

## **Civil War News Roundup - 04/14/2008**

**Courtesy of the Civil War Preservation Trust – [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org)**

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\$103 million Gettysburg museum ready to open  
A place where voices of the Civil War can be heard  
By Cindi Lash, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

04/13/2008

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (PA)

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08104/872899-85.stm#>

GETTYSBURG, Pa. -- The tattered map and painstakingly lettered wooden tag tied to the toe of 19-year-old Lt. William Fisher that enabled his father to find his grave and body ...

The medical case carried by a physician who served at the first battle of the Civil War and, two years later, at the monumental clash that determined its outcome ...

The narrow camp cot and pigeonhole desk used by Gen. Robert E. Lee while he executed the doomed three-day assault on his Northern enemy ...

Each is a surviving, tangible testament to a soldier whose life intersected with thousands of others in July 1863 in this pastoral town near the Maryland border.

By weaving their stories with scores of others drawn from those who fought, died and witnessed at Gettysburg, planners of a new museum and visitors center aim to provide a more personal understanding of the battle's toll and inestimable impact on the nation's future.

Teeming with artifacts, archives, educational and research facilities and interactive exhibits that allow visitors to sample a Civil War soldier's life, the \$103 million center opens tomorrow at the Gettysburg National Military Park in Adams County.

Designed to resemble a Civil War-era red plank barn and stone farmhouse, the 139,000-square-foot complex nestles in a 100-acre glade adjacent to the battlefield.

A joint project of the National Park Service and the private Gettysburg Foundation, the center replaces an 87-year-old facility that lacked space for artifacts and elbow room for nearly 2 million visitors each year.

Moving the center two-thirds of a mile from the old location will permit restoration of land along Cemetery Ridge, where soldiers fought during the three-day clash in which about 50,000 Union and Confederate soldiers were killed, wounded or captured.

The center also will house the "Battle of Gettysburg" Cyclorama painting, which had been displayed in a separate building and had suffered extensive damage before restoration began

in 2004. The three-dimensional piece of art, created in 1884 by Paul Philippoteaux and a team of painters, will return to public view Sept. 26.

Visitors could spend days working their way through the center's films, computer databases and exhibits, with pauses in its "saloon" for period refreshments of biscuits, chicken and dumplings or macaroni and cheese. But its contents are intended to be digested in "bite-sized pieces" that will inform and enhance forays onto the sprawling battlefield, chief park historian D. Scott Hartwig said.

The center provides context for battlefield visitors by addressing the birth of the United States, the events that drew two armies to Gettysburg, and the ongoing struggles for civil and voting rights that roiled the country for more than a century after the war.

"We typically in museums don't tell the public how [the armies] got here. It was like they just showed up here and started to fight," Mr. Hartwig said. "[Now] we learn what sets up Gettysburg."

Visitors enter a meticulously designed lobby where a brief film answers questions about park attractions, parking, transportation and hiring battlefield guides. An atrium leads to the museum, theaters, education wing and bookstore; more than a million artifacts and documents and thousands of books are stored in a climate-controlled lower level.

Period materials abound -- hardwood, stone, slate, white pillars with embedded cannons -- and dozens of high windows provide light and views of woods and wetlands where armies once swarmed. "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Dixie" and other martial tunes play while visitors approach 11 galleries.

Bearing names drawn from President Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address," each gallery is packed with display cases, photographs, newspaper reproductions and theaters. A 12th gallery will house temporary or loaned exhibits.

Weapons, uniforms, flags and recreations of soldiers' and officers' camps are shown. Bibles, wallets, improvised games and other homey items are accompanied by information about their former owners.

Among the irreplaceable artifacts: the iron door of the cell where abolitionist John Brown was jailed in Harpers Ferry, Va., before the war; the battered canvas stretcher used to carry Confederate Lt. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson after he was fatally wounded at Chancellorsville, Va., in the spring of 1863; and the bed, desk and camp stove used by Gen. Lee.

"We don't just show you racks of rifles or how many minie balls we have . . . Now you will see [artifacts] in the context of the soldiers' experience," Mr. Hartwig said. "Every single piece has to tell a story, and those personal stories help visitors to make a connection."

Galleries also cover political events and issues, exploring the country's growth, economic conditions and its bitter conflicts over slavery as well as the military campaigns that led to and followed the battle at Gettysburg. Other galleries delve into the "Gettysburg Address," the preservation of the battlefield and the struggles for freedom that continued for many Americans after the war ended in 1865.

"We're [touching on] experiences that can reach all different levels of learning and all different age groups," said Dr. Robert C. Wilburn, president and chief executive officer of the Gettysburg Foundation, who held the same positions at the Carnegie Institute from 1984 to 1992.

Quotations are everywhere, reflecting the comments and opinions of commanders, common soldiers, civilians and war correspondents who followed and documented the experiences of both armies. Films and audio exhibits detail victories, defeats, light moments among friends and the carnage that followed in the words and re-created voices of battle combatants and witnesses.

"We want you to read and hear the voices of the people as much as we could," Mr. Hartwig said. "This whole museum is a story."

Indeed, the most poignant exhibits are those that provide a snapshot of the lives, and too often the deaths, of individual folks rather than entire regiments or armies.

Particularly effective is the wall covered by 560 overlapping portraits of soldiers, some grim and formal, others sporting shy smiles, many heartbreakingly young. All were killed, wounded or captured at Gettysburg. Information about their fates is available in the center's extensive resource room.

Equally moving is the glass case devoted to Lt. Fisher, of Delaware, who died on the second day of fighting in the area known as "The Wheatfield." Along with his toe tag and maps drawn by a comrade to mark his grave are letters written by his father, who traveled to Gettysburg to search for his son.

