



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

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### Hunley Ballast Tank Excavation Set to Start This Week

Oct. 6, 2003 –Courtesy CWI Premium- For all the genuinely spectacular finds that scientists have made while excavating the Confederate submarine H. L. Hunley, there are still a few questions of some importance that haven't been answered yet. "What made the Hunley sink?" is one of them, and the last place that might hold the answer is going to be excavated soon. When the Hunley was still lying on the ocean floor off Charleston Harbor, divers preparing to raise the sub found mysterious holes in the rear of the boat, in what was presumed to be a ballast tank based on the few existing historical records. It proved to be exactly that, so has been left to last while archaeologists worked on the crew compartment for obvious reasons.

The boat actually has two ballast tanks, one in the front and the other in the rear, allowing water to be let in or pumped out as needed to sink, rise or change the angle of dive. Both will be excavated, to see what there is to be learned from them as well as to allow preservative techniques to be applied to the Hunley's iron hull. Staff archaeologist Harry Pecorelli said that the team expects to gain insight into the sub's construction during this phase of the work and hopefully will pick up some clues about the two largest holes in the sub's hull.

"We're definitely going to learn how the cast iron end pieces fit onto the sub, and we'll get to see the backside of the pump mechanism," Pecorelli told the Charleston Post & Courier. "The biggest feature may be the holes. Two of three holes in the

submarine are on the ballast tanks. We hope that inside we can find clues about what made those holes and when they were made: Was it two or three years after the sub sank or 20 or 30 years?"

The scientists don't really expect to find artifacts inside the tanks, although a possibility exists because there is a gap at the top between the ballast area and the crew compartment.

"These tanks were not really used as a place to store anything," said Pecorelli. "Plus, you would not want something to accidentally block the outflow pipe, making it impossible to pump the water out of the tank. We do hope to learn how the ballast tanks were constructed and how the pumping system worked. For example, there may be internal bulkheads or baffles dividing the ballast tanks. We might also find additional iron ballast weights placed within the tanks to help level the submarine."

In July, a quarter panel in the forward ballast tank was removed in preparation for this excavation phase. One of the major discoveries of the first phase of excavation was the high quality of construction and metallurgy used on the Hunley.

"We will begin by deconcreting [removing mineral deposits from] a quarter plate in the aft ballast tank on the port side. We will try and have this removed in the next two weeks," said Pecorelli."

The recent focus on the Hunley project has been on the forensic investigation of the crewmembers, as scientists began the detailed documentation of each man's remains with the knowledge that they will be interred and inaccessible after April of next year.

The contents of the submarine, including the crew's remains and artifacts ranging from clothing to gold and diamond jewelry, have been well preserved largely due to the vessel being buried relatively quickly in a low oxygen environment.

After the recovery of the vessel in August of 2000, the entire submarine was found to be filled with sediment. Although the sediment appears black to the naked eye, x-rays of the sediment show distinct layers. The Naval Historical Center's staff of archaeologists, of whom Pecorelli is one, is hopeful that these layers, or strata, may provide clues as to how the submarine filled in and why the Hunley never returned after her history-making mission in 1864.

### Deer to be Managed at Gettysburg Again This Year

Sept. 9, 2003 –Courtesy CWI Premium- Although photogenic and beloved by people who have seen the movie "Bambi" too many times, deer are widely detested by Pennsylvanians and others whose usual means of contact is hitting them with their cars, at great expense and frequent damage to life and limb. The absence of predators allows them to breed far beyond the carrying capacity of the land. In national parks they wreak havoc on foliage as well as farm fields both inside and outside government land.

In early October, the National Park Service (NPS) will continue its program of deer management at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, park officials have announced. Gettysburg and Eisenhower national parks are reducing the number of deer in the parks directly by shooting.



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All venison will be donated to area food banks. Hunting is not permitted inside the two parks--only qualified federal employees will take part in the effort to reduce the herd. "Deer management is an unfortunate necessity of preserving the Gettysburg and Eisenhower parks. Intense browsing by high numbers of deer damages the historic landscapes. We need to protect the historic woodlots and the farm fields in order to tell the story of these two parks," said park Superintendent John Latschar.

