



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

### Editor's note:

I want to personally thank the members who shared their interests and expertise at the second annual "Members Show and Tell" during the last meeting of the BCWRT. The exhibits thoroughly demonstrated each person's passion for the Civil War in all its manifestations. It was, in a word, fascinating. Again, thank you.

### Cyclorama Center will close in November

By CHARLES SCHILLINGER  
Hanover Evening Sun, September 29, 2005

The centerpiece to the Gettysburg National Military Park's artifact collection will be pulled from public view at the end of the day Nov. 20. And will not be seen for at least two years.

The \$9 million conservation effort for the Cyclorama painting, "Battle of Gettysburg," started about 18 months ago when the conservation teams took down two large sections.

Since then, 23 conservators have been studying how best to clean the surface grime from 1.4 million square inches of Belgian linen the French-artist Paul Philippoteaux used for his creation.

"Experts told us that unless we repaired the painting within the next few years, we would lose this icon of American heritage forever," said Robert Wilburn, president of the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation.

Conservators have also been looking at how best to present the panoramic artwork in the new museum and visitor center the foundation plans to complete in November 2007.

The Cyclorama Gallery in the new visitor center near the intersection of

Baltimore Pike and Hunt Avenue will display the fully-conserved painting and recreate the original skyline, the canopy and the original three-dimensional diorama that have been missing for more than 40 years.

David Olin, who along with Perry Huston has been leading the conservation effort, said in a recent interview the conservation of the painting would be ready in time for when the entire visitor center opens in 2007.

"There's some work that just can't be done until after (the painting) is installed in the new building," Olin said. "But it will be installed and viewable by the deadline."

The priceless painting is a gem in the park service collection and tells the story of the battle in a way a film could not, said Greg Goodell, an archivist with the park service in Gettysburg,

"The painting immerses (the visitors) in this colossal event on July 3 in a way a film could not do," Goodell said. "It surrounds you, and that's all part of the art form."

The National Park Service acquired the painting in 1942 and had the Cyclorama Center built in 1962 to house the painting. The park service plans to demolish the current visitor buildings once construction is completed on the new center.

### Harrison Ford signs for Civil War thriller

September 22, 2005, Courtesy JAM.com

Harrison Ford has signed on to star in the Civil War thriller "Manhunt," Variety reports.

Ford will play war hero Col. Everton Conger, the leader of the search for former U.S. President Abraham Lincoln's assassin.

The film centres on the tense days after Lincoln's murder in 1865, and will follow Ford's team as they track the mysterious trial which leads them to the killer, John Wilkes Booth.

The film is based on the upcoming novel by James L. Swanson titled "Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer."



The Gettysburg Cyclorama Painting – Courtesy NPS



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### Gettysburg man preserves Battle era barn

By JOSHUA STEWART  
Hanover, PA Evening Sun,  
September 7, 2005

During the battle at the East Cavalry Field, cannon and rifle rounds crashed through the walls of the Rummel barn.

Since acquiring the Gettysburg barn in 1945, the barn's owner, Dan Hoffman, has put something else into the building. Money, and plenty of it.

In the last 55 years, Hoffman has installed new weatherboarding, used jacks to straighten out interior supports, built new walls, applied 10 coats of paint, and has twice replaced parts of the roof on his Pennsylvania barn, at a cost of thousands of dollars.

"It's always something," he said.

Why hasn't he razed the old barn and raised a new one?

"All I'm doing is preserving history," he said. "You don't want to replace a historic barn that has cannon holes on the side and bullet holes on the front."

In July 1997, Hoffman entered into an agreement with the Friends of the National Park at Gettysburg and the Civil War Preservation Trust, two nonprofit organizations. Hoffman received \$365,000. In return, Hoffman, and all future owners, cannot build on the property and must keep all buildings in their current state.

But battle wounds on walls are more than just a reminder of Pennsylvania's history.

