

# BATTLEFIELD UPDATE

newsletter of the

## AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM

U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Heritage Preservation Services



### MARCH 1996 UNVEILING PLANNED FOR CIVIL WAR DISCOVERY SYSTEM

If you haven't heard about it, you will. It moves troops across fields, sings spirituals, plays Dixie and the Battle Hymn of the Republic, displays database information, and visually conveys the stories of the Civil War using 21st century computer technology. It is the Civil War Discovery System. This March, the Civil War Trust will unveil the interactive, multimedia computer program in three battlefield parks—Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, Antietam National Battlefield, and Gettysburg National Military Park.

Information accessible and exciting even for those who have had little or no exposure to this period of American history; showcase a vast amount of unique material of interest to Civil War enthusiasts; and promote community-based battlefield preservation. The Discovery System will likely accomplish these goals because it is well-organized, creatively designed, simple to use, and rich in video, audio, photographic, and documentary materials.

Upon entering the system, users may access six main selections by simply touching the screen. "The Big Picture" provides a brief, general introduction to the Civil War and the issues that caused it. "The Civil War World" includes information on the

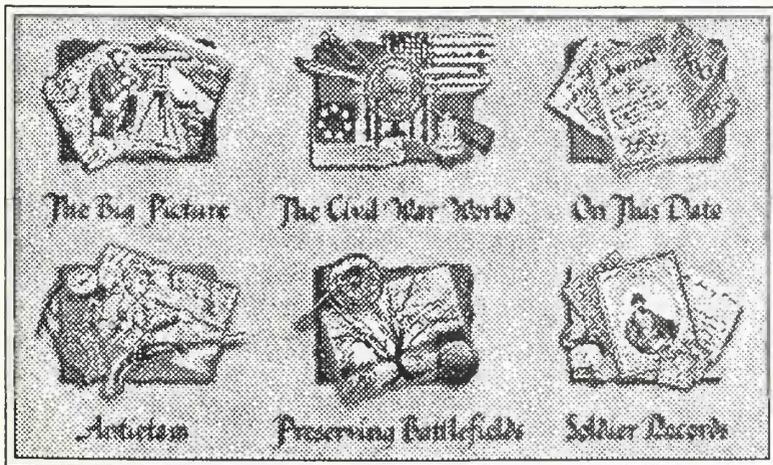
### CHICKAMAUGA/CHATTANOOGA ASSESSMENT ON COURSE

Pat Reed, Superintendent of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, reports that the Chattanooga Area Civil War Sites Assessment is progressing nicely (reported in *Battlefield Update*, March/April 1995). The project's objective is to help better protect important Civil War sites within the National Military Park and throughout the region. The APBB-funded assessment began in 1994, and has pooled the energies of local, regional, state, and federal agencies interested in the benefits of preserving historic areas associated with the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga.

A project planning team has been assessing site significance and developing management objectives and preservation strategies for significant sites. They have also been working with local and regional planning authorities to encourage landowners to protect these sites.

The assessment is roughly half completed. The project planning team has met with private property owners, local government officials, and the general public to determine the top fifty sites needing protection. The next step is to discuss the benefits of preservation, such as tax credits and tourism, and the mechanisms of preservation, such as scenic easements and greenways, with those groups. The team will formally present the assessment's findings to the public in September 1996. Reed hopes that the data from the final report will be

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The Discovery System is designed to stimulate interest in and promote understanding of the Civil War; help individuals explore their own personal and patriotic ties to the stories and places of that period; keep the infor-

mation accessible and exciting even for those who have had little or no exposure to this period of American history; showcase a vast amount of unique material of interest to Civil War enthusiasts; and promote community-based battlefield preservation. The Discovery System will likely accomplish these goals because it is well-organized, creatively designed, simple to use, and rich in video, audio, photographic, and documentary materials.

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fully integrated into local planning authority databases, especially Geographic Information Systems.

Reed emphasizes the importance of involving the community in the planning process. The project planning team is working with the Coosa Valley Regional Development Center, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Tennessee Historical Commission, the Southeast Tennessee Development District, the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, the Southeast Regional Office of the NPS, and the ABPP. Reed believes the assessment

has proceeded with little public or governmental opposition because of local participation in, and a sense of ownership of, the project.

