

# BATTLEFIELD UPDATE

newsletter of the

## AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM

U.S. Department of the Interior

◆ National Park Service

◆ Heritage Preservation Services



### COIN GRANTS GIVEN TO FOUR BATTLEFIELDS

Since the beginning of 1997, the Secretary of the Interior, working in partnership with The Civil War Trust, has authorized the expenditure of \$624,480 in Civil War commemorative coin surcharge revenues. These grants will preserve significant battlefield land at Mill Springs in Kentucky, Gettysburg in Pennsylvania, Stones River in Tennessee, and Fredericksburg in Virginia.

The **Mill Springs Battlefield Association** will use \$18,780 in commemorative coin revenues to help buy two parcels of land comprising 14 acres (total cost \$93,900). The first parcel contains the area where the 9th Ohio and 10th Indiana's bayonet charge routed the Confederate left and won the January 19, 1862, Battle of Mill Springs for the Union. The second parcel contains the site of the main Confederate field hospital and the site of brutal hand to hand fighting between Union and Confederate pickets.

At Gettysburg, \$343,200 in coin revenues will enable the **Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg** purchase historic easements on 159 acres of farmland at two significant sites (total cost \$443,200). The first site was the scene of cavalry fighting between Maj. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart and Brig. Gen. George Armstrong Custer. A frame bank barn on the property survives from the time of the battle and is one of only three identified buildings within the authorized boundary of Gettysburg National Military Park to show battle damage. The second site was the scene of the desperate engagement between Confederate Colonel William C. Oates' 15th

Alabama Infantry and Union Col. Joshua L. Chamberlain's 20th Maine at Little Round Top.

The **Stones River National Battlefield** will use its award of \$152,500 to complete the purchase of 23.5 acres of battlefield land in Rutherford County, Tennessee (total cost \$305,000). This property was the scene of intense fighting on January 2, 1863, the third day of the Battle of Stones River. The Union victory at Stones River wrested control of Murfreesboro and middle Tennessee from the Confederates. The battle was an important step in the Union drive to split the Confederacy, and led to the Battle of Chickamauga, the Atlanta Campaign, and Sherman's March to the Sea. The Stones River National Battlefield will acquire and manage the property.

Finally, Civil War commemorative coin revenues totalling \$110,000, and an additional donation of \$20,000 from the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, allowed the **Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park** to purchase 8.2 acres of battlefield land at Marye's Heights at a higher price than the assessed value of the land. The National Park Service paid the majority of the \$1.65 million bill.

The famous ridge was the focal point of the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg. From their strong defensive position along the heights, Confederates commanded by Lt. Gen. James Longstreet bloodily repulsed the II Corps of the Union army, inflicting approximately 8,000 casualties. The National Park Service determined that fee simple acquisition of this property was essential to the integrity of the

### ILLINOIS AND KENTUCKY LAUNCH HERITAGE TRAIL



**ILLINOIS-KENTUCKY  
OHIO RIVER CIVIL WAR  
HERITAGE TRAIL**

On June 20, 1997 the State of Illinois and the Commonwealth of Kentucky announced the planned formation of a Civil War Heritage Trail that will link sites along the Ohio River in

Illinois and Kentucky. Public and private entities in both states will work to identify, evaluate, interpret, and promote historic sites that will be included on the trail. The **Illinois/Kentucky Ohio River Civil War Heritage Trail** is tentively scheduled to open to the public by December 1998.

Sites along the trail will relate to military operations, civilian unrest, political activities, and commercial and industrial activity from 1861-1865. The trail corridor extends from Cairo, Illinois, to Uniontown and Henderson, Kentucky. Locations in Illinois that have to date been tentatively identified as trail sites include: Cairo, Mound City, Metropolis, Bay City, Battery Rock, Saline Landing, and Old Shawneetown. Locations in Kentucky being considered for inclusion on the trail are: Smith Mills, Uniontown, Cypress Slough, Weston, Smithland, Paducah, and Fort Holt. Other sites will be identified through extensive research and public input.