Barns "can help to preserve the unique character of rural areas," said Bryan Van Sweden of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

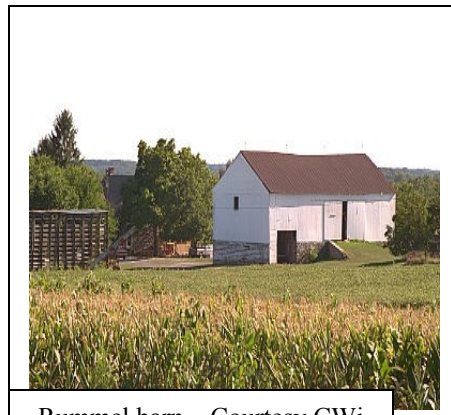
Because barns are an integral symbol of the country's agrarian traditions and a rural vista focal point, it is important to preserve the structures, Van Sweden said.

Van Sweden has worked with Barn Again!, a program created by the Smithsonian Traveling Institution Exhibition Service, to offer ideas on how farmers can convert their historical barns to meet modern agricultural necessities. Often this means converting old barns into structures with a new purpose.

Some families have operated a single farm for 200 years and, out of respect for tradition, want to keep their classic barn intact. But these barns do not always satisfy the demands of modern agriculture. Adapting old barns to meet current needs not only preserves history, but also helps farmers maximize the potential of their farms, Van Sweden said.

Restoring or converting a barn can be more expensive than building a new one, but the historic and cultural values represented by a barn offset the expenses, Van Sweden said.

"Certainly we recommend adapting historic barns," he said.



Rummel barn – Courtesy CWi

Hoffman's barn serves a different purpose from the one for which it was originally intended. Today, the

structure houses bales of hay and farm equipment. It used to house livestock.

"I've seen a combine on the floor of an 18th-century barn," said Bob Ensminger, professor emeritus at Kutztown University.

In addition to local history, barns tell the story of their builders, making the structures important cultural icons, Ensminger said.

Pennsylvania barns have their roots in Germany's Rhine Valley, which was a staging place for immigration to America. A Pennsylvania barn's blueprints are actually Swiss, but Germans bound for eastern Pennsylvania adopted the plans, made them their own and brought them to the New World, Ensminger said.

Pennsylvania barns are identified by their unique two-layer design.

"The crucial idea is that the upper level extends beyond the stable," Ensminger said. The overhang, called a forebay, juts over the lower level. The lower level, which is typically built into a hill, was traditionally reserved for livestock, and the upper level usually contained a granary. The bank, or a ramp, allowed easy access to the upper level.

This style is the quintessential Pennsylvania barn, he said.

As agriculture disappears and changes, a barn faces one of two fates, Ensminger said. Either the barn changes to meet the times, or it is left to slowly fall into disrepair.

Don Delp of Restore 'N More, a company that specializes in the restoration of historical structures, said it is difficult to put a price tag on a typical restoration or conversion. Many factors, such as the number of modifications, the state of the barn and the type of restoration desired, all



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contribute to the amount of work and money that is put into a barn.

One thing is certain, Delp said: "For every development that goes up, we have a small barn going down somewhere."

And that could make historical barns nothing more than historical relics.

"Eventually we are going to see a time when we see a demise of the barn as we know it used in its traditional sense," he said.

### Pohanka Gives to Preservation Groups \$1,000,000

Fredericksburg –Courtesy CWi-Historian and preservationist Brian Pohanka, who passed away this past June, gave in his will \$1,000,000 to two Virginia-based battlefield preservation groups. The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT) and The Richmond Battlefields Association (RBA) both received notification that they are to receive \$500,000 for projects related to battlefield land acquisition from the Pohanka estate.

Pohanka was one of the early pioneers of the modern preservation movement. A founding member of the Association for the Preservation Civil War Sites, Pohanka was often seen at county board meetings in Virginia, railing against local governments' lack of interest in protecting Civil War sites. Seeing lightning development transform the land, Brian had a special concern for the battlefields around Fredericksburg and Richmond.

CVBT's mission is to save many important battlefield parcels at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, The Wilderness, and Spotsylvania. The president of the CVBT, Mike Stevens, said, "With this breathtaking and awe-

inspiring bequest, Brian Pohanka continues to lead and to inspire. We promise to use this extraordinary gift wisely and well, for the preservation of hallowed ground. We are committed to fight the good fight for battlefield preservation, strengthened by his witness and trusting that we will continue to prove worthy of his example. That is our pledge and our promise."