U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Wildlife Services program will conduct the program under contract with the NPS. Wildlife Services provides federal leadership and expertise to resolve conflicts between people and wildlife. Wildlife Services conducted the Gettysburg deer management program last year and works in all 50 states upon request to help balance the needs of both people and wildlife.

In the last decade, Wildlife Services mission has expanded beyond agricultural damage management to include minimizing wildlife threats to public health and safety, resolving wildlife conflicts in urban areas, protecting private and industrial property, protecting threatened and endangered species, and preserving natural resources.

The deer management program will continue through the end of March. Annual deer reductions will continue from October through March each year, as necessary. A deer reduction community safety committee meets as needed on matters of public safety related to the program. The committee is composed of the local Pennsylvania Game Commission officer, the Chiefs of Police from Gettysburg Borough and Cumberland

Township, the Chairman of the Gettysburg National Military Park Advisory Commission and the park Superintendent, Chief Ranger, and Natural Resource Specialist. In 1995 an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) described and considered a variety of options for meeting park objectives for deer management, including public hunting, relocation, and the use of sterilization and contraception. Hundreds of people participated in the public review of the EIS and many commented on it in writing. The most logical solution, biologically speaking, is the restoration of wolves and other large predators that would keep the deer population under control by natural means. This proving unaccountably unpopular with local residents, the NPS decided to reduce the number of deer in the parks through shooting.

A deer density goal of 25 deer per square mile of forest was established in the EIS. The spring 2003 population estimate determined that the density was 40 deer per square mile of forest.

### **Storm Damage Recovery Work Slowly Clearing Parks**

Sept. 30, 2003 –Courtesy CWI Premium-

Some 350 people from a variety of agencies are helping clean up damage in Virginia, with dozens more doing the same in North Carolina. Gettysburg sent five employees to the cause, and one entire park, Fort Barrancas near Pensacola, Florida, was closed last week so all the rangers there could go help with hurricane recovery efforts on the East Coast.

According to a summary Monday

from the NPS, crews continued to make progress, including one whose members were clearing 100 trees per hour on a section of the Battlefield Tour Road at Yorktown on Friday. Hazard tree removal at the Jamestown Visitor Center began on Saturday and included taking a large tree off the Glass House bathroom. The Glass House was also evaluated for other repairs needed. Crews are also on site at Richmond NB, Peterburg NB and Fredericksville/Spotsylvania NMP, where they continue to make headway on removing fallen trees from roads. The work emphasis there will soon shift from road clearing to trail clearing.

A secure location to store and triage the Jamestown cultural artifact collection has been found, and staff began moving the objects on Saturday. They expect to have this task completed by early this week. The FMSS crew continues to track incident costs and assist parks with condition assessments. That work was expected to be completed Monday.

The team's logistics section has been providing support including providing food and lodging to an additional 350 people, and supporting the incident personnel staged at local facilities near Richmond, Fredericksburg and Petersburg. The incident costs to date are \$563,546.

### **Park Updates**

The following reports were received from parks and regions over the past 24 hours. They are listed from south to north.

**Shenandoah NP** – On Sept. 26, the park reopened additional sections of Skyline Drive and other facilities closed due to Hurricane Isabel. Skyline Drive was reopened from Thornton Gap at Route 211 (milepost



