





# Restoration on Gettysburg Cyclorama Gets Underway

Nov. 26, 2003 —Courtesy CWI Premium- Anyone who has ever had to clean up after a particularly rowdy party can at least begin to sympathize with David Olin. Imagine that the guests have spilled beer, dropped ashes, popped champagne corks and tipped over candles spilling hot waxall on a priceless carpet which you are obliged to restore to its original condition.

The "carpet" Olin is responsible for cleaning is the Cyclorama painting at Gettysburg, and the extent of the work that has to be done is reflected in the estimated \$9 million price tag for the project. The project began this week with work on two of the panels in the cylindrical painting.

"Removal of 45 years worth of grime, ambient materials and past repaints is a time-consuming process, but we don't want to jeopardize the original paint surface," Olin said.

"Ambient materials" is a nice phrase for "any gunk that floats in the air," ranging from the products of visitors' sneezes to tobacco smoke to microscopic bits of fabric that breaks off from the surface of visitors' garments. The Cyclorama, due to its immense size, has never had a glass shield to protect it from such substances, which stick easily to the oil paint and wax of the painting. Cyclorama paintings were a popular form of entertainment in the late 19th century, serving as a combination of history lesson, work of art, and moneymaking business enterprise. They allowed viewers in towns around the country to have a feeling that they had seen historic sites at a time when actual travel was rare and expensive.

A number of Civil War scenes were featured in paintings of this type, including the Battle of Atlanta, Shiloh, Manassas, Petersburg and several of Gettysburg.

Between being disassembled, transported, reassembled and put in storage, the works were easily damaged, and several were lost to fires.

At one point, the current Gettysburg Cyclorama was cut into sections for display in a New Jersey department store. With the advent of motion pictures they lost their entertainment value, and the coming of motor cars made it easier to travel to the actual of Civil War events. scenes The National Park Service acquired the scene of "Pickett's Charge" in 1942. Because of water damage, a support system that has caused stretching and tears, and fluctuations in the humidity and temperature in the specially-constructed buildina which it has been displayed, the painting is rapidly deteriorating, Olin said.

The project is being directed by the National Gettysburg Battlefield Museum Foundation as part of its partnership with the National Park Service to build a new visitors center for the Gettysburg battlefield. Olin Conservation Inc. is heading a twophase restoration, which will be completed in conjunction with the new museum opening in late 2006. Phase one has begun and includes the cleaning of the painting surface, removing the overpaint of past restorations, removal of grime, dismantling the canvas and, finally, removing the lining and wax from the canvas back.

Work on the other panels will begin in August 2004, when the entire Cyclorama will be closed for public view until the final unveiling of the restored painting.

The second phase of the project will not start until the completion of the new Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center, since it will include shaping and lining the painting and mounting the panels on a new support system. That support system maintains a more even tension throughout the canvas and allows it to assume its natural shape, whereas the old system on wood brackets caused stretching and tears in the canvas. The painting restoration accounts for \$9 million out of the \$95 million museum and visitor center project, which is being guided by the Congress foundation. has \$5 appropriated million toward restoration of the Cyclorama. Robert Wilburn, foundation president, anticipates construction of the new visitors center will begin at the end of next year. He said about \$41 million has been raised so far. Roughly twothirds of the \$95 million is needed to begin construction.

# Vehicle Smashes 74th Pennsylvania Infantry Monument at Gettysburg

Nov. 14, 2003 -Courtesy CWI Premium- The 74th Pennsylvania Infantry did not have a good day on July 1 at Gettysburg. Part of the unfortunate 11th Corps deployed north of town, commanded by the towering military intellects of Gens. Schurz Alexander Carl and Schimmelfennig, they were promptly overrun by the enemy. History repeated itself Wednesday night when their monument on West Howard Avenue was assaulted by an SUV and broken into three pieces. The driver of the vehicle said she did







not know what caused her to lose control and strike the granite structure, ABCnews.com reported. Police said she was fined \$25 for failing to maintain control of a vehicle. "All I remember is putting my brakes on, and the next thing I remember I was on my side," the driver was quoted as saying. She was not seriously injured in the incident. The monument is located on Howard Avenue, the fifth one east of Mummasburg Road, and is located at a slight curve. Howard Avenue was constructed long after the Civil War primarily to allow access to the monuments located along the 11th Corps line. Park officials have long tried to discourage its use by local traffic but to no avail. The monument depicts a soldier, of noticeably German countenance. reclining as if wounded but propped up on one arm, the other holding the flag high. The inscription reads "74th Penna. Infantry: German Regiment; 1st Brig, 3d.Div, 11th Corps. July 1st, fought here from 2 p.m. until the corps fell back. July 2 and 3, in line with division in front of cemetery." On the occasion of the monument's dedication, July 2, 1888, Captain Paul F. Rohrbacker gave a stirring speech, which some words of seem applicable today.

