



THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

From the Editor:

Last month's speaker, Dennis Frye, was unable to attend the BCWRT meeting due to a death in the family. On behalf of the Officers and members of the Roundtable, I would like to thank Board member Bob Mullauer for stepping in at the last minute to give an outstanding slide show and talk on the Battle of Franklin. This is not the first time that Bob Mullauer or Board Member Bill Priest has stepped up when a speaker has had a last minute emergency that prevented them from attending. So, thanks again Bob, and Bill. You guys are lifesavers.

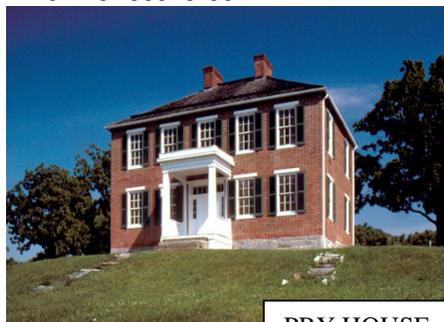
Antietam's Pry House to Become Field Hospital Museum

Oct. 21, 2004 –Courtesy CWI- A collaboration between the National Museum of Civil War Medicine and officials at Antietam National Battlefield is bringing a unique feature to a previously unused gem of the battlefield. The Pry House, best known for its service as headquarters of Union commander Gen. George McClellan, will become the Pry House Field Hospital Museum and Outdoor Educational Center.

The Frederick, MD based Medical Museum will supply artifacts from its collections, Antietam officials said. Portions of the exhibit will be in the Pry House itself and others in a barn on the property, which was also used as a hospital after the ferocious battle.

Plans call for the new facility to open in time for next year's major visitation season, possibly in April. The medical museum has a visitorship of some 35,000 year in their present location, ironically

enough a former factory for the manufacture of coffins in Frederick. That operation will continue unchanged other than that some storage space will be freed up by moving artifacts to the Pry House. Museum of Medicine executive director George C. Wunderlich said that the Pry House exhibit was expected to draw perhaps ten percent of the total visitors to Antietam, which numbers around 300,000 per year. The Pry House size only allows it to accommodate around two busloads of visitors at a time. The entrance to the facility would be off Md. Route 34. Medical Museum officials have signed a one-year agreement with the park service and are negotiating a renewable, five-year deal for the Pry House. The deal includes more than four acres of land, he said. The placement of a medical museum at Antietam is particularly appropriate since Dr. Jonathan Letterman, chief of medical operations for the Army of the Potomac, spent the day of the battle there, directing operations during the bloodiest one-day clash of the Civil War, Wunderlich said. Phillip Pry's prosperous farm and home, which available documents suggest was built around 1852, was taken over by Union commander George McClellan to use as his headquarters during the battle. Gen. Joseph Hooker was brought there for treatment of a minor wound, from which he recovered.



PRY HOUSE

General Israel Richardson, who was wounded in the action at Bloody Lane, was taken to the Pry House where he died in an upstairs bedroom on November 3rd. President Abraham Lincoln visited the Pry house to see the wounded Richardson during his four day visit in early October.

Although the house provided a good overview of the field, McClellan has been criticized for remaining there throughout the battle, giving orders and receiving reports through signal flags and messengers. Military conventions of the day called for commanders to be closer to the action to allow for better control during changing circumstances. After the departure of McClellan and his staff from their home, the Pry family was able to return, only to discover that the products of the entire season, including their crops and livestock had been completely decimated.

As loyal Unionists they were able to seek compensation payment from the Federal Government for the damages, but like most they would not receive any until after the war. The Pry House was acquired by the National Park Service in 1977 but has been closed to the public since that time.

U.S. Monitor Center Breaks Ground

NORFOLK, Va., Oct. 24 PRNewswire -- The Mariners' Museum and NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, today broke ground at the Newport News, Va.-based museum on the USS Monitor Center, a \$30 million state-of-the-art exhibition and conservation facility focused on the famed Civil War



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ironclad. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"The groundbreaking of the USS Monitor Center marks the day this 63,500-square-foot addition becomes a reality," said The Mariners' Museum President and CEO, John B. Hightower.

The USS Monitor Center will be a national authority and repository for the recovered artifacts, and for other materials, research and programming related to the history of the famous USS Monitor that revolutionized naval warfare.

The center will be comprised of a major exhibition, a state-of-the-art conservation facility and a research center. The story of the Confederate ironclad CSS Virginia, which the Monitor engaged in an epic battle off Hampton Roads, Va., on March 9, 1862, will play a major role in the center.

