

THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Gettysburg Boro officials frustrated with Lincoln Square walkway closure

BY SCOT ANDREW PITZER,
Gettysburg Times, June 19, 2008

The pedestrian walkway in the southeast quadrant of Lincoln Square in Gettysburg is expected to remain partially closed for at least another month, as crews continue to renovate the Wills House.

"I was disappointed with (the Park Service's) decision to close the walkway, because I know what tourists and residents will do — they'll walk into traffic," Councilwoman Alice Estrada told AM-1320 WGET radio host Fred Snyder during Wednesday's edition of the Breakfast Nook. "I'm very disappointed that this was the only solution they took. I think we need to make a formal request that they re-open the sidewalk to pedestrians during the peak tourist months."

The barricaded walkway that fronts the three-level Wills House is still open to pedestrian traffic, but a portion of the adjacent York Street sidewalk is temporarily closed. Gettysburg officials are trumpeting pedestrian safety issues.

"We don't want to read in the Gettysburg Times about someone being seriously injured," Councilman Dr. Michael Birkner said during the board's Public Safety Committee meeting Tuesday afternoon. "Is there any way people can be informed that this is a dangerous situation?" Directional signage informing pedestrians of the closure is lacking — an orange detour sign is situated on the Lincoln Square portion of the walkway, but the York Street sidewalk has been a different story. Pedestrians are ignoring the detour

signs that are on display, and are walking into the street and into the flow of traffic instead. Town administrators were unable to speculate whether markers would be installed, and indicated that detour signage is the responsibility of the National Park Service.

"We're not encouraging jaywalking. We hope pedestrians use good common sense and pay attention," said Borough Manager John D. Lawver Jr.

The National Park Service has devoted more than two years and about \$6.6 million to the project — crews are transforming the Wills House into a federal museum commemorating President Abraham Lincoln and the aftermath of the Civil War. Lincoln spent the night at the house in 1863, owned by prominent lawyer David Wills, prior to giving the Gettysburg Address at Soldiers' National Cemetery.

"We had stated that we would have portions of the sidewalk closed during the course of construction," Gettysburg National Military Park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon wrote in an email, "and this is one of those times."

Park officials have encouraged pedestrians to access the south side of York Street by walking down the north side of the roadway and crossing at the Stratton Street light. "Nobody is going to walk up to the Wills House, say 'I can't cross here', and then go down to the traffic light to cross instead," Lawver said. "People want to take the shorter route because they don't want to be inconvenienced."

The walkway that fronts the Wills House could also be closed in the near future to accommodate construction work.

"It's moving along down there, but the project is just at a phase where (the sidewalk) has to be closed because of where they're at in construction," said Lawver.

The walkway is made of plastic, water-filled barriers that can easily be relocated as work progresses and the shape of the construction zone changes. A chain-link fence blocks the work zone from Lincoln Square. When the Wills House project began two winters ago, the Park Service refused to install a pedestrian walkway, arguing that the protective barriers — then valued at about \$10,000 — were too expensive and not in the budget. But after heavy public outcry and press, the park installed the barriers, but at a much higher cost (\$20,000) than originally envisioned. Gettysburg leaders have called a walkway-less Lincoln Square: "An accident waiting to happen."

The museum is expected to officially open in February 2009.

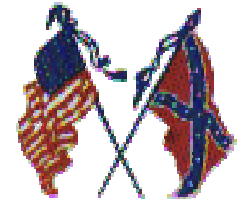
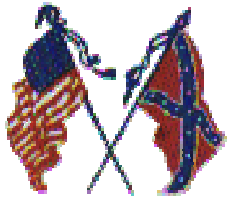
Mine dispute hangs over Cedar Creek battlefield

By STEVE SZKOTAK, AP, June 20, 2008

RICHMOND, Va. - The expansion of a limestone quarry at one of the nation's most endangered Civil War battlefields threatens a mecca for re-enactors of a key Union victory, the National Trust for Historic Preservation warns.

The Cedar Creek Civil War battlefield each year attracts thousands of history enthusiasts for one of the largest battle re-enactments in the nation. The battlefield is located in the northwest corner of Virginia near Middletown.

The National Park Service owns 3,500 acres of the original 15,000-acre battlefield and partners with the trust and the Cedar Creek Civil War



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Foundation to preserve hundreds more acres. The property also includes Belle Grove Plantation, a National Historic Landmark built in 1794.

The dispute involves the expansion of the quarry and what the trust said is a reversal over expansion of the mining by the foundation, which sponsors the annual re-enactments. The trust said the expansion would include blasting and heavy truck traffic that would threaten the battlefield and Belle Grove and subject visitors to clouds of dust and noise.

The National Trust said the "intrusive mining could destroy the character of sites of tremendous national and regional significance."

To signal its displeasure with the foundation, the trust said it would prohibit the use of Belle Grove for the annual re-enactments.