In his final letter, the grieving father informs the slain soldier's mother: "William is no more."

The Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park is located at 1195 Baltimore Pike. It can be reached from Baltimore Pike or Taneytown Road and will be open daily, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Admission is free, although fees will be charged to view the feature film "A New Birth of Freedom." Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6.50 for youth (ages 6-12). Children under age 5 are admitted free. Film admission will be coupled with admission to the Cyclorama painting when it opens Sept. 26. Admission then will be \$12 for adults and \$10 for youth.

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Civil War showpiece restored  
BY SHARI SANGER, STAFF WRITER

04/13/2008

Scranton Times-Tribune (PA)

[http://www.thetimes-tribune.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19480119&BRD=2185&PAG=461&dept\\_id=415898&rfi=6](http://www.thetimes-tribune.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19480119&BRD=2185&PAG=461&dept_id=415898&rfi=6)

More than a century ago, thousands of Scrantonians gathered on Courthouse Square to dedicate the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, honoring those who lost their lives in the Civil War.

On Saturday, a crowd again gathered in front of the 104-foot-tall structure, this time for a rededication ceremony following \$500,000 in restoration work.

The Delaney Delacy Guard of the Sons of Union Veterans organized Saturday's ceremony and tribute to the man who was instrumental in getting the monument restored.

During an hourlong ceremony in front of the Lackawanna County Courthouse, Alan Sweeney — president of the Lackawanna Historical Society and adjutant of the guard — was presented with several commendations for his role in preserving the city's history.

He received the Meritorious Service Medal from the Sons of Veterans Reserve, the military component of the Sons of Union Veterans.

He was also awarded a plaque from the city of Scranton, a resolution from the Lackawanna County commissioners recognizing Saturday as "Alan Sweeney Day in Lackawanna County" and a resolution from the House of Representatives.

Mr. Sweeney, surprised and humbled by the recognition he received, said he was merely "the idea man" behind the restoration.

"It's not just one person. It's a whole teamwork of people," he said.

Commissioner Mike Washo commended Mr. Sweeney for bringing the much-needed repairs to the attention of the commissioners about three years ago.

The monument was literally falling over, said Capt. John M. Hart Jr., commander of the Delaney Delacy Guard.

“Time has not been kind to the monument, and over the years, weather and the elements have taken their toll,” he said.

The restoration work, funded by the county, included the five copper alloy statues depicting the artillery, cavalry, infantry and navy, and the Goddess of Victory, which looks out over downtown Scranton. The monument’s granite base and canons that sit in front of it also were fixed.

Next to the Pennsylvania Monument in Gettysburg, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument is the second-largest Civil War monument, Mr. Sweeney said.

“I think it is the most substantial piece of masonry in the state,” he said.

Mr. Hart said Mr. Sweeney’s initiative has preserved the monument for future generations.

“Scrantonians, for the next hundred and some odd years, will go by and see this monument to those of our brothers and our ancestors who fought that great battle,” he said.

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CWPT closer to purchasing key piece of Brandy Station battlefield  
By Rob Humphreys

4/12/2008

Culpeper Star-Exponent (VA)

[http://www.starexponent.com/cse/news/local/article/cwpt\\_closer\\_to\\_purchasing\\_key\\_piece\\_of\\_brandy\\_station\\_battlefield/13723/](http://www.starexponent.com/cse/news/local/article/cwpt_closer_to_purchasing_key_piece_of_brandy_station_battlefield/13723/)

The Civil War Preservation Trust is one step closer to purchasing a key piece of the Brandy Station battlefield.

The Washington, D.C.-based group recently announced it has signed a contract with Whitney Pound to buy 26.2 acres on the northeastern slope of Fleetwood Heights, site of the war's largest cavalry battle.

Clark "Bud" Hall, who writes a Civil War column for the Star-Exponent and works closely with the CWPT, calls the site — and an adjoining 23-acre parcel purchased in December — "the most important acreage on the entire battlefield."

"We wanted Fleetwood Hill for many, many years," Hall said, "and now we can report, thanks to the Civil War Preservation Trust, we have secured it for many generations to come."

Spokesman Jim Campi said CWPT will pay \$785,000 for the land, using private donations and federal money from the American Battlefield Protection Program. Per the contract, the funds must be raised by mid-September.

The trust now owns 1,013 acres at Brandy Station, located about five miles northeast of the town of Culpeper near the Rappahannock River. The battle, a narrow Confederate victory, is considered the opening action of the Gettysburg Campaign.

According to Hall, the newly acquired property holds significant importance for military and historical reasons.

"It was on this ground," he said, "that the 12th Virginia Cavalry charged" Union horsemen in the late morning hours of June 9, 1863. "This charge precipitates extraordinarily heaving fighting on top of the slopes of the hill as well as the sides of the hill."

Herring's Spring

The site is home to Herring's Spring, where, to this day, water still bubbles from the earth a short distance from Fleetwood Heights Road, known during the war as the Carolina Road.

"Soldiers who were wounded during the battle were taken to this ground to be tended to for their wounds," Hall said, adding that troops from both sides found comfort in the spring's water. "A lot of guys were buried on that sight."

Interestingly, Hall added, the spring is the genesis of how Brandy Station — originally called Crossroads — got its name.

During the Revolutionary War, soldiers had grown accustomed to buying brandy from Isaac Herring, who owned a house nearby. Where did the water come from to distill the brandy? Herring's Spring, of course.

