



## THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

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### Gettysburg National Park Service to demolish auto shop

By CHARLES SCHILLINGER  
Hanover, PA Evening Sun,  
October 11, 2005

The National Park Service has a special present in mind for Gettysburg battlefield visitors this winter holiday season.

The Ford dealership at 270 Biglerville Road will be demolished before the holidays arrive, park Superintendent John Latschar reported Thursday evening.

"As of this morning, we have the keys," Latschar said about the dealership.

He added the milestone to a list of land acquisitions that include the Home Sweet Home Motel and the National Tower.

The dealership sits within the boundaries of the Gettysburg National Military Park, on part of the 11th Union Corps line on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg.

The park service bought the property for \$1.24 million in August 2001, giving Davidson Motor Co. four years to vacate. Though a little belated, the business completed its move last week.

And the transaction seemed to be mutually beneficial, according to dealership president Bob Davidson. He was thrilled about his new location now open in the Adams County Commerce Center at 55 Expedition Trail.

"It's a fabulous and absolutely incredible location," he said. "And it's convenient for our customers."

Still, it wasn't the first choice. The business brought plans for a new location on Civil War Lane, near Baltimore Pike and Route 15, to Mount Joy supervisors in the spring

of 2004. Supervisors declined to pay the majority of the \$300,000 road improvements needed.

Davidson said the dealership on Expedition Drive is also larger, with an additional 10 service bays in the mix.

"We're very happy with how things turned out," he said.

Mother Nature took the blame for the new dealership location opening later than expected, Davidson said. Weather prevented the new location from being completed in August.

Latschar said Davidson Motor Co. paid the park service penalty fees for a belated vacating of the property. Those fees will be used to restore that part of the battlefield to its 1863 appearance.

### Preservationists Insist Battlefields Sell Themselves

New Strategy in Development Fight

By Fredrick Kunkle, Washington Post Staff Writer

Wednesday, October 5, 2005

SHARPSBURG, Md. -- From the center of Antietam National Battlefield, a panorama of wheat fields and zigzagging rail fences stretches for miles to the green slopes of South Mountain and beyond.

But at the edges of this and other Civil War sites lies the perennial line between the forces for economic development and the desire to preserve every acre of history.

Now preservationists have adopted a new strategy, pointing to a recent study that shows that efforts to save battlefields might actually boost the local economy more than development nibbling at the edges.

"I've never heard someone say, 'Gee, I'm hungry -- why isn't there a hamburger restaurant right next to here?'" said Thomas Clemens, president of Save Historic Antietam Foundation. "People want to see, as much as possible, Civil War sites that look the way they did at the time it took place."

That seemingly paradoxical theory was greeted with skepticism by a group of investors considering one of the more controversial projects under discussion: to build a casino near Gettysburg, Pa.

"I guess that's the 'Don't build it, they'll come,' theory, which goes very counter to what most people think," said John Brabender, a spokesman for the investors. He said the investors group, Chance Enterprises, plans to release its own economic-impact study in the next few weeks.

"It's going to show that there will be a positive impact in the region," he said.

The debate over battlefield preservation comes as federal spending on such efforts is expected to increase: Congress has made "historic battlefields" eligible for money from the six-year, \$286 billion transportation bill enacted in August. In 1992, Maryland used an implicit interpretation of the law to use federal funds for the purchase of farmland at Antietam Battlefield, said James Lighthizer, president of the Civil War Preservation Trust. Since then, 11 states, including Virginia, have used federal transportation enhancement grants for battlefield preservation.

At times, the federal government has intervened directly to save historic sites: In 1988, President Ronald Reagan agreed to purchase land adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park rather than allow a shopping mall there.



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Lighthizer cited a recent report by his organization that suggests that preservation makes good economic sense. By restoring the battlefields to their original look, the sites become more attractive to tourists. Their money is more valuable than most, because they demand few services in return. Putting new homes on the same land, on the other hand, would mean building more schools and hiring more police, Lighthizer said.

The preservation trust commissioned the two-year study of 13 battlefields, including Antietam, Gettysburg and three Virginia sites: Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania and New Market. Gettysburg draws the most visitors, with about 1.6 million a year. Fredericksburg drew 373,465; Antietam attracted 198,331.

The survey, released in May, found that Civil War tourists tend to be older, well-educated and affluent. At Gettysburg, they spent \$121 million on restaurants, hotels and entertainment. Antietam tourists spent \$10.8 million, while visitors to the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park spent \$20.5 million. The study also found 2,653 jobs connected to the Gettysburg site. Fredericksburg supports 387 jobs, and Antietam has 309, the survey found.