"We had no choice but to suspend our relationship with them," said Robert Niewig, director of the southern field office at the National Trust.

The foundation's director said the Frederick County Board of Supervisors was going to approve the expansion so it brokered a deal with the mining company to minimize the impact of the expansion.

"We did what we could to save what we could," said Suzanne Chilson. The foundation will still stage the re-enactment, scheduled in October, on 150 acres of its portion of the battlefield, she said.

"We certainly respect the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation's past contributions to the stewardship of the battlefield," Anne Buettner, president of Belle Grove's directors, said in a statement.

"But we cannot silently and passively overlook the Foundation's recent actions, which were taken unilaterally

and without the prior knowledge of its partners in the overall preservation effort," she wrote.

A representative of the Belgian mining conglomerate Carmeuse Lime & Stone disputed the National Trust's contention that the mining threatens the battlefield.

"It's not true," Spencer Stillman said Friday. "They've known we've intended to do this for years. Not once did anyone come to me and say we have a problem with this." The mining dates to the 1950s, he said, and taps a deposit of limestone valued at \$300 million. The agreement with the fund includes Carmeuse's commitment to an archaeological survey valued at \$100,000, Spencer said.

The Oct. 19, 1864, battle of Cedar Creek played a key role in the Civil War.

Union Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan's counterattack on Lt. Jubal A. Early's Confederate troops broke the back of the South's forces in the Shenandoah Valley, and was key to other Northern victories. Nearly 53,000 troops were engaged in the battle, which resulted in 8,575 casualties.

Huge Confederate Flag to Fly Over Tampa

50-by-30-Foot Symbol of Southern Cause to Fly at Private Site by Highway Crossroads

By DAVID SCHOETZ, ABC News, June 2, 2008

The i's are dotted, t's are crossed and a 139-foot flagpole is ready to fly the Stars and Bars over one of the busiest highway interchanges in Florida.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans in Tampa plan soon to raise what they claim is the world's largest Confederate flag on a private triangle of land tucked near where Interstates

75 and 4 meet. The flag measures 50 feet by 30 feet.

John Adams, commander of the organization's Florida division, has spearheaded the flag project, which includes plans for an accompanying memorial park. And he wants to make sure that the only objections the group faces are based on opinion, not the law.

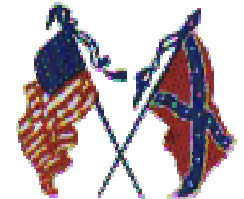
"You're going to hear some complaints about it for sure," Adams said. "But it's a free country as far as I know."

To some, particularly across many Southern states, the rebel flag represents a rich heritage that includes fighting and dying for the Confederate cause during the Civil War. To others, the flag represents dark memories attached to slavery and racial inequality.

One of those people is Curtis Stokes, president of the NAACP in Hillsborough County, who hopes that a groundswell of opposition to raising the flag might convince the Sons of Confederate Veterans to reconsider.

That's an unlikely scenario, according to Adams. Nearly a decade ago, the 220 members in the state's Sons of Confederate Veterans group launched a project called "Flags Across Florida" in response to a decision by state officials to remove the Confederate flag from a place of prominence near the state capitol in Tallahassee.

The flag will be the group's third in the state, but will be not only the largest, but will also fly square in the middle of one of the most highly-trafficked intersections in the state. An estimated 124,000 cars pass by the highway every day. The two Interstates link the Tampa Bay area to Orlando to the northeast and Miami to the south.



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

The pole, which will be anchored by a 100,000-pound concrete base, is the tallest the Federal Aviation Administration would allow in that spot. The 1,500-square-foot flag was ordered from a Chinese company after an American flagmaker begged off, citing union objections to making the flag. It will be illuminated by spotlights at night.

Adams said the project, which will cost an estimated \$80,000, has been going through approvals with the Hillsborough County government for more than two years. The park that accompanies the flag will feature landscaping and parking as well as plaques detailing the state's historical contributions to the Confederacy. Throughout the permitting process, Adams admits he never revealed to officials that it was the Confederate flag he intended to fly atop the pole. He had no reason to, he said.

To Adams and members of his organization, the soldiers who fought and died for the Confederacy deserve the same historical deference as those who died fighting for the Union cause. They are veterans who fought for what they believed was right for the country, he said.

Hillsborough County and the state of Florida are both familiar with the differing opinions on the flag. In 1994, the county government removed the Confederate flag from the county seal.

Motorists in nine states can pay for a license plate bearing the logo of the Sons of Confederate Veterans — a design that incorporates the Stars and Bars. A similar proposal in Florida, however, so far has been unsuccessful. Still, the Sunshine State is one of just two states to celebrate the birthday of Confederate president Jefferson Davis, a state holiday that is held June 3. Adams

said the group will honor the holiday by previewing the flag on Tuesday.

