

## **Civil War News Roundup - 10/24/2007**

### **Courtesy of the Civil War Preservation Trust**

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Group offers 'Plan B' to mining firm  
By Alex Bridges -- Daily Staff Writer

10/24/2007

Northern Virginia Daily (VA)

<http://www.nvdaily.com/Newstories/290122580851884.bsp>

WINCHESTER — A local group that fought a mining operation's expansion near Middletown came up with its own plan it says would benefit both sides.

Preserve Frederick touted its proposed "Plan B" Monday that suggests O-N Mineral Chemstone use 158 acres south of its facility for mining and leave another 533 acres to the north alone.

Chemstone's application in 2005 to rezone 639 acres adjacent to its limestone mining operation near Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park riled local residents and preservationists who feared the expansion would harm the Civil War battlefield and natural resources. But the firm hasn't brought the rezoning request before supervisors since the Planning Commission recommended its denial in June 2006.

"So we've still been waiting and waiting and listening to people in the community and stakeholders who've been saying 'what's going on, we're not getting answers from anyone,'" Preserve Frederick President Wendy Hamilton said Monday.

"This community really needs to know what its future holds and in a way it's torturing the community to wait a year," said Shenandoah Valley Network Director Megan Gallagher.

"Basically it means the ball is in their court," Hamilton said.

Preserve Frederick sent the proposal to the facility's Cleveland-based owner, Oglebay Norton Co., along with a letter noting that county staff recommended the group show the alternative to the firm. Hamilton states the proposal was "well-received" by stakeholders, including the National Park Service and the Greater Middletown Business Association.

Senior Vice President of Operations Michael Minkel responded in a Sept. 17 letter, stating that "this is an opportune time for O-N to consider all options," including their alternative.

Preserve Frederick hired land-use planner John Hutchinson, of the Staunton-based Jennings Gap Partnership, to study the rezoning request, the limestone seam in the area, natural and historic resources on both parcels county planning staff suggestions.

The end result became the group's "Plan B," Hamilton said, which calls for rezoning the smaller parcel to the south from agricultural to extractive manufacturing. It restricts land use to mineral extraction, requires buffers to protect Cedar Creek and soil erosion controls on dirt mounds made during operation.

The proposal preserves mining rights, and historic and natural resources, and addresses traffic, dust and noise concerns, Hamilton said.

The group presented the alternative to planning staff, County Administrator John Riley and Board of Supervisors Chairman Richard Shickle, she said. Shickle also sent a letter to the firm's parent company regarding the proposal, stating "I hope that you will review and seriously consider the plan."

Gallagher lauded Preserve Frederick's efforts to come up with the "Plan B."

"I have never seen a citizens group actually go and draft an alternative zoning proposal. It's extraordinary," she said.

Preserve Frederick plans to send the proposal to current supervisors and candidates seeking board seats to hear their views, Hamilton said.

"It would be nice to know where everybody stands on the issue," she said.

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Harewood Preserved through Easement  
Bob Zimmeroff – Staff writer

10/18/2007

Martinsburg Journal (WV)

<http://www.journal-news.net/News/articles.asp?articleID=12571>

CHARLES TOWN — Although it is little known in the area, one of the nearly 400 most important Civil War battlefields is in Charles Town’s backyard, and now part of it is being preserved.

Jefferson County resident Walter Washington signed a conservation easement on Sept. 24, forever protecting 219 acres of the Harewood Estate containing roughly 170 acres of prime farmland and about 50 acres of wetlands. The property is about three miles west of Charles Town on W.Va. 51.

On Wednesday evening, representatives of preservation and conservation groups attended a ceremony at Harewood to honor and celebrate the new easement.

The easement was appraised at nearly \$1.16 million. Four groups provided roughly \$800,000, and Washington accepted the money while donating \$347,000 worth of acreage to the easement.

Washington said he will invest the \$800,000 into an endowment and use the funds to maintain the farmland and wetland.

The Harewood Mansion was built in 1770 by Samuel Washington, the brother of George Washington. By 1781, when Samuel Washington died, the Washington family acquired 3,800 acres of land around the mansion.

In summer 1864, as the Civil War came to a close, Confederate Gen. Jubal Early defeated a number of Union forces in an attempt to make a final push toward Washington, D.C., reaching the city’s outskirts. As a result, Union forces organized under Gen. Phil Sheridan in order to push Early away from the Capital.

The two armies clashed outside of Charles Town on Aug. 21, 1864, in what has become known as the Battle of Cameron’s Depot or the Battle of Summit Point.

According to Paul Hawke, the chief of the American Battlefield Protection Program, which is part of the National Park Service, the battle is one of more than 10,000 fought in the Civil War and was one of the most important.

Hawke said that in 1895, historians authored, “The official records of the War of the rebellion,” which is 127 volumes detailing the war. The authors pointed to 400 battles that played a significant role in the outcome of the Civil War, and the ABPP has targeted 384 for preservation.

