



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

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### **Battlefield guides, National Park Service at odds**

By MATT CASEY, Hanover Evening Sun, June 10, 2007

The National Park Service and a battlefield guide association are at odds over a planned reservation policy the association said could hurt guides' incomes, but the Park Service said will improve tourism in Gettysburg.

Katie Lawhon, spokeswoman for the Gettysburg National Military Park said the policy would allow visitors to register and pay for tours in advance online, and help connect tourists with tour guides.

"We think this is going to dramatically benefit the visitors and the guides," Lawhon said.

She said 50 to 89 percent of the traveling public make advanced registration for tours with credit cards, and many people won't go on a tour without the ability to guarantee its availability ahead of time.

The Gettysburg National Military Park, she said, now accepts credit card reservations only by phone and only 10 days or more prior to a tour.

Adding a system to accept online reservations would put Gettysburg on par with other tourist destinations, Lawhon said, but changing the way visitors pay requires the Park Service to change how it pays guides.

Currently, visitors pay guides in cash at the end of their tour. Under a new policy, guides - who are independent contractors and not employees of the park service - would be paid twice a month through the Park Service, Lawhon said.

She said this would provide guides with protection against people who register for tours and then fail to show up because the tour would already be

paid for, but Rick Hohmann, president of the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides said he doesn't trust the Park Service to correctly pay the guides.

Hohmann said guides frequently make last-minute swaps with other guides, and the park has had problems with its current scheduling system.

"It's been a pretty dismal failure," Hohmann said.

He said tours have arrived when the system said they were canceled, and the guides themselves have had to correct mistakes.

"The software that they have developed has some serious glitches... If they can't schedule a tour properly, how are they going to pay us," Hohmann said.

He also said he's wary of a pay-ahead credit card system because visitors that pay with credit cards are less likely to tip their guides, and tips make up about 20 percent of a guide's income.

Lawhon said she was confident the guides and Park Service could work out their differences, and attributed some of the scheduling software's glitches to its unexpected early implementation.

Eastern National formerly provided scheduling services for the park, but in October the company moved its office to Gateway Gettysburg - the hotel, convention center and movie theater complex along Route 30 in Straban Township.

Lawhon said Eastern National did not inform the Park Service of the move, and their sudden departure forced the Park Service to devise a new system.

"I think we're doing well given the situation," Lawhon said.

She said she didn't know if the new payment system would have a function to accommodate the guide's

unexpected tour swaps, but also said she was not acquainted with the software.

She added that guides will still be able to work as they have in the past, by showing up to the visitors center and taking walk-in traffic for cash.

Hohmann characterized this clash as part of a pattern of behavior causing friction between the guides and the Park Service, and said his organization is pushing for congressional oversight of the new visitor center project.

Hohmann said the Gettysburg Foundation - the nonprofit group handling the new visitor center project - has refused to communicate with his association.

The foundation stonewalled his organization for a year, Hohmann said, then sent a letter saying they could not deal with his group because it did not represent all battlefield guides.

Hohmann said his organization represents 80 percent of licensed guides, and "the 30 guides that are not part of our organization are weekend, part-time."

"We feel that they've shown us a tremendous amount of disrespect here," Hohmann said.

Hohmann also expressed concern with the cost of the new visitor center, which has ballooned to an expected \$125 million from original predicted cost of \$39 million.

Hohmann's organization has retained the counsel of Stuart Davidson of Philadelphia-based Law Offices of Willig, Williams and Davidson, he said, and will try to meet with Senator Bob Casey, D-Pennsylvania, and former Senator Jim Jeffords from Vermont.

Eric Uberman, owner of the American Civil War Museum, said former Pennsylvania Congressman Ron



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Klink passed congressional oversight through the house, but Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pennsylvania - who Uberman described as a friend of both the Gettysburg Foundation and the Park Service - killed it in a senate committee.

Lawhon said she was confident the Park Service will be able to resolve its differences with the guide association.

She said the Park Service plans to meet with Association of Licensed Battlefield Guide officials on Thursday.

"While we'd like guides to be very happy in their jobs... our No. 1 priority is providing excellent visitors services," Lawhon added.

### **National Trust for Historic Preservation Seeks To Shield East Coast Land**

List of At-Risk Sites Covers Areas Eyed by Power Companies

By Sandhya Somashekhar, Washington Post, June 14, 2007

The National Trust for Historic Preservation plans to declare a large swath of the East Coast's most historic land as among the most imperiled in the country because it could one day be crisscrossed by high-voltage power lines.

The area, which spans seven states, including, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia will be on the group's list of the nation's 11 most endangered historical sites. This is the Washington-based group's 20th annual list, and it will be unveiled officially at the National Press Club this morning.

"Across the United States, there are still places of great character, where historic family farms stand next to hallowed Civil War battlegrounds, where 18th-century white clapboard

churches decorate scenic byways, where neighbors have fought to preserve their heritage and quality of life," the group said in a statement.

The states "are waging battles to protect everything that's irreplaceable about their communities," the statement continues, as utility companies seek to erect miles of transmission lines to connect rural power plants to urban areas, where demand for electricity is high.

In April, the U.S. Department of Energy declared the grid for the mid-Atlantic region so inadequate that companies will have special rights to build power lines without state approval.

The announcement sparked an outcry from residents and lawmakers, who are hoping to persuade Congress to revoke those rights. Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-VA.) and Maurice D. Hinchey (D-N.Y.) are seeking to amend an energy bill this week to block implementation of the federal program.

In response to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's list, Dominion Virginia Power officials said yesterday that they were committed to keeping history in mind when plotting out the routes for power lines.

"The code of Virginia requires that Dominion consider any cultural or historic or environmentally sensitive sites when we propose a transmission line, and we believe we have done this," said Dominion spokeswoman Le-Ha Anderson.

Dominion is hoping to build a 65-mile power line through Northern Virginia, and has faced community opposition over fears it will ruin the landscape and sink property values. This year, the company abandoned a plan to run the line through sensitive parts of Loudon, Fauquier and Prince William counties.