The Illinois/Kentucky Ohio River Civil War Heritage Trail could be promoted as a destination in itself or as part of current

scenic highway or bicycle/hiking trails. The trail could also be added to The Civil War Trust's nationwide Civil War Discovery Trail and the Lower Mississippi Valley Civil War Heritage Trail.

Illinois and Kentucky saw more Civil War action than many people realize. The Ohio River was a major industrial and commercial asset for the Union. Confederate military and guerrilla bands operated along the Ohio, often with the help of southern sympathizers living in Illinois and in the bitterly divided Union state of Kentucky. Union gunboats regularly patrolled the Ohio River, frequently skirmishing with Confederate troops on the Kentucky side. After capturing Smithland, Kentucky, Union forces were able to advance down the Ohio's tributaries--the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers--piercing western Kentucky and

Tennessee. Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant used Cairo, Illinois, as a staging area for his troops before moving south to capture Vicksburg, Mississippi.

*For more about the Illinois/Kentucky Ohio River Civil War Heritage Trail, contact Steve Thompson of the Illinois Historic preservation Agency at (217) 782-8168 or Joe Brent of the Kentucky Heritage Council at (502) 564-7005.*

## GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLANNING BEGINS AT GETTYSBURG

On May 21, 1997, Gettysburg National Military Park held the first in a series of public meetings designed to help guide the park's future management and operations. This meeting marked the beginning of the park's General Management Plan (GMP) initiative. The park's current GMP, completed in 1982, does not address issues currently facing the park. The new long-range plan will take a fresh look at the park management and operations and determine how the park can best meet the challenges of the next 15 to 20 years.

A GMP is a tool that sets the basic philosophy and broad guidance for management decisions that affect a park's resources and the visitor's experience. During the planning process, the National Park Service assesses current conditions, predicts future changes at the park, and considers the hopes and concerns of the interested public. The final plan will make general recommendations about cultural resources management, facilities operations, and interpretive programs.

"The National Park Service staff at Gettysburg invites all individuals and groups who share our love of this sacred ground and our concern for its future to join us in an important policy-setting effort," said park Superintendent John A. Latschar. If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive planning newsletters, advance notice of workshops and public meetings, and copies

of the draft plan for comment, please contact Gettysburg National Military Park, 97 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325, or call (717) 334-1124, ext. 452.

## FREDERICK COUNTY WINS PLANNING AWARD

On May 5, 1997, the Virginia Planning Association (VAPA) awarded the Frederick County Department of Planning an Honorable Mention for its *Frederick County-Winchester Battlefield Network Plan*. The VAPA, a chapter of the American Planning Association, presents yearly professional planning awards "to encourage and provide recognition to those individuals or groups and projects that demonstrate a high level of excellence in Virginia planning."

The *Battlefield Network Plan* was developed to protect sensitive Civil War battlefields in the City of Winchester and Frederick County, Virginia. It defines and develops specific actions that can be taken to protect these lands. The plan does not suppose that area battlefields become National Parks or assume state or local governmental control is the best option for preservation. Rather, the *Battlefield Network Plan* sets forth strategies that combine the efforts of businesses, government officials, private citizens, and historians to save these sites from suburban development pressures. It identifies tourism opportunities of Civil War heritage preservation and integrates these opportunities into the overall economic development strategy for the region. The plan is an excellent example of how citizens and interest groups can work together to develop solutions for preserving their community's Civil War legacy.

*For more information about the Frederick County-Winchester Battlefield Network Plan, please contact Kris Tierney at (540) 665-5651. Story originally published in the VAPA Newsbrief, May-June 1997.*

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## BATTLEFIELD UPDATE

Published by the National Park Service

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THANK YOU!

## ABPP AWARDS ADDITIONAL GRANTS FOR 1997

The ABPP has awarded several more competitive grants since the last *Battlefield Update* was published. For more information on the specific projects, please contact the person listed with the project description.

**Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) \$69,400**  
*Land Acquisition Workshop; Brandy Station Interpretive Signage; and Trans-Mississippi Boundary Survey*

The APCWS will undertake three distinct projects. It will host a two-day training workshop on land acquisition designed for government officials, preservation groups, local historical groups, and the general public. Participants will learn about strategies needed to acquire land for preservation and conservation. The APCWS will also develop an interpretive plan and eight interpretive signs for the APCWS-owned portion of the Brandy Station battlefield. Finally, the organization will conduct a boundary survey/study of the Trans-Mississippi Civil War battlefields--including Prairie D'Ane, Arkansas, and Valverde, New Mexico--that the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission classified as Priority II sites (battlefields with opportunities for comprehensive preservation).

Jeff Driscoll, Director of Programs and Properties, APCWS (301) 665-1400.

**Cheyenne Cultural Center \$10,000**  
*Battle of the Washita Oral Tradition Recording*

The Cheyenne Cultural Center will gather oral traditions on the Battle of the Washita from identified Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples. These recordings will eventually be translated, compiled and given to the Oklahoma Historical Society and the National Park Service for use at the

Interpretive Center of the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site.

Lawrence Hart, Project Director, Cheyenne Cultural Center (405) 323-6224

**The Civil War Trust (CWT) \$20,000**  
*Citizens' Battlefield Preservation Guide*

Working closely with the ABPP, the CWT will develop a guide for the public that addresses battlefield preservation issues such as planning, tourism, economic development, land acquisition, and archeology.

Susan Braselton, Director of Programs, CWT (703) 312-7594 or Ginger Carter, Grants Manager, ABPP (202) 343-1210

**Illinois Historic Preservation Agency \$40,000**  
*Illinois/Kentucky Ohio River Civil War Heritage Trail*

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, working with the Kentucky Heritage Council, will establish the Illinois/Kentucky Ohio River Civil War Heritage Trail advocacy partnership organization and will produce a Multiple Property nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the historic sites on the trail. The agency will then design interpretive exhibits for the Illinois portion of the trail and create promotional materials for the trail initiative.

Steve Thompson, Resource Protection Manager, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (217) 782-8168

**Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield \$30,000**  
*Brushy Mountain Line Related Lands Conservation Plan*

The park will sponsor a related lands study of the defensive line along Brushy Mountain taken up by Confederate forces during the Atlanta Campaign of 1864. The study will identify and evaluate historic fortifications along the twelve-mile line and propose alternatives for preservation of those sites.

John F. Cissell, Superintendent, Kennesaw Mountain NB (770) 427-4686

**Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) \$15,000**  
*Champion Hill Battlefield Preservation Plan*

The MDAH will prepare a Master Battlefield Preservation/Interpretation Action Plan for the Champion Hill Battlefield in Hinds County, Mississippi. The plan will establish preservation priorities, assist in the creation of a battlefield preservation organization with which the MDAH and other preservation entities can work, and create a process through which the battlefield can be preserved and interpreted.

Michael Beard, Civil War Sites Historian, MDAH (601) 359-6940

**Reflection Riding \$28,075**  
*Archeological Survey/Research on the Battle of Lookout Mountain*

Reflection Riding will perform historical and archeological research focusing on the historic features and activities associated with the Battle of Lookout Mountain and prepare a protection and interpretive plan, and an overall management plan for the Lookout Mountain area.

Tony Gilbert, Business Manager, Reflection Riding (423) 821-9582

**Valley Conservation Council (VCC) \$18,000**  
*McDowell Battlefield/Staunton-to-Parkersburg Pike Project*

The VCC will continue to work on the McDowell Battlefield/Staunton-to-Parkersburg Pike Project by researching easement opportunities and assisting local governments with cultural resources planning.

