



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

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### Governor Bestows Development Grant on New Gettysburg Visitor Center

Aug. 20, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- He may not look much like Santa Claus, but Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell came bearing gifts when he and Community and Economic Development Secretary Dennis Yablonsky presented checks totaling \$15 million for economic-development projects during a visit earlier this week to Gettysburg in Adams County.

"Funding for these projects is part of my ongoing commitment to change how we do business in Pennsylvania," said Rendell in a brief address. "Through bipartisan efforts, our goal from the beginning has been to develop an economic-stimulus plan that will create jobs, retain talent, jumpstart the economy and position Pennsylvania for success in the 21st century. Today, we put this plan to work right here in Gettysburg." Rendell presented \$10 million in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RCAP) funds for the construction of a new Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center. The new building will orient visitors to the park and Gettysburg and host various exhibits on the Civil War, according to a news release from prnewswire.com. The new facility will feature the massive museum collection of Civil War and Gettysburg artifacts, and house the fully restored Gettysburg Cyclorama. The building will also meet the need for additional space for offices, museum collections, park archives and the library. The new museum and visitor center will also include a food service area,

expanded book and museum store, and other amenities for visitors. The project is anticipated to create 40 jobs in the Gettysburg community. The new Visitor Center, to be located on Hunt Avenue south of the existing center and Cyclorama building, is being constructed as a "public-private partnership" with fundraising currently under way. The majority of the projected \$95 million cost is being raised from private and corporate donations, although Congress has approved an appropriation of \$9 million to help with costs of restoration on the Cyclorama painting.

Groundbreaking for the new center, originally projected to take place this fall, has been pushed back and is now set for the spring of 2005. Fundraising is being carried out by the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation, whose web address is: [gettysburgfoundation.org](http://gettysburgfoundation.org) Another check, for \$5 million from the RACP funds, will be used for the renovation and restoration of another historic structure of a somewhat later era, the Gettysburg Majestic Theater, built in 1925. The renovations will include expansion of lobby and backstage facilities to meet contemporary patron and production requirements, and the addition of a smaller theater for the multi-purpose use of movies, lectures, small ensemble concerts, black-box theater, community rehearsal space and educational programs for students and the general public. The fully renovated theater will re-open in time for its 80th anniversary on Nov. 14, 2005.

RACP is a Commonwealth grant program administered by the Office of the Budget for the acquisition and construction of regional economic,

cultural, civic, and historical improvement projects.

### Army Military History Institute Reopens in Carlisle

Aug. 4, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- The brand new state-of-the-art building of the US Army Military History Institute opened its doors in Carlisle, Pennsylvania Monday morning to find two patrons waiting outside when the doors were unlocked.

The facility had been closed since early May as archival materials were moved from the old building to the new one, officials said. Summer is the prime time for usage of the facility since many patrons are either students or professors.

"The academic summer is primetime for us," Richard Sommers, chief of patron services for MHI, told the Carlisle Sentinel. "That's when professors and graduate students are off campus. ... I would anticipate that this August would be even busier than usual because we're compressing four months into one month."

Construction on the new \$13.4 million facility began in 2002. The former MHI location was at Upton Hall on the barracks and the new facility is located off Army Heritage Drive in Middlesex Township.

The move away from an army base was a big improvement, many patrons told the Sentinel, since passing through security at a military facility was somewhat arduous. New security procedures are those appropriate for a building holding historical documents instead. Many users come to Carlisle to track the histories of individual soldiers,



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often for genealogical purposes. Others are studying aspects of the history of the Army as a whole, as one man was researching the formation of the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. The archives holds more than 11 million pieces of historical material, according to their website. For historian Sommers, an employee at MHI for the past 34 years, Monday marked a new chapter in the history institute's history.

"I think this is a very important undertaking — the flagship building for the new Army Heritage and Education Center," he told the Sentinel.

The new facility is also expected to draw many more visitors than the previous institute, especially once other components of AHEC are up and running.

"There have been many new hires because of the new facility. My staff is in the process of growing from about 9 to 17," Sommers says. By the time the museum is completed, MHI's civilian employee base will have more than doubled. Before AHEC, MHI employed 29 people. To operate smoothly in a few years they will need 77, Lynch says. Currently 52 civilians and three military personnel make up the staff at the research facility. The Military History Institute is open 9 a. m to 4:45 p.m. Monday-Friday. Visitors need photo identification to use the research facility. The center's website is at

[www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec](http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec)