A proposed line by American Electric Power and Allegheny Power would span about 300 miles, beginning in West Virginia. The line would run northeast through West Virginia's scenic Allegheny Highlands to a substation to be built near Damascus. Although the specific route has not been determined, it could pass by the Antietam National Battlefield, where 23,000 soldiers were killed in the Civil War.

Fifteen-story steel poles strung together by cables could do irreparable harm to those sites, said Robert Nieweg, director of the preservation group's southern field office.

"The line of towers along the countryside will cause a kind of visual pollution, an industrial-style blight on a countryside that deserves more careful treatment," Nieweg said.

Some of the area covered in today's announcement has been featured in earlier lists by the group. In 2005, the group deemed endangered a 175-mile stretch of road from Gettysburg National Military Park to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, which threads through Civil War-era towns and battlefields and faces a threat from suburban sprawl.

### **Grant's sword draws high bid of \$1.6M at Civil War auction**

The Associated Press, June 24, 2007  
GETTYSBURG, Pa. — A diamond-adorned sword presented to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant brought a winning bid of more than \$1.6 million Sunday in an auction of Civil War items.

The sword given to Grant, who later became the 18th president, was one of the marquee items among the 750 to be auctioned Sunday and Monday in Gettysburg, site of the 1863 tide-turning Civil War battle — by Heritage



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Auction Galleries of Dallas. Online and phone bidders also participated. Another showcase item up for bid was Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's frayed battle flag, which was auctioned for \$896,250.

That left Grant's sword as the priciest item, going for \$1,673,000 to an unnamed bidder.

Gary Hendershott, Heritage's director of Civil War auctions, described the sword as maybe the finest from the Civil War period. "It's really a hallmark of American silversmith craftsmanship." He noted that bidders in France recently paid more than \$6.5 million for a gold-encrusted sword once owned by Napoleon.

Grant's sword was presented by citizens of Kentucky in 1864 to honor his promotion to General-in-Chief of all Union forces. The silver and gold sword contains a 28-diamond monogram and is covered with intricate designs, including engraved battle scenes on its 33-inch blade. The sword has belonged to the Donald Tharpe Collection of American History since 1989. It remained in Grant's family until the 1960s, when it was acquired by collector Jay Altmeyer.

Custer's silk, swallow-tailed battle flag was made by his wife, Elizabeth, and carried into battle during the closing days of the all-American conflict. The banner, which features crossed cavalry sabers, was at Custer's side at Appomattox Courthouse, Va., when Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered Confederate forces to Grant.

The flag was left at Custer's headquarters at Fort Abraham Lincoln, Dakota Territory, in 1876 when Custer and his men were wiped out at Little Big Horn by Lakota and Northern Cheyenne warriors.

Custer's flag stayed within his family until 1956, when it was acquired by Dr. Lawrence A. Frost, who kept it until 1990. Elizabeth Lawrence owned the flag until 2003, when it went to the collection of Thomas Minckler of New York City.

Another item of note that was auctioned included a "Bonnie Blue" flag carried by the 3rd Texas State Cavalry. It drew a bid of \$47,800.

The total amount bid for the first session was more than \$5.1 million.

### **Museum of the Confederacy considers move to Lexington**

***Supporters of moving the Museum of the Confederacy to the city say tourists' spending could generate \$1 million in tax revenue per year.***

By Jay Conley, The Roanoke Times, June 22, 2007

Lexington appears to be one step closer to attracting the world's largest Civil War collection.

Officials with the Museum of the Confederacy and Lexington-area tourism industry have confirmed that the city is on a shortened list of localities that museum officials are considering for a relocation site.

The museum announced in October that it wants to move from its cramped quarters in downtown Richmond in order to build a larger facility and avoid further expansion of the neighboring Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine.

In April, the museum sought proposals from about 10 localities, asking them what facilities and financial incentives they would be willing to offer to attract the museum and its promise of tourism dollars.

Waite Rawls, the museum's executive director, said Wednesday that the museum's board of directors

wants to negotiate an agreement for a new site by the fall.

"At this point in time I'm not prepared to disclose who is on that list, except for Lexington," he said Wednesday.

Lexington is the only locality that has publicly acknowledged an interest in attracting the museum. The other localities have preferred to negotiate privately with the museum.

"They wanted to tell people they were still on the list," Rawls said of Lexington-area officials.

Brian Shaw, chairman of the Rockbridge Area Tourism Board, said he's been told the museum will contact the board soon to discuss the move further.

"What we're waiting for is for them to send us a document that says, 'OK, this is where things stand, and these are what the issues are,'" he said.

Rawls said that process is under way. "We're now setting up dates to go sit down with each one of them and keep talking," he said.

The tourism board's proposal was approved by both the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors and the Lexington City Council. It spells out how the museum could locate its collection of 14,000 artifacts to the Old Rockbridge County Courthouse and surrounding buildings on Main Street.

The proposal lays out a scenario for renovating the courthouse and creating a public-private partnership to get tax incentives to attract the museum.

The potential of the museum coming to town has created controversy among Lexington and Rockbridge County officials and residents. Some see the Confederate-themed museum as synonymous with promoting slavery.

Supporters of the museum say Lexington and the Rockbridge area



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stand to collect an estimated \$1 million annually in tax revenue from the tourist spending that the museum is expected to bring with it.

The museum's cramped quarters in Richmond can only display about 10 percent of the collection at a time. A lack of parking and nearby restaurants also has been a concern.

Private donations of about \$1 million and a \$400,000 contribution from the state this year have helped the museum stave off financial problems caused by low visitation.

Recent figures for the fiscal year show the museum's attendance level at 46,000, down a few thousand from the year before.

"Their visitor numbers are still down," Shaw said. "We know that's one of the reasons why they're considering relocation."

Rawls has said a locality like Lexington could be a good fit for the museum. Plans for a new parking garage have been approved and the city's historic district has several restaurants within walking distance of the courthouse.

### **New York town plans statue for Dr. Mary Walker**

\$8,500 raised toward \$50,000 cost of honor for Civil War surgeon.

By John Doherty, Syracuse Post-Standard, June 19, 2007

A year from now, Theresa Cooper could have company outside her Oswego town clerk's office: a life-size bronze statue of Dr. Mary Walker, the town's most famous resident.

