

THE "OLD LINER" NEWSLETTER

Authenticity of Battle Flag Questioned

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) - The origin of a banner supposedly used at a reunion of the 20th Maine Infantry unit that fought at the Battle of Gettysburg is being questioned, a published report said.

Gettysburg National Military Park is trying to find out whether the flag it recently purchased for \$10,500 is authentic, the Portland Press Herald said.

Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg believed the banner was 115 years old when the group gave the National Park Service money to buy it from a prominent Massachusetts antiques broker.

The banner was believed to have been used during an anniversary gathering for the unit, which fought during one of the Civil War's most important battles.

But now, an artist named Jim Compratt of Canon City, Colo., told the newspaper he created the banner in 2002. Compratt said he sold it to a Kennebunk merchant for \$165.

Compratt said he recognized the banner this weekend when he saw a photo of it on the Web site of the Press Herald and Maine Sunday Telegram.

Cindy Hamilton, who owns the Americana Workshop in Kennebunk, told the Press Herald that she bought the banner from Compratt, and then sold it to a private dealer for \$300 as a new item.

The banner's ownership has changed several times before its purchase earlier this month by Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg. With each sale, its value increased, Hamilton said.

On Monday, Gettysburg National Military Park officials began investigating the banner's authenticity

after being contacted by the Maine newspaper.

"We are taking it seriously," said park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon. "But we are not rushing to judgment."

The banner is said to have flown at Gettysburg in 1889 at the reunion of the 20th Maine. The 42-inch-tall, canvas banner features a scene of Little Round Top at Gettysburg.

Lawhon said Greg Goodell, supervisor of museum services at the park, had established the banner's authenticity.

But Compratt said his wife sewed the banner on a modern sewing machine and he used modern latex paint for the letters and background.

Compratt said the banner is not a reproduction, just a product of his own imagination. "I just made it up," he said.

Seminary Begins Walkway of Donated Bricks

By MATT FURMAN

Hanover Evening Sun

Three hundred down, 900 to go.

Last week marked another step in the creation of a proposed one-and-a-half mile walkway around the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg.

Nearly 300 bricks with the engraved names of their donors were dedicated at a freshly-built plaza near the seminary's Schmucker Hall.

With one wave of engraved bricks done, members of the Seminary Ridge Historic Preservation Foundation want to etch names on the plaza's remaining 900.

The donations will be added to an expected \$215,000 grant from the state's Transportation Enhancement Program, said John Spangler, the foundation's director of communications.

But before the path can get formed, volunteers must finish combing the land in question with metal detectors for any un-found Civil War relics.

"There has to be historical sensitivity," said Spangler. "So far, they've just found coins."

The path will feature about 20 kiosks with pictures and script explaining to visitors the seminary's role in the battle. For instance, it was the scene of fighting on the clash's first day. And Schmucker Hall was used as a field hospital for wounded soldiers for two months after the battle.

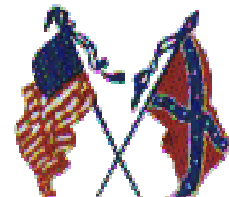
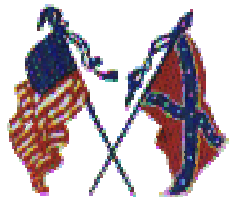
But they'll also tell the academic history of the seminary, Spangler said.

Groundbreaking on the path probably won't occur for several months at the earliest, he said.

Spangler said orders can be made for a second wave of engraved bricks by calling 338-3030 or E-mailing director@seminaryridge.org. Other information is available on the Web site at www.seminaryridge.org.



This newly completed plaza on the Lutheran Theological Seminary campus will be the starting point for a 1.5-mile walking tour of the seminar. A total of 1,200 engraved bricks purchased by donors will be used to help create the walking tour. (Hanover Evening Sun photo by Andrew Craft)



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Cleburne Story Told on 140th Anniversary of his Death

By ELIZABETH FARRELL

Special to the Helena Arkansas Daily World

"There was no help for it. The pillow was found and I was a corporal no longer." Patrick Ronayne Cleburne explained his sudden demotion in the British army at age 20. Two years of good behavior earned him the short-lived raise.

To ease the rigors of a regimental drill, Cleburne put a pillow in his knapsack instead of the usual 20 pounds of gear. Midway through the drill came a routine order for knapsack inspection. The pillow was exposed.