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31.5) to Swift Run Gap at Route 33 (milepost 65.5). On the following day, Skyline Drive reopened from Front Royal at milepost 0 to milepost 5 for daytime driving only. Byrd Visitor Center (milepost 51.0), including most interpretive programs at Big Meadows and Skyland, resumed normal operations on Sept. 26; Big Meadows Campground and Big Meadows Lodge and Wayside also resumed operations. Dickey Ridge Visitor Center reopened for normal operations the morning of Sept 26. Lewis Mountain, South River picnic area and Dickey Ridge picnic area remain closed due to hazardous trees, as do portions of Skyline Drive in the North District and the entire South District. The following trails have been cleared of storm debris and are recommended for hiking: Skyland Area: Passamaquaddy Trail, Millers Head Trail, Stony Man Nature Trail, Crescent Rock Trail, Betty's Rock Trail; Hawksbill Area: Lower Hawksbill Trail, Upper Hawksbill Trail, Salamander Trail; Big Meadows Area: Blackrock Trail, Story of the Forest Nature Trail, Dark Hollow Falls Trail (Note: significant flood impact to tread), Upper Rose River Road, Lewis Fall Trail, Horse Trails in Big Meadows area (Tanners Ridge to Fishers Gap); Old Rag Mountain: Ridge Trail, Saddle Trail. Additional facilities will be opened as conditions warrant. Park visitors are encouraged to call 540-999-3500 for additional information and updates regarding the status of the park or to check the park web site at <http://www.nps.gov/shen>.

**Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania NMP** – Park roads have been substantially cleared of trees. Park staff also attended to another matter of importance. As was previously noted, a falling tree disturbed a grave in the

national cemetery. In a low-key, unpublicized ceremony on Thursday evening, park staff, an American Legion honor guard, a Virginia National Guard chaplain, and a handful of local residents gathered to re-close the grave of Private James Clarey of the 57th New York Infantry. Private Clarey, 32, was one of the first soldiers killed in the Battle of Fredericksburg. The ceremony was led by four of the park's military veterans – Mike Greenfield, Bob McGibbony, Keith Alexander, and Jim Williams – who collectively ensured that Private Clarey is once again at rest, with honor.

**Richmond NB** – Major headway has been made on cleanup of trees throughout the park. The success made in this effort elicited a nice message to the superintendent from a park neighbor: "Thanks so much to you and your staff for taking these trees off my house and fence. I was out of town on business, and when I came home yesterday and saw the wonderful work Treetop Tree Service had done I was amazed and gratified. I have my house and property back! Now I can begin the normal clean-up everyone else is doing. Thank you, thank you!"

Five employees at Gettysburg National Military Park are now in North Carolina and Virginia assisting in the recovery from Hurricane Isabel. Park maintenance employees Darrell Smoker, Tom Myers, Ray Singley and Tim Fazenbaker are at Fort Raleigh, North Carolina, removing downed trees and storm debris and repairing structures affected by water damage.

Three national park units on the coast of North Carolina, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and Cape Lookout National Seashore, remain

closed due storm damage. Teresa Dickinson is in Williamsburg, Virginia, assessing damage to historic structures and visitor facilities at Colonial National Historical Park and other sites, using the park service's new Facility Management Software System.

"One of the greatest strengths of the National Park Service is our staff. During times of crisis, park staff always helps in recovery efforts," said Gettysburg Superintendent John Latschar. "The staff at Gettysburg and Eisenhower are proud to have helped in recovery efforts from September 11th, the Columbia shuttle disaster, forest fires, and other incidents. We want to help re-open these parks for the American public as soon as possible."

### **Collapse Found in Crater Tunnel at Petersburg**

Sept. 16, 2003 –Courtesy CWI Premium- A portion of the tunnel leading to the Crater at Petersburg has suffered a collapse which produced a nearly three foot wide hole at ground level and revealed a small opening into the 1864 excavation itself. A visitor to the park noticed the hole Saturday and reported it to park officials. The tunnel was dug by Union troops, many of whom had been miners in civilian life, who were frustrated by their inability to take the Petersburg defenses by frontal assault. The project created a tunnel 510 feet long with a T shaped extension at the end. The extension was filled with black powder, which was exploded to form the crater.

Petersburg National Battlefield spokesman Jimmy Blankenship said that the collapsed area is some 300 to 350 feet in from the entrance to the tunnel, which is the only part of the



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work that is available for public viewing. The tunnel is about 20 feet under the present-day surface of the ground, and its route is marked at ground level by a concrete walkway. "This isn't a three-foot hole you can look straight down into the tunnel," Blankenship said. "It's three foot across at the top but at the bottom there's a hole maybe big enough to drop a flashlight through into the tunnel itself."