Stokes, the president of the local NAACP, told ABC News that the group will do what it can — including work with the county commissioners and county administrator to prevent the flag from flying. "We certainly understand the First Amendment rights they have, but as a county, that's not the way we want to move forward," Stokes said.

Stokes acknowledged, however, that the group went to great lengths in to make sure they could legally raise the flag. Preventing the flag raising, he said, will have to be a combined effort by residents and leaders of the county. "I think we're going to rise up as a diverse citizenry and show the Sons of the Confederate Veterans that this isn't something we want," he said.

Kevin White, the sole black member of the Hillsborough County Commission, oversees the area where the flag will fly. He said that he is "saddened and frustrated" by group's effort, but unsure if there is anything that can be done.

"It appears that if all of the permitting is legal, there isn't anything we're able to do except show a loud, vocal opposition and maybe bring some sense to people," White told ABC News. "The symbolism of what it stands for totally brings a negative connotation to the community as a whole."

Adams said that the flag is not meant to symbolize racial inequality. "Nobody's going to spend \$80,000 to build a park to honor racism," he said. "We're building a park to honor veterans."

He also said that the group will consider filing a lawsuit if any attempt to restrict the flag were made by county officials.

"Telling me you can't fly the flag is like telling me you can't honor the Confederate dead," Adams said. "You can only honor the Union dead." The Florida Division SCV is accepting donations for the massive flag and Memorial Park at the base of the 139' pole. Log onto <http://florida-scv.org/> for information.

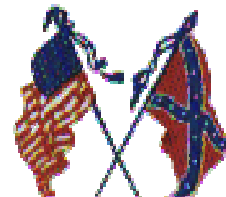
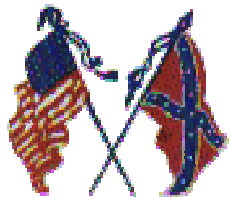
New Lincoln Statue to stand at Soldier's Home gets first look

By JAKE MOONEY, NY Times, June 30, 2008

Three stories above the Peas and Pickles market in Dumbo, Brooklyn, behind a blank door in a nondescript converted industrial building, two sculptors stood back and watched last week as a former vice presidential chief of staff climbed up onto a wooden box and peered across their studio. From a few feet away, a clay and plaster Abraham Lincoln gazed back, his hand on his horse and a new twinkle in his eye.

The statue, wearing Lincoln's trademark top hat, was in a position that the 16th president would have found familiar, as the tallest one in the room — 3 percent larger than life, in fact, to compensate for shrinkage in the eventual bronze-casting process — and as the center of attention.

The sculptors, Stuart Williamson and Jiwoong Cheh, were applying the finishing touches for StudioEIS, the Dumbo workshop that is fabricating the statue to stand outside Lincoln's historic summer cottage, the Soldiers' Home in Washington. The former White House aide, Richard Moe, is the president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which commissioned the project, and was in town to see it at full scale for the first time prior to an unveiling in the fall.



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Arrayed around the room were a rough early rendering of Thomas Jefferson, the head of John Keats and the body of Lucius Lyon, a Michigan senator from the 1800s. But Lincoln, next to a horse representing the one he rode regularly to the White House, commanded attention.

Lincoln sat 66 times for photographers, said Ivan Schwartz, a founder of StudioEIS, and was the first president to be documented so extensively, and to harness the political power of the new technology. "He was a person who liked the camera," Mr. Schwartz said. "We really get to know Lincoln, to some extent, through these photographs."

Yet the picture is incomplete. Lincoln was known to have a sense of humor and an engaging manner that did not show up in the photos. For the studio, this was the challenge: how to show the president at ease while maintaining the meticulous historical accuracy that prompted Mr. Schwartz to travel to Washington to measure Lincoln's hat.

What the studio produced was an image of the president looking up from beside the horse, maybe at a visitor or a relative, with just a hint of a smile.

"There's a lot of things we have to decide," Mr. Cheh said. "The face tells a lot of a story for the human, but also the gesture tells a lot of the story: where he puts his hands, where he looks, what he looked at."

Sculptures of American presidents tend to feature heroic poses. This one is different, a depiction of the president in his sole refuge in wartime, months after the death of his young son. Yet, historians say, he would meet personally with unannounced visitors to the cottage, and mingle with neighbors on his way home.



The relaxed Lincoln was, in his own way, just as heroic: It was at the cottage that he is believed to have worked on early drafts of the Emancipation Proclamation.

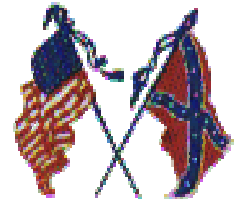
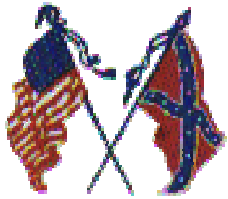
For Mr. Schwartz, that historical detail makes the timing of this sculpture even more fortuitous, as an African-American senator from Lincoln's home state campaigns for the presidency.

