



# HARDSCRABBLE

Civil War Round Table of the Mid-Ohio Valley Newsletter

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The following begs your attention.....

## LICENSED GUIDES RAISE ALARM OF MAJOR THREAT TO GETTYSBURG MONUMENTS

GETTYSBURG, Pa. – The Licensed Battlefield Guides at Gettysburg are raising the alarm over a recent vote in the U.S. House of Representatives to have all Confederate monuments, statues and “commemorative placards” removed from Gettysburg National Military Park as well as all other federal parks nationwide.

“We urge the U.S. Senate to strip out this provision that would destroy the unequalled collection of monuments, Union and Confederate, that set Gettysburg apart as a great battlefield park and a top visitor destination,” said Les Fowler, president of the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides.

Fowler said the legislation in question – HR-7608 – recently passed the full House. It would direct the National Park Service to remove all Confederate monuments, memorials, placards and statues at Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Antietam, Chickamauga, Manassas, Petersburg, Fredericksburg and 18 other battlefields and historic sites within six months. These Civil War battlefields and their monuments and interpretive plaques have been preserved to help Americans and foreign guests visualize and understand the terrible ordeal that forged this nation. The monuments at Gettysburg from both sides allow us to interpret this national struggle for freedom as it continues today.

Gettysburg is the largest Civil War battlefield commemorating the bloodiest battle ever fought in North America. Licensed Battlefield Guides have provided tours of the battlefield since 1915 and today are the nation’s oldest professional

guide service, providing interpretation and context for the battlefield and more than 1,300 monuments and markers.

“The monuments representing all of the soldiers who fought here are a critical component of interpreting these sacred grounds,” Fowler said. Veteran battlefield guide Deb Novotny said, “The monuments serve as tools for us to tell the story not only of this battle but of the struggle of our nation to heal itself after the war.”

Decorated combat veteran Elliott Ackerman, a columnist for the New York Times, recently wrote: “An area of our complex past that should be left untouched are battlefields... Blood consecrates a battlefield, and it is never the blood of only one side.”

The provision to remove Confederate monuments and markers was buried deep within a 727-page bill that also funds the State department, Agriculture department and the EPA. Despite the House’s action, there is still an opportunity to save the important story told at these Civil War parks by urging the Senate to remove this provision from the final funding legislation.

“We will do what we can to convince all members of Congress to address and to oppose this removal provision. We encourage all advocates for Gettysburg to join our effort and reach out to their representatives,” Fowler said.

Here is the text and a link to the HR-7608:

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**Removal of confederate commemorative works**

**Sec. 442. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or policy to the contrary, within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the National Park Service shall remove from display all physical Confederate commemorative works, such as statues, monuments, sculptures, memorials, and plaques, as defined by NPS, Management Policies 2006, §9.6.1.**

**Inventory of assets with confederate names**

**Sec. 443. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations an inventory of all assets under the jurisdiction of the Department of Interior with Confederate names.**

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Link to the text of the bill:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7608/text>

Just hit CTRL+F (Windows) while on that web page and search on "confederate" to find this section of the bill. Also, these provisions do NOT appear in any of the summaries of this bill.

We encourage you to express your feelings to your senators. Sherrod Brown – [brown.senate.gov](http://brown.senate.gov), Robert Portman – [portman.senate.gov/meet/contact](http://portman.senate.gov/meet/contact), Joe Manchin – [manchin.senate.gov](http://manchin.senate.gov), Shelly Moore Capito – [capito.senate.gov](http://capito.senate.gov) .

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Story by Bill Teegarden.....Scott has doubled down on coming back in September with another story.

# The changing face of the Statue of Liberty

Over the years, the statue's copper-color shifted to green as the metal oxidized.

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Since 1886, Lady Liberty has stood as a sentinel for liberty and justice for all, but both the copper exterior and the American interpretation of the colossus has transformed into how it is seen today.

