



# The Gettysburg Quarterly

## Conserving Artifacts for Museum Display

The National Park Service Harpers Ferry Center conservation labs are now working on the conservation of artifacts for rotation into the exhibits at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. Over 150 artifacts ranging from signal flags to feedbags are now undergoing conservation. The newly conserved objects will allow the park to remove sensitive artifacts from display cases and allow them to “rest” after four years of being on display.

The Gettysburg Foundation is providing \$300,000 to the park to fully fund the project.

For example, in the photo above right, the pocket diary of New York civilian John Richter who wrote of hearing of Abraham Lincoln's assassination in this diary in April 1865, gives us a glimpse into the thoughts of the average northern civilian on this tragic event. When donated to the park, the diary had a partially detached spine, tears to the pages, and accumulated surface dirt - all common of books found from this time period. In order to make the object safe and ready for exhibit, the conservators reattached the binding threads, mended the page tears with Japanese paper and wheat starch paste, and reinforced the covers to prevent further damage in the future.

The park plans to install the objects into the museum exhibits in late summer or early fall.



Above, the saddle of Col. William J. Hoffman of the 56th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, one of the first Union regiments on the field on the morning of July 1, 1863. Upper right, John Richter's diary, after conservation. Right, National Park Service textiles conservator Anne Ennes discusses the conservation of a pennant during a recent media tour of the conservation labs.



### When was the last time you experienced a program with a National Park Ranger?

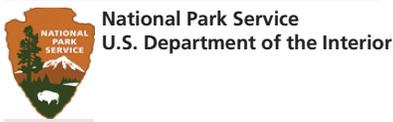
Summer program schedules are available on-line and in the Museum and Visitor Center. For Gettysburg go to: [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett) and [www.nps.gov/eise](http://www.nps.gov/eise) for the Eisenhower National Historic Site.



# Soldiers' National Cemetery Cultural Landscape Report Funded

The park received funding to complete a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for the Soldiers' National Cemetery. The project will be completed through an agreement with the National Park Service Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. Phase I will include a review of the park's primary research documents to create a site history (with period plans) and existing conditions documentation; and analysis and evaluation of the cultural landscape and its contributing components. The development of treatment recommendations to appropriately manage the cemetery's cultural landscape will be completed in phase II.

This national cemetery comprises about 17 acres of Cemetery Hill, the ground that was the center of the Union line. Dedication ceremonies occurred on November 19, 1863 and included that proclamation of a "new birth of freedom" which has since be-



Gettysburg National Military Park, established in 1895, is the site of the great Civil War battle that repulsed the second Confederate invasion of the North. The mission of the National Park Service at Gettysburg is to preserve and protect the resources associated with the battle of Gettysburg and the Soldiers' National Cemetery and provide an understanding of the events that occurred there within the context of American history.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



The Central Section of the PA/DE Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects funded a replacement purple beech tree in the national cemetery this spring. In the photo, from left, are Jason Wolfe, Daniel D. Wise, Randy Wright, and Marc Pratt.

come internationally famous as President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

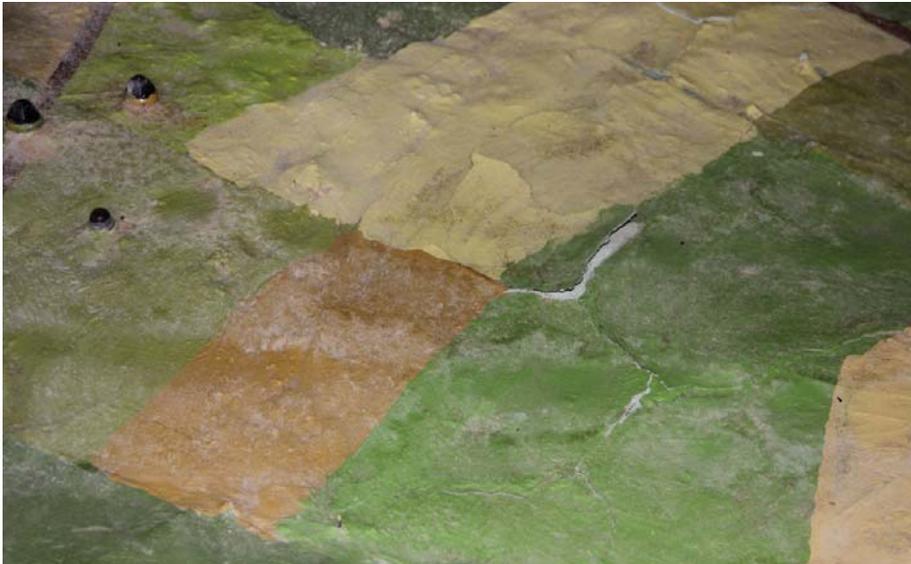
Completion of a CLR is critical to understanding those components that characterized the cemetery's designed landscape and evaluating the changes that occurred over time. Analysis and evaluation of character defining features

of the landscape will result in treatment recommendations for the most significant design elements. Treatment recommendations will guide the rehabilitation of the designed cultural landscape, thereby resulting in physically and interpretively conveying the memorial aspects of the Civil War battlefield cemetery.



