers, hunting for civil war artifacts, which can be worth a lot of money to collectors.

It's the site of one of the most important battles in the civil war, but now, it's a crime scene. This week at the park, forensic experts, combing through hundreds of holes left by scavengers who looking for civil war souvenirs.

Park ranger Patti Montague says, "we know that a metal detector was utilized there has been theft to the area." Park officials believe there might have been two people were involved. Most of the damage was done to this fortification in the hillside next to the Texas monument, where years of history were unearthed. Investigators are marking the holes with the use of g-p-s, looking for any clues left behind by the vandals, hoping to identify them.

Montague says, "This belongs to the American people, not to individuals that want to take the artifacts for their personal gain."

If there are any clue found, there is a good chance they'll be found. Last year there were four similar incidents here, three of those involved were caught, and fully prosecuted. The fine, thousands of dollars, up to five years in jail, and restitution to the park. The money used to repair the damage, will have to come out of the military park budget, which is tight. The crime, a personal attack against park workers, paid to preserve history.

Park historian Terrence Winschel says, "It's extremely frustrating when somebody comes in here under the cover of darkness and digs up relics".

Power corridor could affect battlefields

By DEVLIN BARRETT, AP, 05/10/2007

WASHINGTON — Federal officials said Wednesday they will expand their public hearings on two proposed electricity "transmission corridors" — designations that could spur the building of major new power lines in many states regardless of local opposition.

But they still don't plan to hold hearings near affected communities, including Gettysburg, where park officials and preservationists have expressed concerns over the visual impact of the possible power lines.

Although exact locations haven't been identified, one corridor would run north from Virginia, and include most of Maryland, all of New Jersey and Delaware and large sections of New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The other would stretch from Southern California into Arizona and Nevada.

The proposed power line might endanger one of the most heavily contested areas of America during the Civil War, according to the Civil War Preservation Trust, a national battlefield preservation group.

"In some cases, the proposed towers would be visible for miles, standing up to 15 stories tall and requiring a 150- to 200-foot-wide right of way," a CWPT report says.

In Gettysburg, officials have been concerned about the proposed line since they heard about it, but have not been able to figure out exactly where the lines will go or how much they will impact Adams County.

"We don't know where exactly these wires will be going. We also don't know what kind of say local governments will have," Gettysburg

National Military Park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon said earlier this year.

The National Park Service submitted comments about the visual impacts of power lines to the Department of Energy in September. The comments said Adams County lines would be within the view of more than 117 national, state and local historic sites or districts that are on or are eligible for listing on the National Register for Historic Places.

Authorities initially said they would hold public meetings on the corridors in San Diego, Arlington, Va., and New York City.

That list was expanded Wednesday to add meetings in Pittsburgh; Rochester, N.Y.; Phoenix; and Las Vegas. No dates were given for the meetings.

The hearings could become contentious if opponents turn out to fight power line construction in their small communities.

In New York, lawmakers have united against one such proposal, the New York Regional Interconnect.

Rep. Maurice Hinchey, D-N.Y., and others want the agency to hold public meetings in areas directly affected by NYRI, and were angry at the selection of Rochester, some 135 miles from the proposed line's starting point near Utica.

"Clearly, they want to avoid areas where there is the greatest opposition. They want to hold it someplace where it's difficult for people to travel," said Hinchey. A 2005 law passed by Congress gave the federal government greater say on where high-priority transmission lines should be built.

Concerns about congestion in the electrical grid were heightened after a major blackout in 2003 that swept from Ohio to Canada and New York City.



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The corridor designations could help private industry obtain permits from state regulators or to work in conjunction with regional groups to build new lines.

Utilities have long accused state authorities of being reluctant to approve new lines, often because of local opposition.

Small crowd attends re-dedication of Bickerdyke statue

BY CIGI ROSS, GALESBURG, OH REGISTER-MAIL, MAY 13, 2007

GALESBURG - Pam Cirimotich continued a family tradition Saturday. Cirimotich's grandmother, Mae Pearson, was one of 8,000 people who attended the dedication ceremony of the Mother Bickerdyke statue on the lawn of the Knox County Courthouse in 1906.