The man remembered as a great Confederate general served 3 1/2 years under British command in Ireland. He was born March 16, 1828 in Cork, Ireland's southernmost county where palm trees grow on the coastline warmed by the Gulf Stream.

His mother died in 1829. She left a son, 4, a daughter, 3, Patrick Ronayne (named for his grandfather) nearly 2, and an infant son. From solid gentry, Mary Ann Ronayne's dowry was large enough to provide an annual dividend with a lump sum for each child at age 21.

His father's death in 1843 forced him to drop out of a Protestant boys school at age 15. Joseph Cleburne has prospered as village doctor. A colleague apprenticed young Patrick and taught him to mix powders for prescribed medicine.

When Dr. Cleburne died he left another daughter and three more sons by his second wife. Patrick remained close to his stepmother and siblings while staying with the kind physician's family in a nearby town.

Famine swept Ireland in 1845. Cleburne lost his apprenticeship as the rural economy collapsed. He tried to enter a college of pharmacy in Dublin - Apothecaries Hall turned him down. Medical know-how was not enough to offset his lack of training in Latin.

Cleburne then joined the British army. Two weeks shy of his birthday, he claimed to be 18 and called himself a

laborer to match the rank-and-file Irish. They enlisted to escape poverty under England's rule. Cleburne's regiment was originally assigned to another English colony, India.

Upheaval in Ireland changed that assignment. Starvation faced tenant farmers when blight wiped out the potato crop. Corn and other grain went strictly to England. The British army shielded landlords from desperate tenants and handled forcible evictions.

About British army life Cleburne said, "every feeling of a softer nature is accounted as a contemptible weakness." Widespread hunger and death shook his stepmother's prosperity. Emigration became her goal for the family.

But Cleburne was not free to go until he bought his way out of the army. Soldiers were in debt to the British government if they wanted to leave. Cleburne had just turned 21 and inherited part of his mother's dowry. That released him

With his sister and two brothers he crossed the Atlantic Ocean and landed at New Orleans in 1849. Their destination was Cincinnati, praised by a cousin for its job prospects. Cleburne went to work as a drugstore clerk. His experience in Ireland bolstered him.

Through his employer he got another lead. Two doctors, owners of a drugstore in Helena, needed a manager. Cleburne was hired. About Arkansas' port city, he said, "pistol and Bowie knife decided every quarrel."

His reorganization of the drugstore impressed the doctors. One of them moved and sold Cleburne half of the business. Dr. Charles Nash, now his partner, became a close friend.

Arkansas of that era was the frontier, replete with whiskey. Cleburne sometimes drank. After a drunken bout, he resolved to quit drinking. The temperance movement had his approval. Cleburne continued to advance himself: literary club (history and biographies his favorite), debating society, chess club (which he founded), Masonic Lodge. In 1853 fellow masons selected him to give the keynote address at their convention.

That same year he went to a revival in a wooded area near Helena. A rough-hewn

altar and logs for benches formed an outdoor church. Seeing people "worship God beneath His own ethereal roof" moved Cleburne.

A law career was on his mind. Nash agreed to sell the drugstore and split the proceeds. Cleburne had enough money to prepare for the bar exam, which took two years of reading. A Helena law firm opened its library to him.

His new direction included politics. When fellow Democrat Thomas Hindman had to miss a speech, Cleburne took his place. He spoke in favor of states rights. Adding other issues, he upheld the right of immigrants to own land and Catholics to hold office, under attack by other parties.

During a yellow fever epidemic in 1855 he and Hindman helped doctors tend the sick. The next year, both agreed to buy a newspaper, the Democrat Star. They renamed it the States Rights Democrat.

In 1858 Cleburne traded political rallies for longer hours at the law office. Hindman, also a future Confederate general, won a seat in Congress. The newspaper ceased publication.

Loyalty to friends prompted quick action. At the drugstore he ejected a man furious at Nash for opposing his Mormon missionary campaign. Nash later moved to Alabama where Cleburne visited him during the war.

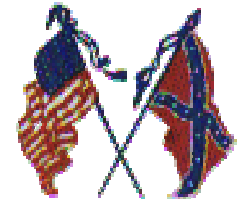
Hindman demanded an apology from a political opponent who deliberately insulted him. He asked Cleburne to back him in a confrontation. Tempers flared. The opponent, with his own backup, drew first.

In the shootout the man who angered Hindman was unhurt. His cohort died three days later. Though Hindman's wounds were serious, he recovered.

