

BATTLEFIELD UPDATE



newsletter of the

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM

U.S. Department of the Interior

◆ National Park Service

◆ Heritage Preservation Services

ABPP PLANS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The American Battlefield Protection Program will host the **Third National Battlefield Protection Conference** from September 18-21, 1996, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The conference will bring together landowners, battlefield managers and staff, community planners, non-profit organizations, government officials, battlefield enthusiasts, historians, and conservationists from across the country. The planned format includes two days of sessions, one day of workshops, and one day of battlefield tours led by acclaimed Civil War historian Edwin C. Bearss.

Past conferences have focused on the initial steps of battlefield preservation. The theme of this conference will move beyond "getting started" techniques and focus on the implementation of land use planning and highlight successful partnerships that have preserved threatened Civil War battlefields. The proposed agenda includes sessions on land use planning and legal tools, strengthening and networking friends groups, heritage tourism and economic development, and public education and battlefield interpretation. The Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park and the Tennessee Historical Commission will co-sponsor the event with the ABPP. The Civil War Trust, the Civil War Soldiers System, and the NPS Cultural Resources GIS team have offered to host workshops.

The dates of the conference coincide with the anniversary of the **Battle of Chickamauga**, which was fought from September 18-20, 1863. To commemorate the battle, the National Military Park is planning numerous events, including walking tours of the battlefield and living history demonstrations.

Conference attendees will also have the opportunity to attend workshops planned for the conclusion of the **Chattanooga Area Civil War Sites Assessment**, an ABPP-funded regional initiative coordinated by the National Military Park to help protect endangered Civil War sites in the area. The assessment team has developed objectives for the protection and management of threatened sites and is working with local and regional planning agencies to encourage landowners to protect significant resources outside the park. These workshops will be geared to local community and business leaders, both in Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia, but will have applications far beyond the Chattanooga area.

The Third National Battlefield Protection Conference will be held at the Radisson Read House Hotel and Suites in historic downtown Chattanooga. Built in the mid-19th century, the hotel served as a field hospital for both the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War and is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The deadline for reservations is August 18,

SECRETARY APPROVES COIN FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

As of March 5, 1996, the Secretary of the Interior had approved eleven requests for Civil War Commemorative Coin revenues from battlefield preservation groups (see the table on page 3). To date, revenues from coin sales total roughly \$6 million. The Civil War Trust, the organization responsible for processing requests for coin monies, received 31 applications outlining 45 projects. The funding requested is \$10,032,455.

The Civil War Trust has reviewed and forwarded fifteen applications to the ABPP for comment. The ABPP reviewed eleven of these and sent them to the Secretary, who granted funding to each. The ABPP is currently reviewing the other four requests. Of the remaining sixteen applications received by the Civil War Trust, the Secretary anticipates another seven to ten applications will emerge from the review process to receive funding.

The sum of the eleven approved expenditures is \$2,637,165, leaving available \$3,362,835 of the original \$6 million. The four applications currently under review by the ABPP and the Secretary request a total of \$861,155. Estimated funds that have not been expended or are not sought in applications under review equal \$2,501,680.

Most recently the Secretary approved funds for land purchases at

1996. A limited number of rooms are available to federal employees at a special government rate.

Please address questions and comments about the conference to Hampton Tucker of the ABPP at the address on the back page; (202) 343-180; hampton_tucker@nps.gov.

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at battlefields of Spring Hill, Tennessee; Corinth, Mississippi; Mill Springs, Kentucky; and Resaca, Georgia. Projects currently being viewed include property acquisition at Perryville, Kentucky, and Brices Cross Roads, Mississippi.

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1996 ABPP FUNDING APPLICATION PROCESS CLOSES

This year's ABPP funding application processes ended March 15. As of that date, the ABPP had received thirty-three applications for battlefield preservation projects needing monetary assistance. The projects represent preservation efforts at twenty-nine Priority I battlefields, three other Civil War sites, and one Revolutionary War battlefield. Project types include survey (5), education and interpretation (18), planning (6), documentation and research (1), site stabilization (2), and miscellaneous (1). Funding requests for 1996 total \$512,690.