After four years of fundraising, the Oswego Town Historical Society has nearly \$8,500 for the statue, which will be placed in front of the town's new municipal building on county Route 7.



Dr. Mary Walker, shown wearing the Medal of Honor

The statue will cost about \$50,000, said Cooper, who also is the historical society's treasurer.

"It's a good start," Cooper said, adding that she expects substantial donations soon.

"The historical society believes it is about time that we move forward with this project now that we've got a new beautiful town hall," she said.

The society has received proposals from two artists interested in the statue of Walker, one of this country's first female physicians and a Union Army field surgeon during the Civil War.

During the last four years the society has sponsored several fundraisers, including yard sales and postcard sales, but many contributions came from out-of-state residents interested in Walker.

"There are a lot of people interested in Mary Walker. They call here, and I tell them about our fundraiser, and many of them send a donation," Cooper said. "There's also a lot of

children across the United States who do school projects about Mary Walker. She's really well-known.

In 1982, Walker was honored with a postage stamp.

Walker was a century ahead of her time in her career choice and political and personal beliefs, said Justin White, the town's historian.

"She had a lot of opposition in almost everything she did, but she stuck to her guns and gave it back tenfold," said White, who also is the county historian.

After being denied a military commission when she tried to enlist in the Union Army, Walker volunteered her medical services. Eventually she received a commission as an assistant surgeon.

At the end of the war, she became the only woman to receive the Medal of Honor. In 1917, two years before her death, Congress rescinded the medal, but Walker refused to return it. The medal was restored in 1977.

An outspoken critic of women's clothing of the time, Walker wore bloomers and eventually, as a political statement, men's trousers, a coat and a top hat.

"When people would ask her why she wore men's clothing, she would answer they were her own clothes and were not owned by a man," White said.

She also lectured against tobacco and alcohol abuse.

An early supporter of women's suffrage, Walker eventually fell out of favor when the movement's leaders fought for a constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote.

"She believed a constitutional amendment was not necessary because the Constitution did not prohibit women from voting," White said. "She tried to vote many times



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and each time was turned away because she was a woman."

Walker died at her town of Oswego home in 1919 and is buried in the Walker family plot in Oswego's Rural Cemetery, a few miles from the town hall.

### New stamp to honor author of Uncle Tom's Cabin

By John Johnston, Cincinnati Enquirer, June 13, 2007

Harriet Beecher Stowe, the 19th-century author whose experiences in the Cincinnati area inspired her to write the influential "Uncle Tom's Cabin," is about to join the list of more than 800 people honored with a commemorative stamp.



The 75-cent (3-ounce rate) stamp goes on sale nationwide Wednesday. The Postal Service will unveil it locally at a 10 a.m. ceremony at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, 2950 Gilbert Ave. in Walnut Hills, where Stowe lived in the 1830s.

Barbara Furr, volunteer coordinator for Friends of Harriet Beecher Stowe House, says the stamp is important "because it makes people aware of her contributions. It's a chance to

remember a significant piece of history."

Stowe, the daughter and wife of abolitionists, lived in Cincinnati from 1832 to 1850 when the city was a site for underground railroad activity. She wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin" after leaving Cincinnati, drawing from the stories she'd heard about runaway slaves.

Historians say the novel, published in book form in 1852, galvanized the anti-slavery movement in the years before the Civil War. It was immensely popular, with 300,000 copies sold in the first year.

From 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday at the Stowe House, the Postal Service will sell a cachet envelope - which features a line drawing of the house - with the stamp and a pictorial cancellation affixed, for 75 cents. After that, the house's gift shop will sell it for \$1.50.

The stamp, the ninth in the Distinguished Americans series, was designed by Richard Sheaff of Scottsdale, Ariz. The portrait, by Canadian artist Mark Summers, was based on an engraving of Stowe.

### Restoration of Longstreet's Hotel in Georgia Is Close To Finish

By Kathryn Jorgensen, - Civil War Times, June 21, 2007

GAINESVILLE, Ga. - Its owner Gen. James Longstreet would be pleased. So would President Woodrow Wilson's wife Ellen, who delivered a baby there. They knew the old Piedmont Hotel well and would be pleased that what remains of it is being restored.

Today's Piedmont is a shadow of its former self - once a large three-story hotel with two wings that filled a city block. The fact that one floor of one

wing survives is a testament to local preservationists, one of whom is Richard Pilcher, president of The Longstreet Society.

The society bought the building in 1995, just a year after the group was founded by local architect Garland Reynolds. The society, which celebrates and studies the life of Lt. Gen. James Longstreet, CSA, now has about 300 members.

Some of them will be in Gainesville on June 16 and 17 for their annual seminar and a low-key dedication of their new headquarters in the Piedmont. The hotel's grand opening will be a big event later in the year, says Pilcher.

#### The Early Years

James Longstreet moved to Gainesville in 1875 at the suggestion of his brother who lived in Cleveland, Ga. Gainesville had the railroad and mineral springs that drew tourists. The 1,400-foot elevation attracted people from coastal areas anxious to avoid heat and fever.

It was long assumed that Longstreet bought the hotel as a going operation, but Pilcher says the hotel's builder ran out of money in 1874. Longstreet initially bought a half interest, and then assumed full ownership and the debts in 1875. He completed construction and opened the hotel in 1876.

The Longstreet Society recently learned some of these details. Longstreet wrote every document by hand and recorded every nail, board and everything on the property, says Pilcher.

A newspaper ad announced the hotel's grand opening on June 13, 1876, with son John G. Longstreet as proprietor.

Longstreet would go to the train station when he was in town and meet arrivals, tell them who he was



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and say he'd like to have their business.

Pilcher says the Piedmont Hotel dining room was famous for its chicken and claimed to have served the first batter-fried chicken.

During Longstreet's long postwar career in various federal offices, the Piedmont Hotel was his base. Among the guests were Confederate Gen. Joseph S. Johnston and Union Gen. Daniel Sickles.

An old photo of Longstreet in a rocker on the porch illustrates the upcoming seminar's title, "Politics from the Piedmont Porch."