The soil in the area is primarily clay, and prone to poor drainage in times of heavy rainfall which has been the case lately. At present, the area around the hole has been roped off and the hole itself covered with boards. Although a final determination of what to do about the problem will have to be decided by National Park Service archaeologists, Blankenship said that the hole will probably simply be filled in to stabilize it.



The entrance to the Crater. The collapse occurred 300 feet up the path.  
(Photo courtesy [www.civilwaralbum.com/](http://www.civilwaralbum.com/) Jack Snyder)

Park officials noted that visitation at Petersburg has increased lately thanks to the History Channel's presentation of Civil War Combat's episode on the Battle of the Crater. They emphasized the need for visitors to stay on marked, paved trail

areas to avoid putting pressure on the ground that could lead to more collapses of underground works. Several smaller tunnels were dug by Confederate defenders at Petersburg, who had information on what the Union forces were up to. The tunnels have suffered several collapses like the most recent one in the years since 1864, according to reports at [www.richmond.com](http://www.richmond.com). The tunnel entrance was damaged three years ago when a homeless man took shelter in it during a blizzard and set a small fire in an attempt to keep warm. The fire spread to the recreated wooden walls and floor of the tunnel and caused damage which has since been repaired. The tunnel was dug and used by members of the 48th Pennsylvania regiment as they prepared to load four tons of black powder under an area of Confederate defense line known as Elliott's Salient. It took the Pennsylvanians about one month to complete the project, and the powder was set off on July 30, 1864. The assault through the resulting gap was supposed to be carried out by regiments of the US Colored Troops, which had been given special training for the mission. At the last minute, apparently out of concern for an appearance that black troops were being sent on a suicide mission, white troops were ordered to attack instead. The untrained soldiers were not even instructed to go around the edges of the crater formed by the explosion, and charged straight down into it. Unable to climb out of the slippery clay hole, they were slaughtered by Confederate troops rushing to fill the gap in the lines.

Union commander Ulysses S. Grant would refer to the Crater assault as "one of the saddest affairs he had witnessed in the war."

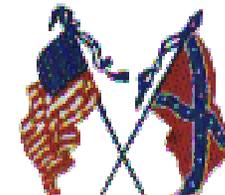
## Famed Irish Brigade Monument Getting Makeover at Gettysburg

Sept. 25, 2003 –Courtesy CWI Premium- It's one of the most famous monuments at Gettysburg National Battlefield Park. People who know nothing else about the battle, who were dragged to the field once in childhood, and are not really sure whether the action took place during the Civil War or the Revolution, know the Irish Brigade monument. It's the one with the dog.

The monument is currently surrounded with scaffolding, and the dog was missing for awhile, causing an outbreak of rumors that the statue had been vandalized or hit by a car. In fact the memorial is just getting a refurbishment, the equivalent of a session at a high-quality spa and free Botox treatments.

The work on the monument is part of a program in which students in the art conservation program at the University of Delaware get practice in their skills and benefit the national park at the same time, according to park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon. The monument is dedicated to the memory of the three regiments made up primarily of Irish soldiers, the 63rd, 69th and 88th New York Infantry Regiments. Together the regiments lost nearly 200 men in the woods adjacent to the Wheatfield, where the monument is placed.

As is often the case in preservation, treatments that were considered state-of-the-art when they were applied decades ago are now looked at in horror by modern workers in the field. A similar dispute has delayed refurbishment of Michelangelo's statue of "David" in Rome, where some fear that even a cleaning could

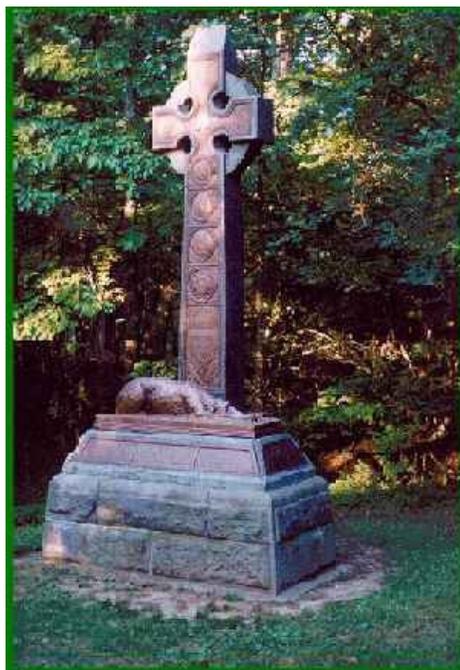


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harm the classic piece more than help it.