But most important, preservationists said, is the intangible value of history. "Sure, you can put up a plaque in a fast-food parking lot that says on such-and-such a day, General Lee met with another Confederate general," said J.W. Howard, superintendent of the Antietam National Battlefield.

Antietam, where 90 percent of the 3,300 acres that the federal government considers the battlefield is untouched, is among the best-preserved sites in the country,

Lighthizer said. "You need no imagination to come out here and envision what they saw," he said during a recent visit.

In Gettysburg, by contrast, about 60 percent of the land within the 10,000-acre federally drawn boundary is set aside as battlefield. A proposal for a luxury hotel, spa and at least 2,500 slots just outside that boundary has met opposition from historians and preservationists far from the ground hallowed by the largest land battle in North American history and President Abraham Lincoln's address.

When the investors announced their casino plan in April, they said the Gettysburg Resort and Spa, at the juncture of Routes 15 and 30, would generate \$10 million a year for the area.

"As you read the different arguments, there are credible points being struck on both sides," said Steven Renner, president of the nonprofit Adams County Economic Development Corp. He said the group has taken a wait-and-see approach.

Brabender, the investors' spokesman, said the venue would be at least 1 1/2 miles from any historical site, would avoid glitz, and could help an area that he said has had declining numbers of tourists relative to other destinations for "several years."

Several historians, including Princeton University's James McPherson and Civil War author Jeff Shaara, have spoken against the plan, and an opposition group has formed. Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell (D), in a recent appearance on Pennsylvania Cable Network, also expressed doubts.

"I think he realizes that this site is political suicide," said Susan Star Paddock, who heads No Casino Gettysburg. She said recent polls show that 54 percent of Adams

County residents oppose the casino and 31 percent support it. A poll of tourists found the percentages more lopsidedly against the plan.

"There are just some places we need to have more reverence for," Paddock said.

### Miniature donkey dodges capture at Spotsylvania battlefield

By ELIZABETH PEZZULLO,  
Fredericksburg Free-Lance Star,  
October 13, 2005

WAYWARD DONKEY is being a real horse's patooty as rangers from the National Park Service try to reunite her with her owner.

Since May, Sidekick, as the brownish burro is known, has frolicked freely within a remote section of the Spotsylvania Court House Battlefield. The 18-month-old has been spotted hoofing around the Bloody Angle area of the battlefield.

Since she went missing, Ranger Chuck Lochart has tried a variety of creative strategies to capture the *Equus asinus*, as she's scientifically known.

"I try to talk to her" as he inches closer, said Lochart, who's patrolled Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park for the past 17 years. He's been able to get no closer than about 25 yards from the miniature donkey, who stands about 3 to 4 feet high.

Sidekick's owner, Glenna Tompkins, tried to lure her pet out of the woods with carrots. So far, no luck.

"They can be pretty hard to catch," she said.

Tompkins, who now lives in Louisa County, is eager to get her baby--and possibly a future grandbaby--back.



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"We know she's OK," she said. "Our concern is she could possibly be pregnant."

If Sidekick is expecting, she's likely to give birth in February or March, Tompkins said.

The burro--who gets her name from a pony her family once owned--made her great escape in May by slipping through an opening in a fence used to pen horses. Once free, she made a beeline for the park.

She's been staying healthy by dining on a buffet of grass and water from nearby rivers and streams. She's even been spotted absorbing history, listening in as tour groups learn about the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House in 1864. (Perhaps she's trying to shed that jackass moniker once and for all.)

But Sidekick's freewheeling days may be coming to an end as soon as this weekend. That's when the Park Service hopes to capture her with a spring-loaded cage.

The daring donkey's foray into the forest is part of a larger Park Service problem, Lochart said. In recent years, it has become a dumping ground for unwanted pets and a sanctuary for animals squeezed from their natural habitats.

About a year ago, an emu showed up at the park. A nearby resident, whose land was sold for a subdivision, was packing up his flightless birds and one or possibly two got away, Lochart said.

"Last fall, we saw it standing in the middle of the road," Lochart recalled. "We tried to dart it, but it ran."

It hasn't been seen since.

Other spottings include an albino deer, a white pig, goats and a family of exotic chickens, as well as the usual assortment of puppies and kittens.