Mr. Williamson, the sculptor, was born in North East Yorkshire, but he knows presidents; he has made sculptures of Truman, Nixon and Franklin Roosevelt. Lincoln, he said, was one of the greatest men who ever lived, and molding his eyes and lips into a half-smile created an unconventional window into American history.

CCWP Co-sponsors the Civil War Preservation Trust's Digital Photography Contest

This summer, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) is teaming up with The History Channel and the Center for Civil War Photography (CCWP) to sponsor a national photography competition to promote appreciation of America's rich Civil War heritage. For the first time, all entries to the popular, long-running contest will be submitted digitally via an online interface, allowing more people to participate than ever before.

Amateur photographers are invited to submit Civil War-related photos in four different categories: (1) Civil War Battlefields, showcasing the solemn and scenic landscapes of these hallowed grounds; (2) People on Civil War Battlefields, focusing on visitors young and old enjoying their time on the battlefield; (3) Preservation



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Threats, illustrating the grave threats faced by many Civil War battlefields and historic sites; and (4) Then and Now, contrasting early images of Civil War battlefields with the same sites today.

For more information and the official rules please visit:

<http://www.civilwar.org/photocontest/index.htm>

Sons of Confederate Vets face war between traditionalists, those aligned with racist groups

BY ANDREW MEACHEM | St. Petersburg Times/Scripps Howard News Service, June 18, 2008

TAMPA, Fla. — The Sons of Confederate Veterans, founded 112 years ago to protect all that is noble about the South, is itself racked by angry divisions these days.

Since the 1990s, clusters of Sons members have aligned themselves with "heritage groups" like the League of the South and the Council of Conservative Citizens, both considered hate groups by the Alabama-based Southern Poverty Law Center. The center says the Sons itself may have been taken over by extremists.

"We had this group that looked like it had really radicalized to the right," said the poverty law center's Mark Potok. "But as we looked more closely, we realized that this was really a battle from within."

In response to just such charges, the Sons' Florida commander in 2002 sent interracial pornography to a female researcher at the center. John Adams later apologized, but he remains with the organization.

Today, he is co-chairman of the effort to install Confederate flags across

Florida. The Sons say they intend to permanently install a giant one near the junction of Interstates 4 and 75 to counter what they consider increasing slights to Southern heritage.

Experts say the divisions within the Sons vary between two extremes. On one side are the traditionalists, members who focus on cleaning up Confederate grave sites and conducting Civil War re-enactments. On the other side are the so-called "Lunatics," up to 2,000 members in an extreme wing who deride traditionalists as "Grannies" and belong to chapters named after notorious Southern figures such as John Wilkes Booth and Jesse James. John Wilkes Booth camp members have been known to put pennies in urinals, making sure to leave the Lincoln side face-up. Other Lunatic groups have removed the U.S. flag from their halls and banned the Pledge of Allegiance, says Walter Hilderman, who several years ago created an anti-Lunatic group called Save the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

"The problem is it's supposed to be a patriotic organization," says Hilderman, 59. "You are either that or you let guys in who want to secede." Hilderman is hardly liberal. He laments the decline of traditional values, believes in flying the Confederate flag, and thinks anti-communist crusader Joseph McCarthy was on to something. Which leads to an important point: The internal divisions within the Sons are often as much about style as substance.

All members extol what they consider the virtues of the Confederacy. All are offended by the banning of Confederate flags from state capitols. The divisions come over how to respond to them.

For airing his grievances against the Sons to the national media, Hilderman was expelled from the organization in 2004. Many of his supporters across five camps were suspended.

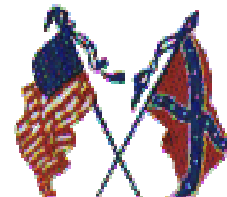
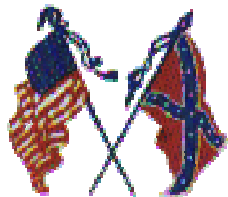
Good riddance, says Kirk Lyons, a lawyer who called Hilderman's group a "misdirected and ill-gotten group of losers." Lyons is the founder of the Southern Legal Resource Center, a nonprofit law firm that has filed numerous lawsuits to keep Confederate symbols visible.

Lyons' own ties to white supremacists are well known, from defending their leaders in court to marrying the daughter of Aryan Nations founder Richard Butler.

While the Southern Legal Resource Center is not affiliated with Sons of Confederate Veterans, their missions overlap. "People are being unfairly attacked simply for trying to stick up for a symbol," said Lyons, 51. Questions remain about cross-membership in the Sons and other heritage groups, especially the League of the South. Former Sons "heritage defense" chief Roger McCredie, who now directs the Southern Legal Resource Center, estimated in 2002 that "several thousand" League members also belonged to the Sons.