The ABPP will review the applications within six weeks and notify applicants of funding decisions at the end of the review process.

NPS HONORS EDWIN C. BEARSS

At a retirement banquet on February 9, 1996, the National Park Service recognized Edwin Cole Bearss, former Chief Historian of the National Park Service and renowned Civil War historian and battlefield guide, for his lifetime dedication to the Service and the country. Roasting and toasting the former Marine and star of PBS Civil War documentaries were NPS Director Roger Kennedy, Deputy Director John Reynolds, Associate Director Kate Stevenson, National Capital Regional Field Director Robert Stanton, current Chief Historian Dwight Pitcaithley, and numerous other NPS regional representatives, park superintendents, and former co-workers of Bearss. U.S. Marine Corps Chief Historian Ben Frank and Herbert Hart of the Council on America's Military Past also made presentations. Richard Rambur, formerly the Superintendent of Antietam National Battlefield and now

Superintendent of Lowell National Historical Park in Massachusetts, was master of ceremonies.

Jokes abounded about baseball caps, swagger sticks, tuxedos, fishing, and match-making. But after the laughs, each speaker praised Bearss' remarkable contributions to the NPS, the field of history, and public education, and many offered gifts of appreciation and friendship. Bearss graciously accepted the kudos and the gifts, but frequently turned the tables on his colleagues by recounting anecdotes about them in front of the more than 120 guests.

Kate Stevenson officially presented Bearss with the first ever title of National Park Service Historian Emeritus. Director Kennedy, Frances Kennedy, and Jim Kochan announced that the NPS, the Conservation Fund, and the National Park Foundation have established a fellowship in Bearss' name to "support graduate education in American history and American studies." According to the National Park Foundation, "the fellowship will be open to all NPS career employees with at least five years of service, who are engaged in historical research and education."

In his closing remarks, Bearss reiterated the importance of the National Park Service's mission to interpret the rich cultural and natural heritage of the United States. He stressed that the agency must help the American people better understand and appreciate the national treasures held for them in trust. Beyond the resources, however, Bearss emphasized that his most enduring memories are of the dedicated people he has met during his tenure at the NPS.

The National Park Foundation is accepting contributions for the Edwin C. Bearss Fellowship endowment. For more information, please write to Jim Maddy, President, National Park Foundation, 1101 17th Street, NW, Suite 1102, Washington, DC 20036-4704.

APPROVED CIVIL WAR COIN APPLICATIONS AS OF MARCH 5, 1996

KEY

Battlefield: Site name

State: Site location

Applicant: Cooperating association

Priority I: A list of 50 battlefields needing urgent protection according to the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission

Acres: Number of acres to be purchased

Amount: Total coin revenues expended

Leverage in Place: Monies contributed to the project from other funding sources

Last \$: Final monies contributed to secure the acquisition

Battlefield	State	Applicant	Priority I	Acres	Amount	Leverage in Place	Last \$
Schoolhouse Ridge	WV	CWT	Yes	56	\$483,172	\$0	Yes
Grove Farm	MD	CWT	Yes	40	\$50,000	N/A	Yes
3rd Winchester	VA	APCWS	No	222	\$500,000	\$20,000	No
Malvern Hill	VA	APCWS	Yes	519	\$419,000	\$1,137,460	Yes
Cedar Creek	VA	Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation	Yes	158	\$72,993	\$377,007	Yes
Rich Mountain	WV	Rich Mountain Battlefield Association	Yes	71	\$11,100	\$311,000	Yes
Prairie Grove	AR	Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism	Yes	95	\$126,400	\$108,600	Yes
Spring Hill	TN	APCWS	Yes	110	\$200,000	\$150,000	No*
Corinth	MS	Friends of the Siege & Battle of Corinth	Yes	160	\$119,500	\$380,000	Yes
Mill Springs	KY	Mill Springs Battlefield Association	Yes	160	\$155,000	\$310,000	Yes
Resaca	GA	Georgia Civil War Commission	No	1,200	\$500,000	\$1,700,000	Yes
Total				2,791	\$2,637,165	\$4,494,067	