There was even someone who "dropped off a dog with a chain around its neck that had a 25-pound

finishes serving a 20-year state sentence for manufacturing



Sidekick, a miniature donkey who escaped from her owner in May, has taken up residence on the Spotsylvania Court House battlefield

bag of food attached to it," Lochart said.

The good news is that it's illegal for anyone to hunt within the parkland's boundaries. But critters don't follow the same rules.

"One time a white rabbit was left," Lochart said. "A white rabbit, not even a brown one. You know how long a white rabbit is going to last out there?"

### **Chickamauga park vandal sentenced to 21 months in prison**

Lauren Gregory, Walker County, GA Messenger, October 11, 2005

ROME, Ga. — Terry S. Crawford, the man who pleaded guilty in August to digging up artifacts at Chickamauga's Civil War battlefield two years earlier, was sentenced in federal court Friday to serve 21 months behind bars and one year supervised release plus help pay more than \$11,000 in restitution.

Crawford, 46, will receive credit for his federal prison sentence while he

methamphetamines, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Will Traynor.

He began serving that sentence in January, according to the Georgia Department of Corrections, and remains in custody at Wheeler Correctional Facility in Alamo.

Meanwhile his nephew and co-defendant in the case, Samuel E. Clay III, 22, is out on bond and awaits a pretrial hearing. If Clay is ever convicted, U.S. District Judge Harold L. Murphy ruled, he will be ordered to help Crawford pay \$11,579.19 in restitution to the National Park Service.

Murphy praised Crawford during Friday's hearing for his "admirable attitude" and his efforts to "get himself prosecuted and get this case over with."

The judge sentenced Crawford on the low end of federal guidelines and permitted him to seek treatment for drug addiction while incarcerated, a problem Crawford said he felt contributed to the actions at the battlefield.



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"I didn't think I was doing it to hurt the American people. But if I did, I'm sorry," he said when asked if he wanted to address the judge Friday. "I want to get out and start a different life."

Crawford and Clay are both accused of removing and damaging bullets and other archaeological resources within the historic Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in Fort Oglethorpe — a site, Murphy pointed out, that had seen "one of the most important and far-reaching battles of the Civil War."

### **Gettysburg Park's Winter Visiting Hours Begin November 1**

Courtesy CWi

Beginning November 1, 2005, Gettysburg National Military Park will change to its winter visiting hours, staying open to the public from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. daily, the National Park Service has announced. The winter visiting hours will continue through March 31, 2006. From April 1 through October 31, the park will remain open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily. The National Park Service will establish a grace enforcement period for the new winter visiting hours from November 1 through December 31, 2005, to acclimate the public to the change. Beginning January 1, 2006, fines would be enforced as specified for a Closed Area Violation (\$75 fine). During the winter visiting hours, park-approved special events such as the annual Remembrance Illumination, youth group campground operations, and park sponsored public meetings would continue to be permitted.

Certain park avenues will continue to be accessible 24 hours/day for vehicular through-travel only: Buford Avenue, Doubleday Avenue, Granite Schoolhouse Road, Howard Avenue,

Millerstown Road, Reynolds Avenue, Wadsworth Avenue, West Confederate Avenue, and Wheatfield Road.

For more information contact Gettysburg National Military Park at (717) 334-1124, or visit the park web site at:

<http://www.nps.gov/gett/home.htm>

### **Representative Announces Pennsylvania Grant for Historic Daniel Lady Farm**

Oct. 24, 2005-CWi- State Rep. Harry Readshaw, D-Allegheny, today announced that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has approved a grant to assist with the ongoing restoration of the barn on the historic Daniel Lady Farm on the Gettysburg battlefield.

The award of \$27,217 through the Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program will be presented to the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association, which is returning the house and barn to their 1863 appearance.

The two Lady Farm structures served as field hospitals during the battle and still exhibit damage inflicted by Union artillery shells. Confederate commander Gen. Robert E. Lee visited the farm on the first evening of the three-day battle to confer with officers of his army's right flank.

Confederate regiments mustered just east of the farmhouse to begin their assault on the Union lines along Culp's Hill.

A portion of the huge post-battle Camp Letterman field hospital was located on the northern end of the 142-acre farm.

Readshaw said the grant will be used to repoint the barn foundation and

walls of the barn bridge to the first floor. The remaining cement base of a non-period silo will be removed, as will the cement floor in the stable beneath the boards.

In addition, the funds will assist in the replacement of deteriorated wood floor boards on the threshing floor and hay mow portion of the barn.

