

RELIC

From: RELIC
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 6:13 PM
To: 'brian_woodbury@nps.gov'
Subject: RE: Article on Webster memorial
Attachments: PWC DB 66-458.jpg; PWC DB 66-459.jpg

Brian – Sorry for the delay in responding to your original question.

We found the deed in Prince William County Deed Book 66, p. 458-459 (attached). George Carr Round only acted as a go-between for the transaction, is shown as a notary for the grantors. The deed, dated 20 April 1914, was from Anna Cather and Cordelia L. Swart (formerly Cordelia Love Cather), two sisters. It was to the following named trustees of the second part: John A. Laird of Brockton, Massachusetts, George R. Ackekrman of Brockton, Massachusetts, and John E. Gilman of Boston, Massachusetts, and Emma L. Cather of the third part, the widowed mother who had a lifetime interest in the property. John A. Laird is not the donor of the land either, but is merely one of the trustees of the "Webster Memorial Association" who are accepting the conveyance. The land is being held in trust for the "Association of the Survivors of the ... 12th Massachusetts Regiment" or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It says the trustees may convey said acre to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts whenever it shall by Act of its Legislature assume the control and ownership thereof. I don't have information about what happened in the Massachusetts legislature.

The land surrounding the one acre monument (524.74 acres) was conveyed to the United States government on 6 Apr. 1936 by Cordelia L. Swart and Hamilton Swart her husband, and Anna Cather. That transaction is recorded in Deed Book 97, p. 194. I found that deed through a reference in the WPA report of 1937 describing "Hazel Plain" (the house on Chinn Ridge). That report said it was sold by "Cordell Swartz, et. als. to the Webster Memorial Association, and in 1936 became the property of the United States Government." There is no indication in the records we have that the Webster Memorial Association [which is not so named in the deed] ever conveyed the one acre to the U.S. government or anyone else. The 1936 deed gave a reference to the book and page for the 1914 deed, which is how I found it.

Hope this gives you what you need.

Don Wilson

Donald L. Wilson, Virginiana Librarian
Tish Como, Librarian
Beverly Veness, Library Assistant
**The Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center
for Genealogy and Local History (RELIC)**
Prince William Public Library System
Bull Run Regional Library
8051 Ashton Avenue, Manassas, VA 20109-2892
703-792-4540
www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/library/RELIC

From: RELIC
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 3:11 PM
To: 'brian_woodbury@nps.gov'
Subject: Article on Webster memorial

Hello Brian,

Found the newspaper (see page 1, first column on left) that tells of the memorial dedication. It says the land was dedicated by Lieut. Round. That would be George C. Round who was a Union soldier who settled in Manassas after the war and was vital in the growth and development of Manassas.

I will try to find the deed under his name and will get back to you as soon as I find it.

Beverly Veness, Library Assistant III
RELIC, Bull Run Regional Library
Manassas, Va.

RELIC

From: brian_Woodbury@nps.gov
Posted At: Thursday, August 09, 2012 8:21 AM
Conversation: Ask RELIC
Posted To: Ask A Librarian-RELIC

Subject: Ask RELIC

Categories: AR done

E-Mail: brian_Woodbury@nps.gov
Name: **Brian M. Woodbury**
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FAX:

Your question, please be as specific as possible: I am trying to locate a deed for a land conveyance that would have occurred at Manassas Battlefield prior to 1914. The parcel of land is one acre in size and is the site for the Fletcher Webster Memorial. A Boston Daily Globe article dated October 24, 1914 states that a Mr. John A. Lair Donated the property for the memorial. National Park Service records indicate that the property was owned by the Webster Memorial Association. Based on the Boston Daily Globe article, I believe that Mr. Lair would be in the chain of title and the property would mostly likely have been purchased for the memorial prior to the 1914 date of dedication... perhaps between 1910 and 1914. Possibly the Fletcher Webster Post 13 G.A.R. might also be in the chain of title. I need a copy of the deed.

What sources have you used looking for this information?: PWC Registry of Deeds - that office referred me to your group. I was told that anything prior to 1918 is not available electronically and is located in the archives. The archives are not open to the public. I have also researched various news paper articles, contacted the Daniel Webster Estate, The Brockton Mass Historical Society, the Brockton MA Mayors office, and the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War. Each group is currently looking for any information regarding the transaction but also suggested that I try the deed records for Prince William County - which I have but was told that I cannot personally look through the deed records prior to 1918 and should go through RELIC. I am hopeful that you can be of assistance.

Information needed is for use by:

DEED BOOK 66

THIS DEED made this 20th of April 1914, between Anna Cather and Cordelia L. Swart (formerly Cordelia Love Cather) of the first part, of Manassas Virginia; and the following named trustees of the second part, namely: John A. Laird of Brockton, Massachusetts, George H. Ackerman of Brockton, Massachusetts and John E. Gilman of Boston, Massachusetts; and Emma L. Cather of the third part, for whose benefit during life the parties of the first part hold the land described.

WITNESSETH that the said parties of the first part hereby grant and convey unto the said parties of the second part, in consideration of One hundred dollars, One Acre of ground, square in shape with the sides pointing North, South, east and West, the central point of said acre to be at the stake now marking the location of the point approximately where Colonel Fletcher Webster of the Twelfth Massachusetts Regiment fell in battle on the 30th of August, 1862.