The ABPP provided \$367,978 toward the easement.

“This is one of those battlefields of that 384, of that 10,466,” Hawke said of the ground on which the Harewood easement lies. “So if you’re thinking about how important this is, this is one of less than 4 percent of all the total battles of the Civil War that the editors of the official records said were one of the principle battles of the war back in 1895.”

But the grounds are also important for other agricultural and preservation reasons.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the organization provided \$200,000 in matching funds toward the easement because of its prime agricultural value.

“I have to say I’m honored to be here,” said Gary Mast, the deputy under secretary of Natural Resources and Environment, during a presentation. “You’ve got highly productive soils. You’ve got history going on as well as the wetlands. It’s like a grand slam.”

Rodney Bartgis is the West Virginia state director for the Nature Conservancy, which provided \$25,000 toward the easement. The group has been trying to protect the wetlands at Harewood since 1992 but was unable to preserve the land by itself until other interests became involved about two and a half years ago.

Bartgis said that Harewood contains marl wetlands, which occur mainly in the Northeast. In West Virginia, the marl wetlands only exist in Jefferson and Berkeley counties and provide a habitat for several species that are considered rare in the state.

The Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board provided \$218,022, and including Harewood, the group has protected 17 farms in the six years that the group has existed.

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Brig. Gen. Bohlen's Culpeper trip ends abruptly  
By Clark "Bud" Hall

10/18/2007

Culpeper Star Exponent (VA)

[http://www.starexponent.com/servlet/Satellite?c=MGArticle&cid=1173353160236&pageName=CSE/MGArticle/CSE\\_MGArticle&path=!features](http://www.starexponent.com/servlet/Satellite?c=MGArticle&cid=1173353160236&pageName=CSE/MGArticle/CSE_MGArticle&path=!features)

Henry Bohlen visited Culpeper County once in his life and within an hour of that entry he was stone dead. And upon examining Gen. Bohlen's brief but notable life, one can conclude, "politics kill."

Born 1810 in Bremen, Germany into an aristocratic and wealthy family, the adventuresome Henry Bohlen migrated to Philadelphia where he amassed a huge fortune as a liquor dealer. With economic success sustaining entry into political life, Bohlen soon became a major leader in Pennsylvania's huge German community.

With Union military strategists requiring thousands of troops to prosecute an impending war, there was no larger pool of potential troops than German and Irish immigrants laboring away in eastern cities. And although success in the liquor business does not automatically qualify one for high military command, Henry Bohlen soon found himself commissioned as a colonel by Pennsylvania's governor. No doubt both surprised and proud in 1861 to be wearing a blue American uniform, the Teutonic Bohlen set to work recruiting German immigrants to the 75th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

Bravely leading his regiment into war, Col. Bohlen was promoted to brigadier general in April 1862, and led a brigade in Shenandoah Valley operations against Stonewall Jackson. After the defeat of Maj. Gen. John Pope's forces at the battle of Cedar Mountain, Gen. Bohlen's Brigade took a position on the high bluffs overlooking Freeman's Ford, just above the Rappahannock's confluence with the Hazel.

Alerted mid-day on Aug. 22, 1862, that Confederate troops were moving upriver in an attempt to turn the Federal right flank on the Rappahannock, Bohlen boldly advanced his brigade (about 1,500 men) across Freeman's Ford in an attack against the Rebel flank as it marched north toward Jeffersonton. The "Battle of Freeman's Ford" (topic of a future column) was now on in earnest.

Attacking west toward Rebel wagons proceeding north on Welford's Ford Road, Bohlen "caught a Tartar" in Brig. Gen. Isaac Trimble, ordered to guard Stonewall Jackson's flank march.

The suddenly aroused Gen. Trimble-never found in good humor-counterattacked Bohlen's Brigade and drove the Yankees "back a mile," to the bluffs above Freeman's Ford. Henry Bohlen was now in a fix. His brigade had its back to the river and Rebel troops charged fiercely at the front. Bohlen issued the only order that made any sense: "Retreat! Retreat!"

Down the steep bluffs and into the river stampeded the panicked Federals. Witnessing sheer chaos as his men fell in droves under heavy musket fire, Bohlen valiantly attempted to instill order in a rapidly disintegrating situation. Facing the enemy as Trimble's men charged up the bluffs, Bohlen was shot squarely in the heart. Dead before he hit the ground, victorious Confederates soon surrounded Bohlen's body.

Later returned (courteously) by his enemy over the river to his men, Henry Bohlen's body was taken to Philadelphia where he was buried with great ceremony in Laurel Hill Cemetery. His wife Sophie later joined him in the same burial plot. When it is all said and done, Henry Bohlen entered military service because he was politically connected. It is a fact he died because of that timeworn military/political nexus. But considering his bravery and adaptability to military command, we imagine Gen. Bohlen would not have had it any other way. He did his family proud. And speaking of his family...