Cleburne seemed close to death. A bullet went through his right lung and stopped at his spine. Ten days later the bullet could be taken out but the damage was done.

"My lungs have never been well since I was wounded. I catch cold on the slightest provocation and an hour's excited debate in the courthouse will sometimes fill my mouth with blood," he said.

Change had come to Phillips County's economy. Between 1850 and 1860 cotton



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production increased fivefold. Land was plentiful in the vicinity. Congress put 7.5 million acres of wetlands up for sale to fund levees on the Mississippi River.

Shrewd buyers grabbed large tracts for 20 cents an acre. Cleburne joined two other lawyers to specialize in title disputes. More land speculation lay ahead. A railroad was on the horizon.

So was national conflict. Cleburne wrote to his half-brother Robert in Kentucky, "My own opinion is that the first blood shed on Southern soil in a collision between the Federal troops and the State authorities of any Southern state will be the signal for civil war."

In another letter he wrote of his fondness for Helena and environs. "These people have been my friends and have stood up for me on all occasions. I am with Arkansas in weal or woe."

Defense required preparedness. Cleburne helped organize a militia in Helena and was elected captain. Other volunteer rifle units took hold across the South. Northern gun dealers supplied the growing demand for munitions.

A shipment of arms en route to Arkansas gave Cleburne a taste of how war could divide families. Local officials in Cincinnati had seized the shipment.

Helena's city council then called for seizure of the first Cincinnati-owned vessel in their waters. This ill-fated ship, Queen of the West, belonged to the brother of Cleburne's sister's husband.

Caught in the middle, Cleburne displayed intense emotion. When he pleaded with the council to release the ship "as a favor to me," Cleburne wept openly.

To half-brother Robert, after the ship's return, he wrote, "I thought of you all when I did this thing, that it might make you a friend in the crisis which is now upon us." It was the end of April 1861.

Within days he led his riflemen to enter the War Between the States. After a religious service outside the courthouse, they boarded a steamer. Their gathering place was a camp near Memphis.

Cleburne immediately rose to colonel. Ten companies elected him to command their regiment, the 1st Arkansas Volunteer Infantry. To Robert he wrote, "This is a fearfully responsible position

and I dread the honor but intend to turn my attention to it and do the best I can for the cause I am embarked on."

Generals were not subject to a vote. Thomas Bradley, a cotton planter, was appointed by the state military board to command units from the eastern half of Arkansas. He botched the job.

Gen. Bradley ordered a fruitless chase of Federal troops after a false rumor, badly mishandling troops and supplies. Cleburne took a risk by reporting his superior. Such a report bordered on mutiny. But his concern was the morale of his men.

To state officials he sent this telegram, "Arkansas forces returned from Bearsfield Point between two suns; a quantity of material abandoned; scouting party of picked men abandoned; no enemy nearer than Cairo (Illinois); we are the laughingstock of the Tennesseans."

It was July 1861. Bradley resigned and Gen. William Hardee took command. Two months earlier Arkansas had seceded from the Union. A Jefferson Davis appointee, Hardee (later Cleburne's close friend) stood for the Confederacy.

Arkansas volunteers were at a crossroads. Some thought Hardee intrusive, Confederate or not. So troops were allowed to leave for local militia duty instead of serving under Hardee. Eighty percent of Cleburne's regiment stayed. Sixty percent was the average for other regiments.

Cleburne's ascent through the ranks to brigadier general and major general overcame strong bias against the foreign-born. His devotion to his men set him apart, as did a battle flag carried only by his unit.

When one of his soldiers was in custody for failure to report, Cleburne found the reason. Snow was on the ground and the soldier had no shoes. Cleburne ordered his release and rode to army headquarters. A wagonload of shoes arrived the next day.

On a foray into Missouri, Hardee used Greenville's town hall as their command center. A few Federal prisoners were held there. One night Cleburne awakened to shouts about an escape. He went into the

hallway with his pistol and fired at someone running.

The lieutenant guarding them had a nightmare that they got away. Half awake, he sounded a false alarm and ran after the imaginary escapees. Cleburne had shot one of his own.

He begged the dying man's forgiveness. Before the lieutenant died, he forgave him. Cleburne felt deep regret the rest of his life.