League of the South founder J. Michael Hill, a proponent of "European" cultural dominance, is as active as ever. In October, he met with Vermonters in a joint conference about secession. And in a 2008 speech, the former history professor exhorted his audience with a blend of populism, separatism and Christianity.

"Your life, your liberty and your property are in the crosshairs of an organized criminal conspiracy that



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

seeks to take them from you," Hill warned.

Those kinds of affiliations cloud the Sons of Confederate Veterans, an organization that still contains thousands of "your basic history buffs," said Heidi Beirich of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Greensboro, N.C., restaurateur Gilbert Jones, who left the Sons a few years ago, is more blunt. "Those guys are in a state of denial about who is in the group," he said. "There's a wide variety, but the extremists tend to take charge."

Editor's Note: Recognizing the controversial nature of the article above, prior to publication I contacted members of the Maryland SCV for comment.

Elliott Cummings, Past Commander of the Maryland Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, responded, "This is old, old news that is constantly being recycled by Mark Potok and Southern Poverty Law Center. The SPLC is well known for its anti Confederate bias. They raise the same tired comments every time there is a Confederate Heritage issue such as the new Confederate Battle Flag being placed on private land near Tampa, Florida.

As to Mr. Hilderman, he left the SCV four years ago and is just still trying to make trouble for an organization to which he does not belong."

Civil War Preservation Trust Aims To Save 173 Acres At Bentonville Battlefield

Dunn, NC Daily Record, June 6, 2008
The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Civil War battlefield land, has announced a fundraising campaign to save 173 acres of hallowed ground at

Bentonville.

Bentonville is frequently referred to as the Confederate army's famed "last stand in the Carolinas." This latest opportunity at the Johnston County battlefield will increase the amount of land protected through CWPT efforts at the site to 953 acres. "We have been exceptionally fortunate to find such tremendous enthusiasm for preservation at Bentonville," said CWPT President James Lighthizer. "The work we have been able to accomplish there is a testament to the dedication and passion of many individuals and state agencies, as well as the generosity of CWPT members."

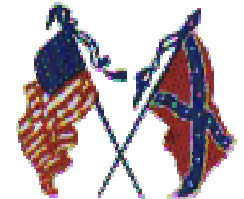
This latest fundraising campaign for Bentonville focuses on the acquisition of six separate tracts of land. Individually the parcels may be small - ranging between 1.6 and 52 acres - but when combined with already preserved land, they make a significant contribution to the understanding of the battle. Targeted parcels saw action during all three days of fighting, March 19-21, 1865. The total purchase price for the acreage comes to \$772,500. However, by securing several matching grants through the federal government's Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program and the State of North Carolina, CWPT and its members are left with just 13 percent of the purchase price to raise. "Finding creative and effective ways to leverage our members' contributions is critical to CWPT's success," said Mr. Lighthizer. "In this instance, we are multiplying each dollar donated more than seven-fold and allowing even the most modest gift to make a real tangible benefit to the preservation of our American heritage."

With its proximity to Interstates 95

and 40, Bentonville has long been eyed by preservationists as a site potentially particularly vulnerable to development, earning it a Priority I, Class A designation by the congressionally-authorized Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. CWPT has been working closely with the Bentonville Battleground Historical Association and the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site to protect land at the site since 1990; however, the key moment for land preservation at Bentonville came in 2003.

After 18 months of negotiation, the partnership was able to protect more than 300 acres of core battlefield, while the North Carolina Heritage Trust acquired 94 additional acres in a separate transaction. Today the state owns more than 1,100 acres. The Battle of Bentonville, fought in the closing days of the war, saw some of the fiercest fighting of the conflict, as Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston took the offensive against Union Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, who had turned north to the Carolinas after capturing Atlanta and creating an epic path of destruction during his infamous March to the Sea. It was the last time a major Confederate army in the field was able to launch an offensive against federal troops.

Fought over three days and ranging across an area of more than 6,000 acres, Bentonville was the single largest battle waged in the Tar Heel State. Combined, the two armies suffered more than 4,500 casualties, with losses particularly heavy in the Confederate ranks. The end of the war came less than a month later with the surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House.



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Biloxi: Jefferson Davis home, Beauvoir, to reopen

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

Associated Press, June 2, 2008

BILOXI, Miss.—More than 150 years of history guide every brush stroke by Philip Ward and Linda Croxson as they dab thin lines of paint on walls and ceilings inside one of Mississippi's most famous landmarks. Their canvas is Beauvoir, the retirement estate of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Their task is to restore painted murals that Hurricane Katrina's flood waters nearly erased.

Ward and Croxson, a husband-and-wife team of painters, always keep a researcher's dossier within reach. Century-old photographs and color charts in the report show them how to painstakingly duplicate the murals as they originally were painted in 1856.

"It's like trying to copy somebody's handwriting," Ward said. "You can do it accurately once. What's hard is doing the same way 10 or 15 times."