When the statue was completed in 1886, the copper panels shined like a new penny. However, over the years, the copper-color shifted to green as the metal oxidized.

"When the air and moisture interact with the copper plating on the Statue of Liberty, a copper carbonate known as patina forms on the surface of the copper plating," AccuWeather Meteorologist Brett Rossio said. This mask of patina then protects the deeper copper layer underneath from weathering, he explained. Pennies undergo the same process.

"This is why statues are frequently made with copper or brass, due to its inherent durable nature when oxidation occurs," Rossio said. "This oxidation actually turned the Statue of Liberty the greenish/blue color that we see today. It was actually once brown in color when it was gifted to us in 1885 by the French."

Edward Berenson, a New York University history professor and author of the book *The Statue of Liberty: A Transatlantic Story*, spoke with AccuWeather Field Reporter Dexter Henry on how the statue came to be gifted to the U.S.

"Most people in our country know the American half and they don't know the French half," Berenson told AccuWeather.

In 1865, a year after the American Civil War came to a close, French political thinker, U.S. Constitution expert and abolitionist Edouard de Laboulaye proposed to gift the U.S. a monument to commemorate the perseverance of freedom and democracy.

At the same time, France was facing the authoritarian regime of Napoleon III, the nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte.

"They saw American liberty as a kind of antidote to their lack of liberty, and so, especially when the U.S. finally got rid of slavery, they thought, OK, this is the model France should follow," Berenson said. "And so you could direct attention to the United States by creating this colossus, unprecedented gift. And that would be a kind of a bleak way of saying to France's leaders that they have liberty and we don't."

The reception of the proposal in the U.S. was conflicting. There was unease as to what the French might want in return for the gift, according to Berenson. Not to

mention that while France was covering the cost of the statue itself, Americans would have to scrape together the money for the pedestal.

The Statue of Liberty stood fully built on French soil for two years before being dismantled and shipped to New York where it sat unopened for months as Americans raised money to fund the pedestal.

"There's all these cartoons about the Statue of Liberty shivering in the water because there's no pedestal," Berenson said.

Eventually, New York City pulled together the money with help from an advertisement from Joseph Pulitzer, a famous publisher at the time and the namesake for the Pulitzer Prizes, which are awarded annually to honor excellence in American journalism to this day, and an art auction featuring Emma Lazarus' poem "The New Colossus," which is now engraved at the pedestal's base, with the famous line: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

And so began the process of rebuilding Lady Liberty.

Over the course of a year, workers endured complications from rebuilding the colossus in the windy harbor. Due to those winds threatening to swing any scaffolding and dent the softer metal, workers had to resort to more dangerous methods of scaling the statue.

"It was really dangerous to build the Statue of Liberty because you, the workers, were on pulleys, kind of like window washers," Berenson said. "Scaffolding is a lot safer. It's a lot more stable, and so the weather made the process of putting up the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor really dangerous."

The architects had accounted for the wind while designing the monument. The copper skin of the colossus is about two pennies thick, suspended by a series of springs that allow the monument to "absorb the wind." Berenson compared the principle of it to a suspension bridge. Had the statue been solid like others at the time, a hurricane could have toppled it over, Berenson added.

"This was built almost a century-and-a-half ago and the engineers were smart enough to figure out how to build a statue that would withstand the wind and the rain for more than a century," Berenson said.

While the designers of the statue had taken into consideration how the weather could impact the structural integrity, not all of the materials used were capable of withstanding the weather conditions in the harbor.

"You've got a choppy sea, the salt water sloshing into the Statue of Liberty, the rain is coming down, and the skeleton of the Statue of Liberty was originally made out of raw iron," Berenson said. "Guess what? It rusted."

When the statue was renovated from 1982 to 1986, the rusted iron was replaced with steel to better withstand the environment. The torch, too damaged to repair, was also replaced.