Just over a century later, Cirimotich helped plan and attended the rededication of that same statue.

"This is sort of a personal thing for me," Cirimotich said.

Mary Bickerdyke was commissioned from Galesburg to serve as a nurse during the Civil War. In four years she built 300 field hospitals and aided the wounded on 19 battlefields. The soldiers in her care referred to her as "Mother," and the nickname stuck.

Years after the Civil War the Women's Relief Corps, including Cirimotich's great-great-grandmother, helped bring the Mother Bickerdyke Memorial Statue to Galesburg and arranged the original dedication on May 22, 1906. At that ceremony speakers pledged to maintain and defend the statue.

One hundred years later the statue had fallen into disrepair.

Cirimotich and other area nurses campaigned to have the statue returned to its original luster. The

Galesburg Cottage Hospital School of Nursing Historical Committee and Knox County Sheriff Jim Thompson asked the Knox County Board to pay to restore the statue. The board agreed last summer and spent \$8,700 on the project. Then the Galesburg Cottage Hospital School of Nursing Historical Committee planned the rededication ceremony.

At the rededication, Cirimotich wore her great-great-grandmother's Women's Relief Corps pin on her blouse.

"My grandmother used to tell me, 'I saw Mother Bickerdyke unveiled,'" Cirimotich said. "As I started to research Mother Bickerdyke, I began to realize why it was so important to my grandma."

Those present Saturday included Rep. Don Moffitt, R-Gilson, Thompson, several County Board members and retired Knox County Circuit Court Judge Harry Bulkeley. About 75 people attended the ceremony.

Bulkeley was asked to attend the ceremony dressed as Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, whom he portrays regularly for Civil War re-enactments. Instead, Bulkeley attended the ceremony dressed as the soldier Mother Bickerdyke holds in her arms on the statue.

"The statue carries with it not only an authentic memory of history, but an authentic memory of compassion," Bulkeley said. "Not only are we indebted to Mary Bickerdyke as a nation, but as a city. Every time we drive by this statue we should remember one of our own made such a huge difference in the history of our country."

For Antietam archaeologists, spent bullets tell a story—

SHARPSBURG, Md. (AP) – May 13, 2007

A team of archaeologists from the National Park Service is uncovering bullets and shrapnel that paint a grim picture of the carnage at the battle of Antietam.

It was the single bloodiest day in the Civil War, and the archaeologists are getting plenty of reminders why.

The team used metal detectors to find more than 400 objects, mostly bullets and shrapnel, in a section of the battlefield recently.

Steven Potter, head of the team, says they're finding "pretty nasty stuff." One piece of shell was about half the size of a human hand. Inside would have been lead shot about the size of pingpong balls, and any piece could have taken off a limb.

The bullets are also giving the archaeologists a firm picture of troop movements.

Lost and Found: Civil War wallet arrives in Litchfield, MN

By Scott Soroka, KARE News, May 18, 2007

This is a lost wallet story you may find hard to believe.

A Minnesota volunteer soldier fighting in the Battle of Gettysburg 144 years ago lost his wallet. That wallet has recently been hand delivered to the Grand Army of the Republic Hall in Litchfield.

The G.A.R. Hall is one of three original halls remaining in the United States. These were popular gathering spots for Civil War Veterans.

Today, the hall in Litchfield is a historical museum that has remained unchanged since 1885.

Now, the hall will be home to James Bryant's wallet.

According to historians, Bryant bought the wallet just before fighting



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in the Battle of Gettysburg. "He got shot in the tail end and when he reached back there, he probably pulled the wallet out and it fell on the ground," Litchfield Civil War Historian Bruce Cottington explained. It's believed that a Confederate soldier with the last name Rise picked it up on the battlefield and brought it home where it stayed in his family all these years. It ended up in a trunk in Michigan in 2005.