This conveyance is executed on the understanding that if before the recording of this deed in the Clerk's Office of the County of Prince William, some adjacent spot shall be fixed upon by the parties of the second part, this deed to be cancelled and another one executed.

This conveyance is in trust that the said trustees shall hold said Acre for the purpose of the erection of such monument, marker or other memorial by the Association of the Survivors of said 12th Mass. Regiment or by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as to said Association or Commonwealth may seem right and upon the farther trust that the said trustees may convey said Acre of ground to the said Commonwealth whenever it shall by Act of its Legislature assume the control and ownership thereof.

It is understood that whatsoever fencing or enclosures are desired by the said trustees shall be at their expense and until erected the said parties of the first part, or their assignees have the right of pasturage thereon.

It is likewise understood that the said trustees and their employees or agents shall have the right of ingress and egress by the roadways now used for farming purposes from the public road, along with any persons desiring to see said Acre or the memorials thereon: Said right of way however may be changed by the parties of the first part or their assigns for another one equally convenient. Reference is hereby made to the Will of Andrew Cather recorded in Liber W, page 295 of the records of said County. This conveyance is with GENERAL WARRANTY.

WITNESS our signatures and seals:

Anna Cather	(SEAL)
Cordelia L. Swart	(SEAL)
Mrs. Emma L. Cather	(SEAL)

STATE OF VIRGINIA,

County of Prince William, ss:

I, George C. Round Notary Public in and for said County certify that Cordelia L. Swart and Mrs. Emma L. Cather to me well known as the owners of said property and whose names are signed to the deed above written, dated April 20, 1914, have acknowledged the same before me in my County aforesaid.

SWART
ET AL
DEED TO
LAIRD ET
AL, TRS.

*Delivered to
Geo. C. Round
July, 1914.
J. S. H.*

The Manassas De

The Leading Newspaper of Manassas and Prince William

VOL. V. NO. 46.

MANASSAS, VA., THURSDAY, OCT. 15, 1914

TRIBUTE TO SOLDIER WHO FELL IN BATTLE

MANASSAS VA., FRIDAY, OCT. 23

Notable Gathering Expected at the Unveiling of the Memorial to Col. Fletcher Webster, Son of Daniel Webster.

Manassas will be the scene of an unusual gathering Friday, October 23, when former Union and former Confederate soldiers are to participate in the unveiling of a tablet to the memory of Col. Fletcher Webster, a son of Daniel Webster, America's great statesman, who fell during the third day's fighting in the second battle of Bull Run. Members of the 12th Massachusetts Regiment, Col. Webster's command, and the Fletcher Webster Post, No. 13, G. A. R., will come here in a special train to be present at the ceremonies. They will be met by Lieut. G. C. Round, president of the Veteran Signal Corps Association, who is in charge of the arrangements for the dedication, and by veterans of both armies which participated in the memorable struggle. Senator Weeks and other members of Congress are expected to attend. The dedicatory address will be delivered by Lieut. Samuel Appleton, who served in the 12th and who is a grandson of Daniel Webster, being the son of Col. Fletcher's only sister. He is from St. Paul, Minn.

The tablet which is to be unveiled is a granite bowlder taken from the Webster farm at Marshfield, Mass. It has been placed at the spot where Col. Webster is thought to have fallen. This is on the Hazel Plain farm, about six miles out of Manassas. Lieut.

Round has purchased for the 12th Regiment an acre of ground surrounding the tablet.

It is expected that one of the speakers at the exercises will be Col. Edmund Berkeley, ninety-two years old, ranking Confederate veteran of Prince William county, and who was serving under Longstreet at the time that officer threw his command of 25,000 men against the left wing of General Pope's army near the end of the fighting of the Second Bull Run. For an hour the most desperate contest was in progress on Bald Hill, the forces on the offensive being under Hood, Anderson, Wilcox, Kemper and D. R. Jones, and those on the defensive being led by Reynolds, Hazel, Milroy and McDowell. At an opportune moment Gen. Pope withdrew Tower's brigade from the right wing where it had been fighting Jackson and brought it into action just west of Henry Hill to oppose Longstreet's advance. This brigade, which included the Webster regiment, held back Longstreet's men until about midnight, giving time for the Federal commanders to rally a force which held Henry Hill as night

fell on the bloody scene. At the height of the fight on Bald Hill, Col. Fletcher Webster was mortally wounded. His adjutant remained with him and was permitted by the Confederates, into whose hands they fell, to administer to him until he died. The tablet marks the spot near which he was seen to fall from his horse.

It is expected that the visiting veterans from Massachusetts will reach Manassas at 9.30 a. m., on Friday of next week. All persons desirous of joining in the procession to the battlefield are invited to meet at that hour at the court house square at the junction of Grant and Lee Avenues. All persons who can furnish automobiles and carriages to transport visitors are requested

to communicate at once to Lieut. Round, who desires, if possible, that all veterans be transported free of charge.

The dedicatory exercises will take place from 11 to 12 o'clock. After visiting the battlefield the Bull Run Chapter, U. D. C., will serve a luncheon to the visitors at their pavilion about 2 p. m., and the visitors will return that night to Washington.