There are no arguments that the Irish Brigade monument needs a touch-up. The last preservation effort involved the application of a lacquer called Inctalac in the 1970s.



Dennis Montagna, director of monument research and preservation at the park service's regional office in Philadelphia, told the Hanover Evening Sun that lacquer is difficult to apply and, once used, should have been reapplied every five to 10 years since the monument was coated with it.

The Delaware students will be removing that, along with the dirt and general gunk that accumulates on outdoor art. They have already performed similar Inctalac-removal work on several other monuments and eventually hope to replace it on all those to which it was applied. Once the work is done the color of the monument may be darker than its current light golden hue, resembling

the "Tammany Regiment" American Indian monument near the high water mark, said Montagna. Lacquer was removed from that monument a few years ago.

The detail most in need of work is the inset granite 20-foot tall Celtic cross, officials said. The group of preservationists and student volunteers intend to remove the lacquer, clean the Ayres Avenue monument and apply a non-abrasive wax, Montagna said. While the wax also needs to be reapplied periodically, it is easier to work with and can't damage the underlying material.

### Hiking Trail Planned at Harpers Ferry's Murphy Farm

Oct. 1, 2003 -Courtesy CWI Premium- Want to see the site where Confederate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson pulled off the largest capture of Union troops in the Civil War? Step right this way.... A 1.8 mile hiking trail through the recently acquired Murphy's Farm property will visit the site, along with a spectacular view of the Shenandoah River, park officials announced Monday. The trail will start at the park visitors center at Cavalier Heights and extend through forested areas to reach Murphy's Farm.

The path will use an existing farm lane that winds through an open field. The lane passes by a high point over the Shenandoah River, offering a remarkable view of the river gorge, park Superintendent Donald Campbell told the Hagerstown Herald-Mail.

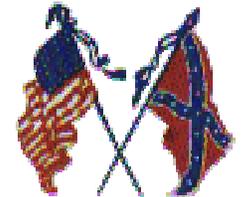
Work on the trail is expected to start in October when a group of young people working with the AmeriCorps program are to cut the portions of the

pathway that need to be cleared. That phase of the operation is expected to take several weeks, Campbell said. Once the trail is in place, interpretive signs including historical photographs, maps and text describing the history of the farm will be installed at points along the path. The trail should be ready for use by winter and the signage should be in place by next spring or summer, Campbell said.

The trail will make a loop around the historic farm, taking hikers by significant sites on the property, said Campbell. John Brown's fort was located on the farm, and in 1906, W.E.B. DuBois and other black leaders made a barefoot pilgrimage across Murphy's Farm in honor of the abolitionist.

Besides the scene of Jackson's capture of the Union troops, Murphy's Farm also includes the site where Gen. A. P. Hill led a flanking maneuver that allowed for the capture, Civil War experts say. The action involved moving 20 pieces of artillery and 3,200 soldiers across the farm.

Murphy's Farm was to be the site of a controversial 188-home subdivision opposed by elements as varied as state environmental agencies, historic preservationists and green-space advocates. The Federal EPA expressed concern that sewage and wastewater runoff from a development on the site would pollute local waterways including the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers. A national nonprofit organization known as The Trust for Public Land eventually succeeded in buying the land from the developer and later turned the property over to the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.