"On one occasion," Hall said, "he didn't have any in stock, and the soldiers wrote 'brandy' on his house. That's the anecdotal story, at least, and I believe it's true."

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Friends of South Mountain State Battlefield plan open house

04/10/2008

Hagerstown Herald-Mail (MD)

[http://www.herald-mail.com/?cmd=displaystory&story\\_id=190756&format=html](http://www.herald-mail.com/?cmd=displaystory&story_id=190756&format=html)

The Friends of South Mountain State Battlefield will hold an open house and membership drive Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. at the Greenbrier State Park Visitor Center.

The Friends of South Mountain State Battlefield originally began as the Friends of Gathland and the Friends of Washington Monument State Parks in 1992. The two groups later merged to form the new organization shortly after the creation of the State Battlefield in 2000. Since that time, the group has been active in assisting the battlefield staff in the preservation and interpretation of the battlefield.

South Mountain State Battlefield is known as Maryland's first state battlefield park.

Some of the accomplishments of the Friends have been the installation of interpretive markers at Gathland State Park telling of the life of Civil War correspondent George Alfred Townsend, additional interpretive markers describing the battle, printing of interpretive materials and the acquisition of several important artifacts.

The most recent acquisition was the pistol carried by Sgt. Charles Goodwin during the battle. Sgt. Goodwin was a courier assigned to deliver a message to Maj. Gen. Jesse Reno toward the end of the Sept. 14, 1862 battle. Sgt. Goodwin was with Maj. Gen. Reno when the general was mortally wounded on the field.

Sgt. Goodwin grabbed the reins of the general's horse and led it off the field so the Confederates wouldn't capture the general. Reno would die later that evening from his wounds.

Several artifacts will be on display Saturday. Light refreshments will be served. Entrance to the park will be free.

For additional information, call Washington Monument State Park at 301-432-8065.

South Mountain Recreation Area is home to five state parks, including Greenbrier, South Mountain, Gathland, Washington Monument, and the South Mountain State Battlefield.

The parks are headquartered in Washington County. South Mountain State Battlefield was the site of a bloody Civil War battle on Sep. 14, 1862, with an estimated 6,000 casualties.

Although overshadowed by the Battle of Antietam three days later, the Battle of South Mountain would mark the first major engagement between the two armies on Northern soil.

Information about Greenbrier State Park is at  
[www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/greenbrier.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/greenbrier.html).

Information about the Battle of South Mountain is at  
[www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southmtbattle.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southmtbattle.html).

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Could famed national parks be developed from within?  
By RUSTY DENNEN

04/09/2008

Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star (VA)

<http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2008/042008/04092008/369791>

Private land within the boundaries of some of the nation's most beloved national parks is under growing pressure to be developed or sold.

And, according to a new report by an independent parks watchdog group, other sites--including Fredericksburg-area Civil War battlefields--are looking for funds to acquire important acreage as federal budget cuts have dried up available money.

In its "America's Heritage for Sale" report released yesterday, the National Parks Conservation Association says of the 391 sites in the National Park System, a significant and growing number face some development threat to wildlife habitat or the preservation of cultural areas.

"Some of these privately owned parcels were placed on the market by willing sellers and authorized for purchase decades ago," the report says. "The park service, however, has lacked funding to close the deals. As time races on and developers exert stronger pressure on owners to sell, the likelihood of inconsistent commercial or residential development within park boundaries increases."

Congress set the park boundaries based on the historic or scenic nature of the land. Many people are surprised to learn that private land lies within many parks.

#### UNWANTED ATTRACTION

For example, a hotel, conference center and museum are planned on private land within Valley Forge National Historical Park in Pennsylvania. Valley Forge was Gen. George Washington's winter encampment in 1777-78.

"The best example is Zion National Park [in Utah], where a couple from California purchased 80 acres in the center of one of America's most majestic parks and began constructing a conference and retreat center," said Ron Tipton, NPCA's senior vice president for programs.

Of interest here, he added, "Mid-Atlantic region parks carved out of forest and farmland" decades ago, "are now in the suburbs of Eastern America."

There are about 2,000 acres of privately held land within Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park boundary, Russ Smith, the superintendent, said yesterday. The 8,500-acre park includes key parts of Wilderness, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Court House battlefields.

"We are concerned if the land is about to be developed," Smith said. "We have to look at the land in terms of how vulnerable it is to development and that's how we set our priorities."

## IMPORTANT LAND

There are several parcels along the north side of State Route 20 in Wilderness battlefield that were at risk of commercial development, Smith said. Acquisition of more of that land in Orange County would allow visitors to walk from Union to Confederate lines. Part of the battlefield is broken up by private ownership.

Another threatened site is the Jackson Flank area in Chancellorsville, where Confederate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson led 26,000 troops on a 12-mile march to attack the Union's flank.

The NPCA report says that the military park hopes to acquire about 230 acres in Wilderness and Chancellorsville at an estimated cost of \$5.5 million.

Smith said the acreage and the dollar amount, "sound a little low. We're in the process of updating them now."

The military park has no money available for land acquisition.

## LOW PRIORITY

"Congress has to appropriate the funds and has not made land acquisition a high priority," Smith said. The most recent purchase of acreage in Orange, "cleared us out, and there's no expectation of getting \$5 million. We're not optimistic at all."

While federal money is scarce, private nonprofits have spent millions preserving land inside and nearby the military park.

The Civil War Preservation Trust and the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, for example, have bought up hundreds of acres of significant land in recent years in Spotsylvania and Orange.

The NPCA estimates that about 1.8 million acres of priority land in national parks could be sold or developed. This comes at a time when acquisition appropriations dropped from \$130 million in 2002, to \$44 million this year.