### Later Years

The family kept the hotel after Longstreet's 1904 death. They started to tear it down after a tornado damaged it in 1918 and one wing was removed. Pilcher says that somebody realized John Longstreet's widow did not have a place to live, so the lowest floor of the second wing was saved.

Mrs. Longstreet lived there, renting out rooms at the other end, until the 1960s. Her daughter Jamie, who is a member of the society, grew up there. By 1994 what was left of the Piedmont was used for storage and was in bad shape from rot and termites. The new Longstreet Society bought it in early 1995 for \$160,000.

About that time the roof fell in and rain caused damage before the roof could be tarped. The additional damage "made the task of restoring it much more difficult," Pilcher says.

In 1998 the society turned over the building and the debt to the Gainesville-Hall Trust for Historic Preservation, a new entity that grew out of the Longstreet and Hall County Historical societies. William L. North Jr., who felt that Gainesville needed an organization that could secure and restore historic buildings and sites, initiated the trust.

The trust's first project was the Piedmont Hotel. "We were just going nowhere raising money," says Pilcher. "People were leery of giving money because of the Civil War connection and none of us really knew how to raise money."

The change in ownership didn't lessen the Longstreet Society's commitment to the Piedmont. "Nothing has changed for us. Every little bit of money we make goes to the Piedmont project," says Pilcher. By the time the restoration is completed in mid-June it will have cost about half a million dollars, including the purchase price.

The project has gotten notice and there is movement for redevelopment in that section of Gainesville. Pilcher says, "It looks like our effort will be productive in ways that we never expected."

The Longstreet Society will have an interpretive center in one of the Piedmont's six rooms.

The society hopes to staff its room with volunteers and be open every day. A self-guided tour map and brochures will be available.

The room where Ellen Louise Axson Wilson gave birth to daughter Jessie in 1887 will be furnished to that period. Pilcher explains that Mrs. Wilson's aunt, who gave assistance, lived nearby.

The room is known because Mrs. Wilson mailed postcard photos of the hotel with an arrow pointing to the window of her room.

The grandson of the doctor who delivered the baby has a letter Mrs. Wilson sent the doctor saying he was hired because he was the cheapest, but she was pleased with his services.

The restored Piedmont also includes bathrooms, a butler's pantry, a large

community meeting room and a room that might be used by another group.

### State grants nearly \$1M to Franklin battlefield park project

By KEVIN WALTERS,

Tennessean.com, June 26, 2007

FRANKLIN – The state of Tennessee is now poised to become one the largest investors in Franklin's Civil War battlefield park.

More than a year after Franklin officials bought the 110-acre Country Club of Franklin, the state's Heritage Conservation Trust Fund today approved a \$900,000 grant for the project.

The group's executive committee approved 3-0 the grant request from Franklin's Charge, the private coalition of local groups supporting the land purchase.

"We are excited about moving forward on this in the months and years to come," Robert Hicks, co-chairman of Franklin's Charge, said. "It's not like Franklin's Charge won anything today. I think all of Tennessee is a winner today."

This grant nearly equals the \$1 million combined in grant money from both the Washington, D.C. based Civil War Preservation Trust and the American Battlefield Protection Program.

The land purchase cost \$5 million, with half coming from city public funds and the rest provided by a loan secured by Franklin's Charge. That loan would be repaid by the group through pledges and donations. Hicks credited the numerous, smaller donations of just a few dollars as being as important to the project as the large grants.

"You still could not have done it without the literally hundreds and hundreds of individuals," Hicks said.



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### Contents of Lee's daughter's trunk continue to amaze archivists

By JANET CAGGIANO, Richmond TIMES-DISPATCH, June 6, 2007

During his 33-year career as an archivist, Lee Shepard has laid his hands on some remarkable documents and artifacts.

George Washington's earliest surviving land survey (1749) and items from the estate of Paul Mellon jump to the top of his list. But the competition has heated up since the discovery of two wooden trunks containing letters, legal papers, journals and financial records collected by Mary Custis Lee, the eldest daughter of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

One of the most powerful is Lee's 1863 handwritten note to the headquarters of the Army of Northern Virginia announcing Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's death. "The daring, skill and energy of this great and good soldier, by the decree of an all-wise Providence, are now lost to us," Lee wrote.

"It was a pretty stunning discovery," said Shepard, the director of manuscripts/senior archivist at the Virginia Historical Society. The opportunity to work with these items is just incredible."

The trunks were found at Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust Co. in Alexandria in 2002. Robert E.L. deButts Jr., a Lee descendant and corporate attorney in New York, had learned that Mary Custis had an account there at one time. When bank personnel began to research her account, they found the trunks in the basement.

"I guess it was one of those 'out of sight, out of mind' things," Shepard said.

Heirs to the Custis estate turned the trunks over to the Virginia Historical Society in late 2002. Shepard and his staff have spent years cataloging and preserving the papers.

The trunks contain about 4,000 items -- mostly documents -- from the Custis and Lee families. The two families came together in 1832 with the marriage of Robert E. Lee and Mary Custis.



Heirs to the estate of Mary Custis Lee, the eldest daughter of Robert E. Lee, turned over to the Virginia Historical Society two trunks with family letters, legal papers, journals and financial records. Photo By: MARK GORMUS

"In my nearly 20 years as president and CEO of the Virginia Historical Society, there have been few moments as spectacular as the discovery of the Mary Custis Lee trunks," said Dr. Charles F. Bryan Jr. Others can now share in his awe. Last week, the historical society made the majority of the find available to researchers through the museum's library.

"I think a lot of the Robert E. Lee material will initially attract people, but there's also a lot of other history here," Shepard said.

The trunks also include correspondence between Lee and his

wife, anti-slavery letters written by members of the Custis family, an inventory of slaves owned by the Custis family, Lee's love letters to his fiancée, an invitation to Mary Custis to meet Queen Victoria in 1896 at Buckingham Palace and passes issued by the government of Egypt to allow Mary Custis to visit the pyramids.

The earliest Custis document, a letter by John Custis II, the first member of the Custis family to come to the United States, dates to 1694. The earliest Lee materials are letters and date to the 1830s.