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### Petition Drive Opposes "Enemy Flag" at Burial of CSS Hunley Crewmen

Sept. 15, 2003 –Courtesy CWI Premium-A petition drive launched over the Internet has so far attracted some 1600 signers to oppose the use of American flags as part of the burial ceremonies of the crew of the Confederate submarine CSS H. L. Hunley, scheduled for April 17, 2004, at Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston, South Carolina.

The petition was started at the [www.petitiononline.com](http://www.petitiononline.com) site by Carl McClung, of Texas, who had also sent a letter to Hunley Commission Chairman and South Carolina State Sen. Glenn McConnell opposing the use of US flags in the burial ceremony.

The Hunley Commission, which in the past has faced opposition to any use of Confederate flags in various ceremonies, has said both the U.S. and Confederate flags will be displayed and honored at the burial, and decline to discuss the matter further.

McConnell wrote in a letter to McClung that "the war ended at Appomattox" and that he found it offensive to characterize the U.S. flag as the "eternal enemy of the men of the Hunley."

"To the contrary, under that flag we have reached out to bring them home and pay them respect," McConnell said.

Many signers of the petition indeed seem more interested in larger political and social issues than the burial of long-lost sailors. Phrases like "down with political correctness" and "stop the trampling of Southern heritage" occur frequently.

Roger McCredie, an Asheville, N.C., resident who signed the petition,

agreed the protest is "not about the submarine" but is the manifestation of years of frustration over rampant political correctness that has trampled on Southern heritage.

"It has struck a particular nerve with a lot of people," McCredie said. "Over the past 20 years, there has been a cultural and social battle against all things Confederate. It has become sort of a runaway train, and it's no exaggeration to say millions of Southerners resent the hell out of it." McConnell, who is also a member of the SCV, said he was surprised by the raising of the issue over the burial ceremony.

"It's surprising that this has come up now," McConnell said. "Many of us are in the SCV, and at the beginning of every meeting, we pledge allegiance to the U.S. flag."

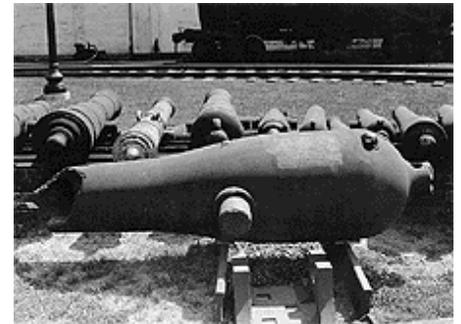
### Big Gun Making Move to Fredericksburg

Sept. 23, 2003 –Courtesy CWI Premium- A genuine, if mute, witness to the first battle between ironclad warships in naval history has gone on display at the Fredericksburg Area Museum. The institution on William Street is playing host to a Dahlgren naval cannon from the CSS Virginia that actually fired on, and was in turn damaged by, the USS Monitor in their historic engagement.

The gun is on loan for three years from its owners, the Naval Surface Warfare Center in King George County, Virginia. That center is home to the Dahlgren Division which, like the gun, is named for the weapon's inventor, Rear Adm. John A. Dahlgren.

Known as the father of American naval ordnance, he designed the 8300 pound gun, considered state of the art in the Civil War period. The huge weapon fired a projectile nine

inches across, and was famous for its accuracy and range. The Virginia, carrying six of them, was expected to be invincible.



Damaged Dahlgren gun from CSS Virginia, Photographed at the Washington Navy Yard, D.C., 27 April 1933.

(Photo courtesy U.S. Navy)

The ship originally known as the USS Merrimack was burned by retreating Federal forces at its moorings when the Gosport Naval Yard on the Elizabeth River was evacuated before it could be seized by the Confederates. The remains of the steam frigate were raised, fortified with two feet of oak and pine and covered with four inches of iron plate. The Merrimack was renamed the CSS Virginia.

On March 8, 1862, the Virginia defeated two Union wooden warships, the USS Congress and the USS Cumberland. But two of the Virginia's 9-inch Dahlgren guns--including the one coming to Fredericksburg--were badly damaged that day, the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Starreported.

The next day, after the inconclusive battle with the Monitor, the ship was taken back to the naval yard for repairs, and its damaged guns were replaced.