Sarah McKay looked inside it and found it was branded "James Bryant, Company D, 1st Regiment, Minnesota Volunteers."

McKay connected with a distant relative of Bryant's in Minneapolis who donated the wallet to the G.A.R. Hall in Litchfield.

The wallet will be stored in a glass display once it officially becomes part of the museum in a dedication ceremony on June 16.

National Cemeteries Suffer Inadequate Funding

Washington D.C. (Vocus) May 7, 2007 -- National cemeteries within the National Park System are suffering from insufficient funding and other threats, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) said today. "The National Park Service has a unique ability to foster understanding of these sites, and ensure that their significance is preserved for generations of Americans," said NPCA President Tom Kiernan. "It is up to Congress and the Administration to see that the Park Service has the resources needed to do the job."

NPCA research shows that the national parks suffer from a chronic \$800 million shortfall, which affects the ability of the National Park

Service to protect national cemeteries and other cultural and historic sites.

Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania, which includes Gettysburg National Cemetery, has a 41% budget shortfall. NPCA's Center for State of the Parks assessment of Andersonville National Historic Site in Georgia revealed that additional funding is needed to maintain the grounds of the national cemetery. Established as a national cemetery by the Secretary of War in 1879, Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument in Montana is threatened by adjacent development, and requires additional funding to protect artifacts from the Battle of Little Bighorn.

"The opportunity to visit a national cemetery and reflect upon the stories told therein provide a critical part of a visitor's experience to national parks like Gettysburg and Andersonville," Kiernan added.

NPCA is calling on Congress to support the Administration's proposed \$200-million operating increase for national parks in the 2008 budget, which would help to address the needs of national cemeteries and other sites within the park system.

For instance, the Administration's 2008 budget requests an additional \$79,000 for Andersonville National Historic Site--a 6% increase over the park's fiscal year 2006 operating budget, and an additional \$648,000 for Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee, which also protects a national cemetery--a 37% increase over the park's fiscal year 2006 operating budget. Maryland's Antietam National Battlefield and Civil War cemetery is slated to receive an increase of \$486,000--a 16% increase over its fiscal year 2006 operating budget.

The 14 national cemeteries in the park system are: Andersonville National Cemetery, Andersonville, Ga.; Andrew Johnson National Cemetery, Greeneville, Tenn.; Antietam National Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Md.; Battleground National Cemetery, Washington, D.C.; Chalmette National Cemetery, part of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in Chalmette, La.; Custer National Cemetery, part of Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument in Crow Agency, Mont.; Fort Donelson National Cemetery, Dover, Tenn.; Fredericksburg National Cemetery, Fredericksburg, Va.; Gettysburg National Cemetery, Gettysburg, Pa.; Poplar Grove National Cemetery, Petersburg, Va.; Shiloh National Cemetery, Shiloh, Tenn.; Stones River National Cemetery, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Vicksburg National Cemetery, Vicksburg, Miss.; and Yorktown National Cemetery, part of Colonial National Historical Park in Yorktown, Va.

Arrests Made In Connection With Stolen Grave Markers

INDIANA, Pa. --WTEA-TV Pittsburgh- May 9, 2007

State police in Indiana said Wednesday they got a break in a case of stolen grave markers.

State police said a woman told them her husband's grave marker had been stolen. She had a feeling it would end up near the Indiana Airport at Sadler's Metals, police said, so they checked it out.

Police said they found buckets full of the grave markers, totaling 166. The markers belonged to veterans of the



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Civil War, both world wars and the Vietnam War.

Police said almost all of them were snapped from their brass bases, so the bronze markers can't be used again.

Police said Michael Patterson, 24, and Mike Mussomeli admitted to selling the grave markers to the metal scrap yard.

State police said Cary Smith told them he drove the men to Sadler's after they stole the markers and sold them, then received gas money from the profit.