### Development Situation Looks Grim for Brandy Station

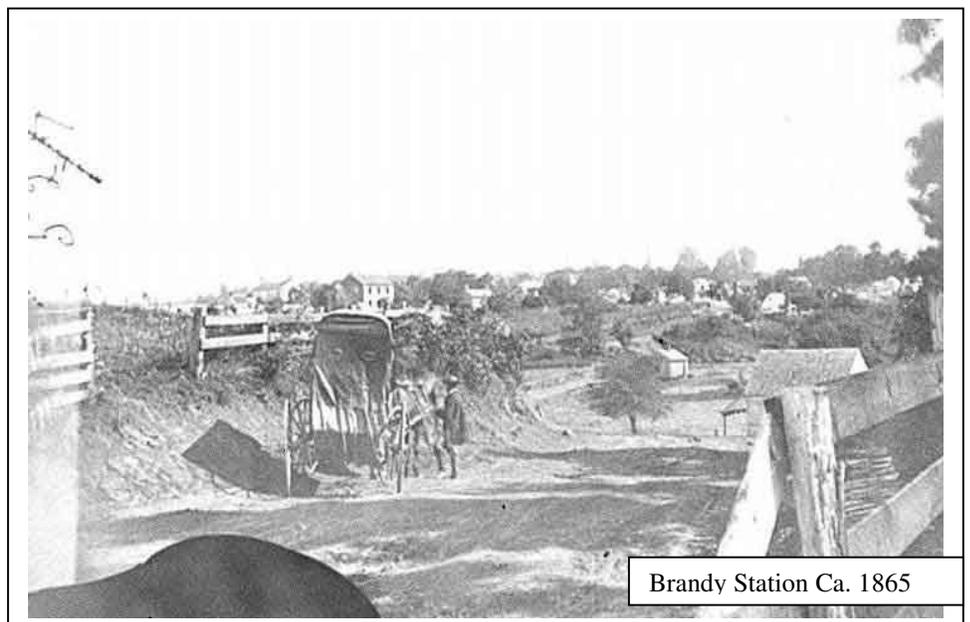
Aug. 24, 2004 —Courtesy CWI Premium- Preservationists have fought off more attempts at development on the Brandy Station battlefield than Jeb Stuart fought cavalymen, but the latest assault on Fleetwood Hill may be too strong to be held off.

A company called Golden Oaks Construction received a favorable decision from the Culpeper County Board of Zoning Appeals to construct two houses on the property, located just across the street from Brandy Station's famous "Graffiti House." Brandy Station Foundation officials sounded grim in discussing the situation, the Culpeper Star-Exponent reported.

"Almost everybody has stated that morally, historically and preservationalist-wise, we're probably correct," Brandy Station Foundation

Vice President James Flanagan said. "But legally, to the letter of the law, we're probably incorrect." The land in question was zoned for residential use in 1989, making the plan to build two homes on the 18-acre parcel, with six more to follow, legal. John Foote, an attorney representing the Jeffersonton-based construction company argued that Thursday night, and Culpeper County Attorney Dave Maddox and a lawyer representing the Culpeper Board of Zoning Appeals both concurred. Local attorney Ed Gentry, arguing for the preservationists, had hoped to persuade the BZA to overturn the approval for the development by citing state laws that require historically valuable land to be preserved.

Wayne Stillwell owned the sliver of land between Fleetwood Heights Road and U.S. 29 before selling it to Golden Oaks. He told the board at the meeting last week that he offered the land to the BSF prior to selling to Golden Oaks, but they "did not come



Brandy Station Ca. 1865



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up with the green."

Stillwell did not mention what price he had asked the nonprofit group to pay for his land. The foundation has also made a bid on the entire property owned by Golden Oaks, which it is said would provide the contractor with a 20 percent profit.

Golden Oaks will wait on whatever subsequent appeals the Brandy Station Foundation plans to file, according to Foote, before beginning construction. In the mean time, Foote said the group will anticipate an appeal of the board's decision. Flanagan said the BSF will meet again with Gentry and examine its options. In taking what he called "the moral and historical stand," Flanagan said BSF hopes they can still prevent the development from becoming reality.

"The soldiers from both sides that died there, they can't speak for themselves," he said. "Does anyone care about them?"

The Battle of Brandy Station took place on June 9, 1863, a precursor to the Gettysburg campaign. With nearly 10,000 cavalymen engaged on each side of the fight, it is one of the largest cavalry battles ever fought in North America.

Although considered a Confederate victory since the Union forces were the first to withdraw from the field, the battle marked the coming of age of the Federal cavalry, which up to that point had been regularly embarrassed by the Southern horsemen.

The Graffiti House, which was at the field at the time of the battle, was used as a hospital for the wounded and place of confinement for prisoners. The prisoners passed the time by writing their names, regiments and other notes on the

walls of the second floor of the structure.

### Gettysburg Horse Trails Get Boost From Donation

Aug. 12, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- There are people whose only lifetime experience on horseback has been a ride on the equestrian trails at Gettysburg. While some climb down from the saddle wishing nothing more than to never go through it again, others find themselves frustrated that the number of trails and parts of the park open to horses is so limited.