NOTES

CWT = Civil War Trust

APCWS = Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites

*As of March 5, 1996, \$50,000 was approved for the down payment and \$150,000 approved for the last payment. A letter of credit is being negotiated so that the full \$200,000 may be used for the down payment.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION PROFILE

PORT GIBSON, MISSISSIPPI

In March 1863, Union Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant began to move his army south against Vicksburg, Mississippi, the most strategically significant Confederate city on the Mississippi River. He marched his men through the Louisiana parishes opposite and south of the city and ferried across the river to Bruinsburg, Mississippi, 14 miles west of Port Gibson. On May 1, Confederate troops under Brig. Gen. John S. Bowen met the advancing Union army near Port Gibson, but the Federals outflanked and overwhelmed Bowen's forces. The Union victory enabled Grant to establish a foothold in Mississippi. The Vicksburg campaign and siege that followed, ending with the surrender of the city and its defending army on July 4, were critical steps in ending the war and ensured Grant's reputation as one of the great generals in U.S. military history.

Today 11.3 acres and a historic road that crosses this battlefield are protected; the remainder of the site is predominantly forested or in agricultural use and appears much as it did at the time of the Civil War. New development on the battlefield is concentrated along State Route 61 within the town of Port Gibson. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) has designated historic resources associated with the battle as state landmarks, including the Shaifer House, the overlook at Bayou Pierre, the historic Bruinsburg Road, and the site of Magnolia Church. All other battlefield land is held in private ownership.

Preservation activity began at this site in 1972 when the State of Mississippi nominated 2,080 acres of the battlefield to the National Register of Historic Places. Since 1983 the Grand Gulf Military Monument Commission, an independent state agency, has maintained several of the battlefield's historic resources, including lands surrounding the Shaifer House that have recently been nominated as a National Historic Landmark. Representatives from Port Gibson participated in the ABPP-sponsored Vicksburg Campaign Preservation Conference in 1995. The purpose of the conference was to evaluate the condition of sites associated with the 1863 campaign and to develop an action plan for their preservation. The ABPP has also provided the MDAH with funds to implement several preservation initiatives at the site: a preservation plan for the battlefield and its resources, an engineering study of historic roads that will identify erosion problems [Editor's note: this project has been completed, see page 5, Literature and Information], and the training of local road crews to properly maintain fragile Civil War resources. The National Park Service is also providing funds for The Countryside Institute to hold a workshop that will provide recommendations concerning battlefield preservation, community development, and growth management for the town of Port Gibson.

To learn more about this site contact Michael Beard, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571, (601) 359-6940 or Tom Presson, Grand Gulf Military Monument Commission, Route 2, Box 389, Port Gibson, MS 39150, (601) 437-5911.

This is the first in a series of battlefield profiles to appear in *Battlefield Update*.

GETTYSBURG PARTNERS NOMINATED FOR AWARDS

The Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg has been nominated for two 1996 National Park Partnership Leadership Awards. The National Park Foundation established the award program in 1992 to recognize outstanding partnership contributions of external organizations that advance the mission of the National Park Service. Established in 1989, the Friends help preserve the historic landscapes of Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site.

NPS Northeast Field Director Marie Rust nominated the Friends for a Resource Stewardship and Preservation award and an Education and Interpretation award. The former nomination recognizes the Friends' role in removing modern utility lines from the Gettysburg battlefield in the area of Pickett's Charge and placing the lines underground. To date, more than one mile of lines has been buried. The Friends raised \$272,000 to help pay for the project and assisted in negotiations with the utility companies.

The Education and Interpretation nomination highlights fund raising efforts that have enhanced park visitors' experiences. The Friends raised \$75,000 to help produce new visitor orientation programs at Gettysburg NMP and Eisenhower NHS, reproduce historic photos for research purposes, repair and replace historic tablets, plaques, and monuments on the battlefield, and restore the Copse of Trees (a stand of trees thought to be the objective of Pickett's Charge) at The Angle.