It is asking Congress to appropriate \$150 million each year between now and the National Parks' 2016 centennial, to purchase the priority land.

The money would come out of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which receives \$900 million annually, primarily from oil and gas leases.

For the full report, visit: [npca.org/landforsale/](http://npca.org/landforsale/)

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## UT Students Invade Civil War Battleground By Art Bagley

4/4/2008

University of Tampa Minaret (FL)

<http://media.www.theminaretonline.com/media/storage/paper1025/news/2008/04/04/NewsFeatures/Ut.Students.Invade.Civil.War.Battleground-3299281.shtml>

Seventeen University of Tampa Army ROTC cadets and four UT history course students visited Chickamauga National Battlefield in northwest Georgia last weekend.

The venture was part of the cadets' MSL 402 curriculum and helped students enrolled in HIS 225: Age of the Civil War to better understand this significant, large-scale conflict that took place between the 18 and 20 of September, 1863.

Over 66,000 Confederate troops and almost 57,000 Union troops fought at Chickamauga, which became the first national Civil War park in 1890.

One of the major aims of the founders of the park was to provide educational opportunities for future generations; the UT group certainly benefitted from that far-sighted goal.

The UT group arrived at the park's visitor center at 8:30 a.m. on March 22. An orientation session, led by National Park Service Ranger and Historian Jim Ogden, supplied the UT contingent with the strategic background to, and subsequent ramifications of, the Battle of Chickamauga, a Confederate victory. Vicious fighting took place along a four-mile front over the course of three days.

At battle's end, around 1,657 Union soldiers and 2,312 Confederates were dead; another 14,500 Yankees and 16,100 Rebels were wounded, captured, or missing.

Ranger Ogden directed the tour to various parts of the 5,200-acre field, beginning at Alexander's Bridge over Chickamauga Creek. This was the first heavy clash of Union and Confederate forces on 18 September 1863.

By walking the fields and participating in small-group formation exercises, the attendees easily visualized how leadership skills, contingency planning, personal bravery, human intuition, close observation and even "dumb luck" play important roles in all military operations, past and present.

At the various stops around the field, it was sometimes difficult to get the gist of the ranger's presentation because topographical changes, such as raised road beds, and the growth of forests had altered and/or obscured the 1863 sightlines.

It was strange to see cannons on one hilltop pointing into a forest. However, when it was learned that no trees grew on the hill in 1863 and that the artillery's target was clearly visible about a mile away in a valley, the placement of the cannon was more easily understood.

The cool but sunny Saturday outing covered the clash's most crucial military maneuvers and actions: Reed's and Alexander's bridges, Kelly's Field, Brotherton's Field, the several Confederate breakthroughs along the LaFayette Road, and the Union's final stand at Snodgrass Hill-Horseshoe Ridge.

Prominent names mentioned in Ranger Ogden's talks included Union generals Rosecrans, Thomas, Wilder, and Brannan, as well as artillery Captain Eli Lilly (of pharmaceutical fame); and Confederate generals Bragg, Longstreet, Forrest, Polk, and D.H. Hill.

Also on the field are numerous plaques commemorating the presence and actions of several Florida regiments; Florida's state monument is prominently located very close to the visitors' center.

Confederate cavalry General Joseph Wheeler survived Chickamauga and the Civil War, and was at the Tampa Bay Hotel (now Plant Hall) preparatory to the Spanish-American War in late spring 1898.

This excursion was planned by UT ROTC Col. Patrick O'Sullivan and UT Adjunct History Prof./Col. Jim Stefan [Ret.].

It was the first trip of its kind in UT ROTC history. The Army's ROTC curriculum strongly recommends that cadets take a tour such as this one before being commissioned at graduation.

The cost was \$65.00 per person for the round-trip charter bus and two nights' lodgings at a close-by National Guard training center; all travelers covered their own food expenses.

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## Perryville Rejects Subdivision Zoning Near Battlefield By Greg Kocher

4/3/2008

Lexington Herald-Leader (KY)

<http://www.kentucky.com/779/story/365954.html>

PERRYVILLE, KY - By a 4-1 vote Thursday night, the Perryville City Council rejected a proposed subdivision that would have been near Kentucky's largest Civil War battlefield. "I'm relieved," said Sherry Robinson, a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who had spoken against the proposal. "Right now, we're ecstatic."

Marion "Pete" Coyle Jr., the landowner who had wanted to develop a portion of his farm on U.S. 150 just west of downtown Perryville, had little comment after the vote.

"I'm upset right now," Coyle said as he left City Hall.

Had the council approved the rezoning, Coyle could have put 53 single-family houses, an assisted living center and two commercial highway businesses on 34 acres.

But the proposal came under fire from Civil War re-enactors and preservationists who feared the rezoning would only open more farmland around the battlefield to development. At last count, city hall had received 169 telephone calls, many from re-enactors around the country who opposed the development. Re-enactors say Perryville remains relatively unspoiled and appears much as it would have to its original combatants.

"We have to continue to protect this land, because if we don't there's a strong possibility it may rear its head again," said Union re-enactor Chad Greene of Perryville.

The proposed rezoning prompted the Civil War Preservation Trust, a non-profit group in Washington D.C., to put Perryville on its Top 10 list of endangered battlefields last month.

Some 7,500 were killed or wounded in the October 1862 Battle of Perryville. It was a tactical Confederate victory, but Kentucky remained in Union hands for the rest of the war. Perryville council member Sheila Cox recalled those soldiers while reading a written statement about her support for Coyle's proposal.