During the 1930's, Henry Bohlen's great-grandson, Gustav Krupp von Bohlen, chief executive of the "House of Krupp," a German steelmaker and weapons manufacturer, became an early business ally of Adolph Hitler and the Nazi regime. When American leaders denounced Hitler's growing influence, it was Krupp's Herr von Bohlen that appealed "for sympathetic American understanding of Germany." (Easy for him to say.)

And so boasting significant weapons contracts from his friends, the Nazis, Krupp's Gustav von Bohlen manufactured the "88" cannons that killed thousands of Americans and its allies. Somehow, we do not think proud American General Henry Bohlen would have approved.

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Bristoe Station Park Opens  
By Jaclyn Pitts, Staff Writer

10/15/2007

Manassas Journal Messenger (VA)

<http://www.manassasjm.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=MJM%2FMSGArticle%2FWPNBasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1173353117315&path=!news>

Tucked behind rows of new single-family homes and town houses are approximately 134 historic acres now open to the public as Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park in Bristow.

Historians and residents celebrated the park's grand opening this weekend with tactical demonstrations, tours and living history exhibits.

Park visitors got to see what a Civil War field hospital would have looked like, complete with a field surgical chest, various medical tonics, a body cleaning area and other items.

Washington, D.C., podiatrist and living history demonstrator Dr. Charles Raugh said the replica hospital camp on display Sunday was positioned as a front line hospital in the center of the battlefield during the war.

Raugh said Civil War field hospitals typically consisted of two surgeons, two tables and "hordes of wounded" in the front.

Historical re-enactor James Owens of Silver Spring, Md., and his fellow members of Company D 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry demonstrated various Union Army formations for visitors Sunday.

As the 1st Minnesota re-enactors demonstrated "capping off," or clearing their muskets before battle, Owens explained that the first thing soldiers learned when they enlisted during the Civil War was the school of the soldiers.

The school served as uniform rules about formation and techniques for battle.

Owens explained how the troops were formed into two lines of battle with officers at the back. As casualties occurred, the gaps would be filled by other soldiers, he said.

During the skirmish demonstration, Owens explained that the main idea behind the formation of firing in pairs was to keep the loaded musket closest to the opponents.

After one soldier fired, another would move up to cover him, Owens said.

Sunday marked the 144th anniversary of the Battle of Bristoe Station.

On Oct. 14, 1863, Confederate Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill's corps stumbled upon two corps of the retreating Union army at Bristoe Station and attacked without proper reconnaissance.

Union soldiers of the 2nd Corps, posted behind the Orange and Alexandria Railroad embankment, mauled two brigades of Henry Heth's division and captured a battery of artillery.

Hill reinforced his line but could make little headway against the determined defenders.

After this victory, the Federals continued their withdrawal to Centreville.

Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's Bristoe offensive sputtered to a premature halt.

After minor skirmishing near Manassas and Centreville, the Confederates retired slowly to Rappahannock River destroying the Orange and Alexandria Railroad as they went.

Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park is located off Bristow Road (Va. 619 West) near the intersection of Va. 619 and Va. 28 South.

For more information, call 703-257-5243.

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## Elevating a Battle Site From a Historical Footnote

By Linda Wheeler

10/14/2007

Washington Post (DC)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/09/AR2007100902500.html>

When discussing the Battle of Shepherdstown, Edward and Carol Dunleavy would often get the same response: "The battle of what?"

But after three years of lectures, rallies and fundraisers to help preserve the West Virginia battlefield, the Dunleavys say they believe the 1862 skirmish, known as the last battle of Robert E. Lee's Maryland Campaign, might finally be getting its place in history.

Edward Dunleavy, president of the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, and Carol Dunleavy, its secretary and webmaster, said their group originally formed to stop proposed residential development of the battlefield because it would be inconsistent with the rural character of that part of Jefferson County.

But the association's mission soon grew to include getting recognition and protection for the battlefield, which is about 1.5 miles southeast of Shepherdstown and includes a 200-year-old brick house, high bluffs overlooking the Potomac River and the remains of an 1850s cement factory on the shoreline.

The association's efforts got the attention of U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.), who introduced legislation last month to request a study by the National Park Service to determine the suitability and feasibility of including the battlefield in the national Civil War battlefield system.

"There are 300 acres in the core battlefield, and we've already saved 84 acres through easements," Edward Dunleavy said. "We intend for the site to be preserved as a park."

The Shepherdstown battle, which played out Sept. 19 and 20 in 1862, has never received much attention because it occurred after the cataclysmic Battle of Antietam on the 17th. The Shepherdstown battle is sometimes called the Battle of Boteler's Ford or Pack Horse Ford, referring to the place where the armies crossed the Potomac.