"We have met to erect and dedicate a monument which shall remind generations to come of the deeds of brave men who fell in as noble a cause as heroes ever contended for. Some may say: "Why this monument, Why perpetuate the memory of the great strife?" We might simply answer, "Because we cannot help it." It is instructive, animating, reverential and patriotic, to be reminded of the character and of the sacrifices of those heroes who gave their all in their country's services. Even if a quarter of a century has passed over their graves, yet the example which they gave us must be preserved to us in order to guide, strengthen and animate us and those that will follow us."

Cost of repairs to the monument was estimated at \$15,000 to \$20,000, park officials said. News accounts did not mention whether the park planned to pursue the driver or her insurance company for the costs of the damage to the monument.

This is the second incident in less than a month involving vehicles crashing into Civil War memorial structures at Gettysburg. In the previous incident, which took place on the south side of the field, a car ran off Emmitsburg Road, tore out a stretch of fencing, and crashed into a cannon. The cannon tube was not damaged, but the recently restored carriage on which it sat was destroyed.



## Homeless Veteran Arrested in Vicksburg Vandalism Case

Dec. 1, 2003 —Courtesy CWI Premium- Authorities have made an arrest in the case of an attack of spray-painted graffiti reading "Jesus is Coming, Repent Y'all" on a dozen monuments at Vicksburg National Military Park, and for once drunken teenage hooligans appear to be off the hook.

US Park Rangers arrested a 33 year old man named Mark Vincent Peterson inside the park after noticing him "acting suspiciously," according to park spokesperson DaVon Grey. He was turned over to local authorities who arrested him on eight counts of felony malicious mischief. According to police investigation, the man, a resident of Vicksburg, has apparently been living out of his car of late. Vicksburg police Lt. Robert Peterson Stewart said was dishonorably discharged from the Army in March.

Stewart said police found cans of spray paint and other evidence pointing to him as the vandal in Peterson's car, the Biloxi (MS) Sun-Herald reported.

The graffiti in the Vicksburg National Military Park, first discovered last was spray-painted memorials, monuments, pedestals, cannons and on the ground. Ten of the vandalized areas were along the 13-mile northern loop of the 1,728main park's tour road. In addition to the markings inside the park, Peterson is also accused of spraying similar writings on several churches and a synagogue in the Vicksburg area. One church where construction was in progress was marked with the words "Souls







important, not buildings" the Jackson (MS) Clarion-Ledger reported. Peterson appeared before Vicksburg Municipal Judge Allen Derivaux, who ordered him held on \$160,000 bail. Before he went into the courtroom, a reporter asked him why he spraypainted the monuments. "Jesus is real, brother," Peterson said, according to WLBT of Jackson.

## Suit Filed Over Lee Statue Just Outside Antietam Park

Nov. 12, 2003 —Courtesy Cwi Premium—An equestrian statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, which was the object of controversy and protests before it was put up on private property just outside the boundaries of Antietam National Battlefield Park, is now the object of a lawsuit brought by a group which feels it does damage to history and sets a bad precedent for near-battlefield monumentation.

The group, called "Save Historic Antietam Foundation," claims some 700 members. They have been fighting the project, originally projected to include matching statues of two other Confederate generals as well, since it was announced by landowner William F. Chaney for the grounds of a property he bought Newcomer called the House. Newcomer House, which was a farmhouse at the time of the Battle of Antietam, has been turned into a Civil museum under Cheney's ownership. Most Washington County locals acknowledge that Chaney has done a good job of restoring the farmhouse, which was built in the 1790s, the Baltimore Sun reports. Chaney said he spent \$500,000 to renovate the structure, which he bought several years ago for \$300,000, outbidding the park service which had hoped to add the property to the park. Although no part of the battle took place on the property, it was walked and ridden over by Confederate troops on their way to the conflict. By some accounts Gen. Lee may have been one of them, which is one of the reasons Chaney gave for his desire to place the statue there.