One of the first to get a peek at the documents was author Elizabeth Pryor. The Washington resident studied the materials for her book, "Reading the Man: A Portrait of Robert E. Lee Through His Private Letters."

"I was thrilled with the scope of the collection," Pryor said. "It would be a casket of rubies if it had just been the Lee papers. But it has all these other things, too. It's amazing."

Pryor's 688-page tome, published by Viking Penguin last month, uses the previously unpublished papers to shed light on Lee's religious beliefs, his views on slavery, his father, his days at West Point and his decision to join the South during the Civil War. "A year after graduating from West Point, he was already questioning his decision to join the military," Pryor said.

While the trunks contain mostly documents, a few artifacts were also found, including the stars from Lee's Civil War uniform.

"These items are a hinge to our past," Pryor said. "This is who we are and where we came from. Lee made decisions that not only affected our history, but in many ways led us to where we are today."



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### Fort Delaware ferry charge to increase

Wilmington News-Journal, June 13, 2007

The half-mile ferry ride from Delaware City to Fort Delaware State Park will cost more starting July 1. Tickets will increase to \$10 for adults and \$6 for children age 2 to 12. The Civil War-era fort on Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River doesn't charge admission, but the only public access is via the ferry, which is run in coordination with the Delaware River and Bay Authority.

The current charges are \$6 for adults and \$2 for children 2 to 12. "The cost for a ferry ticket hasn't increased in 10 years. During that time costs to operate Fort Delaware and the ferry service . . . increased significantly," said Park Administrator Mary Voshell.

Fort Delaware is open to the public weekends and holidays from April 28 through Sept. 30. From June 13 through Aug. 31, the fort is also open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The fort is closed Mondays and Tuesdays, except for holidays that fall on those days. Throughout the season, the first ferry leaves Delaware City at 10 a.m., according to a news release today from the state Division of Parks and Recreation.

### Historic Petersburg Structures To Get Bronze Plaques

June 14 2007-CWi-Through a generous grant from the Cameron Foundation, the National Park Service, in partnership with the City of Petersburg and the High Street Association, have initiated a project to mark buildings that survived the Siege of Petersburg or were

damaged by Union artillery shells during the Civil War. Two markers styles were designed by Studio Ammons Inc., a local firm.

The markers are cast in bronze and will be placed on designated structures in Old Towne. One marker has a Union and a Confederate flag with the dates 1864-65 on it while the other has crossed cannons with an artillery shell in the middle, and the notation "Struck By Union Artillery."

A contemporary listing, "*Report of Houses in Petersburg, Virginia, Struck by Shells During the Siege,*" was produced by occupying Union soldiers right after the war ended and



will serve as validation documentation for those buildings hit by artillery. A period map accompanied this report with corresponding numbers on each building listed. This report can be obtained by purchasing a copy of *Auto Tour of Civil War Petersburg 1861-1865* by Chris Calkins (2003), available at all local museum sales areas.

Of what is considered the longest land siege in North America, local historian Edward A. Wyatt IV wrote in his book, *Petersburg's Story*, that "during its siege, Petersburg endured an ordeal of shelling which was extraordinary in the history of the world." It is estimated that more than 800 buildings had been struck during

the nine and a half month campaign although it appears that "fewer than half a dozen residents were killed" by the deadly missiles. Today Petersburg has more documented structures damaged by Union artillery than any other locality in the State.

The initial effort to install these plaques will encompass the Old Towne business district, and then venture out into the 19<sup>th</sup> century residential neighborhoods. It is a recognized product of Petersburg's Jamestown 2007 Committee. The plaques will be given free of charge to qualified property owners that request inclusion in this program. Property owners must fill out an application form available at the City Planning Department in City Hall or by contacting the city Preservation Planner, Ms. Victoria Hauser, at [vahauser@petersburg-va.org](mailto:vahauser@petersburg-va.org).

Petersburg National Battlefield was created in order to commemorate the campaign and siege and defense of Petersburg, Virginia, in 1864 and 1865. The park staff is committed to preserving and protecting the historical, cultural, and natural resources within the park in a manner that will provide interpretation, education, and enjoyment for the visitors.

### Historical Stunner: Civil War Veteran Gives 10,000 Needy Kids Surprise Birthday Gift in 2007

BETHLEHEM, Pa., June 25 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Talk about a birthday surprise! On the occasion of its 125th birthday, a national children's charity dedicated to giving kids peace has just received a gift of \$3.2 million from a rather



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unlikely benefactor: A Civil War veteran.

Nearly 80 years after Civil War veteran, prominent Bethlehem businessman, and philanthropist Adam Brinker died in 1928, his estate finally made its way to the charity KidsPeace and two other beneficiaries -- but not before swelling to the sum of nearly \$10 million.

The tale involves many twists and turns, mysterious phone calls, and looking back into the fascinating history of a children's charity that over three centuries has helped generations of America's kids "grow up."

"I received a phone call from the attorney for the trustee of the estate, asking if KidsPeace was the same organization once known as The Children's Home in Salisbury Township," says Jackson Eaton, a longtime board member and legal counsel for the 125-year-old, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania-based children's crisis charity that helps 10,000 children at 66 centers nationwide each year overcome crises and traumas, and millions more each year through prevention and public education efforts. "I replied that it was and the attorney asked for documented proof, which we supplied."

In 1882, when smallpox struck the northeastern United States, the president of Bethlehem Iron Works (later Bethlehem Steel) William Thurston founded the Thurston Home for Children in Bethlehem. In 1886, the charity was incorporated as The Children's Home of South Bethlehem, serving as a refuge for impoverished children, as well as orphans and "half-orphans" (children with one remaining parent who needed temporary care). Later, when the

number of children needing care exceeded the Children's Home's capacity, Captain James Wiley, a retired Marine officer and Bethlehem philanthropist offered his help, donating \$6,000 to build a larger home in Salisbury Township. The new building was called The Annie Lewis Wiley Children's Home, in honor of the Captain's late wife and the organization changed its name to the Children's Home of Bethlehem and Allentown. Decades later, the entire organization would become known as Wiley House. Finally, in 1992, to better reflect its mission and growing national scope, the name was changed to KidsPeace.