"I would hope to think that the soldiers that lost their lives for rights and freedom did not intend for us not to grow and make progress," Cox said.

She added: “The battlefield and the city of Perryville both need to understand that each other have got to give and take in order to survive. The Coyle proposal has taken great pains in seeing that the plans include the best interests of both parties.”

But council member Georgeanne Edwards said Coyle had failed to demonstrate a need for the rezoning. And she said there was no evidence of any major economic, social or physical changes to the area that might warrant a zone change.

“Also, the development is not compatible with the efforts to preserve the Perryville battlefield, and the historically significant land surrounding the battlefield,” Edwards said.

On the vote to reject the rezoning, council members Edwards, Bill Chance, Julie Clay and Dawn Hastings voted yes, and Cox voted no. Council member Phillip Crowe was absent. Mayor Anne Sleet was not permitted to vote because she is not a member of the legislative body.

Troops did not fight on the Coyle property. However, Old Mackville Road, used by both Confederate and Union soldiers as they went to and from the battlefield, crosses through the property.

Last fall Coyle had preliminary talks with the state Parks Department, which wanted to purchase an easement for the old road and turn it into a walking trail.

But those talks stalled when Gov. Steve Beshear shifted \$29 million in bond money to the Kentucky Horse Park for preparations for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games.

Council member Clay said she was encouraged that Coyle wanted to preserve the Old Mackville Road corridor.

“I think that’s something we should look into,” Clay said. “We do receive a lot of visitors to the battlefield. And I think walking the land that the soldiers walked would be an interesting and agreeable thing to promote.”

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## Little Letter From Lincoln Expected to Draw Big Bid By Pete Sherman

4/2/2008

Kewanee Star-Courier (IL)

<http://www.starcourier.com/articles/2008/04/03/news/local1.txt>

SPRINGFIELD, IL - An 86-word letter Abraham Lincoln wrote in 1864 to the widow of education reformer Horace Mann could fetch \$3 million to \$5 million at auction today in New York, which would make it the most expensive Lincoln document ever sold.

While Sotheby's suggested price range for the letter has been making headlines, historians in Springfield are less concerned about what's paid for a Lincoln item than what happens to it after it changes hands.

In 2006, a Texas auction house broke up a large collection of Lincoln documents and sold it off page by page. Within a few weeks of the auction, someone approached the Springfield-based "Papers of Abraham Lincoln" project, which is in the middle of a decades-long effort archiving everything written by and to Lincoln. The person who approached them had one of the auctioned documents. Well, half of it.

It's not uncommon, according to Daniel Stowell, director and editor of The Papers of Abraham Lincoln, for auctioned Lincoln documents to be cut up after they are sold. Some collectors and dealers believe they can get more money that way.

The worst-case scenario, Stowell said, is when a new owner goes even further, slicing out sentences and breaking a valuable document into dozens of strips of words and phrases.

"I find it appalling," Stowell said in his office at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Monday.

Associate editor and director John Lupton preferred the word "criminal."

It's standard practice for auction houses to not disclose their buyers. On Thursday, Sotheby's will sell more than 20 Lincoln documents, which probably will be split up among several new owners spanning the globe. Some of the documents might not resurface for years, if ever.

Fortunately, Sotheby's already has sent Stowell high-quality scans of every page. That also is what happened in Texas, where the auction house allowed Stowell and his staff to add that collection to digital archives in Springfield before splitting it up. But not all auction houses are as considerate, Stowell said.

He and Lupton said they are a little perplexed at Sotheby's price tag for the Lincoln-Mann letter.

After Horace Mann died in 1859, his wife, Mary Tyler Peabody Mann, founded a school in Concord, Mass. In 1864, 195 of her students signed a petition requesting that Lincoln free slave children. Lincoln's response was characteristically succinct.

"Please tell these little people I am very glad their young hearts are so full of just and generous sympathy, and that, while I have not that power to grant all they ask, I trust that they will remember that God has, and that, as it seems, He wills to do it," Lincoln wrote back.

The letter is one-third the length of the Gettysburg Address. A \$5 million bid would put the value of each word at nearly \$58,140

"Giving value to a document is a strange science," Lupton said. "One we don't understand."

The letter does not belong in the category of what Stowell considers Lincoln's most iconic letters. However, shortly after it was written, it was widely reprinted and lithographed. Stowell said its value might be because of a variety of factors, including a unique expression of sympathy among children for other children on the issue of slavery, a colorful example of Lincoln's writing style and the famous addressee, Mann's widow.

Still, Stowell and Lupton suspect the document might go for much less than what Sotheby's is asking, perhaps in the middle six figures.

The Mann letter is being sold along with 110 other documents written by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Robert E. Lee and many others that belong to the Dr. Robert Small Trust.

Of all the documents, the three highest-priced are Lincoln's.

To inspect the items being sold by Sotheby's on Thursday, visit [www.sothebys.com](http://www.sothebys.com). Free registration is required.

The most anyone has paid for a single Abraham Lincoln document was \$3.1 million. That was in 2002, when Christie's sold a copy of the last speech Lincoln gave, on April 11, 1865. He spoke about Reconstruction and granting voting rights to blacks.

Four days later, he was dead.

Sotheby today will also auction the only known signature of Lincoln when he was in Gettysburg and a letter Lincoln wrote to Union Maj. John Key, asking if he had called the

Civil War a game. Sotheby's is asking \$800,000 to \$1 million for the Gettysburg signature and \$500,000 to \$800,000 for the letter to Key, whom he eventually dismissed.