Last year, the GBPA gave the barn a new wood-shingle roof and replaced the three prominent cupolas along its peak.

Readshaw teamed up with the GBPA's Lady Farm effort after the association assisted his Pennsylvania Gettysburg Monuments Project to clean and repair the more than 140 monuments and markers that honor the actions of Keystone State soldiers during the pivotal 1863 battle.

### **Shaara Award Winner Releases Latest Book**

By Tom Powers, Flint, MI Journal-Review, October 10, 2005

The Michael Shaara Award for Excellence in Civil War Fiction honors novelists who seek fresh approaches in writing about the War Between the States.

Canadian author Marie Jakober won the award in 2003, for her novel, "Only Call Us Faithful" about a female Union spy in Richmond. Her newest Civil War book makes her an odds on favorite to be the award's first two-time winner.

Branden Rolfe, the Provost Marshal of Baltimore in 1862, is charged with making sure the city, in spite of its many Southern sympathizers, remains in the Union camp.

Rolfe fights his war with misfits and rejects from the Army of the Potomac and fully realizes there is, "" no future in (the provost department) for the ambitious and no glory for the proud." He spends his days arresting deserters, trailing Confederate spies



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and sympathizers, hires neighbors to spy on neighbors and often, "banged on doors in the middle of the night and dragged perfectly nice people from their bed."

Rolfe is particularly concerned about a shadowy group of secessionists called the Sons of Liberty who have amassed a small arsenal and plan to take over Baltimore.

Jakober has created an especially engaging character in the Provost Marshal.

Rolfe, a revolutionary and champion of the common man, fled Europe after the failed popular uprising of 1848. The Austrian immigrant loves his adopted country and recognizes it is the only viable "democratic experiment" in the world.

He uses everything he learned as a revolutionary to keep the nation from being ripped asunder by a slave-holding aristocracy.

In an afterward, the author pays homage to the contribution Europe's revolutionary exiles made to the defense of the Union. She notes it was, "out of all proportion to their numbers."

The Southern cause is seen through the eyes of Langdon Everett, the leader of the Sons of Liberty, Holly DeMornay, Langdon's cousin and a member of one of Maryland's richest slave-owning families.

Visiting the DeMornays is Eden Farnswood from Mississippi who lost a loved one in the war and seeks revenge.

When Robert E. Lee leads the Confederate Army into Maryland in the late summer of 1862 the struggle for control of Baltimore intensifies.

The third largest city in the United States boasting the largest industrial center south of the Mason Dixon Line makes Baltimore vital to either side's war effort. Jakober draws a

compelling portrait of the city and her people riven by war and factionalism.

This is also an invigorating novel of ideas with characters trying to justify slavery, secession, the suspension of most civil liberties in Maryland in order to keep it in the Union and the root causes of the war.

Jakober invests the arguments with all the passions of the era. It's good history, but the author also never forgets she is writing a period thriller and the plot moves with speed and vigor.

In a deft blending of fact and fiction, the author has crafted a solid, rewarding and thoroughly engrossing novel that illuminates an aspect of the Civil War often overlooked in historical fiction.

### Virginia author to receive 2005 Robertson Prize

Fredericksburg Free-Lance Star, 10/22/05

JOHN J. FOX III of Winchester, author of "Red Clay to Richmond: Trail of the 35th Georgia Infantry Regiment, CSA," has been named the recipient of the fifth annual James I. Robertson Jr. Literary Prize for Confederate History.

The Robertson Prize is given to the author of the best original work of published scholarship in the field of Confederate history. It is named for James I. Robertson Jr., alumni distinguished professor of history at Virginia Tech. The award is made by the Civil War Library and Research Center of the Robert E. Lee Civil War Roundtable of Central New Jersey.

Fox, a Richmond native, has been a lifelong student of the Civil War. His nonfiction book "Red Clay to Richmond" follows a group of Georgia soldiers through four years of war in Virginia, focusing both on the

battlefield action and the daily life of the average soldier. The book is available for \$37.95 in most bookstores, or by calling Angle Valley Press at 800/247-6553, or visiting the Web site at [anglevalleypress.com](http://anglevalleypress.com).

### Heritage designation a chance to cash in on empty ground

**Editor's note:** The following editorial is reprinted from the Hagerstown Herald-Mail. It does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Baltimore Civil War Roundtable or its Officers and Board of Directors.