## GPS TRAINING HELD AT FREDERICKSBURG AND SPOTSYLVANIA

Staff from the National Park Service's Cultural Resources Geographic Information Services (CRGIS) facility conducted a week-long Global Positioning Systems (GPS) training workshop at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park last October. GPS is satellite mapping technology that allows mappers to cover ground faster than traditional survey techniques and to map features with an accuracy of +/- one meter.

CRGIS staff trained cultural and natural resources staff from Mid-Atlantic area parks, as well as GIS coordinators from state and local governments, in GPS theory and use. The participants learned how to plan and complete a GPS mapping project by conducting surveys defined by the park. The projects included mapping streams and wetlands for the natural resources managers as well as mapping earthworks.

Although earthworks at the park were mapped using GPS in 1992 and 1993, some sections were surveyed again for several reasons. Today's GPS equipment is more accurate than it was three years ago. Many areas, such as Lee's final line at Spotsylvania Court House, are very complex, and previous versions of the software were unable to capture the details of a double line of earthworks. Also, additional data needed by the park maintenance staff, such as tree cover, was collected for certain segments.

All of the usable data collected by

the class will be added to the park's GIS database for future analysis. This database was developed by CRGIS in order to assist the park in managing its resources and protecting its related lands. The database was delivered to Fredericksburg in July 1995, and is being used extensively by the park for a variety of projects. *For more information about GPS training or the use of GPS on battlefields, contact Bonnie Burns at (202) 343-1032 or [bburns@ird.nps.gov](mailto:bburns@ird.nps.gov).*

## CRGIS CONDUCTS CORINTH MAPPING AND DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

CRGIS staff were busy again in November of 1995. For ten days survey crews revisited Corinth, Mississippi, to finish mapping Civil War features in the area, a project begun last April (reported in *Battlefield Update*, June 1995). Just as the Siege of Corinth crossed state lines in April and May of 1862, the CRGIS surveyors spilled into Tennessee in an attempt to provide comprehensive documentation of the area's resources. The surveyors have now mapped 7.5 miles of surviving field fortifications and other associated features. Sixty-nine percent (5.2 miles) of these Civil War trenches are located in Alcorn County, Mississippi; 16 % (1.2 miles) in McNairy County, Tennessee, and 15 % (1.1 miles) within the city limits of Corinth. These resources are highly fragmented, surviving in more than fifty locations in the area.

How many miles of field fortifications were originally dug by the armies during the Siege of Corinth? CRGIS digitized a military map from 1862, collected GPS positions to "geo-reference" it, and then layered the depicted resources over a modern map, using the GIS program ArcInfo. Through this

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lection will interpret that place's significance in the Civil War. Another section, "On This Date," allows users punch in any day and month, their birthday perhaps, and find out what events occurred on that date in Civil War history. Frequently, such events will be linked to an article in "The Civil War World." When users choose "Soldier Records," they will be able to access basic information about more than one million Federal and Confederate soldiers and sailors. Whenever possible, these records will be linked to photographs and personal papers of the soldiers. In "Preserving Battlefields," users will find a discussion of battlefield preservation issues, learn how they can support preservation in their communities, and find out what others are doing to protect battlefields across the country.

The Civil War Trust is developing the Discovery System with the National Park Service, the History Channel, and other corporate and foundation sponsors. The National Council for the Social Studies has already endorsed the system. After initially testing the system at Prairie Grove, Antietam, and Gettysburg, the Civil War Trust expects to place the system at museums and other historic sites on its Civil War Discovery Trail.

The Civil War Trust invites the public to submit information on grassroots, state, and federal battlefield preservation initiatives for inclusion in the system's "Preserving Battlefields" section. *For more information about the Civil War Discovery System, contact Julie Fix at the Civil War Trust, 225 Eye St, NW, Suite 401, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 326-8414; julwar@ari.net.*

## BGES HOLDS PRICE'S 1864 CAMPAIGN WORKSHOP

The Blue and Gray Education Society (BGES) organized and conducted a Sterling Price's 1864 Missouri Campaign workshop, which was held in Kansas City, Missouri, from November 30-December 1, 1995. The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) sponsored the conference with funding from the ABPP. The Department of History at the University of Missouri-Kansas City was a cosponsor.