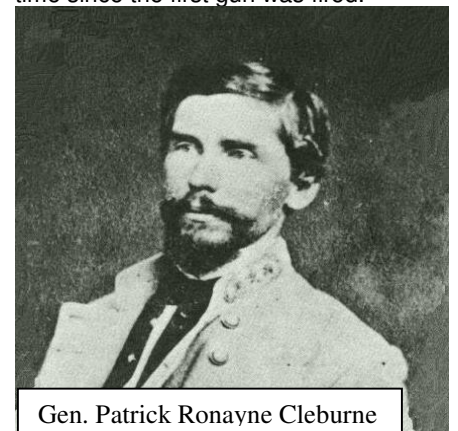
At Civil War battle sites in Tennessee and Georgia, Cleburne's valor is well documented. In combat he showed remarkable ability to outmaneuver the enemy even when vastly outnumbered.

Of less renown was his proposal that the slaves be freed to fight for the South. He brought to the presentation of his argument a lawyer's skill. Among fellow officers who supported him was Gen. Thomas Hindman.

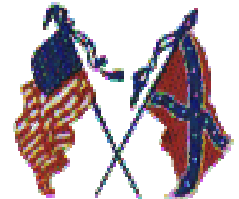
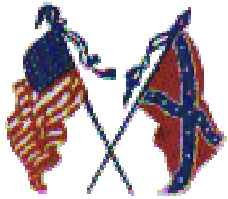
While camped in northwest Georgia, Cleburne polled his troops about his idea to free slaves for Confederate military service and extend freedom to their families as well. Would Cleburne's men fight side by side with former slaves? All voted yes.

Cleburne met his death Nov. 30, 1864 at the Battle of Franklin (Tenn.) about 170 miles from Helena. After losing two horses he raised his sword and marched forward. A bullet to the heart killed him on the spot.

Forty minutes earlier he made this statement to his commander, Gen. John Hood. "I have more hope in the final success of our cause than I have at any time since the first gun was fired."



Gen. Patrick Ronayne Cleburne



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Cedar Mountain Group Aims to Preserve Land

Alicia Petska

Culpeper Star Exponent

Sunday, November 21, 2004

This month, a new history preservation group has announced its presence in Culpeper and its intentions of restoring Cedar Mountain, one of the county's most significant battlefields.

"Development has been nibbling around its edges," Kurt Johnson, the group president, said of the battlefield. "There's more and more pressure to subdivide.

"There's no immediate risk because the landowners have been good stewards, but there is a heightened risk."

The Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield, officially incorporated as a non-profit group last April, has been working with the Civil War Preservation Trust to restore 152 acres of the battlefield to its historical landscape.

"We want people to be able to see it the way it was and understand what happened and why it was significant," Johnson said.

That means retracing old roadbeds, deforesting and reforesting where required and replacing barbed wire fences with wooden ones.

The group has drawn on the definitive book "Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain," as well as journals, artists' sketches and photos from the Library of Congress to determine how the area looked in 1862.

The battle of Cedar Mountain began on Aug. 9 of that year, which became known as the bloodiest day in Culpeper history with more than 3,000 soldiers perishing. In the end, it was a Confederate victory, led by Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson

and Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill, a Culpeper native.

The battlefield land currently under restoration was purchased by the Preservation Trust in the 1990s, and the Friends of Cedar Mountain have hopes of expanding that territory in the future.

The remainder of the land is privately owned, though, and Johnson emphasizes that the group does not intend to pressure its new neighbors.

"The entire purpose of the organization is to work cooperatively with landowners," he said.

"We are not a confrontational or antagonistic group."

In addition to recreating the wartime Cedar Mountain, the group also has ambitions of making the site a more tourist-friendly attraction through additions like a parking lot, visitors' center and museum.

"The goal is not to raise revenue directly from the battlefield," Johnson said. "Instead, people would come to Culpeper to see the battlefield and then spend money on things like food and hotels."

As a potential wildlife habitat, the area also has non-history related appeal. Nature trails, hiking and bird watching are some of the activities the Friends of Cedar Mountain have envisioned.

The group is currently recruiting new members, who will receive a map of the battlefield, a semi-annual newsletter and updates on events, as well as invitations to various tours, lectures and barbecues. Membership dues amount to \$25 per year, although the organization also welcomes non-financial contributions. Volunteers willing to help with grounds work, such as planting trees, are a particular need.

The Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield can be contacted by mail

and phone. Write FCMB at P.O. Box 1853, Culpeper, VA 22701 or phone Preston Simms at 547-4653.