"When completed, the USS Monitor Center will be an exciting and informative destination that will bring the story of this Civil War icon to life, while honoring the memory and dedicated service of the Monitor's officer and crew," said retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "NOAA is proud to join with The Mariners' Museum in breaking ground on the USS Monitor Center."

"The USS Monitor Center exemplifies the goals that are the foundation of the Bush Administration's Preserve America initiative," said John L. Nau, III, chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which helps administer the Preserve America effort. "These goals include establishing successful public-private partnerships, greater shared knowledge about the nation's past,

strengthened regional identities and local pride, and support for the economic vitality of communities."

In 1987, NOAA designated The Mariners' Museum as the repository for artifacts and archives from the USS Monitor. Since then The Mariners' Museum has received more than 1,100 artifacts from the Monitor, including the steam engine, propeller and revolving gun turret.

The Mariners' Museum is conducting a \$30 million capital campaign for the USS Monitor Center. NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program, which manages Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, has provided \$9.5 million in federal funds contributing toward the \$20 million that will be raised from public sources.

The Mariners' Museum is conducting a \$10 million private sector campaign raising funds from corporations, foundations and individuals across the nation. The USS Monitor Center will open on March 9, 2007.

Civil War Soldier Military Records Now All Online

Oct. 6, 2004 -Courtesy CWi- When people take an interest in the Civil War, one of the first questions they usually ask is whether or not an ancestor served in the conflict, and on which side. For those who are not already genealogists, finding the answer, much less any details, can be a considerable challenge. Now buffs, historians and people adding branches to their family trees can now go to a single source to find service records of 6.3 million Union and Confederate soldiers.

Descendants looking for records on sailors, however, are still out of luck as those records are still being worked on.

Completion of a part of the database called the Civil War Soldiers and

Sailors System was announced last week at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., the National Park Service said in a press release. "Never in one place could one get this information so easily," spokesman Gerry Gaumer said. Volunteers from the Mormon Church, Federation of Genealogical Societies and United Daughters of the Confederacy did the monumental task of assembling information from disparate sources and entering it at www.civilwar.nps.gov.

"It's like a concordance to the Scriptures," said Jerry Kowalski, president of the Chicago Civil War Round Table. "This will be one of the best tools available for people studying their own lineage and genealogy."

Gail Santroch, president of the Chicago Genealogical Society, said, "It saves you the trouble of going to the National Archives and looking on the microfilm."

"This is wonderfully valuable," Theodore Karamanski, a Civil War expert at Loyola University Chicago told the Chicago Sun-Times. "The service record is the first thing you look at."

Karamanski demonstrated the workings of the system by clicking on a listing of Medal of Honor winners broken down by state, and within seconds turned up one Cpl. James Warden of Lemont, who on May 22, 1863, at Vicksburg displayed "gallantry in the charge of the volunteer storming party."

The database lists 370,624 Union soldiers from Illinois, exceeded only by the then-much more populous states of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Historians generally accept 3.5 million as the number who served in the War Between the States. Why does the



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database contain 6.3 million soldiers? "There are duplicates, mostly because of men who served in more than one unit and name-spelling variations," said John Peterson of the National Park Service. The service manages 13 national cemeteries related to Civil War battlegrounds. Thousands of names of sailors remain to be added. Graduate students at Howard University in the nation's capital are pulling them together now.

Harpers Ferry Announces New Chief Ranger

Oct. 5, 2004 –Courtesy CWI- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park has announced the appointment of Jennifer Flynn as the new Chief Ranger at the park. The 13 year veteran of National Park Service work started out as a fee collector at Cape Cod National Seashore.

Flynn has worked since as a wildland firefighter, structural firefighter, medic, technical rescue worker and law enforcement officer. Her last assignment was as a backcountry ranger at Grand Canyon National Park.

"I love my job," Flynn said, but said she was delighted to come to a position a little less physically stressful than Grand Canyon was. "There was always something going on there," park officials quoted Flynn in a press release. "I usually got called in on my days off and often was called back to work after my shift. It's a very busy place." The native of western Massachusetts said that her family situation made the Harpers Ferry position particularly attractive.

"Once my children were born things changed," she said, "but the work [at Grand Canyon] stayed the same. When I found out about the job at

Harpers Ferry I was very excited. This is a great park with complexities all its own."

Noting that her husband is a law enforcement ranger at Manassas Battlefield, and that both their families live in the East, Flynn added that they wanted to be part of a community and a neighborhood for their children. Flynn also noted that despite her title she does not consider her job primarily one of law enforcement. "I'm not a police officer," she said, "I'm a park ranger who is involved in protection. We use many ways to protect the resources and people in National Parks, including education, rescue, and sometimes law enforcement action."