The approximately 30 participants focused their attention on: (1) exchanging information on past, ongoing, and anticipated preservation efforts along the route of Price's campaign; (2) identifying the important sites that tell the story of Price's campaign; (3) determining key players, communities, and agencies that could or should be involved in a Price's campaign heritage trail; (4) suggesting possible sources of funding and technical assistance; and (5) formulating an approach and timetable for developing and implementing the trail. Len Riedel of the BGES is compiling the final report, which will be available through BGES, APCWS, and the ABPP by the middle of February 1995.

## MISSOURI CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS STUDIED

**ABPP Partnership Funding** projects have recently been completed at three Missouri battlefields: Byram's Ford (Big Blue), Newtonia, and Fort Davidson (Pilot Knob).

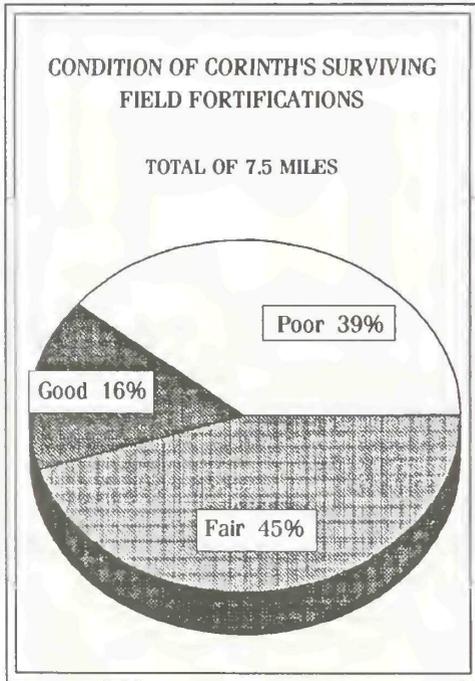
A **Byram's Ford** battlefield preservation plan has been developed for the city of Kansas City, Missouri, and the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund. The planning process, undertaken by Gray & Pape, Inc., included archival and

cartographic documentation, interviews with local and state leaders, a public questionnaire, a viewshed study, archaeological surface reconnaissance, and preservation goals and strategies. The main champion of preservation at Byram's Ford has been the Monnett Fund, in association with the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City, which culminated twelve years of land acquisition last spring by donating 90 acres of battlefield land to Kansas City. In recognition, the Monnett Fund received an **ABPP Battlefield Preservation Award**. To protect the battlefield's fragile resources, the complete plan is not being released to the public; *for more information, however, contact the Kansas City Historic Preservation Management Division at (816) 274-2555.*

The **Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association** has just completed a site assessment of the 1862 and 1864 battlefields. This preliminary planning study provides a historical overview of the sites, archival documentation, and an assessment of the battlefields' condition and preservation priorities based on limited archaeological field reconnaissance. The study, conducted by Garrow & Associates, Inc., concludes that the battlefields retain good historical integrity, despite being unprotected, and recommends the development of a full preservation plan. *For more information, contact the Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association at (417) 451-1040.*

Historian Howard Noble has documented the **Battle of Pilot Knob** for the Fort Davidson Battlefield Protection Committee and the Iron County Historical Society. The study provides archival research and a historical narrative of the battle, which, on September 27, 1864, pitted Confederate Maj. Gen. Sterling Price against Brig. Gen. Thomas Ewing and the Federal garrison at Fort Davidson, now a state historic site. The

process, CRGIS determined that the original entrenchments extended 40.9 miles. Of those shown on the military map, fewer than 18% survive today. Only 16% of the surviving resources were rated in good condition. This information will be stored in a database that local planners and preservationists can use to monitor the area's resources.



The Corinth Civil War Mapping and Documentation Project is a public-private partnership, involving CRGIS, the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Alcorn County, the City of Corinth, the Tennessee Division of Archeology, Shiloh National Military Park, and the ABPP.

## SUBCOMMITTEE HEARS TESTIMONY ON REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 BILL

U.S. Rep. Dick Zimmer (R-NJ), sponsor of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Historic Preservation Study bill (H.R. 810), told the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands that his legislation "will shield our Revolutionary War and other historic sites from suburban sprawl," and that these sites "are at great risk and deserve special attention." Testifying on December 7, 1995, before the subcommittee, Zimmer and other proponents of the bill stressed the fragile nature of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 resources, many of which are in urban areas, and the need for quick Congressional action.