Bill Aldrich, of Gettysburg, donated a greens mower to Eisenhower National Historic Site (NHS) to help care for Ike's putting green. The donation will improve the park's ability to care for the putting green which the Professional Golfers Association installed at the president's home in the 1950s. In the photo above, from left, is Bill Aldrich, donor, Carol Hegeman and Bob Staley of the Eisenhower National Historic Site.

# Update on the Electric Map



Unstable plaster with asbestos is visible in this photo of the electric map from April 2012.

After long consideration, the park has decided that the electric map is excess to the National Park Service's needs. It is an interpretive device that is outdated and has been replaced with exhibits, films, and programs in the museum and visitor center, which opened in 2008. Because the map contains friable asbestos we are determining the next steps for disposition based on regulations for disposition of property containing friable asbestos (Federal Property Management Regulation 101 42.1102 1).

Recent tests re-confirmed the presence of friable asbestos on the map. Test results show 3% chrysotile in the plaster surface of the 29 foot by 29 foot topographical map that depicts the Gettysburg battlefields, circa 1863. The map was made in the early 1960s when there were no known regulatory prohibitions on the use of asbestos fibers.

In accordance with these regulations, the park has requested a waiver in order to avoid disposing of the electric map in a hazardous waste landfill so that it can be sold via a General Services Administration (GSA) small lot sale to the highest bidder.

On April 10, 2012, Robert Kitsock, Area Property Officer, Property Division, Northern Branch GSA Utilization, Donation, Sales made a site visit to inspect the electric map. Mr. Kitsock stated the electric map was in "very poor condition" and that it "may pose a potential risk to public health and safety if moved and reassembled."

However, in deference to organizations in the Gettysburg community that have expressed an interest in saving the map for their own private use or display, it was determined to seek a waiver. The National Park Service wants to show due diligence and pursue every available option as it seeks to determine the final disposition of the electric map.

## Background:

The "electric map" is a 29 foot by 29 foot topographical map of the Gettysburg battlefield. The map consists of steel I beams, a wood and plywood platform, and a topographical map made of plaster. Recent tests have confirmed the presence of friable asbestos (3% chrysotile) on the plaster of the map.

Prior to demolition of the old Visitor Center in 2009, the park carefully removed the electric map and it was placed in storage for possible future use.

It was cut into four roughly equal pieces and stored in shipping containers, where it has remained since. Limited abatement was conducted at each of these cuts at the time of its storage. Unfortunately, the plaster surface with the friable asbestos has continued to degrade and is now unstable.

The park has decided that there is no future need or use for the electric map for any park-related purposes

The electric map used more than 500 miniature light bulbs and an audio program to tell the story of the troop movements of the battle of Gettysburg. The map dates to 1962 and was created by the private owners/operators of a Gettysburg museum. In 1971 the National Park Service acquired the private museum – including the electric map and its copyright. Gettysburg NMP operated the electric map as an interpretive program for park visitors from the early 1970s until April 2008.

During the planning for the Gettysburg NMP Museum and Visitor Center which opened in 2008, the park carefully considered continuing use of the electric map in the new facility. After much consideration and feedback, the park decided that while the concept of the electric map is a valuable learning tool for visitor orientation to the Gettysburg battlefield and understanding the battle action, the program and its electronics were too outdated for the new museum. The park feels the combination of new films, interactive maps, exhibits, and the Cope Map, a 10 foot by 10 foot, three-dimensional topographic map of the Gettysburg battlefield that was created in 1904 for the St. Louis Exposition by military engineer Emmor B. Cope, are providing improved orientation to the Gettysburg battlefield and improved understanding of the battle.



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## James Tate, Licensed Battlefield Guide, HONORED FOR LIFELONG EXCELLENCE IN GUIDING

In April, Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide James Tate was presented with the Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent's Award for Excellence for "Lifelong Excellence" as a Licensed Battlefield Guide. Tate has served for 61 years as a licensed guide on the Gettysburg battlefield. Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent Bob Kirby presented the award.



Superintendent Bob Kirby, left, with James Tate.