The Army of Northern Virginia was in retreat from Antietam and headed toward the perceived safety of Virginia. At the time, Shepherdstown was in Virginia, a state that had seceded from the Union. In less than a year, Shepherdstown would be part of the new state of West Virginia, a Union stronghold.

Lee sat on horseback in the middle of the river, watching the last of his exhausted troops cross into Virginia at dawn Sept. 19. At that moment, he might not have expected the ever-

cautious Gen. George B. McClellan to pursue him, but the Army of the Potomac caught up with the Army of Northern Virginia about three hours later.

Brig. Gen. William Nelson Pendleton had the artillery cover of 33 cannons in place on the bluff above the river to guard the ford when Maj. Gen. Fitz John Porter's V Corps came into sight on the Maryland side. Seventy Union cannons were soon arrayed against the Confederates, who were forced to fall back. Some Union artillery shells crashed into houses in Shepherdstown, causing panic among the residents.

A small infantry detachment crossed the river and seized several of Pendleton's guns before crossing back over the river for the night.

The next morning, the Union men crossed the river again and climbed the bluffs, and an infantry battle ensued around the brick house. The Union forces were outnumbered 2 to 1, and a retreat was called, with some of the soldiers dying as they fell down the steep bluffs under Confederate fire.

The battle and retreat took place over four hours. Approximately 900 men were involved, with more than 600 casualties. The Army of the Potomac returned to Maryland, and the Confederates retreated farther into the Shenandoah Valley.

The battlefield is a serene place now. The ford and a ruined dam built for the cement factory are visible, and anglers use them to fish. Trees growing on what was the factory floor are framed by broken walls of hand-cut stone blocks. The rugged bluffs that rise above are a challenge to an experienced climber. At the top, the ground levels off into soybean fields and wooded areas.

The old farmhouse, now a rental property, shows the marks of battle. A cannonball protrudes from the brick wall on the second floor, just below a bedroom window.

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Tiny Unison Lays Claim to Civil War  
By Jonathan Mummolo, Staff Writer

10/14/2007

Washington Post (DC)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/13/AR2007101300188.html?tid=informbox>

With a population of 50 or so, it's easy to overlook the western Loudoun hamlet of Unison. And because of when it occurred, it's easier still, perhaps, to overlook the Civil War battle that took place there, National Park Service historian David Lowe said.

"You have the huge Battle of Antietam on one side, and you have the huge Battle of Fredericksburg on the other side," said Lowe, who has been mapping and documenting the 1862 event for the past year. "But a lot of people never ask the question, 'How did they get from Antietam to Fredericksburg?' They had to go through the Loudoun Valley to get there."

Much of Lowe's work, which is a month from completion, will be unveiled at Unison Heritage Day on Oct. 27, a festival sponsored by the Unison Preservation Society that also will feature a barbecue feast, bluegrass music and Civil War reenactors.

Lowe's study is sponsored by the society and the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection program. Once the study is finished, it could provide local preservationists with powerful evidence in their quest to have the 4,000-acre battleground listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a designation the village itself received four years ago as part of its ongoing effort to keep away developers.

Although such a listing does not expressly prohibit development, it provides a strong symbolic deterrence when projects are being considered by local officials, as well as eligibility for federal tax credits to aid in preservation efforts, said Paul Hodge, president of the society and a former Washington Post editor.

The national register process -- which requires the site to be approved by the state and then the National Park Service -- could take about a year once an application is submitted to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, a department spokesperson said.

Unison residents say it's worth the effort.

"You have to prove that there's historical significance and . . . you have to prove that there's something worth preserving," said society member Mitch Diamond. "Unison is a unique place, probably, in Virginia and maybe in the U.S. in many ways. . . . We're trying to protect it."

Lowe has been traversing and digitally mapping the approximately eight-mile-long site of the battle with a Global Positioning System device and comparing what he finds to war-era maps, written accounts and oral histories.

Remarkably, not much has changed.

"Unison has been a joy to work with because the historic landscape is just beautifully intact," said Lowe, adding that roads, stone walls and many structures are still where they stood during the three-day battle. "You can actually stand there and read the account, and it all falls into place."

The battle started in Philomont, continued through the heart of Unison and ended in Upperville. It occurred when Union Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, on the direct order of President Abraham Lincoln, pursued Gen. Robert E. Lee's forces after the bloody Battle of Antietam.

However, McClellan's notorious sluggishness, combined with the intercession of Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's troops -- who fought the Union at all three Loudoun locales -- allowed Lee's army to escape the Shenandoah Valley, probably delaying the end of the war.

"Stuart contested every foot of ground along those roads to slow down the advance of the federal army and to give time for General Lee to get his army back to safety," Lowe said of the battle, after which an irate Lincoln relieved McClellan of command. "It was classic delaying action."

Lowe said his work has been aided greatly by local residents, many of whom often know Civil War stories about their homes and property that can be verified in the historical record. He said he expects that similar assistance will come at the Oct. 27 festival.