Dispute ends with transfer of black Civil War shrine

By Debbi Wilgoren

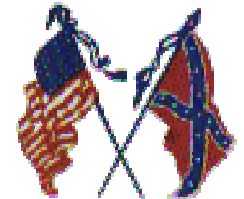
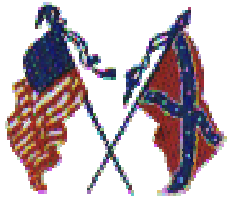
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The trees around the African American Civil War Memorial have been trimmed, and the grass is freshly cut and cleared of trash. Several leaks have been fixed. But a few of the 209,145 names of black Union troops, and those of their white officers, engraved on the stainless-steel plaques are still water-damaged.

The National Park Service took over basic upkeep and maintenance of the neglected memorial late last month after signing an agreement transferring control of the site from Washington, D.C., to the federal government. Remaining repairs, Park Service spokesman Bill Line said, will be done on an ongoing basis.

Line said a park ranger knowledgeable about the role of African-Americans soldiers and sailors during the war soon will be stationed at the memorial, in a downtown federal park, Wednesdays through Saturdays at midday, the peak time for pedestrian traffic.

The memorial became embroiled in a dispute over who should care for it soon after its dedication in 1998. Financed by a private foundation and built by the D.C. Department of Public Works, the memorial was supposed to be a gift to the nation. But the National Park Service, charged with maintaining such memorials, wanted the city to address basic repair and



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maintenance issues before including the site in its portfolio.

City officials refused to repair the memorial until the Park Service set a transfer date; the Park Service said it would not set a date until repairs were done.

After extensive lobbying by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-Washington, D.C., and Frank Smith, a former D.C. Council member who founded the African American Memorial Freedom Foundation, the city government gave the Park Service \$200,000 to do the repairs, and the transfer was arranged.

"We finally just reached the point where there was not a credible excuse anymore for not accepting the memorial," Smith said.

The memorial, which includes a graceful bronze sculpture by Ed Hamilton of three black soldiers and a sailor leaving their tearful families, is now listed on the Park Service's Web site (www.nps.gov).

The memorial is the first in the country to honor all African-American soldiers and sailors, and their white officers, who fought in the Union Army. Smith said he hopes the memorial one day will achieve the prominence of Ford's Theatre and other local Civil War-related sites maintained by the Park Service. A ceremony was held at the memorial Oct. 27 to officially transfer the title to the Park Service. Smith said he hopes to hold a larger event to celebrate the transfer May 22, which is Founders Day, the anniversary of the day in 1863 when the U.S. War Department established a separate bureau to authorize and organize black troops.

Smith said he would like to invite descendants of some of the soldiers and sailors whose names are

inscribed at the memorial, as well as President Bush and his father, who signed the legislation that helped create the memorial.

"There's been so much slighting in the past" of black Union soldiers and sailors, Smith said. "We're not going to let them be slighted this time."



Detail from the African-American Civil War Memorial (Photo Courtesy afroamcivilwar.org)

Group Tries to Save Farm from Developer

by **CANDICE BOSELY**

Hagerstown Herald Mail
SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.VA. - Untrue to its name, Faraway Farm is proving to be the source of a struggle close to many people's hearts.

A plan to build more than 150 houses on land now used to grow hay - and that once was the site of a post-Antietam Civil War battle - has caused the formation of a group of about 60 members opposed to the subdivision.

Ideally, members of the group will be able to save the land from ever being developed. Pragmatically, they hope to keep any development on the land within reason.

Unlike soldiers in 1862 battling artillery, the new fighters have found themselves entrenched in tedious county rules and regulations.

"(The developer) can still make money and not be as blatant and destroy what remains of this community," said Edward E. Dunleavy, president of Citizens United to Save Faraway Farm. "It's safe to say that our organization is not against development, but we want the rural zoning regulations enforced."

The Battle of Shepherdstown

Lodged in an exterior wall on the second floor of the property's brick farmhouse is a black cannon ball. Although the original cannon ball was lost ("Stolen," amended Edward Moore, another person trying to save the farm), a replacement was added during later renovations, Dunleavy said.

According to records on the National Park Service's Web site, the Battle of Shepherdstown took place on Sept. 19 and 20, 1862, on acreage to the west side of what is now Trough Road, including Faraway Farm, which is east of Shepherdstown.