Historian and archaeologist James Kochan testified on behalf of the American Revolution Round Table and the Pluckemin Archaeological Project, which represent a national constituency of concerned citizens. Kochan emphasized that sprawl development and looting either threaten or have already destroyed many of the "last vestiges of the lands, structures and features" associated with the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. He noted that historic sites such as the Princeton Battlefield, the Spring Hill Redoubt associated with the Siege of Savannah, and the 1812 shipwrecks of Lake George and Lake Champlain, are in serious jeopardy. Kochan also stressed that "timely passage of this bill is critical if we are to use [the study's] information to develop strategies for safeguarding these hallowed grounds before they are lost."

If passed, H.R. 810 would direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service (NPS), to identify battlefields and other sites

directly linked to the two wars that retain historic value and to recommend ways to preserve them. The NPS would have two years to report its findings to Congress.

Rep. Zimmer introduced the bill in the House last February and Sen. James Jeffords (R-VT) introduced a companion bill (S. 1226) in the Senate last September (reported in *Battlefield Update*, February 1995 and Fall 1995).

## ABPP WELCOMES NEW STAFF

The American Battlefield Protection Program is pleased to introduce two new staff members, Hampton Tucker and Tanya Gossett.

Mr. Tucker will be coordinating the ABPP's fall 1996 national conference and will be responsible for multimedia projects. He holds a M.A. in Architectural History and has extensive professional experience with the Legacy Resources Management Program and cultural resources data collection and management.

Ms. Gossett is the new editor of *Battlefield Update* and the ABPP publications coordinator. She has degrees in American History and Historic Preservation Planning. For the past two years, she has been an editor with the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. Gossett began working for the National Park Service as a seasonal historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in 1991.

study also includes the text for twelve wayside granite markers, currently being erected throughout the battlefield area. *For more information or to order a copy of the study, contact the Iron County Historical Society at (314) 546-5637 or Fort Davidson State Historic Site at (314) 546-3454.*

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*For more information about the ABPP's Partnership Funding program, contact us at the address on the back page.*

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## COMMEMORATIVE COIN UPDATE

On December 7, 1995, the Civil War Trust asked the Secretary of the Interior to approve the expenditure of Civil War Commemorative Coin revenues for preservation projects at six battlefields: Cedar Creek, Virginia; Malvern Hill, Virginia; Perryville, Kentucky; Mill Springs, Kentucky; Prairie Grove, Arkansas; and Rich Mountain, West Virginia. The ABPP will review the Civil War Trust's six applications for the Secretary. The Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks will make the final decision to approve or deny the expenditure of the requested funds. All six battlefields are on the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's Priority I list for preservation. The ABPP plans to complete its review of these applications before December 21, 1995.

As of November 24, 1995, total coin revenues for battlefield preservation totaled \$5,728,667. Last summer the Secretary approved the distribution of commemorative coin revenues for three endangered battlefields: Schoolhouse Ridge in Harpers Ferry battlefield, West

Virginia; Grove Farm at the edge of Antietam battlefield, Maryland; and Opequon (Third Winchester) battlefield in Virginia. The approved expenditures for preservation activities at these battlefields totaled \$1,033,457; the Civil War Trust has \$4,695,210 remaining. The total request for the six applications is about \$1 million. The ABPP anticipates receiving additional applications for the Secretary's approval before January 1996 and early in the new year.

## GETTYSBURG NMP OFFERS "ADOPT A POSITION" PROGRAM

In December 1995, Gettysburg National Military Park announced a new volunteer program for groups wishing to help care for Civil War monuments, cannon, fences, stone walls, and other features on the battlefield. "The park's new 'Adopt a Position' program is modeled on the popular 'Adopt a Highway' program. Civil War reenactment units, round tables, and other interested organizations can adopt regimental positions on the battlefield and help the park with maintenance and preservation projects," explained Superintendent John A. Latschar. "Every area on the field is up for adoption, including the Eternal Light Peace memorial, and individual fencelines and woodlots."

"We would like to take advantage of the commitment and dedication of both the Civil War community and others to help us tackle historic preservation projects which cannot be funded through our shrinking park budget," added Latschar.