"I want to meet with the local people and talk about my work and solicit comments and stories and anecdotes," he said. "This is often where I come up with real gems."

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## Fort's Future a Political Minefield

By Kimball Payne

10/13/2007

Newport News Daily Press (VA)

[http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/dp-news\\_monroe\\_1013oct13,0,5364877.story](http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/dp-news_monroe_1013oct13,0,5364877.story)

Republican Tricia Stall is using campaign fliers and recorded phone calls to suggest that Democrat John Miller wants to hand over Fort Monroe to developers when the Army leaves the post in 2011.

The future of the 570-acre waterfront installation is still unclear almost two years after officials in the Pentagon decided that the Army should leave the base, and Stall is playing on that uncertainty to drum up fear over what might happen. Stall said her campaign has brought up Monroe because real estate developers and construction companies have donated thousands of dollars to Miller's campaign.

"I just don't think that John Miller can be trusted to protect it," Stall told the Daily Press Friday.

But many of those same donors have been financially involved in politics for years — donating to both Republicans and Democrats — and Stall is relying heavily on monetary support from GOP leaders in the state Senate, who have all taken significant funds from real estate players. Miller said the attack surrounding the future of Monroe is simply a distraction tactic.

"I haven't said anything publicly about Fort Monroe," Miller said. "This is typical of a campaign that is desperate and behind."

Fort Monroe has become a campaign issue in large part because whomever wins the 1st District race will have a seat on the planning committee that will shepherd the post through the closing process. That panel has until next September to submit a reuse plan to the federal government. It is currently investigating adding more emphasis on tourism and open space.

But one committee member — Del. Tom Gear, R-Hampton — is leading the charge against Miller. Gear is arguably Stall's staunchest political ally. He is prominently displayed on a flier claiming that "Fort Monroe is UNDER ATTACK" and has recorded a phone message sent throughout the district saying Miller's developer friends are "trying to pave over 400 years of history to make millions."

Gear has supported Stall since she entered the primary to challenge 12-year incumbent Republican Sen. Marty Williams. Gear politically aligns extremely well with Stall because they share a mutual disdain for tax increases and both have signed no-tax pledges.

Gear said that just looking at Miller's list of donors was scary.

"It's no secret that developers are chomping at the bit to get at Monroe," Gear said. "It's the good ol' boys."

Gear balked at naming the companies or donors who have grand personal plans for Monroe. "I'm not talking about any one specific person," Gear said. "I don't want to name names."

Instead, Gear pointed to the list of real estate executives and developers that Miller has reported as donors to the State Board of Elections. The list includes prominent local construction companies such as Basic Construction and W.M. Jordan, developers like Whiting Chisman, and the Newport News real estate management company Drucker and Falk.

Board of Elections records show that these donors and others on the list routinely give to both parties and have given recently to Republican Dels. Phillip Hamilton and G. Glenn Oder, and to state Sen. Thomas K. Norment Jr., R-James City.

Further, Stall is relying on financial support from the Virginia Senate Republican Leadership Trust — a political action committee created and funded by Norment, Senate Majority Leader Walter Stosch and Sen. Ken Stolle, R-Virginia Beach, who have for years taken generous donations from developers and contractors.

Gear shrugged off the idea that if the money is tainted going to Miller then it should also be considered tainted when it goes to influential lawmakers.

"Who else do they donate to? I have no idea," Gear said. "I'm talking about this race and these candidates."

Members of the grassroots group that is pushing to turn Fort Monroe into a hybrid national park are happy that candidates are finally talking about the base, but they're not wild about the tone of the discussion.

Steve Corneliussen is the head of communications for Citizens for Fort Monroe National Park. Corneliussen said the danger of bad development on Monroe is real, noting that two separate groups — the Civil War Preservation Trust and APVA Preservation Virginia — have both warned that the post is at risk.

"The boulder of truth is that there is a threat to improperly develop Fort Monroe," Corneliussen said.

But he said donations from business groups don't "implicate John Miller as someone who is corrupt."

"Of course he's not corrupt," Corneliussen said. "This flier is over the top."

Corneliussen said he has spoken at length with both candidates about Monroe and credited Stall for attending numerous meetings about the base since the spring. However, at one time Corneliussen was going to be the Democratic candidate in the district and he has personally donated to Miller's campaign.

But he said the park organization would not pick sides in the race. "We absolutely do not support either candidate," Corneliussen said.

Corneliussen said that he and his colleagues would like to see both candidates pledge not to sell pieces of the fort to developers.

Both Miller and Stall indicated similar positions on a basic framework for the future of Monroe. Both want to maintain and preserve the historic areas — especially the moated stone fort — keep the beaches and park space open to the public and make sure that the wetlands at the north end aren't disturbed.

Miller refused to speculate beyond that.