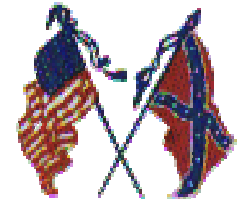
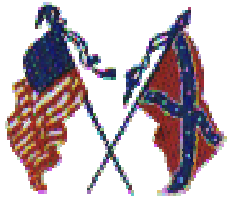
After the Battle of Antietam, Gen. Robert E. Lee began to pull his Army of Northern Virginia back across the Potomac River, crossing at Pack Horse Ford.

Union soldiers arrived on the Maryland side of the river the following morning and began to shoot at southern troops across the water.

"Some Union artillery shells crashed into Shepherdstown itself, causing confusion and chaos among the townspeople and wounded rebels left there," according to National Park Service documents

As Union fire increased and the Confederate soldiers began to run low on ammunition, an order was given for southern troops to retreat once darkness fell.

Just before dark, an attacking Union group of around 500 soldiers waded



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across the river, forcing southern troops back and capturing a few cannons.

Believing that the entire reserve artillery had been captured, Lee and Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson ordered A.P. Hill's and Jubal Early's divisions to stop their withdrawal, turn and force the Union troops back across the river into Maryland.

The battle began in earnest.

"As the Confederates reacted to the assumed crisis, Union commanders were planning a follow-up to their raid. Three brigades from the 5th Corps crossed the Potomac at 7 a.m. and proceeded toward Shepherdstown and down the Charlestown Road," a National Park Service article states. Trough Road is the road referenced.

Advancing soldiers with A.P. Hill's division clashed with the Northern troops, forcing many of them back toward the river.

Col. Charles M. Prevost, with an infantry regiment from Pennsylvania - the 118th, also known as the Corn Exchange Regiment - refused to withdraw, however, until he received orders from his direct superior.

"This was the (118th's) first battle, the first opportunity many of them had to discover their issued Enfield rifles were defective and would not fire. Colonel Prevost was wounded trying to steady his men, other officers led a bayonet charge which was smashed, and the regiment broke apart," according to the National Park Service. "Some tried to escape by climbing down the bluffs under Confederate fire, and many died as they fell to the rocks below. Others picked their way past the old cement mill, ran across the slippery dam, or waded across at the ford. Of the 700 men in the 118th who crossed the

river that morning, only 431 came back across."

Believing the Confederate army still "had plenty of fight left in it," Union Gen. George McClellan decided to delay any further effort to pursue the southerners.

In a letter written on Feb. 25, 1863, Hill wrote that "... 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."

The battle, which left more than 600 soldiers killed or wounded, marked the end of Lee's first invasion of the North.

The administrative battleground

According to a sketch plan of the development provided by Dunleavy, the project's developer is proposing to build 152 houses on 121 acres. The brick farmhouse would remain in place and on a 10-acre plot.

Such high density is not compatible with the area's nature, Dunleavy said. Developers who propose a housing development must go through the county's Land Evaluation Site Assessment test. A development starts with a score of 100, after which county officials look at the property's soil, distance to growth corridors, historic nature, water system, sewer system, effect on schools and proximity of emergency services.

Points are deducted for various factors. If a score of 55 or less is given, the developer can build. A score of more than 55 means the development cannot be brought before the county Planning Commission for consideration.

The proposed subdivision - to be named Faraway Farms - was

assessed by the county and given a LESA score of 46.2.

Dunleavy, who performed his own assessment, believes the score should be 74.2.

Stove Might Have Sparked Seminary Fire

By TRAVIS LAU

Hagerstown Evening Sun Reporter
A two-alarm fire that gutted a Civil War-era home at Lutheran Theological Seminary Nov. 9 appears to have been caused by a malfunctioning electric stove, seminary officials announced.

But state and county investigators have yet to release a report detailing the fire's cause.

Investigators determined the fire started in the kitchen of a downstairs apartment at Krauth House, a dormitory that recently housed four students and was built originally as a residence for seminary administrators, seminary communication director the Rev. John Spangler said in a press release.

Spangler said the kitchen stove was the focus of the investigation. Daniel Bringman, vice president of administration and finance for the seminary, said the seminary anticipates a pending fire marshal's report will name the stove as the origin of the fire.

Built in 1834, Krauth House is one of just three buildings on campus to date to the Civil War. The house was at the center of the Union line on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg and served as a hospital for both Union and Confederate soldiers.

Bringman said planning has begun to rebuild the residence and the seminary will seek to preserve the integrity of the historic structure.