Two Additional Properties Protected Near South Mountain Battlefield

Sept. 9, 2004 –Courtesy CWI Premium- A parcel of farmland and a historic black church near the South Mountain battlefield will now be preserved thanks to a Maryland state grant, Gov. Robert Ehrlich's office announced earlier this week. Funding for the grant came from the state's Transportation Enhancement Program, which is federal money administered by the Maryland State Highway Administration.

"As part of the ongoing effort to preserve Civil War sites in Maryland, more than 6,000 acres of South Mountain and the Rural Legacy land have been permanently protected," the governor's office said in a press release, the Hagerstown Herald-Mail reported.

The larger site, at 31 acres, is known as the Robertson property. The other is the Ceres Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Both parcels will now be included in the South

Mountain State Park land inventory, Ehrlich said.

The state's Rural Legacy Program was set up to help fund the preservation of farms, forests and open spaces, according to the Department of Natural Resources' Web site. Coordination with Civil War preservation groups has led to much of the saved property also having historic importance, making the same funding go twice as far. The Ceres Bethel AME church was built in 1870 by freed slaves, historians note.

Vandals and nearly 20 years of neglect had nearly destroyed the two-room, wood-frame church just outside the Frederick County hamlet of Burkittsville when an even worse fate overtook it. The church was used as a setting in the movie "The Blair Witch Project," and it became an instant lure for late-night lurkers. "Every six months, I put up new plywood, and every six months they come back again," said Rev. Richard Dyson of the Mount Zion AME Church in nearby Knoxville. "We've been worried that someone will set fire to the place."

In 2003 the non-profit Frederick County Landmarks Foundation placed Ceres Bethel AME on its annual list of seven "most endangered sites," hoping to draw attention to its dilapidated condition. An Associated Press story from the time said the church, which closed in 1984, attracted "late-night partygoers, thrill-seekers and movie devotees who have splashed the interior with graffiti, smashed the altar, repeatedly tore protective plywood off the doors and windows, and littered the inside with beer cans, candles and even a Ouija board."



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Gettysburg Wills House to Auction Off Lincoln Memorabilia

Oct. 18, 2004 –Courtesy CWi- Not everything in the Wills House in Gettysburg is related to Abraham Lincoln's stay in the residence the night before he delivered the Gettysburg Address. Not all of the objects are connected to Lincoln, while some which are connected to Lincoln have nothing to do with Gettysburg. Others are just curiosities which collect in historic places over time.

Now the objects which don't fit in with the houses' mission are going on the auction block. The house is facing a double whammy of bills both to preserve the aging physical plant and to modify it to modern standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The auction will include several busts of Lincoln, all created years after his 1863 visit to the home of attorney David Wills. Also to be sold are several pieces of furniture which, while antique, are either not original to the period or the property, and various and sundry items such as stamps and coins.

The sale is being conducted at the house by Redding Auction Service on behalf of the Borough of Gettysburg at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20. The borough owned the house before deciding the cost of renovations exceeded the resources available and sold it to the NPS for addition to the Gettysburg National Park. Walter Powell, Gettysburg historic preservation officer, told the Hanover Evening Sun that a list of items to be auctioned will be available for a fee after Oct. 21.

Some items which do meet the criteria of association with Lincoln's visit to deliver the address are being donated by the borough to the NPS,

Powell said, as are certain items donated by the Wills' descendants. One of the, shall we say, odder items to be included in the auction is a "copy" of the Gettysburg Address carved from wood. In the years after Lincoln's assassination many people made objects in his memory which today fall under the heading of folk art.

Serious collectors will probably be more interested in two Lincoln autographs to be included in the auction. Although authenticated as being in his hand, the signatures are not related to the Gettysburg Address, the town itself or the visit. Presidents, particularly in the pre-typewriter and auto-pen age routinely signed thousands of pieces of paper. Altogether, the items the borough will sell - including Lincoln busts, stamps and coins and two Lincoln autographs not related to Gettysburg - were appraised at \$35,000, said Kay Jorgensen, editor of *The Civil War News*. As with any auction, the amount raised by the sale may be more or less than that figure. The auction is likely to be well attended due to its date being in close proximity to the annual Remembrance Day festivities which mark the anniversary of the delivery of the Gettysburg Address. Despite the frequently unpredictable weather in south central Pennsylvania in late November, the occasion usually attracts several thousand people to the town.