Following the death of Brinker's last life beneficiary, the charitable trust was freed and KidsPeace received \$3.2 million.

"Adam Brinker exemplifies America's long and admirable history of charitable giving," says KidsPeace President and CEO C.T. O'Donnell II. "In our annual report of 1913, in between listings of gifts such as chickens, bread, turnips, books, and doll's dishes, Mr. Brinker gave \$10 to help our children's immediate needs. Now, nearly a century later he has made a gift that will help ensure we will be around to give kids peace for another 100 years."

"This is the single largest gift from an individual we have ever received in our entire 125-year history," says KidsPeace Executive Vice President for Strategic Advancement Joseph Vallone, who with Leah Yaw, vice president for fund raising, shepherded the gift through its many twists and turns. "Who would have thought that in the year 2007 our kids would be getting the gift of peace from a Civil War veteran? It's a wonderful present for our 125th birthday and a wonderful testament to

the enduring support our children have enjoyed ever since we were founded in 1882."

### **LexisNexis Expands Online Collection with New Digital U.S. Serial Set Maps Collection**

Innovation Makes Valuable, Historic Maps Accessible For Web-Based Viewing; Alliance with University of Maryland Creates Easy Access to over 56,000 Maps from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century to Today

NEW YORK--(BUSINESS WIRE) – June 13, 2007- LexisNexis today announced it will expand its Congressional archives with the new LexisNexis® *U.S. Serial Set Maps Digital Collection* that will provide easy access to more than 56,000 map records containing nearly 70,000 individual map sheet images when complete. Almost half of these maps contain color or fine detail and are being scanned as high-resolution imagery from the originals.

These maps offer unparalleled research potential to historians, law students, labor studies researchers, political scientists, and other social scientists, as well as to biologists, geologists, geographers, meteorologists, and epidemiologists. Serial Set maps, dating from 1789, include great 19<sup>th</sup> Century exploratory surveys of the American West, Civil War battlefields, as well as flood protection and beach erosion studies in the 1950s and 1960s, just to name a few.

This maps digitization effort, conducted in cooperation with the University of Maryland, is the latest step in LexisNexis' ongoing commitment to building a complete, easy-to-use repository of Congressional information. The maps in this new collection, some of which



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represent the first geologic, soil, and population maps of many states and territories, are being conserved, encapsulated, and scanned from the U.S. Serial Set collection housed at the University of Maryland Libraries.

### **Advanced Technology Applied to Historic Maps**

LexisNexis is converting the digital, historical map collections into the standard JPEG 2000 image format to provide advanced web-based viewing features of the maps, such as panning and zooming, without any barriers, additional software or browser plug-ins.

"These maps will satisfy a wide and diverse range of research needs, and we are pleased to continue our tradition of bringing this type of relevant, historical documentation to our customers in a format they find easy to use," said Tim Fusco, vice president of Publishing Operations for LexisNexis Government and Academic Markets. "By working closely with alliance partners such as the University of Maryland, we are able to access and create digital databases of some of our country's richest historical documents and make them accessible to a wide range of researchers, students and librarians who find them valuable."

### **Detailed Indexing For Easy Access**

The LexisNexis *U.S. Serial Set Maps Digital Collection* includes detailed indexing for every map in the more than 13,000 volumes of the U.S. Serial Set though the year 1969. Originally created by the University of Kansas and recently enhanced by LexisNexis editorial staff, this special indexing makes it easy for researchers to access maps using key indexing terms, including date, subject and geographic terms, personal and organizational names, map title, relief method, notation of

content abstracting, or to search the document in which the map was published.

Combined with the LexisNexis *Congressional* user interface, this powerful search functionality allows users to quickly and efficiently focus and hone their search results to a useable data set. All maps will be accessible through an image content server (ICS), provided by LuraTech Inc., which renders segments of the entire map image to a user's browser quickly without the need for additional software.

### **Lincoln museum gets collection of items**

By Christopher Wills, AP, June 19, 2007

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. -- A battered old hat, a pair of stained gloves, a child's silly rhyme - hardly the stuff of history. Except that this hat is a stovepipe hat, the gloves are stained with a president's blood and the rhyme was written by a young Abraham Lincoln.

All three items are part of an immense private collection put together by a Lincoln fan over 35 years. Now the collection is about to go public after being purchased for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The collection contains hundreds of letters and documents, but its strength is the array of personal, everyday items related to the 16th president, his wife and his assassin, John Wilkes Booth. The presidential library's executive director, Rick Beard, said it should help remind visitors that Lincoln was a real person with real problems who still managed to do great things.

"I think it's very important to understand that there are indeed great men, but that these great men are human, that they have a complexity to them, that they're not marble figures," Beard said.

The hat's brim shows two finger-sized spots where Lincoln continually touched it to take the hat off. Its band is stretched from his habit of stuffing legal papers inside to carry around with him.

Lincoln hated wearing gloves, Beard said, yet he always carried them. This particular pair appears to have been dropped on a red dirt road, but the stains are blood from Lincoln's assassination on April 14, 1865.

And the rhyme, neatly written in a childhood "sum" book for practicing math, shows a 15-year-old smart-aleck: "Abraham Lincoln is my name/ and with my pen I wrote the same/ I wrote in both haste and speed/ and left it here for fools to read."

Acquiring the 1,500-item collection is "a coup" for the museum, said Daniel Weinberg, a Lincoln collector and owner of Chicago's Abraham Lincoln Book Shop.

"They are wonderful collectibles," Weinberg said. "People enjoy having a personal relationship with their historical figures. One can let ghosts arise when you're looking at the hat, for instance."

The collection was pieced together over three decades by Louise Taper, who said she grew interested in Lincoln after reading a book about the president.

"I loved it. I loved reading about his life and Mary, and I wanted to know what happened to his children and the children's children," she said. "That started it, and it just took off."

The museum's foundation is buying most of the collection, and Taper is donating part of it. Eventually, the foundation will give the collection to the museum so that the state owns it outright.