Applying a fresh but historically accurate coat of paint to the antebellum home is the final phase of a yearlong, \$4 million renovation of Beauvoir, mostly paid for by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The paint job won't be done for at least eight more months, but that wasn't stopping Beauvoir from celebrating its grand reopening June 3, the 200th anniversary of Davis' birth, when visitors were to be allowed inside the beachfront house for the first time since Katrina.

A popular tourist attraction before Katrina, Beauvoir was one of the few historic structures on Mississippi's Gulf Coast to survive the Aug. 29,

2005, hurricane—albeit with plenty of bumps and bruises.

Storm surge ripped apart the front porch. Eight inches of water flooded the home's living quarters, leaving mold on the walls and peeling away some of the paint on the murals. All told, roughly 30 percent of the house was gone.

Other structures on the 52-acre property, including a guest cottage and gift shop, were a total loss. The storm also washed away about one-third of Beauvoir's artifacts, including some of Davis' manuscripts and about \$250,000 worth of Confederate currency.

"If that storm had lasted another hour, I don't think we would have had anything left," said Richard Forte, Beauvoir's board chairman. "God was looking over this place."

Replacing what Katrina destroyed at the national historic landmark site wasn't an easy endeavor.

Slate for repairing the roof was imported from the same quarry in Wales that supplied some of Beauvoir's original building materials. Heart pine, another original material, was used to replace wooden beams even though it's a rare commodity in the dimensions they needed. Workers used a 19th-century building technique to create interlocking joints for the frame of the house.

Randy McCaffrey, an architect, was in charge of making sure that the project adhered to strict guidelines for preserving Beauvoir's history.

"Our mandate was to maintain as much of the original fabric as possible," McCaffrey said, "and I believe we've achieved that."

Changes are subtle: Crushed limestone replaced oyster shells on the ground underneath the raised house because the latter was prohibitively expensive. Ward and

Croxson are painting over layers of oil paint and distemper with water-resistant acrylics. Workers installed stainless steel braces and reinforcing rods to make Beauvoir more durable.

"The house now is probably 400 times stronger than it was before," Forte said.

Beauvoir was built in 1852 and purchased by Davis in 1879, 14 years after the end of the Civil War. After he died in New Orleans in 1889, his widow sold the property to the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. It was a home for veterans and their widows until 1957.

Harpers Ferry park chief retiring after 29 years

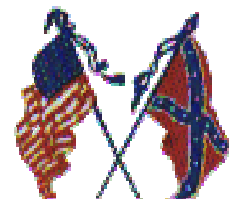
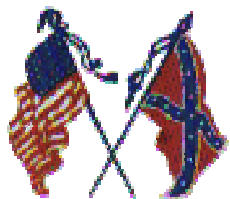
HARPERS FERRY, W.Va. (AP) -- Don Campbell, who won praise for expanding the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park during a 29-year tenure as its superintendent, is retiring in July.

"I leave fulfilled," Campbell said of his planned departure July 3. "It's been a good ride."

The 65-year-old park service veteran brought stability to the Eastern Panhandle park, whose centerpiece is the former federal armory seized by abolitionist John Brown and his followers in 1859. Captured and convicted of treason, Brown was hanged Dec. 2, 1859, in a case that focused national attention on slavery ahead of the Civil War.

Before his arrival, Campbell said the park had been in turmoil after a succession of eight acting superintendents. Under Campbell's oversight, Harpers Ferry became a larger park and came to include several tracts within its boundaries with Civil War-era significance.

Campbell said he could have retired 11 years ago, but decided to stay on to oversee such projects as the



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

purchase of School House Ridge and Murphy's Farm. The expansion projects added 1,240 acres to the park, now totaling 3,745 acres.

Because of the expansions, Campbell said he believes the park, which was brought into the federal park system in 1944, has been able to save significant historical areas.

School House Ridge played a key role in Confederate Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's capture of 12,500 Union troops in 1862. That was the largest single capture of Federal troops during the war.

Campbell has received praise for his leadership.

"He's really been a fixture nationally and locally," said Jefferson County Commissioner Rusty Morgan. "He's done so much to bring attention to our community."

Campbell began with the park service in 1972 as a park planner at Yellowstone National Park. He came to Harpers Ferry after posts in Alaska and at the national park service's office in Washington, D.C.

North Carolina History museum gets noted Civil War flag

WRAL.com, Jun. 18, 2008

RALEIGH, NC - The North Carolina Museum of History has acquired a Confederate battle flag associated with a major turning point of the Civil War – the death of Lt. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson.

The flag was carried by the 18th Regiment North Carolina Troops, which was responsible for the accidental shooting of the Confederate general at Chancellorsville, Va., on May 2, 1863. Severely injured by gunfire, Jackson died a week later of pneumonia.



