

Good evening,

I hope this update finds you well. On behalf of Confederate Memorial Park Inc., we would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who sent in their annual donation. Your continued support is truly appreciated.

For those wishing to contribute, donations may be mailed to:

CMP Inc.

P.O. Box 661

St. Inigoes, MD 20684

Memorial Brick Program:

The latest batch of memorial bricks will be shipped to us shortly, and we will install them as soon as they arrive. Photos will then be provided to Steve DeFreytas to share with donors. Additionally, we are currently just two bricks shy of completing our next order batch. If you would like to order a brick to honor those who served at Point Lookout or through the Maryland Soldiers program, please contact Steve DeFreytas, our Historian and Brick Coordinator, who will assist you with the process. Email: stdebay@aol.com

Park Operations & Site Improvements:

Despite an exceptionally hot and humid summer, our Gray Days in June event was well attended, and we thank everyone who visited. Special thanks go to board member Rose, who travels from West Virginia for our major work sessions, living history events, and maintenance projects. We are typically at the park every Thursday and Friday working onsite maintenance; if you wish to visit or volunteer, please let us know in advance, as schedules may occasionally shift. Beyond routine groundskeeping, Paul, Bruce, and Bill recently installed four large windows in the pavilion and constructed a new tractor shed with an attached lean-to for the grill.

Benjamin Welch Owens Monument Installation: We like to express our sincere gratitude to our volunteers and board members for their hard work and dedication over the last several months.

To ensure safety and manage logistics, the planning, construction, and installation of the plinth for the Benjamin Welch Owens monument were kept quiet. After extensive search, we were able to source the same decorative block used for the Confederate Memorial Park POW Statue to construct the new plinth.

We extend a special thank you to Paul, Bruce, and Bill. On August 7th, despite severe heat and humidity, they completed the block work over the course of the weekend. Bill and Bruce assisted Paul in handling the heavy decorative blocks, rebar, and ladder wire, ensuring each course was precisely leveled and mortared.

Due to potential underlying stud damage from when the monument was originally taken down, the team carefully planned for every contingency during the lifting process. Bill traveled to Mount Calvary Anglican Church in Lothian Maryland to create a template from the original plinth. Based on those specifications, a 350-pound, half-inch stainless steel plate was fabricated to secure the statuary, complete with anti-corrosion precautions.

On September 6, 2026, during the lifting process, new studs and connectors were welded in place to repair damage sustained when the statue was removed in 2020. The statue was then positioned over the stainless steel plate, which was fitted with an eight-inch EPDM rubber gasket. The alignment matched the template accurately, allowing the structure to be smoothly anchored, bolted, and securely re-erected. We have just finished the final touches on the Benjamin Welch Owen monument.

We owe special thanks to TJ and Joe, our heavy equipment operators. Working together seamlessly, with TJ operating the loader and Joe signaling, they carefully hoisted and placed the approximately thousand-pound monument onto its new, level foundation.

We would like to express our gratitude to Deborah for her generous contribution. We have included the time capsule that she purchased and donated to Confederate Memorial Park, Inc. for this occasion.

Thank you to Terry Klima, Bishop Jones, Father Rob, and the Vestry of the Mount Calvary Anglican Church for negotiating a perpetual loan for Confederate Memorial Park to receive the monument.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Terry Klima for his support throughout this project. He listened to all our uncertainties and frustrations and remained dedicated despite the challenges encountered along the way.

Photos will be posted on our website following the rededication service on Saturday, October 10th at Point Lookout.

Thank you again to everyone involved for your exceptional efforts in bringing this project to completion.

THE POINT LOOKOUT MEMORIAL SERVICE AND DESCENDANTS MEETING:

The Point Lookout Memorial Service, luncheon, and Descendants Meeting is less than a month away. We will distribute the official program via email as soon as it is received from Tommy Unkle, Commander of the Pvt. Vincent Camalier SCV Camp #1300.

In the meantime, we need an estimated headcount to finalize arrangements for lunch and flowers. Please reply to this email if you plan to attend. Additionally, kindly inform us if you plan to camp on-site or bring a self-contained RV.

We will send another update in the coming weeks containing the complete program and parking instructions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Always for their memory,

Jim and Christina Dunbar

Chairmen Confederate Memorial Park Inc.