Brian Pohanka, Courtesy Wash. Post

Surprisingly, up until recently, only small parcels of battlefield land at Richmond had been protected. The need to protect many acres around the former Confederate capital compelled local citizens to react to this lack of attention – thus the RBA was born. The president of the RBA, Julie Krick, said, "We are so pleased (but not surprised) that Brian Pohanka specifically remembered Richmond's vulnerable Civil War battlefields when he sat down to plan for the disposal of his estate. The battlefields have lost one of their greatest friends." Krick added, "Brian

was a founding member and was instrumental in the organization's earliest days, providing both support and experience to our fledgling group. His gift will be money well spent. Brian supported the RBA's efforts 100%."

While a donation of this size is a huge financial shot in the arm for both preservation organizations it is unfortunately rare. Hopefully, Brian Pohanka's generosity can help set an example for all people that care about America's history and culture to give substantially to the cause of battlefield preservation. Additionally, soaring real estate costs juxtaposed with increasing population density along the Interstate 95 corridor are making protecting battlefields an increasingly difficult task between Richmond and Washington, DC. Both CVBT and RBA need substantial funding to achieve their goals, and time is running out.

CVBT board member Rob Hodge said, "I wish there were more, many more, Brian Pohanka's in this world; then the *struggle* to save America's vanishing physical history from bulldozers and developers would not be as brutal as it is. He will be sorely missed by so many of us, but his memory lives on. We owe it to him to continue with the fight to protect America's culture."

Stevens added, "Few can match the depth and sincerity of Brian Pohanka's commitment to battlefield preservation. And few can match the effectiveness of his advocacy. Simply put, he was the primary catalyst for the preservation of much hallowed ground, ground that but for him would have been lost forever. His is indeed quite a legacy, and his example is both witness and inspiration to us all." CVBT and RBA have 501(c)3 status, thus donations are tax-deductible.



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Both groups have extremely low administration costs; RBA's being 6% and CVBT's at 2% -- reminding folks of the CVBT motto, "Your green buys green".

To learn more about CVBT and RBA visit their websites at [www.cvbt.org](http://www.cvbt.org) and

### W.Va. battlefield group gets narrow victory

by CANDICE BOSLEY,  
*Hagerstown Herald-Mail,*  
September 9, 2005

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. - They joked that it was simply a skirmish - heated words surrounding an effort to save a battlefield site outside of Shepherdstown.

By a 3-2 vote Thursday, the Jefferson County Commission approved a resolution recognizing the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association's efforts to promote and preserve the site of the Battle of Shepherdstown.

Commissioners Jim Surkamp, Greg Corliss and Rusty Morgan voted for the resolution, while Commissioners Dale Manuel and Jane Tabb voted against it.

The resolution is part of the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association's effort to prevent more than 100 houses from being built on 121 acres that was part of a Civil War battle on Sept. 19 and 20, 1862.

A group of residents have been trying to save the land, known as Faraway Farm, for about a year.

Manuel said he voted against the resolution because it offered no opportunity for comments from the public. He likened it to putting "the cart before the horse."

Tabb expressed concern about a governmental body injecting itself into a land-use issue. She asked

Corliss how he would feel if the commissioners supported a measure to prevent his land from being developed.

Corliss replied that he would wish them the best.

Ed Dunleavy, who lives across from a portion of the farm, has led the effort to save the battlefield.

He said during the meeting that the developer's attorney has called him and discussed the possibility of selling the land to the preservation group. If that happens, he said the group hopes to use federal and state funding to buy it and create a battlefield park.

Already, he said, more than \$1 million in federal funding is available, provided matching funds can be obtained.

Most adjacent landowners support saving the land from development and more than 400 signatures on petitions have been collected, Dunleavy said.

Dunleavy said he did not understand opposition to the resolution, given that the site cannot be preserved unless it is sold to the Preservation Association.

Last month, the county's Board of Zoning Appeals denied a conditional use permit for the subdivision, and a lawsuit filed by the Preservation Association has been put on hold, Dunleavy said.

Asked if the resolution is on the agenda for the current special session of the state Legislature, Dunleavy said he is not sure. Thirteen resolutions are to be discussed, but the topics of the resolutions have not been revealed, he said.

A portion of the six-paragraph resolution recounts the battle itself, which ended with a Confederate victory when Union forces were

repelled. As a result, President Lincoln relieved Gen. George McClellan of command of Union forces. The battle also ended the Maryland Campaign - Gen. Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the north.