Wood County Nominates Civil War Sites  
By Pamela Brust

4/1/2008

Parkersburg News and Sentinel (WV)

<http://www.newsandsentinel.com/page/content.detail/id/503994.html?nav=5061>

PARKERSBURG, WV - Six Civil War sites in the Wood County area will be nominated for funding to provide signage through the state's Civil War Trails Program.

During a meeting Monday with Steve Nicely, director of the Greater Parkersburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Tom Crooks, with a special bureau committee working on this project, Wood County commissioners agreed to pay the \$200 annual maintenance fee for signage if the Fort Boreman site is chosen as one of the three initial regional sites to receive funding from the state for signage. The state Division of Tourism recently adopted the Civil War Trail project.

"This is a regional effort to promote documented Civil War sites throughout five states. The good news is that the state of West Virginia has agreed to purchase the first 150 signs, three for each region that will go up throughout the state. The program has been developed over a period of years. In addition, there will be a brochure made available. This group is a non-profit corporation based in Virginia," Nicely said.

"We're hoping the signs for the sites that are approved will be up by this summer. These are sites that are all documented and all have some connection with the Civil War," Nicely said, noting easements must be obtained from the property owners for the signs as well. "Once we submit the nominations, the state will then decide which three will get signs as part of the initial round for the signage," Nicely said, noting if purchased the signs cost about \$2,600 each.

"The CVB has committed if the property owner at the site is unable to pay the maintenance fee, the bureau will agree to pay it," Nicely said. "This is a tourism marketing effort and we think it will greatly benefit these sites.

"We are looking at a number of other things we can do in this area to promote the Civil War heritage as well including we hope to start an annual symposium with speakers that would help increase the awareness of the sites and their history. This is a regional effort," Nicely said.

Civil War Trails signage includes directional trailblazer signs, gateway markers and interpretive markers.

“Signs can be erected for the other sites, this process will just determine the three from this area that would have signs paid for by the state during this initial period,” Nicely explained.

According to information provided by the bureau, Fort Boreman, located just off U.S. 50, is the site of a military fortification built during the summer and fall of 1863 and named in honor of Arthur I. Boreman, West Virginia’s first governor and a leading Parkersburg citizen. Upon completion, there were 136 Union soldiers garrisoned there until the autumn of 1865 to protect the Northwest Virginia Railroad.

“I’m glad to see the office building at Fourth and Avery streets is on the list, it’s my understanding it was a former Civil War hospital, but it is sometimes overlooked,” Commissioner Rick Modesitt said.

The Fourth and Avery streets’ building was one of five U.S. Army hospitals in Parkersburg during the Civil War and the only one still standing. To provide adequate space for the army’s needs, two long wooden buildings were constructed adjacent to it to serve as patient wards and office. Tents were also erected to accommodate the overflow.

General George McClellan’s first invasion into the Confederacy was in Parkersburg. On May 26, 1861, McClellan ordered Union troops to cross the Ohio River and occupy Parkersburg and western Virginia. McClellan arrived in Parkersburg on June 22 with his staff. He inspected several military facilities including the future site of Ft. Boreman before moving further east.

Johnson’s Crossing in Belleville is also on the list. Confederate troops led by Col. Adam “Stovepipe” Johnson reached a point across the Ohio River from Belleville in July 1863. Separated from the rest, the Confederate cavalry raiding party led by Gen. John Morgan, Col. Johnson ordered his men to cross the river that was at flood stage resulting in numerous deaths.

Burning Springs Oil Field in Burning Springs is named as the site of the world’s oldest producing oil well. The field and an estimated 150,000 barrels of oil were destroyed May 9, 1863, by Confederate guerrillas led by Gen. William “Grumble” Jones and Gen. John Imboden as part of the Jones-Imboden raids throughout western Virginia in 1863.

The Oil and Gas Museum at 119 Third St. houses an extensive collection of Civil War artifacts and documents, highlights the vital role oil and gas played in the Civil War and the founding of the new state of West Virginia.

The Civil War Trails Program is in place in Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia.

## Battlefield Preservation Group Hosts Conference in Springfield

3/31/2008

KSFX-TV Channel 27, Springfield (MO)

<http://ozarksfirst.com/content/fulltext/?cid=19357>

SPRINGFIELD, MO - Hundreds of Civil War buffs and preservationists from around the country will converge on Springfield next month as part of the Civil War Preservation Trust's (CWPT) annual conference.

The four day event will be held at the University Plaza Hotel and Conference Center from April 17-20, 2008. The annual event gives members an opportunity to celebrate the organization's successes while learning about the Civil War heritage of Missouri and the trans-Mississippi region. The conference is made possible in part by a generous contribution from The History Channel.

Participants in the conference will participate in tours and presentations by some of the nation's most accomplished Civil War historians and authors including Edwin C. Bearss of the National Park Service and scholars Vernon Burton, David Hinze, Connie Langum, Arnold Schofield and William Shea.

The theme of the conference is the "War in the Ozarks" and it will explore Civil War battles in the trans-Mississippi region. The focus of the event will be the 1861 Battle of Wilson's Creek, although engagements at Pea Ridge, AR.; Fort Scott and Mine Creek, KS.; Carthage and Newtonia, MO.; and Cabin Creek and Honey Springs, OK., will also be examined.

The bloody struggles helped determined the fate of the war west of the Mississippi.

Battlefield Virginia  
Peninsula Replete With Relics of Civil And Revolutionary Wars  
By Jesse Leavenworth

3/30/2008

Hartford Courant (CT)

<http://www.courant.com/travel/hc-vapeninsula.artmar30,0,7305732.story>

From the heavy guns of a seacoast fort through battle-scarred Yorktown and the swampy outskirts of Richmond, the Virginia Peninsula tells the story of a massive war campaign and the evolution of warfare.