The proposed renovation of the house and restoration of its 1863 appearance were estimated by Gettysburg borough at some \$6.2 million. The NPS has not announced an estimate of their own on the matter, or how the perpetually under-funded park will handle the expense.

74th PA Monument Fixed!

On October 27, 2004, Gettysburg National Military Park reset the 74th Pennsylvania monument along West Howard Avenue on the Gettysburg battlefield after it had been severely damaged by a wayward driver's vehicle in November 2003. Pieces of the 116-year-old monument were shipped to Illinois for extensive repairs in a special studio. The cost to repair the monument was \$41,000 and was paid for by the driver's insurance company.



Left to right, Andrzej Dajnowski, of Conservation of Sculpture & Objects Studio, Inc., of Forest Park Illinois, along with Gettysburg National Military Park staff Vic Gavin and Gary Currens, lower the newly-repaired 74th Pennsylvania monument into position. Photo courtesy of Dru Neil, Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg.

New book on Civil War Examines History of Maryland CSA unit

By Jim McCloskey/staff
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The American Civil War has had many different names throughout the years. It has been called the War



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Between the States, the War of Northern Aggression, the War of the Rebellion, the Late Unpleasantness, the Lost Cause, and the Brother's War. It is the latter characterization, though, that seems to be the appropriate moniker, when one examines the conflict from a Marylander's perspective.

Maryland found itself between the proverbial "rock and a hard place." Though never officially aligned with the Confederacy, many of its inhabitants felt strong ties with their Southern neighbors, while just as many were strong Unionists.

To illustrate this point, during the war's most epic battle, The First Maryland Confederate Battalion found itself on the wooded slopes of Gettysburg's Culp's Hill. Pitted against them were men in blue from the Federal First Maryland Eastern Shore Regiment. During the bloody struggle for the tree-covered eminence, the troops in grey and butternut were mowed down like wheat, their ranks suffering nearly 50 percent casualties. Lamenting the carnage of fellow Marylanders, a Federal officer later remarked how the victors sorrowfully gathered up many old friends and acquaintances and had them tenderly cared for. Included among the honored Confederates was the canine mascot, Grace, who was killed on the field as well.

The story of the First Maryland, CSA has been told before. One of the earliest authors to put pen to paper was Col. Bradley T. Johnson, who published his recollections, "Memoirs of the First Maryland Regiment" in the Southern Historical Society Papers in 1882. George Wilson Booth followed in 1898 with, "1st Maryland Infantry, CSA, 'Personal Reminiscences of a Maryland Soldier, 1861-1865.'" It is

recognized as one of the finest Confederate first-person works ever written. Not to take anything away from these classic treatments, but the definitive study on this great Confederate fighting force has now been written by a Rockbridge County historian.

The noted author of the Virginia Regimental History series, Robert J. Driver, has devoted his literary talents to document the accomplishments of one of the most prominent Maryland regiments to come out of the war. In his words, "it was a book that needed to be written."

First and Second Maryland Infantry, CSA, is regimental history the way it is supposed to be written. Like a good detective, Driver has done his research, having unearthed obscure publications and mining a treasure trove of archival material to put together a very detailed and informative book. Though the book is rich in detail, it is no dry dissertation. Driver brings the Marylanders to life, making good use of the soldiers' own words by sharing their thoughts and feelings through diaries that they kept on the march and in camp.

"This was a very educated group of individuals who left behind diaries and letters that chronicled their experiences," Driver said. When asked why he decided to set his sights north of the Potomac for his current book, the answer was simple, "with the exception of a few regiments, the Virginia series is complete." Driver added, "In my research for one of my earlier books, The 1st and 2nd Maryland Cavalry, CSA, I found that their ranks were filled by many individuals who had earlier been members of the 1st Maryland Infantry, CSA!"

The First Maryland Infantry, CSA was organized at Harper's Ferry in the first

rush to arms and served at the First Battle of Bull Run in July, 1861. The following spring they were part of the legendary Valley Campaign of Gen. Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson's army, and fought at Harrisonburg, Cross Keys, Front Royal and Winchester, routing and demoralizing their Federal foes.

During the scrap at Front Royal in May of 1862, the 1st Maryland CSA were surprised to find themselves trading exchanges of fire with the 1st Maryland (Union). A Confederate Marylander got the drop on a blue-clad infantryman, and the Federal threw up his hands. "Well by jings, if it ain't brother Jim! Come on Jim and keep pace with me." The rebel Marylanders carried the day, humanely and properly caring for their Yankee neighbors. Driver surmises that the "chance" meeting, which included only the two Maryland regiments, may even have been orchestrated by Stonewall Jackson himself! Again, during the Seven Days battles before Richmond, the Maryland men proved their mettle, before they were mustered out in August, 1862, in a Gordonsville field.