The regiment's battle flag was captured by Union soldiers during the battle, and the Museum of History never knew of its existence until 1992, when the flag's eventual owner sent museum officials a letter.

Tom Walsh, a New Jersey college professor, loaned the historic banner to the museum in 1993, and it was conserved and appeared in a previous exhibit. Recently, Walsh offered to donate a partial value of the flag to the museum, and the museum purchased the remaining value last month.

The flag is on view in A Call to Arms: North Carolina Military History Gallery.

"The acquisition of this important Civil War artifact is one of the greatest highlights of my 30-year career with the museum," Tom Belton, curator of military history, said in a statement.

The flag acquisition is in anticipation of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Celebration, which will take place from 2011 to 2015. The celebration, sponsored by the state Office of Archives and History, will commemorate the war's 150th anniversary and feature events and activities.

Pemberton Vicksburg HQ opens to public

By EMILY HENRY, Vicksburg Post, June 9, 2008

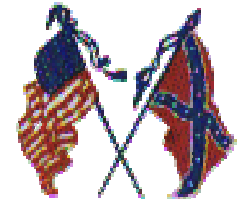
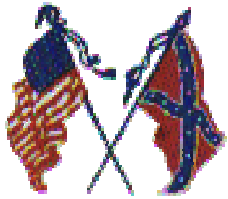
VICKSBURG, Miss. (AP) — The Crawford Street home in which the Civil War defense of Vicksburg was planned has opened to the public but for the first time as a permanent asset of the National Park Service. Pemberton's Headquarters, also known as the Willis-Cowan house, remains a work in progress - but will be open on Mondays from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in June and July. The home, where Confederate Gen. John C. Pemberton also made the decision to surrender Vicksburg to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in July 1863, was a private home before, during and for many years after the war. It was purchased for federal preservation in 2003 and will be operated by the Vicksburg National Military Park.

"I've never been here before," said Harold Lee, a Vicksburg resident since 1974 who also is a licensed park guide.

He arrived early Memorial Day for his eagerly anticipated first glimpse of the house's interior.

"Ever since the National Park Service got it, I've been waiting anxiously," he said.

As post-acquisition funding has been received, the Vicksburg National Military Park has worked to stabilize the house and to prepare it for tourists. Improvements include roof work, exterior and foundation work and installation of fire detection and intrusion systems. Many meetings have been held on what the home should contain to explain and interpret the era to visitors. "There's a lot of work that has been done, and a lot of work that needs to be done," said Rick Martin, chief of



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

operations at the Vicksburg Military Park.

Initially, visitors to the house will see an exhibit on the history of the house, as well as proposed plans for its continuing improvement.

Continued work includes decisions on permanent exhibits, furnishings and paint work, Martin said. The VNMP was able to open the house thanks to federal funding anticipating the celebration of the National Park Service's centennial in 2016. "A lot of people visit the military park but don't realize that there was stuff going on in the city, too. This (house) brings it in," said Martin. Lee agrees. The house will be a major addition to the walking tours Lee and McMillin give of downtown Vicksburg.

"To stand where Pemberton stood ... it's definitely a major moment," Lee said.

Harry McMillin, a licensed tour guide and executive director of the Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park, believes that the home will bring awareness to visitors.

"The most significant thing is the fact that this was where Pemberton made the decision to surrender," McMillin said. "I think that anything that adds to that knowledge improves the visitors' awareness, and to come into that room does that."

Manassas National Battlefield Park gets new superintendent

Associated Press, June 25, 2008
MANASSAS, Va. - The Manassas National Battlefield Park has a new superintendent.

The National Park Service said Monday that Ed W. Clark of Roanoke has been named to the position. Clark has worked for the park service for 21 years and has

served as the deputy chief ranger at Shenandoah National Park. The park in Manassas, Va., is the site of two major Civil War battles in 1861 and 1862 and covers 5,100 acres. According to the park service, it has an annual budget of \$2.7 million. Clark says he's looking forward to preparing for the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in 2011.

Group Hopes to Bring Lincoln Collection to Washington

By Jacqueline Trescott, Washington Post, June 25, 2008

Four major Washington institutions are jointly pursuing an extensive collection of materials related to Abraham Lincoln and his times with hopes of bringing it to the capital.

The Library of Congress, the National Museum of American History, Ford's Theatre and President Lincoln's Cottage have formed a partnership to obtain the collection of the privately owned Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Ind. The museum is closing next week after 77 years of operation. The Fort Wayne museum was suffering from a lack of visibility and attendance, said Annette Moser, a spokeswoman for Lincoln Financial Group, the company that runs the foundation that owns the museum.

"The Lincoln Financial board decided they really wanted to make the collection more visible to a greater number of people. With the bicentennial of [Lincoln's birth] next year, it would be a great way of celebrating by gifting the collection," Moser said.

The foundation decided to donate the artifacts to public-spirited organizations and has received proposals from about 40 parties. The decision will be made by January.