Projects will be coordinated by park maintenance staff. Some tools and equipment may be provided. *Interested organizations should contact Volunteer Coordinator Laurie Coughlan at (717) 334-1124.*

## ABPP DEVELOPING DATABASE FOR BATTLEFIELDS

The ABPP is developing a database to track all preservation activity on battlefields, primarily focusing on the fifty Priority I sites identified by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. This information will be made available to local and national preservation organizations, and will provide them with a general knowledge about preservation activity at a particular site or within a state. The project is the result of a combined effort of the ABPP and National Park Service's Cultural Resources GIS facility.

The database will include basic information on preservation activity at battlefield sites. It will cover a range of topics, including historical significance of the site, current condition of the battlefield, a history of preservation activity at the site, total acreage covered by the battlefield, total acreage of areas that are protected, and individual contacts who are closely related to ongoing preservation and land acquisition efforts. Maps indicating site locations, study areas, and protected lands will also be included.

Future issues of *Battlefield Update* will feature summaries gleaned from the database about preservation activity at various battlefield sites. Information gathered on the fifty Priority I Civil War sites will also be available on the ABPP World Wide Web site at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/abpp/priority.html>.

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*If you have information that should be included in the battlefield database, please contact Chris Shaheen at (202) 343-4259, or send any information to the American Battlefield Protection Program at the address on the back page.*

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## ABPP ANNOUNCES 1996 PARTNERSHIP FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The **American Battlefield Protection Program** is gearing up for its 1996 Partnership Funding Application process. Applications will be mailed in December 1995 and must be completed and postmarked, or hand-delivered, to the National Park Service by February 28, 1996. Funding is limited to projects affecting battlefields on the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's list of Priority I sites (see below).

As always, the **ABPP** is looking for activities that directly result in the long-term preservation of historic battlefield land. We encourage new applicants to participate, and urge current and previous applicants to continue to submit proposals for innovative projects.

Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- developing protection strategies, mechanisms, and systems to protect historic battlefield land;
- identifying and evaluating significant historic battlefield lands and resources;

- enhancing technical or management abilities of battlefield protection organizations or local governments;
- providing public education about, or interpretation of, a battlefield;
- building community support and consensus about the protection of a significant historic battlefield; and
- assessing the condition of a battlefield or its related features and undertaking work to stabilize or preserve those features.

Additionally, funds can be used to procure professional services, equipment, and supplies necessary to conduct the proposed project.

The **ABPP** will **not** consider for funding:

- acquisition of properties or land in fee or in interest, or payment of rent on properties or land;
- fund raising;
- lobbying;
- battle reenactments;
- new construction or reconstruction of historic resources;
- permanent staff positions;
- object or material culture curation or

- other ongoing activities; or
- capital construction or improvement projects (site excavation, trail or road construction, parking lots, visitor centers, scene restoration, etc.)

**N.B.** Due to recent developments in the interpretation of laws regarding the National Park Service's use of cooperative agreements, we strongly suggest that projects focus on a specific battlefield or battles or be managed in partnership with a State Historic Preservation Office.

We will announce the dollar amount available for the 1996 partnership-funded projects when Congress approves the **ABPP's** 1996 appropriations.

Anyone interested in receiving an application should contact Ginger Carter at (202) 343-1210 or write to the **ABPP** at the address on the back page. Please include your name, address, phone number, and indicate whether or not you are currently on our mailing list. Current and past **ABPP** cooperators, the fifty Priority I battlefield sites, and state and local governments will automatically be sent applications.

### *The Fifty Priority I Civil War Battlefields*

Allatoona, GA  
Antietam, MD  
Bentonville, NC  
Boydton Plank Road, VA  
Brandy Station, VA  
Brices Cross Roads, MS  
Bristoe Station, VA  
Cedar Creek, VA  
Chaffin's Farm/ New Market Heights, VA  
Chancellorsville, VA  
Chattanooga, TN  
Chickamauga, GA

Chickasaw Bayou, MS  
Cold Harbor, VA  
Corinth, MS  
First Kernstown, VA  
Fisher's Hill, VA  
Fort Davidson, MO  
Fort Donelson, TN  
Gaines' Mill, VA  
Gettysburg, PA  
Glendale, VA  
Glorieta Pass, NM  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Honey Springs, OK

Kennesaw Mountain, GA  
Malvern Hill, VA  
Mill Springs, KY  
Mine Run, VA  
Mobile Bay, AL  
Monocacy, MD  
Newtonia, MO  
North Anna, VA  
Perryville, KY  
Petersburg, VA  
Port Gibson, MS  
Port Hudson, LA  
Prairie Grove, AR

Raymond, MS  
Rich Mountain, WV  
Ringgold Gap, GA  
Secessionville, SC  
Second Manassas, VA  
Second Deep Bottom, VA  
South Mountain, MD  
Spotsylvania Court House, VA  
Spring Hill, TN  
Vicksburg, MS  
White Oak Road, VA  
Wilderness, VA

## LITERATURE AND INFORMATION

Two reports sponsored by the ABPP have recently been completed.