"I don't think it's my place to have a position on Fort Monroe," he said. "The final plan isn't even proposed yet."

Stall said the most important factor for now is not restricting access. "We need to make certain that we are preserving it as public space," she said.

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## Corricks Ford Preservationists Look to Parsons Council for Future Funding By Heather Judy, Staff Writer

10/12/2007

Elkins Inter-Mountain (WV)

<http://www.theintermountain.com/page/content.detail/id/500345.html?nav=5014&showlayout=0>

Members of the Parsons City Council got a bit of a history lesson from Elkins resident and Civil War historian W. Hunter Lesser on Tuesday as he explained how a local group is working to preserve the Corricks Ford site.

Lesser, who is working along with the Corricks Ford Round Table, told council of the importance of the site, and the he and the group would be returning at a later date to seek financial assistance in preserving the battle site.

Lesser is the author of “Battle at Corricks Ford — Confederate Disaster and Loss of a Leader” and “Rebels at the Gate: Lee and McClellan at the Front Line of a Nation Divided.”

Hunter explained that Corricks Ford was the site of the final battle of the first land campaign in the Civil War, a site filled with history, and a site that many history lovers are trying to save.

Corricks Ford, which lies near the city of Parsons, was a piece of battleground that was part of the military retreat of the Confederates from the battles at Rich Mountain and Laurel Hill following the first land action, which occurred at Philippi. The roundtable hopes to protect the “endangered” battleground and transform it into an interpretive park to keep a part of West Virginia history alive.

A few years ago, the Corricks Ford Round Table, an 18-member committee, obtained \$100,000 in matching funds, as part of an 80 percent/20 percent agreement to activate the Transportation Enhancement Grant, an additional \$297,000, made available through the West Virginia Division of Transportation. The group collected funding from the Civil War Preservation Trust, personal donations from interested individuals, Sens. Walt Helmick, D-15th District, Jon Blair Hunter, D-14th District, and Delegate Stan Shaver, D-46th District, through a state contingency fund to assist tourism, economic development and protecting historical sites, as well as others.

The round table is working to preserve more than 25 acres that will one day serve as the Corricks Ford Memorial Park. The new park is the actual site where the first general on either side was killed — Confederate Brig. Gen. Robert Selden Garnett, who was shot and killed by the Union Army on Saturday, July 13, 1861.

For more than four years the group has been working to see the project come to fruition.

Once everything is in order, the committee will begin the design phase of the project, bringing in engineers and looking at areas to enhance the historic site. The group has mentioned several ideas to capitalize on tourism interests including picnic and camping areas, a visitor center and an interpretive museum, battle re-enactments at the river ford and more — but nothing has been finalized as yet.

Lesser, who has given his heartfelt support for the project, has said, “Corricks Ford is a key element of the historically significant 1861 campaign of Gen. George McClellan — the first campaign of America’s Civil War. The actions here not only propelled McClellan to supreme federal command, but also led directly to West Virginia statehood.

“Acquisition and development of this site — with linkage to Philippi, Laurel Hill, Rich Mountain Battlefield and other sites on the Civil War Discovery Trail — will boost heritage tourism and economic development for our citizens.”

During Tuesday’s meeting, Corricks Ford Round Table members said so far, the city has not put any money into the development. The group said they were not asking for any money at this time but would do so in the near future.

Hunter added that despite the completion of the site, folks have already visited from all over the world to see the property, how it will always attract tourists and how it will continue to bring in money for the city.

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Borough to Highlight History with Civil War Trails Signage  
By Roscoe Barnes III, Staff writer

10/11/2007

Chambersburg Public Opinion (PA)

[http://www.publicopiniononline.com/localnews/ci\\_7142860](http://www.publicopiniononline.com/localnews/ci_7142860)

The Borough of Mercersburg may soon have three "Civil War Trails" signs posted in key places as a way to spotlight its history.

The signs, strategically placed throughout Franklin County, are part of a promotional project launched by the state department of tourism. The project is called "Civil War Trails Discovery Weekend."

In addition to bus tours, it offers walking tours and packets of information on Civil War sites in Chambersburg, Gettysburg, Greencastle, Waynesboro and Mercersburg. The final Discovery Weekend of the year is Oct. 19 through 21 in Franklin County.

Earlier this week, Mercersburg Borough Council approved a request to post a sign in Center Square.

"The signs are good for educating people about what happened here," said Councilwoman Betty Stenger. "We need to promote our history."

Council approved a request to place the sign in the southeast quadrant of the square, on the corner of Main Street. It will be posted near the Irwin log house.

The square was the scene of a Confederate ambush during the war.

Each of the three signs will bear images of specific moments in Civil War history along with text. Mercersburg will be the only municipality in the county to receive three of the signs, according to Stenger.

In addition to the location in the square, one of the signs will be posted at the Bridgeside stone building on North Main Street. During the Civil War, that Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart used the building as his headquarters during his raid of Mercersburg.