The battle was fought from the bluffs of the Potomac River near Pack Horse Ford to what is now Faraway Farm, on Trough Road outside of Shepherdstown. With 600 casualties, it marked the bloodiest battle in what is now West Virginia.

The battle began two days after the Battle of Antietam.

In a letter written Feb. 25, 1863, Confederate Gen. A.P. Hill wrote of the Battle of Shepherdstown, "... a daring charge was made, and the enemy driven pell-mell into the river. Then commenced the most terrible slaughter that this war has yet witnessed. The broad surface of the Potomac was blue with the floating bodies of our foe. But few escaped to tell the tale."

### Gettysburg in Medicine Hat?

An Alberta, Canada man has built what he calls the biggest scale-model of the Civil War battle. Now Stuart Le Crerar is wondering what to do with all 31,512 pieces

By MICHAEL POSNER, Medicine Hat, Alberta Globe, Monday, October 3, 2005

There are hobbies -- and then there are Hobbies.

Stuart Le Crerar's little avocation definitely belongs in the second category.

One fine day in mid-September, the Medicine Hat hotel night manager put the finishing touches on what he calls the world's largest scale-model, historically accurate battlefield -- the U.S. Civil War's Battle of Gettysburg.



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How large is it? Large enough to hold 31,512 pieces (including 30,055 soldiers, 765 horses, 216 artillery pieces, 60 wagons and eight buildings) -- almost all of them hand-painted by Le Crerar.

Large enough to have taken him 5½ years to complete, painting as many as 247 pieces a week, 52 weeks a year, even during his so-called holidays.

Large enough to have spent \$75,000 of his own savings and to have forced him to rent a 1,000-square-foot unit in an industrial park to build the display. The construction process required total dedication, and took a serious physical toll.

"I gave up soccer and darts, and I suffered two heart attacks and a loss of vision," says Le Crerar, 50.

He still has not seen the complete battle scene assembled. His rental space -- at \$565 a month -- is too small to accommodate the 10 tables (nine are two metres by three metres, and one is two metres by five metres) required to lay it all properly out.

"It was simply the challenge of a lifetime," Le Crerar explains of his passion for the Gettysburg project.

"There are a couple of 10,000-piece scale models out there and then I heard about some plan in Germany to add 10,000 pieces. But I thought I could go them one better. . . . People say to me, 'I'd never have the patience to do that.' And I say, 'You would if it was something you really enjoyed doing.' "

Moreover, as Le Crerar notes, there is a strong Canadian connection with Gettysburg. Some 50,000 Canadians (actually pre-Confederation residents of Upper and Lower Canada and the Northwest Territories) fought on that Pennsylvania battlefield.

Le Crerar's wife, Kathy, says she is either "the patient, long-suffering spouse or a little bit crazy."

But having finished his magnum opus, Le Crerar now faces a major problem: what to do with it.

He has tried to interest various historical bodies in buying or subsidizing its maintenance, just as he tried to interest them in funding its construction. Nobody is interested.

"I've been turned down by the city -- I wanted to open a museum here -- the province, the feds, even the Gettysburg Historical Society."



One of Ten tables depicting Gettysburg in Miniature

He also set up a non-profit organization -- the Medicine Hat Miniature Model Association -- to be able to give out tax-deductible receipts. That tactic also failed.

The only element of the project he didn't pay for was the paint, donated by a local manufacturer.

His current plan, he says, is to auction the entire battlefield site on eBay.

Born in Nottingham, England, Le Crerar says he has always been interested in military history. His father was in the Royal Air Force for 51 years.

But he is less keen on building a scale-model of modern military battles.

"Everything now is camouflaged or just grey," he explains. "I like things with colour, like the Battle of Agincourt or Waterloo."

Despite the physical and financial toll it has taken, Le Crerar is proud of his achievement.

"A lot of people thought I was a raving nut case, and this thing has almost killed me. It's costing me all the time, but it does not feel like an albatross. I have persevered. I have done it."

### Museum of the Confederacy out of options

Deficit is \$400,000, administrator says

BY JANET CAGGIANO, Richmond Times-Dispatch, September 28, 2005

The future looks bleak for the Museum and White House of the Confederacy.

Facing a current deficit of about \$400,000, Executive Director Waite Rawls is certain the situation will only get worse.