Interestingly enough, the park service, at least in the person of Antietam Superintendent John Howard, has no problem with the statue or its location.

"He has done a fabulous job," said John W. Howard, superintendent of the Antietam National Battlefield. "We would not have gotten to it as quickly as he did if we had bought it. It would not have been high on our to-do list. We have other buildings that are more significant to the core of the battlefield."

Chaney sold a barn on the property and 50 acres to the park service, which is stabilizing the wooden structure and surveying it. Howard said the barn was used as a hospital for Union soldiers after the battle. Save Historic Antietam Foundation, unimpressed with any other good deeds Chaney may have performed, has retained an attorney and filed an appeal in Circuit Court to bring down the 24-foot Lee statue, situated on a grassy hill and clearly visible from inside the battlefield For starters, foundation members say, Lee never stood on the hill, although he might have passed through the area before the battle Sept. 17, 1862. For another, they say, the fact that Antietam park, along with several other Civil War sites, has imposed a moratorium on new monuments inside the park is a good thing because it preserves the fields as the men who fought there knew them.

"It was one thing for the men who fought on the fields to erect monuments," said Gary W. Gallagher, a professor of history at the University of Virginia in a letter to the Washington County Board of Zoning Appeals. "It is quite another for modern groups or individuals to do so."



"It's fanciful," said Tom Clemens, president of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation and a professor of history at Hagerstown Community College, of the representation of Lee and his horse. Clemens said Lee did not ride on horseback much while in the Sharpsburg area because he had recently broken one wrist and sprainedthe other.

The lawsuit is based on technical disputations concerning the dates various documents were filed with and ruled on by the Washington County Historic District Commission, which had denied Chaney's request to erect the statue. He then filed an appeal with the Board of Zoning Appeals, which allowed him to proceed after ruling that county officials had not responded to his permit application request within 45 days, as prescribed under state law. No date has been set for a hearing in the matter.







"I would say it is one of the best statues up there," said Chaney, who might be prejudiced in the matter. "I have had not a negative comment from anyone except for that little group," referring to the Save Historic Antietam Foundation.

D. Bruce Poole, a lawyer who represents Chaney, said the spat about the statue has surprised some residents because the Lee monument fits in well with other statues at the battlefield.

"It's not as though it is a very gaudy statue," he said. "I have to remind people that Mr. Chaney owns that land. He is entitled to put up a Civil War statue on a Civil War battlefield." The Newcomer Farm project is not Chaney's only current venture in historic preservation. He spends most of his time in Carroll County, Maryland these days, where he is renovating Terra Rubra, the family estate of Francis Scott Key, which he purchased in 2001 for \$1.3 million.

# Richmond Boy Scout Council Okays Name Change

Nov. 19, 2003 -Courtesy CWI Premium- By a unanimous vote, leaders of the Scouting movement in the region have decided to change the name of their group from Robert E. Lee Council to Heart of Virginia Council. The group serves some 22,000 Boy Scouts in the central Virginia area as well as some 7500 leaders and other participants. The vote confirms a decision made six months ago to remove Lee's name from the group. About a dozen protesters carrying Confederate banners and pictures of the famous general marched outside the meeting. the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported.

Scout leaders had noted two reasons for the name change, one being that most Scout councils are name for the geographic area they serve rather than an individual, no matter how historically significant. The other reason given is that many felt the Lee name was a hindrance in attracting greater numbers of minority youths to the Scouting program.

"The principal concern has always been that the name may be a hindrance to our ability to deliver Scouting to all of today's youth," former Council President Richard McCullough said in a letter posted on the council's Web site.

Wally Sprouse, cubmaster of Pack 868 in Chesterfield, told the Richmond paper he initially was bothered by the name change because it smacked of political correctness. But he said he softened his view after hearing the council's explanations.

"If changing the name will help the Boy Scouts of America grow, well, that's a good thing," he said. "Scouting is all about the Scouts. I think that's what some people seem to forget sometimes."