Neither Taper nor Beard would disclose the price, but Lincoln experts say the collection is likely to bring



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more than \$20 million. Beard said no tax money is involved. Instead, the foundation is working with the city of Springfield to issue bonds to pay for the collection now, and private fundraising will pay off the bonds in years to come.

Parts of the Taper collection will go on public display in July.

Rather than focusing on some particular aspect of Lincoln, Taper acquired items from throughout his life. Many collectors were most interested in official documents or Civil War strategy, but not Taper.

"That didn't appeal to me," she said. "I wanted to know more about Lincoln - where he lived when he was young, and his parents and family, and how his relationship with Mary was, and their children."

Her collection includes about 100 Mary Todd Lincoln letters, giving the Lincoln presidential library a total of

500 - out of only 600 in the world, Beard said.

Some of the letters recount Mary Todd Lincoln's fight with Congress to collect her husband's salary after he had been killed and to establish a pension for presidential widows. Taper said that fight set a precedent for Jacqueline Kennedy to receive a

pension after John Kennedy's assassination.

Initially, Taper kept her Lincoln items and other presidential collectibles at her Los Angeles home. The famed stovepipe hat was displayed on a cabinet in her living room.

But as the items grew in value, she

had to keep them locked away, where even she could not enjoy them.

After working for years with Lincoln experts in Springfield and serving on the museum foundation's board, Taper decided her collection should go to Lincoln's hometown.

"I think Lincoln needed to go home. It was time. It was time for the world to see everything and other people to enjoy it," she said.

### Lithograph of Andersonville Prison restored

By Jason Gabak, The Citizen (Auburn, NY), June 9, 2007

UNION SPRINGS #- Andersonville Prison in Georgia was perhaps one of the most notorious sites of the Civil War era.

Only one square mile in size, at its peak this prison held more than 35,000 prisoners of war from the Union Army, more than 15,000 of whom were executed or fell victim to

starvation, disease or exposure to the elements.

Among those that survived was Thomas O'Dea, a private in the 16th Regiment Maine.

O'Dea later produced a massive (40X60 inch) lithograph, depicting the prison and life inside its walls. There are three known copies of this

lithograph in existence, one of them has resided in the Frontenac Museum in Union Springs since 1976. According to Pat Kimber, president of the Frontenac Historical Society, the picture, estimated to have been worked on by O'Dea from 1879 to 1885, was in possession of the A.A.

Hoff Post of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) in Union Springs for

many years before coming into the possession of the Baptist Church.

"There was a huge water damage spot," Kimber said of the print's obvious signs of age. "That was from a leak in the roof at the church before it came to the museum."

The print resided in the museum for more than 30 years before the museum was able to restore it with the use of grants received from the Lower Hudson Conference of Historical Agencies and Museums as well as donation made by the family of Wilma Peck, a long time Union Springs resident.

"Wilma was born here in 1913 and lived here until 1956, but she still came back to visit," Kimber said. "She came to visit her home until she passed away in 2005. We are very grateful to her friends and family that made it possible for us to begin the restoration process with this

lithograph."

Once the funds were in place, the lithograph was entrusted to the care of Michele Philips of West Lake Conservators in Skaneateles.

Saturday evening, Philips gave a presentation at the museum, giving a detailed insight into the background of what she does in the process of

restoring a piece. This can be a very painstaking process that begins, first and foremost, with research. "It is like being in the medical profession," Philips said. "The first thing is to look at the object and find out about the date of it, what it is

made of and what we can do to preserve the longevity of the object." This includes microscopic research,



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fiber tests as well as chemical and acidity tests. Once the composition of the object is determined a course of restoration is decided.

"We look to remove superficial grime," Philips said. "Things like mold, discoloration. And we also focus on distortions like wrinkles." The Andersonville lithograph presented unique challenges. Philips said that its enormous size made it complicated, but also the way the print had been framed and the water damage that it had incurred were also unique challenges.

"It was textile backed," Philips said. "This was meant to keep it flat but it is actually very stressful on the object. And I think at one time the glass was replaced, I found evidence of scuff marks on the object as well." After more than two and half months of work, totaling more than 45 hours, Philips was able to remove much of the discoloration and water damage the piece had when she first encountered it.

"We were able to remove a lot of it," Philips said. "But most importantly we were able to make the lithograph much more stable than it was so that it will last much longer and be able to be preserved."

After Philips' presentation, the lithograph was officially unveiled in the War Memorial Room of the museum alongside plaques commemorating the contributions of the Peck family and the Lower Hudson Conference of Historical Agencies and Museums. The lithograph depicts O'Dea's memory of the prison in a large central picture, with a border created by 19 smaller pictures portraying scenes of brutality, hunger and pain that was experienced in the prison. Kimber said that this is an incredibly

valuable piece to be able to preserve. "The conditions were just horrific," Kimber said. "It is important to preserve this and the memory of those that lost their lives at Andersonville. There were residents of Union Springs that lost their lives during the Civil War and that makes this all the more important to us to preserve."

### Steinwehr Ave. zoning to have little change

By MATT CASEY, Hanover Evening Sun, June 19, 2007

The Gettysburg Planning Commission on Monday decided to present a proposed zoning map to the Gettysburg Borough Council that will not appreciably change zoning on Steinwehr Avenue after businesses and council members objected to an earlier plan to zone most of the street residential.

The four commission members who attended the late-afternoon workshop, and the commission's consultant, Tom Comitta, agreed to support a map that would change the zoning of most of Johns Avenue just west of Steinwehr from tourist commercial to low-density residential, but would leave the zoning of Steinwehr Avenue itself as tourist commercial.

The commission's other choice would have zoned Steinwehr Avenue south of Culp Street as low-density residential.

That section of Steinwehr includes America's Best Value Inn, the American Civil War Museum, Friendly's, McDonalds, May Flowers Asian Buffet and Restaurant, Kentucky Fried Chicken and General Pickett's Buffet.

Commission member Walton Davis was not present at Monday's workshop.

Steinwehr Avenue business owners said the zoning change could lower property values and complicate their efforts to adapt to a changing business environment.