Police said the men admitted to hiding more grave markers in the woods near Patterson's Cherrytree home.

There, police said, they found two more buckets with 52 more markers inside.

The theft totaled more than \$3,000.

Investigators believe the military grave markers were stolen from several different cemeteries near Indiana, including McDowell's and North Harmony.

Owner of Lincoln's blood-soaked collar, other relics, dies at NJ home

By JUDITH PASCOE, NY Times, May 17, 2007

Iowa City - The owner of Napoleon's penis died last Thursday in Englewood, N.J. John K. Lattimer, who'd been a Columbia University professor and a collector of military (and some macabre) relics, also possessed Lincoln's blood-stained collar and Hermann Göring's cyanide ampoule. But the penis, which supposedly had been severed by a priest who administered last rites to

Napoleon and overstepped clerical boundaries, stood out (sorry) from the professor's collection of medieval armor, Civil War rifles and Hitler drawings.

The chances that Napoleon's penis would be excised so that it could become a souvenir were improved by his having lived and died at a moment when the physical remains of celebrities held a strong attraction. Shakespeare didn't become Shakespeare until the dawn of the romantic period, when his biography was written, his plays annotated and his belongings sought out and preserved. Trees that stood outside the bard's former homes were felled to provide Shakespearean lumber for tea chests and tobacco stoppers.

After Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, his possessions toured England. His carriage, filled with enticing contents like a gold tongue scraper, a flesh brush, "Cashimere small-clothes" and a chocolate pot, drew crowds and inspired the poet Byron to covet a replica. When Napoleon died, the trees that lined his grave site at St. Helena were slivered into souvenirs.

The belief that objects are imbued with a lasting essence of their owners, taken to its logical extreme, led to the mind-set that caused Mary Shelley to keep her husband's heart, dried to a powder, in her desk drawer. Of course, relic collecting long predates the romantic period; medieval pilgrims sought out fragments of the True Cross. In the aftermath of the Reformation, religious relics that had been ejected from monasteries joined secular collections that freely intermingled belemnites with saints' finger bones. When Keats died, his hair took on the numinous appeal of a religious artifact.

Napoleon's penis was not the only Napoleonic body part that became grist for the relic mill. Two pieces of Napoleon's intestine, acquired by the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1841, provoked a long-simmering debate beginning in 1883. That year, Sir James Paget called the specimens' authenticity into question, contrasting their seemingly cancerous protrusions to the sound tissue Napoleon's doctor had earlier described. In 1960, the dispute continued in *The Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England*, long after the intestine pieces had been destroyed during a World War II air raid.

Dr. Lattimer, a urologist, could claim a professional interest in Napoleon's genitalia. Not so its previous owner, the Philadelphia bookseller and collector A. S. W. Rosenbach, who took a "Rabelaisian delight" in the relic, according to his biographer, Edwin Wolf. When Rosenbach put the penis on display at the Museum of French Art in New York, visitors peered into a vitrine to see something that looked like a maltreated shoelace, or a shriveled eel.

Whether the object prized by Dr. Lattimer was actually once attached to Napoleon may never be resolved. Some historians doubt that the priest could have managed the organ heist when so many people were passing in and out of the emperor's death chamber. Others suggest he may have removed only a partial sample.

The pathos of Napoleon's penis — banded about over the decades, barely recognizable as a human body part — conjures up the seamier side of the collecting impulse. If, as Freud suggested, the collector is a sexually maladjusted misanthrope, then the emperor's phallus is a collector's



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object nonpareil, the epitome of male potency and dominance. The ranks of Napoleon enthusiasts, it should be noted, include many alpha males: Bill Gates, Newt Gingrich, Stanley Kubrick, Winston Churchill, Augusto Pinochet. It's time to let Napoleon's penis rest in peace. Museums are quietly de-accessioning the human remains of indigenous peoples so that body parts can be given proper burial rites. Napoleon's penis, too, should be allowed to go home and rejoin the rest of his captivating body.