During his presentation yesterday to a General Assembly subcommittee studying the cost and feasibility of relocating the White House and the 108-year-old museum, Rawls said the historic institution is out of options.

"We either move the White House or consign it to a fate of an alternative use or very few visitors," he said.

Museum officials are considering a move because the White House site is being swallowed up by the expansion of Virginia Commonwealth University.

When audited figures are completed in a few months, Rawls said, they will show a loss of more than \$600,000 for the fiscal year that ended June 30. Should the White House, a National Historic Landmark, stay at 12th and



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East Clay streets, its home since 1818, that deficit is projected to climb to \$761,000 by fiscal year 2008-09. Visitation is projected to fall from 54,000 to 30,000.

Moving the White House and museum to a more accessible venue, one with ample parking and one where synergies exist with neighboring institutions, would increase the visitation forecast to 80,000 for the same period and decrease the deficit to \$8,000, Rawls said.

His first choice for a new home is behind the Science Museum of Virginia. The state-owned land, he said, was at various times the site of a Civil War training camp, hospital and prisoner processing operation.

Moving might prove difficult. The White House cannot relocate without approval from the Richmond Commission of Architectural Review, Nita Parry, the commission's chairwoman, told the subcommittee. That's because the White House site has been designated an Old and Historic District.

"Relocation is an infrequently used option," she said. "There must be absolutely no other alternative."

Subcommittee members want to examine other possibilities. They have yet to hear from the City Council or the mayor.

The subcommittee will hold a public hearing Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. For information, call (804) 786-3591.

### **Funeral Company records excite Virginia Historians**

By Beth Rodriguez, Lynchburg News & Advance, September 12, 2005

A city's history is told not only through how its citizens lived, but also how they died. For that reason, a

"permanent loan" of historical records from Diuguid Funeral Service (the second oldest funeral home in continuous operation in the country) has Old City Cemetery staff excited.

The records are "a complete picture of death in Lynchburg in the 19th century," according to Ted Delaney, archivist and curator of Old City Cemetery.

"What you start to see as you go through these is the history of the funeral industry in America," he explained. "The records ... are very rare and valuable."

The more than 60 volumes were given, on permanent loan, to the Southern Memorial Association (SMA), the nonprofit manager of the cemetery, this past June.

The city of Lynchburg did not keep burial records until 1914, explained cemetery director Jane White, so the Diuguid records may be the only evidence in some cases that an individual was buried in Old City Cemetery.

Delaney said the set includes records dating back to 1820 up through the 1930s.

Delaney said the records are "really account books, as opposed to burial records, but for cemeteries like us, they're equivalent to burial records, because they give you the name of the person who died, and the date."

"It's just incredibly densely packed with information," he said. "Each page has got just hundreds and hundreds of little bits of data that are helpful to researchers and genealogists and scholars of all sorts.

"There are a lot of research dimensions to this collection. You can see how burials change over the years ... (and) the increasing complexity of funerals," in terms of items available and increasing costs.

For example, a March 1894 record of items purchased for the funeral of Civil War hero Gen. Jubal Early shows a cost of \$497 - money spent on the casket, a hack to Spring Hill, pallbearer gloves and decorating the grave - when other entries from the same time show costs of \$15 or \$16, which Delaney said was more typical. Sadder aspects of 19th-century life are also revealed by the records, according to White.

"Another thing that shows up very clearly in the records is (an) enormous number of children," she said.

Although the records, particularly those after 1896, are fairly detailed, what many of them lack are clues as to where in the cemetery individuals are buried.

Unfortunately, the city had "no system in place to record the locations of burials," historically, said Delaney. This lack of information "is a major problem and it's something we'll never be able to remedy," he said.

The shining exceptions are the volumes dedicated to burials of Civil War soldiers. George Diuguid, who ran Diuguid Funeral Service during the Civil War years, kept such detailed records of the soldiers' burials that it "might be said George Diuguid is the unsung hero of the Confederacy," according to White.

Delaney guessed that he was so meticulous with the soldiers' records because Diuguid probably expected people would be coming to claim their loved ones.

"They're so detailed and so accurate," he said.

Burial record information for Civil War soldiers buried at Old City Cemetery is available from the cemetery Web site, [www.gravegarden.org](http://www.gravegarden.org),