A third sign will be posted at the Mercersburg Post Office.

No date has been set for the installation of the signs. All three will likely be installed around the same time, Stenger said.

Once installed, the signs will be maintained by the state. There will be no cost to the borough.

"We're seeing an increase in tourism," Stenger said. "This is a good way to promote our history and promote our town. It will inform people of what happen here."

Discovery Weekends have been held in other parts of the state, including Carlisle and Cumberland County; Harrisburg; York; the Susquehanna River towns of Wrightsville, Marietta, and Columbia; and Hanover.

"Discovery Weekends provide an opportunity to discover the Civil War -- what happened and where it happened -- while enjoying the charm and hospitality of the Commonwealth's historic towns," state officials said in a press report.

For more information on the state's Civil War Trails program, visit:  
<http://www.visitpa.com/visitpa/civilWarTrails.pa>

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Corinth Gets Grant for Civil War Marketing  
By Lena Mitchell

10/10/2007

Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal (MS)

<http://www.djournal.com/pages/story.asp?ID=253813&pub=1&div=News>

CORINTH - The city has received a Preserve America grant of \$60,000 to help market the 3-year-old Civil War Interpretive Center.

Commission chairwoman Rosemary Williams announced receipt of the grant during Tuesday's meeting of the Corinth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau board. The funds had been sought by the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission on behalf of the city of Corinth.

The CVB voted earlier this year to provide a \$60,000 match to the grant for the Corinth Civil War Preservation Project.

This \$120,000 will be used to market the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center, which opened in 2004 but has yet to attract the expected number of visitors.

The federal funds will be used for the services of professional writers to develop marketing materials, to develop a Web site and to sponsor VIP bus tours.

The local matching funds will support advertising in local, regional and national publications, as well as television advertising, training and other related expenses.

In another effort to help the center, the commission is applying for the Preserve America Presidential Award.

"If we were to receive the award," Williams said, "our information would be in brochures distributed nationally, which we could expect would draw many more visitors to our area."

Contact Daily Journal Corinth Bureau reporter Lena Mitchell at 287-9822 or [lena.mitchell@djournal.com](mailto:lena.mitchell@djournal.com).

## Public Input Sought on Fort Taylor

By Mandy Bolen – Staff writer

10/09/2007

Key West Citizen (FL)

<http://keysnews.com/337316748290643.bsp.htm>

State officials from Tallahassee next week will accept public input about the management of Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park as part of a process to update a plan that governs the 56-acre site.

Each state park in Florida must update its management plan every 10 years, and the new update for Fort Taylor must be approved and in place by August 2009, said Katie Flanagan, information director for the Florida Park Service.

A draft of the new management plan calls for the controversial, but continued removal of the shady Australian pine trees along the beach, along with the construction of a large picnic shelter at an area known as "The Point," a popular spot for hundreds of weddings the park hosts each year.

"To compensate for a loss of shade in the short-term, a large, covered shelter is recommended at the western end of the picnic area. In addition to providing shelter to beachgoers, this facility will also support the many weddings, programs and special events held in this area," the draft states, but without mention of whether the pavilion would be removed once ample shade is achieved through replanting of trees to replace the pines currently in that area. "A revegetation plan has been developed that identifies native species for the different coastal zones that comprise the area. The goal of the replanting effort is to create an attractive setting for visitors while enhancing habitat for migratory birds, as quickly as is feasible."

Park officials are expecting a large turnout at the Monday evening meeting, as the removal of the pine trees has become a heated and emotional topic in Key West. Most recently, state park officials agreed to remove only 10 percent of the pine trees each year, meaning it would take about 10 years to remove all the existing, healthy trees.

Other priorities for the park over the next 10 years, as outlined in the draft, include water-quality monitoring in the moat surrounding the Civil War fort, and the construction of a visitor center with interpretive exhibits.

Preserving and stabilizing the crumbling fort is listed among priorities in the plan, but such a project would cost about \$9.2 million, and funding is a constant challenge for the National Park Service.

Monday's public workshop is the second for the new management plan, Flanagan said. Park officials were in Key West in April 2006 to begin the process.

"They collected input, reviewed the comments and drafted an update to the management plan, which is what will be discussed at the next meeting."

An advisory group consisting of local and state leaders also will review the draft and make comments, Flanagan said.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday at the Harvey Government Center, 1200 Truman Ave.

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## Civil War Site Saved in Orange

By Rusty Dennen, Staff Writer

10/06/2007

Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star (VA)

<http://www.fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2007/102007/10062007/322765>

Help in preserving important Civil War sites in the Fredericksburg area has come from many quarters, including developers.

The Silver Cos. recently completed its second donation of land at Grant's Knoll, across from Ellwood in Orange County, according to the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust.

The land, deeded to the preservation group, is considered the gateway to the Wilderness Battlefield.