*By Tim Rowland, Hagerstown Herald-Mail, 10/20/05*

A key to Gen. Robert E. Lee's success was his preoccupation with the ground. At Antietam, where nothing else was to his advantage and the Potomac was to his back with only one nearby ford, his strategic choice of ground - along with a little help from A.P. Hill, saved what should have been a Union rout.

High or low, open or wooded, Lee was keenly aware of the value of property.

Today, the life-and-death aspects of land choices are fortunately reduced, although the debate remains hot. I can only imagine that developers, seeing as how it's their job, must look out over an unoccupied piece of ground and think, "What a waste."

With development comes profit, commerce and tax revenues. If you're selling a product locally, that means there will be more people to buy it. If you own a company it offers a greater potential work force from which to draw. It's all part of the economic machine that makes America work.

Would an empty field have all that value, or indeed, any value at all?



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New reports say yes. It may even have more.

Quoted in the Washington Post this month, Jim Lighthizer, president of the Civil War Preservation Trust, pointed to a report that indicates battlefields can be just as stimulating, economically speaking, as houses and shopping centers.

All three Tri-State jurisdictions are wrestling with Civil War-related issues at the moment. Outside of Shepherdstown, W.Va., there's a push for new National Park land on the same land where a housing development has also been proposed. In Gettysburg, Pa., there's a proposal for a casino to be situated a mere minie-ball's shot from the historic battlefield. In Hagerstown, there's once again talk of a Civil War museum downtown, to try to draw some of the thousands of visitors to Antietam into the city.

And now, to up the ante, comes the proposal to elevate several towns - including Hagerstown, Boonsboro and Williamsport - to the status of a "Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area." If all goes as proposed, the towns would become eligible for state grants, loans and tax credits to encourage more tourist-friendly confines featuring more restaurants, shops and showier streetscapes.

Tying in with Lightizer's point, our area is a candidate for such largesse because it has remained rural. And rural has value.

Specifically, the Heart of the Civil War report states, "this region along the border between North and South possesses a degree of landscape integrity that is exceptional among Civil War sites around the country. The visitor who wants to understand what it was like when the armies faced each other can do so here in a setting that remains largely rural and

relatively intact, unlike many other Civil War battlefields where modern development patterns have obscured the experience."

You can say that much of this "integrity" is accidental integrity because we're further from the cities and have never had to withstand the bombardment of sprawl as, say Manassas has had to cope with. But the point remains, we still have a chance to preserve, and profit from, our open fields.

In this respect, it can be argued that the county's farmers contribute more to the local economy than the sum value of their farm products. This puts compensation for farmland preservation in a new light, and should make local governments more willing to spend more on compensation for farmers.

The Heart of the Civil War study projects that if the heritage area comes to pass, Washington, Frederick and Carroll counties would benefit to the tune of 65,000 new visitors and \$9 million in new revenues. If the men and women who have struggled mightily to till the fields shun development have directly contributed to our "heritage" status, then it seems to me a share of tourism-generated revenues should go back to the farmers for preservation.

The report even notes that open lands are becoming more important in recruitment of companies, for which quality of life is becoming an ever higher priority. Open farmland as an economic development tool may seem paradoxical, but it makes sense in a county where plenty of people find green fields, reasonable housing costs and fresh air a salve worthy of a two-hour commute every day. Businesses will realize that employees put a premium on this

lifestyle, and eventually they will follow.

Thankfully, the report is realistic about development: "Ensuring that visitors have an authentic and unique experience requires conserving the integrity of the heritage area's cultural landscape to the greatest degree possible while still accommodating regional growth."

Any viable stab at preservation will require compromise, and a respect for private property. We've learned that those who advocate zero-growth are doomed to fail, and stir up a lot of anger in the process.

But the underlying message of the report - our open lands are valuable and we need to think before we develop, not develop before we think. Clearly from the comprehensive scope of the report itself (this is not your father's consultant study) a tremendous amount of thought and effort is going into the Civil War heritage area. And apparently there's money to back it up.

It is gratifying that Washington County has been chosen as one of the heritage-area's keystones. But Hagerstown has often been slow to come to the party, spending agonizing amounts of time inspecting the gift-horse's maw. It should be the duty of every member of influence in the community to read the report and become involved, before this train of rural celebration leaves for some other station.

### Membership News

The Board of Directors of the Baltimore Civil War Roundtable is recommending to the membership a dues increase. A motion to that effect will be introduced and discussed at the November meeting. The final motion will be voted on at the December meeting.