Some of the members went to other units in the Stonewall Brigade and to cavalry units, while the remainder of the men became known variously as the Maryland Line, the Maryland Battalion, or the 1st or 2nd Maryland Battalion. They arrived in Winchester on September 28 to officially form the Second Maryland Infantry, CSA after having passed through Staunton, four days earlier.

They became the guardians of the Valley, remaining at Winchester, until the war moved north into Pennsylvania during the summer of 1863. Samuel Thomas McCullough, an officer in the 2nd Maryland, kept an articulate and detailed account of



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his experiences. He poignantly recollected the Culp's Hill fight: "No body of men, no matter how brave or daring, could have stood the terrific fire poured upon us, and the overwhelming numbers opposed to us." McCullough continues, "No richer blood made holy the soil of Gettysburg, than that which flowed from the veins of the Md boys, and none did their duty on that eventful day, more gallantly & nobly than the sons of the good old State." The prolific McCullough went on to be a lawyer in Staunton after the war. He died in 1897 and is buried in Thornrose Cemetery.

As the conflict wound down to its eventual conclusion, Driver relates how the Maryland boys had to contend with shortages of food and clothing. The winter of 1864-65 was especially tough on the men who drew picket duty in the freezing conditions, many who had to stand guard without shoes. The Marylanders were in the thick of the fight until the bitter end, adding Bristoe Station, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Weldon Railroad, Hatcher's Run, and Appomattox Court House, to its long roll call of battles.

The work is replete with muster rolls that give many of the unheralded an opportunity to be recorded for posterity.

"When you do something, you should do it right." Driver contends. The former Marine Corps colonel shared his insights on documenting history, "I want history to record what happened in their words, not mine. I take exception with those who want to look at events that happened 130 years ago and summarize or change verbiage based on what we know now."

Young Re-enactor Arrested in Misplaced Gun Incident

Oct. 14, 2004 –Courtesy CWi)- Johnny Cash gave wise advice years ago with his song "Don't Take Your Guns to Town, Son." A young Civil War reenactor from upstate New York should have heeded these words and avoided an embarrassing and potentially unpleasant experience with the legal system. The student at Pine Bush High School in the Orange County community of the same name had attended a recreation of the Battle of Chancellorsville with comrades from the 124th New York State Volunteers reenactment group.

The youth, whose exact age was not given in news accounts, was recruited along with a number of other high school students to take part in the event, the boy's mother said. She stated that he was given a uniform, belt, powder keg, cartridge box and similar accoutrements, along with a pair of shoes typical of the Civil War period and a replica muzzle-loading rifle.

At the conclusion of the event the boy put the materials, including the gun, in the back of his car and went home. He then drove the same vehicle to school, where a security guard patrolling the parking lot observed the weapon in the student's car. Called out of class to the assistant principal's office, he wound up being arrested, handcuffed, and charged with a misdemeanor offense of criminal possession of a weapon. Town of Crawford police carried out the arrest.

His mother, Valerie Michaels, is outraged, saying the school has blown the incident way out of proportion. Local media reports suggest she is also not happy with

the reenactment group for placing her child in this position.

School officials said that laws have been tightened in the wake of school shootings in recent years, gang activity and concerns about terrorism. For a student to be in possession of any firearm is a "zero-tolerance" offense in many areas and policies often call for automatic expulsion on top of any legal or police charges. Pine Bush School Superintendent RoseMarie Stark called the incident a student discipline matter and declined to comment further.

The 124th NY was an actual Civil War regiment from Orange County. The Battle of Chancellorsville was an unpleasant experience for them, as it was for the rest of the Union Army of the Potomac, when they were hit by an unexpected flank attack led by Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.

New Videos Tell Human Side of Battle Exploits

Sept. 30, 2004 --- Incom Entertainment Company has announced that selected episodes from "Gettysburg and Stories of Valor" from the series "Civil War Minutes III" will be available in standard and high-definition (HDTV) formats on public television stations beginning in November. An entertainment oriented documentary narrated by Keith Carradine, "Gettysburg and Stories of Valor" is presented by Penn State Public Broadcasting (PSPB) and distributed by American Public Television (APT).

"Packed with information, Gettysburg and Stories of Valor (Civil War Minutes(TM) III) captures the natural, scenic beauty of the (Gettysburg) battlefield on film while telling the fascinating stories of the men who fought there.