The Achilles Heel of the statue, however, isn't at Lady Liberty's heel or even in the iron that eventually had to be replaced, but a more iconic part of the structure. Originally, Gustav Eiffel, for whom the Eiffel Tower was named, had planned the statue's torch-bearing, raised arm to be at a more stable angle. However, the sculptor, Frederic Bartholdi, decided that the original plan looked unnatural. He changed the arm to an angle that Berenson called "a design flaw in the Statue of Liberty right from the start."

"He deliberately weakened the structure so that the arm could be up there at what he thought was a better angle," Berenson said. The sculptor also had no idea that the copper statue would change into its iconic greenish-blue color some 20 years later, according to Berenson.

By the time the new colossus had been built, the original symbol of "a statement against slavery and racism," alluded to by the chain at Lady Liberty's feet, had been lost over controversies over reconstruction and "a more conservative turn in the United States," Berenson said. "You got away from the celebration of emancipation toward a more generic liberty."

But the symbolism of a generic liberty left behind a bitter taste for the African-American community, women and working people at the time of the project, according to Berenson.

"You have a lot of communities in this country, the black community, women and the working people who see the Statue of Liberty as, at best, a kind of ideal that the country needs to live up to, but isn't living up to," Berenson said.

On Oct. 28, 1886, the Statue of Liberty stood a sentinel for liberty and justice for all. But just three years earlier on Oct. 15, 1883, the U.S. Supreme Court declared the Civil Rights Act of 1875, which protected African Americans against racial discrimination, unconstitutional in the Civil Rights Cases. In its wake, the Jim

Crow laws, which enforced racial segregation in the South, ensnared the nation for nearly a century until the 1950s.

Black women also wouldn't secure protective voting rights until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the 24th Amendment -- nearly 80 years after the completion of the statue and 40 years after the passing of the 19th Amendment.

"I think it would be really good for people to remember the original symbolism, which is that the Statue of Liberty celebrates the abolition of slavery," Berenson said, adding, "I think especially with what is going on around us, Black Lives Matter, and everything else, I think it's very important for people to keep that in mind ... it is part of an important part of the history of the Statue of Liberty, and it would be great for people to think about that."

Additional reporting by Dexter Henry and Monica Danielle

Books and More by Bill Teegarden

Steamboat Seasons and Backwater Battles & Ride to Oblivion by Kendall Gott

Seven Myths of the Civil War by Wesley Moody

An environmental History of the Civil War by Judkin Browning and Timothy Silver

Hidden History of Vermont and It Happened in Vermont by Mark Bushnell

The Fiery Trail: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery the Second Founding: How the Civil War and Reconstruction Remade the Constitution by Eric Foner

Civil War Trails ([civilwartrails.org](http://civilwartrails.org)) offers over 1200 sites in Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Pennsylvania and West Virginia

Local "Stuff" – The Longest Raid of the Civil War by Lester V. Horwitz – story of John Hunt Morgan's raid into Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio (mighty close touching Pomery, Chester, Nelsonville, Old Washington)

Wood County, West Virginia in Civil War Times with an Account of the Guerrilla Warfare in the Little Kanawha Valley by H.E. Matheny – I found it fascinating reading.

Welcome to the Newsletter's latest addition to staff – Contributing Editor: Nancy Arthur

Books by Nancy Arthur.....

Congress At War by Fergus M. Bordeqich

Texas Brigadier To The Fall of Atlanta: John Bell Hood by Stephen Davis

The Lincoln Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill America's 16<sup>th</sup> President – Why It Failed by Brad Metzler and Josh Mensch

The Maps of the Cavalry In the Gettysburg Campaign by Bradley M. Gottfried

The Maps of Antietam by Bradley M. Gottfried

The Maps of Chickamauga by David A. Powell and David A. Friedrichs

Tullahoma by David A. Powell and Eric J. Wittenberg

Let us know what you have been reading and we'll add it to the next Newsletter.