"First Colony Council" and "Virginia Heartland Council" were among the other names considered before "Heart of Virginia was chosen. The group had been known as the Greater Richmond Council until 1942, when the service area expanded to include Petersburg, Hopewell and Colonial Heights, according to local Scout literature.

The change will not require existing Scouts to strip off their council patches bearing his name. A new shoulder patch with the Heart of Virginia logo won't be available for several weeks since they couldn't be

ordered until the name change was official.

"Old [Lee Council] patches will continue to be available as long as we have them," local Scout Executive Robert "Alf" Tuggle said. "Nobody's going to say you got to change" patches, Tuggle said. That will be up to individual Scouts and their leaders. Unsurprisingly, the Virginia director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People praised the decision, saying it would lead to more minority recruitment. Conversely, the Virginia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans blasted the move, calling it shameful and a product of political correctness. Tuggle said he doesn't believe the Heart of Virginia name will pose any infringement trademark problems from similarly named any organizations businesses. or Although the number of new Scouts who joined in September and October dropped from 2,600 in 2002 to about 2,400 this year, Tuggle said the decline was more the result of the disruption that Hurricane Isabel caused to recruitment efforts at local schools than any controversy over the council's name.

# "Stonewall Jackson" Boy Scout Council Vows to Keep Name

Dec. 2, 2003 -Courtesy CWI Premium- In one area at least, Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson has outlasted his most famous contemporary, Robert E. Lee. Jackson, it seems, still has his name on a Virginia council of the Boy Scouts of America.

"We're not studying [a name change]," said Harold Tate, chief Scout executive of the Stonewall







Jackson Area Council in Waynesboro. "But having turned 60 years old, I've learned never to say never. I'm a realist, and I know that life can change."

The former Robert E. Lee council, based in Richmond, recently changed its name to the Heart of Virginia Council. They cited a trend to geographically-based names as well as a desire to attract more minority participation to the Scouting movement as reasons for the change. Officials of the Jackson council prefer to stand "like a stone wall" with their current name. They are now, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reports, the only Scout council still named after a leader of the Confederacy, and one of the few left to bear the name of an individual from any period.

Most of the 309 Scout councils in the United States have geographically descriptive names, but about 20 are named after famous Americans or regional heroes. Abraham Lincoln's name is used in the titles of three councils.

The Jackson council's patch features the general's portrait, along with a Civil War-era cannon and ordnance. The council, with 5,600 registered Scouts, 2,300 leaders and 204 units, was founded in 1927 with Jackson's name.

The Mason-Dixon Council in Hagerstown, Md is the only remaining council whose name contains even a hint of Civil War reference. The council's patch features an American flag crossed with a Confederate flag, behind a Scout trefoil.

"As far as the crossed flags go, there has been discussion on and off over the last couple years about potentially doing something with it," said Brad Bowersox, the council's Scout executive. But there has been no

clamor to remove the Confederate emblem, Bowersox said.

"It's a part of our local heritage here, and I think everybody has sort of felt that way, and it's been on our patch for 25 years, if not a little bit longer," he said.

## Antietam's Maryland Monument in Worse Condition than Thought

6, 2003 -Courtesy CWI Nov. The Premium-Maryland State Soldier's Monument at Antietam National Park is best known for one feature, the domed roof over the gazebo-like structure. Big enough around to hold a dozen or more people, it currently holds none because public access to it has been banned.

Park officials have known for ten years that the frame which supports the roof is in need of repairs, but it wasn't until some panels on the underside of the structure were removed recently that they discovered that the damage was worse than previously thought, superintendent John Howard told the Hagerstown Herald-Mail.

Experts took down the copper sheathing on the inside "and it doesn't look good," Howard said. The frame that holds up the dome roof has rusted through in places, he said. The monument is 104 years old so the original frame held up well. Howard said. The stonework and brass plagues were cleaned in 1990 and there was no obvious damage to the frame at that time, he said. A closer inspection three years later revealed that the framework was deteriorated. The estimated cost of the work at that time was \$215,000. Howard said. Since the problem did

not appear critical and park budgets did not allow for such an expense, the work was pushed off from year to year.

The delay has caused inflation of the dollar, the amount of damage, and therefore the cost of repairs. The matter moved into the "urgent" category after additional damage was caused by two storms this summer, one severe thunderstorm in August and Hurricane Isabel in September.