The previous plan spurred Steinwehr Avenue business owners to form the Steinwehr Avenue Association, hold monthly meetings and show up en-masse to meetings pertaining to the potential zoning change.

Tom Crist, association president and owner of Flex and Flannigan's at 240 Steinwehr Ave. said he was happy to hear about the commission's decision.

"The group will be very pleased to hear that. It will make everybody feel a lot better," Crist said.

Davis has said the change was intended to prepare for a decline in tourism to Steinwehr Avenue because of the Gettysburg National Military Park's visitor center's move away from Steinwehr in 2008, and reduce tension between the neighboring residential district and the commercial facilities.

But Crist said the increased tourism from the new visitor center could bolster visitation on the tourist strip even though the visitor center will be farther away.

The new visitor center is being constructed on Hunt Avenue off Baltimore Pike, about 1.5 miles from its existing location adjacent to Steinwehr Avenue.

The map also comes with Comitta's recommendation that the borough also allow Steinwehr Avenue property owners to build residential structures on their land.

Comitta first suggested the compromise to allow commercial and residential structures on Steinwehr at the Borough Council meeting in May, and business owners and several



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council members approved of the idea.

Councilman Bill Monahan said it would allow businesses to continue functioning, and allow property owners to build residential structures if the market favored it.

Crist said Tuesday that if a property owner wanted to build a residential structure on Steinwehr Avenue, they should be able to do that, though he didn't know why they would.

The planning commission has committed itself to present the map and changes to the zoning ordinance to the Borough Council before the end of the year, when the council could either approve or deny it.

Three members of the borough council are not running for re-election, and commission member Rad Schultz said a 2008 vote would mean the planning commission would have to brief the board's new faces.

### **Volunteers make Gettysburg Battlefield what it is today**

By STEVE MARRONI, Hanover Evening Sun, June 6, 2007

There may not be a monument to the Brush and Bucket Brigade on the Gettysburg battlefield, but it's a critical part of the park. The brigade's volunteers fight the battle for preservation every year.

And about 250 volunteers come to Gettysburg each year for the annual Friends Volunteer Work Day.

"They come from all around the country," said Gettysburg Foundation communication director Dru Neil. "Some plan their annual vacation around coming here to do this."

The foundation hosts the annual event where volunteers work on refurbishing parts of the battlefield. This year, some constructed sections of fences and others painted historic

barns, all to keep the area looking nice and similar to what it was in 1863.

And, with federal funds being lean for the Gettysburg National Military Park over the last five years or so, park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon said volunteers are relied upon more now than ever.

"In the old days, our volunteers were considered the margin of excellence," she said. "Now, they're our margin of survival. We literally could not function without our volunteers."

The National Park is lucky because it has plenty of volunteers. Lawhon said the park had 3,447 volunteers last year, contributing about 51,000 volunteer hours.

The volunteer work day is one of the more significant events, bringing out a large contingent of volunteers at one time.

Phil Nulty and his family have been taking part in this for the last decade. The family is now in charge of organizing the other volunteers.

Nulty is a military-history buff. While he always favored World War II, a family vacation from Cortland, N.Y., to Gettysburg was cheaper than a trip to the invasion beaches of Normandy. "Once we got down there, we got hooked and couldn't get enough of it," Nulty said. He and his wife, Wendy, are even thinking of retiring to Gettysburg.

But, for the first trip, he had to beg his wife and daughters Meghan and Molly, who were then 10 and 5. While they were not keen on a Civil War battlefield as a vacation destination at first, the girls have become history enthusiasts in their own right after that first trip.

One group of volunteers worked on Oak Ridge, where they installed a line of fences similar to what was there during the battle.

The style of fencing is called a Virginia worm fence, so named because of its zig-zag design.

So far, the foundation volunteers have installed about 10 miles of fencing, with about 30 more to go. Installing long planks and poles can be a time-consuming and labor-intensive process, volunteers say.

Nulty said fences could impede movement across the battlefield, making them tactically significant.

"They had to dismantle or go over the fence," Nulty explained. "It takes time and leaves them exposed to enemy fire."

As a heavy fog lifted off of the battlefield, sweaty volunteers worked through the humid morning, linking rails together.

Gary Stein, a landscaper from Pittsburgh, signed on for the volunteer work day for the first time this year.

"It's an honor to be doing this," he said, taking a break from the fencing job.

Gary Heydinger, who works in information technology in Columbus, Ohio, has been volunteering at Gettysburg for five years.

"The money's not there for the government to do everything that's needed," Heydinger said. "The volunteers can get a lot done in one day."

Both said they're big Civil War buffs, and they're thrilled to do their part for the battlefield.

David and Brenda Fowler of Fleetwood have been volunteering for four years. Brenda Fowler said she hopes to keep the battlefield preserved so they can someday bring their grandchildren to see what it once was.

David Fowler is a Civil War reenactor, and wants to do his part to preserve it for future generations.



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"This way, it can be closer to what the soldiers experienced," he said.

Contingents of volunteers worked on fencing throughout the park, and others painted historic landmarks. One group put a fresh coat of paint on the McPherson Barn, which was used as a field hospital during the battle.

"This is a witness building," said Mark Golato of Haverford Township near Philadelphia. "So many of these buildings saw the war and witnessed the carnage."

He and his wife, Phyllis, have been coming to Gettysburg for six years to volunteer their time and effort. He loves studying history and the Civil War, and feels drawn to the park.

"It's kind of overwhelming at times," he said.

While the park is always in need and relies on volunteers, Lawhon said, it has been fortunate to draw quite a few volunteers.

"I think it shows how meaningful Gettysburg is to the American public," she said. "That's why it's so gratifying to work here. People are passionate about us, and our volunteers are evidence of it."

Besides many volunteers coming in for the work day, plenty spend their time there through the year. They repair and refurbish historic cannons and cannon carriages, work as living historians and take part in programs at the park and volunteer as Park Watch, much like the Neighborhood Watch program, where they keep their eyes and ears open and report to law enforcement when necessary.

There is also an Adopt-a-Position program, where groups throughout the country adopt a position that a battalion or battery held during the battle.