The situation is about to improve, at least for members of the latter group. A local group of horseback enthusiasts in the southern Pennsylvania-northern Maryland area has put together an impressive donation to expand and improve the areas open to riding. The Gettysburg Equestrian Historical Society has donated \$10,000 to Gettysburg National Military Park for maintenance and necessary improvements on the horse trail system on the Gettysburg battlefield. The National Park Service has used the funds to purchase a Kubota work site utility vehicle needed for horse trail work. A ceremony to accept the donation and the new utility vehicle was held at the Society's August 10th meeting.

"Gettysburg Equestrian Historical Society's contribution is sincerely appreciated as sufficient funds are not always available to accomplish many vital projects," said Superintendent John A. Latschar. "Sometimes it is only through these thoughtful donations that we are able to make needed improvements." The new horse trails will follow historic lanes, roads, fences, and

walls, contributing to the park's battlefield rehabilitation goals to restore Gettysburg's historic integrity, enhance visitor opportunities and understanding of the battlefield, and create a sustainable historic environment by improving wetlands, water quality and wildlife habitat. The Equestrian Society has been in existence for ten years and was established to raise funds for and assist in the maintenance and preservation of the horse trail system on the Gettysburg battlefield. The Society participates in the park's Adopt-a-Position program, providing volunteers to maintain and improve horse trails in the park. Gettysburg National Military Park's improved trail system will offer more interpretive and educational opportunities for park visitors, public affairs officer Katie Lawhon said in a press release.

### Shenandoah Group Celebrates Land Purchase, Roadside Marker Dedication

Aug. 18, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- A 100-acre parcel of land in Winchester purchased recently by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation will link two portions of a battlefield that saw some of the heaviest fighting in the Valley campaign of the Civil War. The purchase brings the foundation's holdings at the site to more than 350 acres - and will allow the SVBF to better tell the story of the battle that was the opening salvo in Union Gen. Philip Sheridan's Shenandoah Campaign.

"The Battlefields Foundation is extremely pleased to be able to protect this important parcel and to



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soon add it to the interpreted landscape at Third Winchester," foundation chairman Dan Stickley Jr. said.

"Until now, the story of this battle has largely been untold except in the history books. Together with our partners, we look forward to enabling visitors to experience the compelling story this land has to tell," Stickley said.

The battle - known to history as the Third Battle of Winchester - was fought on Sept. 19, 1864. Sheridan's defeat of Confederate forces pushed Gen. Jubal Early further south and gave Sheridan the ability to begin to destroy the Valley's agricultural power that was the base of power for rebel Gen. Robert E. Lee. The battlefield is one of 45 sites in the nation ranked A in military importance by the National Park Service's Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. The ranking is based on the battle's role in having a decisive influence on a campaign and a direct impact on the course of the war. The SVBF also announced a press conference to be held at 4:45 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20, at the Carrington Williams Interpretive Site on the Cross Keys Battlefield. Featured speakers will be U.S. Senator George Allen and Dan C. Stickley, Jr. Chair, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation.

The purpose of the event will be to dedicate the new highway signs the group has arranged to have placed at important Civil War sites in their territory.

The markers will be standard brown attraction signs and will have National Historic District logo and text: "entering Shenandoah Battlefields National Historic District". Through the end of September, the signs will be installed at every major highway

and primary road entrance into the eight-county National Historic District, including Interstates 81, 66 and 64, U.S. Rts 11 and 50 and Va. Rts. 7, 522, 33, 340, 55 and 211. Signs are first part of District wayfinding system to guide visitors to the battlefields and related historic sites that tell the Valley's Civil War story. In preparation for the installation of the signs, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF)—the non-profit management entity for the National Historic District—has been training tourism and hospitality personnel to help them answer visitor questions about the National Historic District. The SVBF is planning a weekend of observances to mark the 140th anniversary of the battle next month. More information on the events on the schedule is available at [ShenandoahAtWar.org/events](http://ShenandoahAtWar.org/events).

### Virginia County Votes Funding for Reenactors for History Promotion

Aug. 23, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- When the Battle of Stanardsville is recreated in Greene County, Virginia next month, it will be in part with the direct assistance of the county government. The amount, although small, is being offered to help the organizers stimulate the local economy.

"We stepped up to the plate after we did research on these events," Andy Hagy, the head of the county's Economic Development Authority, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported. "It will help bring additional visitors who will spend the night, buy gas, go to a restaurant and leave that money in the county. . . . It also markets the county for new businesses. It

registers in the visitors' minds." The county's gesture is unusual even in Virginia, a hotbed of both reenacting fervor and Civil War sites on which to practice it. The events are usually run by private citizens or companies so the benefits to the local economies have fallen under the radar, officials said.