Silver, the Fredericksburg area's largest commercial development firm, donated about 12 acres. That comes on the heels of a donation of about 6 acres near the intersection of State Routes 3 and 20 in 2001.

According to CVBT Secretary Erik Nelson, the donated ground is where Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant made his headquarters during his first confrontation with Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee in 1864.

Over the two-day battle, the Confederates turned both flanks of the Union army and fought to a standstill along Orange Plank Road.

Abraham Lincoln spoke of Grant's determination late in the war, remarking, "When Grant once gets possession of a place, he holds onto it as if he had inherited it."

In September, CVBT Executive Director Linda Wandres noted the importance of the donation in a statement to the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the Civil War Commission.

"It is indisputable that the actions of preservation-minded people over the next five years will determine the fate of the remaining Civil War battlefields in Virginia," she said.

"What is not bought and saved by the time of the [150th anniversary] will be lost forever."

Preservation of important Civil War parcels outside National Park Service battlefield boundaries is an urgent focus of CVBT at a time when sprawl is gobbling up what little land remains.

CVBT President Mike Stevens said the Grant's Knoll land will now be protected in perpetuity, and he praised the Silver Cos.

"The donation is a generous contribution at a time when so much is developing so rapidly."

Grant's Knoll's historical connections go way back.

"This is also the area where Lafayette camped" before the Battle of Yorktown in the Revolutionary War, Nelson said.

Editorial

Hallowed Ground: Protect America's Civil War Battlefields

10/06/2007

San Diego Union-Tribune (CA)

[http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20071006/news\\_lz1ed6bottom.html](http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20071006/news_lz1ed6bottom.html)

Preserving America's Civil War battlefields, and the priceless historical heritage they embody, is among the functions the federal government has accomplished superbly. But this sacred task remains incomplete, even 142 years after Appomattox.

Civil War battlefields large and small are still threatened by commercial development, housing tracts and other land-consuming aspects of urban, suburban and rural growth. The National Park Service has protected these battlefields for more than a century by buying up only key fragments of these extensive sites. When subsequent development threatens, only the purchase of additional parcels can preserve this hallowed ground.

This vital preservationist work is now a public-private partnership. The feds provide modest grants that must then be matched by private donations. The legislation establishing this Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program expires in 2008. Legislation reauthorizing the program through 2013 has been introduced with bipartisan support in the House and Senate.

The cost is extremely modest, \$10 million per year for five years. These sums would then be matched by private contributions, mostly raised by the nonprofit Civil War Preservation Trust, to purchase more land on development-threatened battlefields. Since 1999, just \$33 million in federal funds matched by private donations has permitted the purchase of 14,000 acres in 15 states.

At last count, reauthorization had 48 co-sponsors from both parties in the House and 17 in the Senate. This legislation merits the support of every American with a shared stake in preserving the nation's most hallowed ground. We urge the House, the Senate and the Bush administration to reauthorize the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program.

## Effort Seeks to Protect Rocky Face Ridge sites

By Eric Beavers

10/05/2007

Dalton Daily Citizen (GA)

[http://www.daltondailycitizen.com/local/local\\_story\\_277233246.html](http://www.daltondailycitizen.com/local/local_story_277233246.html)

Preservation costs money and requires the cooperation of many groups, and the Whitfield County Historical Preservation Commission is making an effort to pool regional resources to protect Rocky Face Ridge.

Commission secretary Kevin McAuliff is working to organize a meeting between many groups including county officials, the Georgia Civil War Commission, the Civil War Preservation Trust, Georgia Battlefields Association, Civil War Round Table, area legislators and others.

The purpose of the meeting, McAuliff said, is to “identify points of interest and invite discussion of strategies for land and easement acquisition and for securing the necessary funding.”

McAuliff hopes the meeting can be set for sometime in late October or early November.

The funding to protect Rocky Face Ridge could come from several sources. As a drinking water watershed it could earn protection from the state Department of Natural Resources. As a viewshed seen by drivers along I-75, it could qualify for funds from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

Representatives from the National Park Service have said the region houses “the largest intact collection of Civil War defenses in the nation,” McAuliff said. Some of the old earthen and stone fortifications are “pristine” and are still intact.

A transportation enhancement grant from the GDOT could net up to \$1 million, but would require matching funds, McAuliff told commission members. While talking with representatives of the Civil War Preservation Trust, a national group, he learned they would consider furnishing 20 percent of the matching funds to assist in the acquisition and protection of property on Rocky Face Ridge.

“We’ve now moved from aspiration closer to the realm of reality,” he said.

Also during the meeting, commission members decried plans by Dalton Utilities to build a wastewater treatment plant at Mauldin’s Bottoms, which is at the base of Rocky Face Ridge and at the center of several important historic sites. A public hearing about the placement of the treatment plant is set for Monday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m., in the Judicial Building on King Street.