Washington "is a natural place" for the museum's collection, said John Sellers, a Lincoln specialist at the Library of Congress. "It is where Lincoln became famous and made his mark. It is a natural place because the assassination happened here. It is a natural place because of the wealth of material related to Lincoln and the assassination."

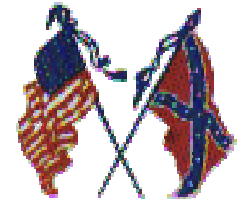
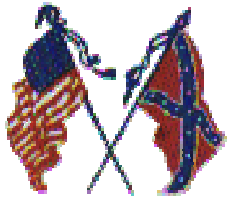
"There really isn't any group that can match the visitorship and financial stability of the Washington group," Sellers said.

The foundation board plans to narrow the proposals in the fall, invite the finalists to meet with the curators in Fort Wayne, and then make site visits to the competing groups. Moser declined to talk about the applicants. "They ranged from the small, not-for-profit institutions who are interested in one or two items to the nationally known institutions," she said.

The museum's collection includes a signed copy of the Emancipation Proclamation and a signed copy of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in the United States. The museum has a mock office, with an original desk, reading glasses and inkwell. The furniture includes a Gardner Gallery chair, seen in some of the familiar photographs of the president. The museum also owns Lincoln's leather portfolio wallet, a bronze life mask, campaign medals, his shawl and a lock of his hair.

The artifacts include 350 documents signed by Lincoln, as well as thousands of 19th-century prints and photographs, and 18,000 rare books and pamphlets. The collection's value has been estimated at \$20 million.

"The collection is a wonderful resource that has gathered information and files on Abraham Lincoln that will be useful for



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

researchers in generations to come," said Harry R. Rubenstein, the chairman of the division of politics and reform at the American History museum.

For example, "They have copies of every single sermon given in churches the Sunday after Lincoln's assassination," said Paul R. Tetreault, Ford's Theatre's producing director.

The collection is becoming available at a time when both Ford's and the American History Museum are undergoing extensive renovations. The museum is expected to reopen in November. The work at the theater is expected to be complete by February. The cottage, on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home, recently was restored and opened to the public for the first time in February.

The Library of Congress has taken the lead in forming the local partnership. After the Lincoln foundation held an informational meeting in Philadelphia for prospective bidders, the Washington representatives held an impromptu summit on Amtrak. "Everyone saw the advantages of working together. So on the way back we plotted our strategy," Sellers said.

"We believe we would be hard to beat, given the foundation's criteria of visitation, financial ability and the ability to maintain the collection," said Ford's Tetreault.

The manuscript division of the Library of Congress has a vast collection of Lincoln material, including his presidential papers. Other artifacts at the library include the items found in his pockets at the time of his death.

Ford's Theatre, operated by the National Park Service, has preserved the box where Lincoln and his guests were sitting the night of the

assassination. It has John Wilkes Booth's derringer pistol, the clothing worn by Lincoln that night and the hoods placed over the co-conspirators at their hanging.

Artifacts at the history museum include the top hat Lincoln was wearing the night of his assassination, his patent model of a device for raising boats off sandbars, the brass inkstand used to draft the Emancipation Proclamation, and the cup he used just before going to Ford's Theatre. "They have the inkwell used at the signing of the Emancipation," Rubenstein said. "Some of these items will be reunited for the first time since the 1860s."

Stolen Jefferson Davis Park sign ends up in creek

By SCOTT HEWITT, The Columbian, June 12, 2008

Even when he's all wet, he looks so darned ... rebellious.

The 4-by-8-foot Jefferson Davis Park sign that was stolen recently from a private park near Ridgefield turned up Wednesday afternoon when Larry Clement walked out his back door and looked down on Salmon Creek.

Clement, who lives on dead-end Northeast 121st Street — just yards east of the Northeast Highway 99 bridge that's being replaced — spotted the stoic visage of Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, peeking over the Salmon Creek water line, trapped by a logjam.

"It's sitting there, waiting for someone to come get it," Clement said. "It looks like it floated down the creek. Somebody must have dumped it in the creek upstream and it got this far and got stuck."

The Columbian contacted Brent Jacobs, mastermind of the Jefferson

Davis Park and Oregon division commander for the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

"I thought it would turn up," he said. "I think it was just a prank by some really ignorant people. I'm not specifying who, because I have no clue."

He said he hasn't replaced the sign at quarter-acre Jefferson Davis Park, a private parcel established last year by the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. No other damage was done to the park, and a Confederate flag flying there was untouched.

"We're waiting for Clark Public Utilities to put in some streetlights and security lights," said Jacobs, whose great-great-grandfather fought for the South in the Civil War.

"They'll be replaced as often as they're taken," he said of mischief he expects. "We had hoped people would just show some respect for history and private property."



Photo courtesy The Columbian