Martha Steger, director of public relations for the state's Virginia Tourism Corp., said most of the re-enactments are private so "there's no system for reporting numbers." However, Steger said, visitors to the main Civil War battlefields in Virginia topped 1.4 million last year, and the tourism office received 28,000 inquiries about Civil War activities in Virginia so far this year. "I think that's a good gauge of the interest," she said.

Rick Britton, a longtime Civil War re-enactor who will be taking part in the Greene County re-enactment, agreed that the government's contribution was unusual.

"I've been doing this for 25 years, and I've never heard of a county doing this," he said. "I think it's wonderful. . . . It's not just a bunch of weird guys running around anymore. It's become mainstream."

Britton said the re-enactments bring people to areas where they've never been before.

"History sells in Virginia and people are beginning to realize that," he said. "It's good for Virginia, it's good for business."

In addition to the \$5000 direct grant to the event, the county is helping cover other indirect costs for the event, including traffic control, insurance, and even the port-a-potties. The city of Stanardsville is also making a small donation, although the amount was not noted in media accounts.



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The Battle of Stanardsville was a late-war event, taking place on March 1, 1864. Union forces commanded by Gen. George Armstrong Custer were retreating from a battle near Charlottesville when they encountered a brigade of J.E.B. Stuart's Confederate cavalry. The two forces fought at South River, with the battle ending when Custer and his troops retreated and headed for Culpeper.

Some 500 re-enactors are expected to attend on the weekend of Sept. 24-26. The re-enactment site will be on the south side of U.S. 33 in Quinque, near Stanardsville. More information on the re-enactment is available at [GreeneVA.com](http://GreeneVA.com).

### Franklin Mayor Proposes City Purchase of Hated Pizza Hut

Aug. 16, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- It may be the single most hated fast-food store in America: the Pizza Hut built on the corner of Columbia Pike in Franklin with the marker in the parking lot noting the place of death of Confederate Gen. Patrick Cleburne.

In an indication that he may in fact be serious about creating a National Park around Franklin's Civil War history, Franklin Mayor Tom Miller announced late last week that the town is in negotiations with the company's corporate ownership in Wichita, Kansas to buy out the location.

At a meeting Thursday night for residents of Franklin's Third Ward, which includes the restaurant site, Miller said the company was asking \$390,000 for the property. The town has made an offer, the Franklin Review-Appeal reported, but

it did not specify the amount. Any such purchase would be subject to approval by the city board. Franklin's negotiations with Pizza Hut started about three weeks ago, Miller said.

The restaurant is near a site already bought for preservation, the location of the former cotton gin belonging to the Carter family. The modern building on the site is currently rented to a law firm, with the rent being used by the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County to pay the mortgage."

"The Heritage Foundation bought the cotton gin property in the mid-1990s," Mary Pearce, executive director of the foundation, told the Review Appeal. "It's always been the vision of the Carter House Association and the foundation that these parcels could be combined for an interpretive presentation of what was an integral part of the Battle of Franklin." The Pizza Hut and cotton gin land are across Columbia Avenue from the Carter House.

Local real estate broker Dick Sammer of Vision Real Estate is the intermediary for Franklin in its negotiations with Pizza Hut's Dallas office, Miller said.

Pizza Hut is headquartered in Wichita, Kan. The company is a division of Yum! Brands Inc., which also owns Taco Bell and KFC, formerly known as Kentucky Fried Chicken.

In an announcement that provoked both skepticism and enthusiasm last week, Mayor Miller said that he had approached several Washington politicians, including both Tennessee senators and members of the House of Representatives, on the subject of creating a unit of the National Park Service devoted to the Battle of Franklin.

Miller noted that the NPS is currently under a moratorium on adding new parks, meaning that any such project in Franklin would probably be impractical until some point in the future. Those units which have been added have been done as "add-ons" to existing parks, as for instance the Corinth, Mississippi unit which is under the management of Shiloh National Battlefield Park. A challenge for any such project in Franklin would be the fact that those parcels which have been preserved, or could be restored, are scattered around the town and not contiguous. Besides any contributions the city might make, considerable private fundraising would have to be done to acquire ownership of remaining Civil War related sites.

Rod Heller, a descendant of the family which once lived at Carnton Plantation, recently purchased the land now occupied by the adjacent Country Club of Franklin to keep it from development. Heller has said that he does not intend to hold the land indefinitely but would prefer to sell it to the city or a private preservation group.

Miller had proposed that the city sell a municipal bond in the amount of \$10 to buy both the Country Club land and a local horse farm to preserve open space. Negotiations ended up removing the Civil War aspect of the deal and the bond amount was reduced to \$8 million to buy only the farm.