Along this finger of land cut by the York and James rivers and Chesapeake Bay, the Army of the Potomac launched a grand but ill-fated effort to end the Civil War in the spring of 1862. The modern traveler can trace the Peninsula Campaign through museums, roadside plaques and battlefield sites that have been blurred but not erased by development.

The Yankees' defeat at the Battle of Bull Run in 1861 had doused hopes for a quick end to the rebellion, but Union leaders still sought a smashing blow a year later. Gen. George B. McClellan planned to take Richmond with an amphibious assault northward from the tip of the Virginia Peninsula.

So we begin the journey where McClellan and his troops started — at Fort Monroe, an almost 200-year-old bastion on a spit commanding the Hampton Roads water hub. Here in March 1862, about 100,000 Union soldiers landed and began their trek toward the Confederate capital.

Fort Monroe was one of the few federal installations in the South still in Union hands after 1861. Today, the moated fort houses the Casemate Museum, which includes displays on artillery, historic artifacts and a jail cell that held a famous inmate at war's end. Admission and parking are free, but this is still an active U.S. Army base, so be prepared to show a driver's license and registration at the security gate.

The defensive importance of the site had been clear since John Smith and the Jamestown colonists landed in the area in 1607. A simple fort was in place in 1609. The museum traces that early history, but the focus is on the development of artillery through the nation's wars. One display shows life-size figures manning a gun that fired 32-pound shot to a range of about one mile. The display explains the role of each soldier in the battery.

Fort Monroe also is important as the place where Union Gen. Benjamin Butler refused to return runaway slaves to their Virginia master. Finding that the slaves were to be used to build

Confederate fortifications in the area, Butler told the Southerners that since Virginia had declared itself a foreign country, U.S. law on the return of fugitive slaves did not apply. The Yankee general labeled the runaways "contraband of war" and put them to work for the Union. Word spread among slaves in the area and they soon flocked to the place they called the Freedom Fort.

The man who sought to retain human bondage in a break-away nation — Confederate President Jefferson Davis — was held briefly in Fort Monroe after his capture in 1865. The museum holds the arch-ceiling cell where Davis was locked down in leg shackles before being moved to other quarters on the base. The Casemate Museum ([www.monroe.army.mil](http://www.monroe.army.mil)) also includes a small gift shop.

From Fort Monroe, travel a few miles west to Newport News and the Mariners' Museum ([www.mariner.org](http://www.mariner.org)). Nautical history is the focus of this modern museum and a big part of that story is the development of ironclad warships. The two stars are the Confederate warship Virginia (formerly the Merrimack) and the USS Monitor.

Rebel shipwrights had converted a partially burned frigate by installing iron plating and heavy wooden sheathing atop the hull. The floating rampart was designed to deflect shots, an innovation still seen today in the slanting forms of tanks. Six 9-inch smoothbore cannon protruded from the Virginia's sides, while 6.4-inch rifled cannon protected the bow and stern. In March 1862, the Virginia sank two Union ships off Newport News.

For a few weeks, the rebel ship was the terror of the Union command. The Yankees rushed to answer with the Monitor. Called a "cheesebox on a raft," the hastily built ship held a 21-foot diameter turret protected with eight layers of inch-thick iron plate. The rotating turret held two 11-inch diameter cannon.

Although the Virginia and Monitor pounded each other to a draw in March 1862, the arrival of the ironclads changed nautical warfare forever. Wooden ships with broadside cannon were obsolete.

Mariners' Museum displays include a full-size replica of the Virginia's bow and a complete replica of the Monitor. The original Monitor sank in a storm off Cape Hatteras, N.C., late in 1862, but parts have since been raised. The turret, guns and main engine are now soaking in huge water tanks designed to curb deterioration and allow cleaning. Standing on a platform above the 90,000-gallon tank holding the turret, museum docent Bill Phillips said the iron remains will be in the tanks for years to come, but the ultimate goal is to stabilize the pieces and display them.

North of Newport News is Yorktown, where the British surrendered to end the Revolutionary War in 1781. Yorktown also figured in the Civil War's Peninsula Campaign. Rebel forces retreating before the Union advance halted here and parts of their defensive

works overlap the Revolutionary site. The notoriously cautious McClellan determined to besiege the town, but just as he readied his heavy guns, the Confederates withdrew farther North toward Richmond. Sites to see here include Colonial National Historical Park ([www.nps.gov/york](http://www.nps.gov/york)) and the Yorktown Victory Center ([www.historyisfun.org/Yorktown-Victory-Center.htm](http://www.historyisfun.org/Yorktown-Victory-Center.htm)).

Also doing Civil/Revolutionary war double duty on the tour is Williamsburg, site of a battle during the Peninsula Campaign and also home to Colonial Williamsburg ([www.history.org](http://www.history.org)). And for a trip even further back, there's Historic Jamestown ([www.historicjamestowne.org](http://www.historicjamestowne.org)).

McClellan's grand plan fell apart in late June only several miles outside Richmond when Gen. Robert E. Lee, the newly named Confederate commander, launched a series of attacks called the Seven Days Campaign. Richmond National Battlefield Park ([www.nps.gov/rich](http://www.nps.gov/rich)) tells the stories of those battles, which ended on July 1 at Malvern Hill. Both sides had been heavily bloodied, but McClellan was forced to abandon his attack on Richmond, so the victory went to Lee.