The first is the *Port Republic Museum Interpretive Plan*, prepared for the Society of Port Republic Preservationists, Inc., Port Republic, Virginia. In 1992, the Society bought the historic Kemper House and began renovating the building for use as a local museum. The museum's interpretive plan focuses on three major interpretive themes: human settlement at the confluence of the South Branch of the Shenandoah River from prehistoric times through the 19th century; Port Republic's role in Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862; and the town's change of character since a disastrous flood in 1877. The plan also maps out goals for the museum's permanent collection, wayside exhibits, walking tour development, and preservation activities. *For more information, contact: Society of Port Republic Preservationists, Inc., P.O. Box 82, Port Republic, VA 24471; (703) 434-7373; FAX (703) 434-4339.*

The second report is the *Preservation and Interpretation Plan for Sherman's "March to the Sea" Savannah Campaign*, prepared for the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) by White Star Consulting. This plan describes the significant military operations that occurred between Atlanta and Savannah, Georgia, in November and December, 1864; presents a methodology for preserving and interpreting the March to the Sea corridor that includes specific recommendations for development of a single interpretive route; summarizes local land use laws and regulations; and presents, by tax parcel, the historic significance and preservation status of areas recommended for interpretation,

preservation, and/or acquisition. The report includes color maps of troop movements and six helpful indexes. *For more information, contact: APCWS, 305 Charlotte Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401; (703) 371-1860; FAX (703) 371-3489.*

*Corridor Management Plans* are free fact sheets distributed by Scenic America. The sheets focus on helping local governments and advocacy groups plan for the management of scenic byways. These approaches to corridor planning can also apply to historic areas. *For more information, contact: Scenic America, 21 Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 833-4300.*

The National Trust for Historic Preservation publishes a series of information booklets (\$3.00-\$6.00) on a variety of historic preservation and planning subjects. Battlefield preservation advocates will find many titles useful, including "Rural Conservation," "Preservation of Historic Burial Grounds," "Risk Management and Liability Insurance for Nonprofit Preservation Organizations," "Strategic Planning for Nonprofit Organizations," and "Using Professional Consultants." *For more information, contact: Information Series, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 673-4286/4189.*

The National Trust for Historic Preservation recently announced the publication of *Place Notes* (\$10.00), a discussion of the pros and cons of fifty local planning techniques. While *Place Notes* does not specifically focus on battlefield preservation, it does illustrate how small towns and rural communities

can retain their unique character—which may include battlefields—and balance new development. *For more information, contact: National Trust for Historic Preservation, Northeast Regional Office, 7 Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston, MA 02109, (617) 523-0885.*

A limited number of copies of the *Study on Civil War Sites in the Shenandoah Valley* are still available and can be obtained at no cost by contacting the ABPP at (202) 343-9505, by FAX (202) 343-1836, or by writing to the ABPP at the address on the back page.

Randall Arendt of the Natural Lands Trust has written a paper entitled "Planning Techniques to Protect Battle-Related Resources." In particular, the paper addresses planning issues in rural and suburbanizing communities. Free copies are available from the ABPP.

## NOTICES

The Rappahannock Valley Civil War Roundtable will sponsor the **4th Annual Virginia Civil War Preservation Conference** in Fredericksburg on March 30-31, 1996. This year's theme is "Preserving Sites in the Rappahannock Valley." The weekend conference includes tours of the Fredericksburg, Kelly's Ford, and Brandy Station battlefields and a banquet with guest speaker John Hennessy. Conference profits will go to the APCWS for purchase of Brandy Station battlefield land. Registration: \$75.00 all inclusive. *Please contact: Mac Wyckoff, Program Chairman, RVCWRT, P.O. Box 7632, Fredericksburg, VA, 22404; (540) 786-2470.*

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