Now work on the recent damage has brought the underlying weaknesses of the framework to light. Experts are currently evaluating the overall situation with the monument, and their report is not expected to be finished until early next year, Howard said.

However, the current estimate for the structural and damage repairs is now more in the range of \$250,000, assuming the evaluation doesn't find any major needs beyond those which are presently known.

The cost could be less or more, depending on whether the dome will have to be removed to repair the







metal frame, Howard said. Repairs could begin in the spring and take a month or two to finish, he said. The monument is dedicated to Marylanders who fought for both the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War.

# Pamplin Park Launches Spring Tour Series

Nov. 18, 2003--"The Peninsula Campaign and Seven Days Battles" will be the theme of a series of tours and lectures to be sponsored by Pamplin Historical Park next spring. The weekend-long event will be held close to the same time of year as the start of the actions being discussed, enhancing the historical feel of the experience.

Pamplin Historical Park, already noted as the presenter of an outstanding annual fall symposium, will begin a spring tradition with its inaugural Spring Tour, Friday through Sunday, May 21-23, 2004. The event's subject is "The Peninsula Campaign and Seven Days Battles" and the tour will be guided by noted Civil War historians A. Wilson Greene and Robert E.L. Krick. Headquarters for the event is the Holiday Inn -Airport, Richmond, Virginia. The Virginia Peninsula between the James and York rivers was the scene of some of the most dramatic engagements of the Civil War. The Peninsula Campaign and subsequent Seven Days Battles saw the Union under Gen. George McClellan move from its base at Fort Monroe up the Peninsula to a point from which Northern soldiers could hear the church bells of Richmond. The ensuing Battle of Seven Pines decided little except that it effected a change in Confederate army command from the wounded Gen.

Joseph E. Johnston to Gen. Robert E. Lee. Lee determined to take the initiative against McClellan. The vicious fighting that followed became known as the Seven Days Battles, a series of bloody conflicts in which Lee pushed McClellan away Richmond - but at a dreadful cost. Pamplin Historical Park's Spring Tour will visit many of those historic battlefields and trace campaigning of the armies. The tour will also visit noted museums as well as beautiful Colonial Williamsburg, a site that has its own share of Civil War history.

The event begins Friday night with a reception and dinner at the hotel followed by a lecture by John Quarstein, Director of the Virginia War Museum and a leading expert on the Civil War on the Lower Peninsula. The auided tour commences Saturday morning at Fort Monroe and the Casemate Museum and proceeds to the Monitor-Merrimac Overlook and then to the Mariners Museum where the group will be given a private tour of the turret of the famous Monitor. The tour will continue through the day with stops at Lee's Mill, Newport News Park, Dam #1 and the Williamsburg defenses. Dinner will be at historic Shields' Tavern and the day will conclude with an evening walking tour of Colonial Williamsburg led by Carson Hudson. On Sunday the group will visit sites associated with the fighting for Richmond in 1862 including Seven Pines, Chickahominy Bluffs, Beaver Dam Creek, Gaines' Mill, Glendale and Malvern Hill.

Greene, who serves as Executive Director of Pamplin Historical Park, said in a press release, "Our fall symposia are well-known throughout the Civil War community for the efforts our staff takes to give our

guests a high-quality experience. We will undertake our spring tour with that same determination to provide our participants with something memorable."

Cost per person is \$249 and includes dinners Friday and Saturday and lunches Saturday and Sunday, but does not include hotel costs. Seating is limited and reservations, which are required in advance, may be made by calling 1-877-PAMPLIN or by visiting pamplinpark.org. Room reservations may be made by calling the Holiday Inn - Airport at 1-800-465-4329. A special room rate of \$62.00 per night is available to tour participants.

# Preliminary Survey Results

I want to thank all of you who responded to our survey. We received many excellent suggestions. Some of them I can begin implementing immediately. Others will be discussed at the next Board of Directors' meeting, hopefully before the New Year.

I received 20 completed surveys, many with attached sheets containing detailed additional comments and suggestions.

Not surprisingly, the main reasons given for not attending (or no longer attending) bus trips were equally divided between "health", "busy schedule" and "other".

Due to the holidays and current work pressures, I have not had the time to do an in depth analysis of the many comments and suggestions. I will have a detailed report prepared for the January issue of the BCWRT Newsletter.

Once again, thank you all for your input.