The battlefield park's visitor center, housed in the historic Tredegar Iron Works, has displays on the Seven Days Campaign and also offers information for self-driven tours. Much of the drive is through open country dotted with old farmhouses and mills. Be prepared to pull over at the many black and white plaques along the battle route.

For an overview of the Civil War, visit the American Civil War Center ([www.tredegar.org](http://www.tredegar.org)), which also is housed in the Tredegar Iron Works complex. And for an overview of war in general, visit the Virginia War Museum in Newport News ([www.warmuseum.org](http://www.warmuseum.org)).

To get to all the Civil War-related sites on the Virginia Peninsula, allow at least two days.

For more information on the Peninsula Campaign, visit [www.peninsulacampaign.org](http://www.peninsulacampaign.org).

Rules Sought on Ordnance from Civil War  
Powhatan Historian Cites Recent Death of Man Cleaning Shell  
By Jamie C. Ruff

3/29/2008

Richmond Times-Dispatch (VA)

<http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/news.apx.-content-articles-RTD-2008-03-29-0110.html>

The Civil War ended more than 140 years ago, but there is still ordnance to be unearthed, said Bob Wilcox an amateur historian from Powhatan County.

And the thought, he said, is chilling, especially in light of the February explosion that killed Sam White, who ran a business in which he cleaned and disarmed Civil War-era military ordnance at his Chesterfield County home.

The explosion scattered Civil War shell shrapnel throughout the neighborhood.

The incident prompted Wilcox to encourage Powhatan officials to develop some type of regulation that would address the handling of such items when they are discovered.

Supervisors asked him to research the issue, and Wilcox said he would at least like people to report when they discover such devices "just so [authorities] know where it is; what's being done with it."

In the last days of the Civil War, fleeing Confederates tried to lighten their loads by throwing weaponry from their wagons as they passed through Powhatan, and it is possible there is still some ordnance buried in fields waiting to be uncovered, he said.

Wilcox said he remembers one day in 1975 when he stopped at a country store in the Amelia County community of Chula. He met a man in the store who had already started prying open a Civil War explosive he had found. Wilcox left as fast as he could.

"The public as a whole just does not realize how dangerous that stuff can be," Wilcox said.

Relic hunting persists in Virginia.

In the 1960s and 1970s, relic hunters heavily scavenged Petersburg National Battlefield, and it is unlikely there is much ordnance left to be discovered there, said Jimmy Blankenship, curator of the battlefield museum. "There probably are some, but as far as hundreds and hundreds, I don't think that's the case," he said.

Several years ago, two relic hunters were sent to prison and fined after being caught in the battlefield, Blankenship said.

By now, much of the buried Civil War ordnance in the Richmond metro area has been discovered, but "it would be reasonable to presume" that some relic hunters still have some of that ordnance, said Robert Krick, historian with the Richmond National Battlefield Park.

"I don't think anybody has done an inventory," Krick said.

On Thursday, a 44-pound, 8-inch Civil War mortar shell was found in the Petersburg battlefield park by workers surveying in preparation for the tour road to be rerouted.

The Petersburg Park recently adopted regulations calling for the state police bomb squad to be called to dispose of such devices. If they are not available, the next option is the U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit from Fort Belvoir, Blankenship said.

There is little reason to preserve this type of ordnance, he said, because "none of these Civil War artifacts are rare."

Most people who discover ordnance know where to take it to be disarmed, though now fewer people are interested in handling the devices, Blankenship said.

If anyone finds unexploded relics of this type, they should call the bomb squad, Blankenship said. "They are dangerous. They are meant to kill."

Civil War Items, Stolen 30 Years Ago, Will Be Returned to Senator Brown's Family  
By Mark Caudill

3/27/2008

Mansfield News Journal (OH)

<http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080327/NEWS01/80327018>

MANSFIELD, OH — The case involves a 30-year-old break-in, Civil War artifacts and a relative of U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown.

It's no wonder Richland County sheriff's Deputy Rich Eichinger calls it "the case of a lifetime."

Eichinger, normally a patrol deputy, cracked the case while working in the detective bureau after surgery. He recovered the stolen property, a Civil War officer's frock coat and sword that belonged to Brown's great-grandfather, Col. Robert Brown.

The frock and sword were stolen from the Richland County Museum in Lexington. From there, Eichinger tracked them from Delaware, Ohio, to Tennessee, to Michigan, back to Tennessee and finally to San Antonio, where someone was auctioning them off on eBay.

Eichinger, a Civil War buff, received an e-mail from Kent Dorr, who saw the items and remembered they had been stolen.

"I thought he was kidding with me," Eichinger said. "I thought, 'What do you want, a loan?'"

Bidding had reached \$9,000 and was expected to exceed \$15,000.

Sheriff Steve Sheldon contacted the Brown family, who verified what Dorr had said in his e-mail. The next step was to shut down the auction. Eichinger said the person who had the stolen items cooperated.

"He said he wanted to do the right thing," Eichinger said. "He voluntarily sent it back to Mansfield."

The sheriff's department will recognize the officers involved and return the items to the Brown family, including Sherrod Brown, at 11 a.m. Saturday at FOP Lodge 32. Sheldon credited Eichinger.

"It's great work on his part," he said. "He got a hold of this and did a bang-up job."

The case coincided with Eichinger's love of history. He said he is involved with Civil War re-enactments in which participants portray the 64th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Col. Brown's regimen.

"These guys were heavily engaged in the western theater during the Civil War," Eichinger said. "This is a big part of Richland County history. I'm very fortunate this is coming back to the Brown family and the citizens of Richland County."