Eight other park partners from the northeast were also nominated. Winners will be announced during National Park Week, April 22-28, 1996.

LITERATURE AND INFORMATION

The Natural Resources and Conservation Service, in cooperation with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the ABPP, and other partners, recently completed an erosion control study of Old Shaifer Road, a historic dirt road associated with the **Battle of Port Gibson**. The agency's report, "A Plan for the Preservation of Old Shaifer Road," deals exclusively with engineering issues. The report identifies eroding ditch banks along the road, sets priorities for their repair, and illustrates stabilization methods. It addresses problems such as culvert extensions and eroding drain outlets, and discusses when natural stabilizers--plantings of grasses, trees, shrubs, vines, and legumes--or engineered solutions--dams, culverts, and emergency spillways--should be used to control damaged areas. This study is one component of a master preservation plan for the Port Gibson battlefield (see page 4, Battlefield Preservation Profile). *For copies, contact Michael Beard at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571, (601) 359-6940.*

A limited number of the *Study on Civil War Sites in the Shenandoah Valley* are still available free of charge. *To obtain a copy, contact the ABPP at (202) 343-4259, by FAX (202) 343-8336, or by writing to the address on the back page.*

NOTICES

Scenic Byways '96: Scenic Byways for the 21st Century will be held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Tysons Corner, Virginia, April 21-24. This national conference will bring together representatives from federal, state, and local government agencies and the private sector with interests in tourism, historic and scenic preservation, recreation, and economic development. *For conference registration information, contact the American Recreation Coalition at (202) 662-7420.*

The Institute for Historical Research of the Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas is organizing an academic symposium to mark the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the **Mexican-American War** in 1846. The symposium is based upon ideas generated at a recent seminar coordinated by Dr. Josefina Vazquez of El Colegio de Mexico, one of the objectives being to encourage discussion of the impact of the war on the different parts of the Mexican nation and the United States. The organizers encourage American scholars to attend and to present their research and perspectives.

The symposium will be held in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, May 8-10, 1996. Co-sponsors include the Comité Mexicano de Ciencias Historicas, El Colegio de Mexico, and the U.S. National Park Service.

For further information, please contact Octavio Herrera, Instituto de Investigaciones Historicas-UAT, Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico; 011-52-131-2-61-25; FAX 011-52-131-2-36-78; or Tom Carroll, Palo Alto National Historic Site, 1623 Central Boulevard, Brownsville, TX 78522; (210) 541-2785; FAX (210) 541-6356.

The Mill Springs Battlefield Association (MSBA) announces the replanting of the Zollie Tree this Memorial Day, May 27, 1996. Named for Confederate Brig. Gen. Felix Zollicoffer who died beneath the tree during the **Battle of Mill Springs**, Kentucky, the Zollie Tree was a beloved local landmark felled by a thunderstorm last Autumn. Since 1900, a local family has carried on the Memorial Day tradition of decorating the tree with a wreath. This year, the MSBA will sponsor the replanting of one of sixteen seedlings harvested before the tree's demise.

The event will also celebrate the acquisition of an additional 30 acres of core battlefield land, purchased primarily with ISTEAF funds. MSBA is also receiving \$155,000 in Commemorative Coin revenues toward the acquisition, part of which is match for the ISTEAF funds. This latest acquisition will bring the total protected battlefield land to 67 acres.

For event details, contact Ron Nicholas, MSBA Administrator, P.O. Box 814, Somerset, KY 42502, (606) 636-6905.

The Civil War Roundtable of the District of Columbia announces its 1996 Spring tour of the **Antietam** battlefield, led by Edwin C. Bearss, June 1, 1996, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The bus departs Columbia Island Marina, Virginia, promptly at 7:30 a.m. Fee: \$27, does not include lunch. *For more information contact Col. Ben Kirkconnell at (202) 546-3893.*

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