John Hutchinson, Board of Directors, Valley Conservation Council (540) 886-3541

## REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 NEWS

As a result of the passage of the **Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Historic Preservation Study Act of 1996**, the American Battlefield Protection Program is focusing greater attention on military sites associated with those wars. The objective of the Study is to foster the protection of surviving Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites by gathering comprehensive information about these evocative and irreplaceable places and developing strategies for their preservation. A final Study report will provide local, state, and federal agencies, private organizations, and other battlefield stewards with alternatives for saving and interpreting these sites.

The Study's authorizing legislation set a project budget of \$750,000 for a two year study. Although Congress has yet to appropriate the funds to implement the Study, the ABPP has begun limited preparations so that the Study can be started immediately and completed on time.

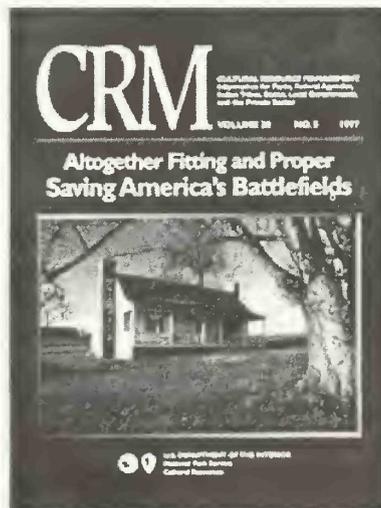
In an effort to identify as many potential historic sites as possible, the ABPP is compiling lists of military events associated with the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. These lists include the names and dates of events associated with regular and partisan terrestrial and naval operations, including battles, sieges, major troop movements, cantonments, bombardments, and burnings. The lists are posted on

the Web at [www2.cr.nps.gov/abpp/revlist.htm](http://www2.cr.nps.gov/abpp/revlist.htm) and [1812list.htm](http://1812list.htm), respectively. Additions to the lists are welcome.

The ABPP is also in the process of fostering a network of non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies interested in promoting the preservation and interpretation of these sites. If your organization is interested in participating in the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Historic Preservation Study once it begins, or if you are interested in receiving ABPP mailings regarding the Study, please contact the ABPP at the address on the back page of this newsletter.

During the week of June 9, the ABPP sponsored small group meetings in Atlanta, GA, Boston, MA, and Washington, DC, to find out what several of our potential partners would like the Study to accomplish. Represented at the three meetings were U.S. Senators and Representatives, the National Park Service, State Historic Preservation Offices, the Oneida Indian Nation, national non-profit organizations, state park systems, local governments, private historic sites, and land conservancies. Participants discussed, among other topics, which categories of resources to include in the Study, possible site survey and evaluation methodologies, and how public educational initiatives could compliment the Study. The notes from all three meetings will be available to the public in approximately eight weeks.

The American Battlefield Protection Program is pleased to announce the publication of "Altogether Fitting and Proper: Saving America's Battlefields," a special issue of the National Park Service's *CRM* magazine (v. 20, no. 5, 1997). The 48-page periodical includes articles about conservation easement programs, grassroots battlefield preservation efforts, legal aspects of land protection, heritage tourism, landscape treatments, useful computer technologies for battlefield planning and management, and creating successful battlefield preservation partnerships. Many of the ideas expressed in these



articles were presented at the Third National Conference on Battlefield Preservation in September 1996.

The ABPP encourages battlefield friends groups, local governments, and other organizations interested in the issues surrounding preservation of historic battlefield land to order this publication free of charge. To request copies, please contact Larry Hunter, Publications Coordinator, Heritage Preservation Services, National Park Service, at (202) 343-9583, FAX (202) 343-3803, or [Larry\\_Hunter@nps.gov](mailto:Larry_Hunter@nps.gov).

This publication can also be found on the Web! Go to [www.cr.nps.gov/crm/](http://www.cr.nps.gov/crm/) and check out the Archive!

## BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION PROFILE CEDAR CREEK, VIRGINIA

Throughout the Civil War, Union and Confederate forces campaigned for control of the Shenandoah Valley, a north-to-south transportation corridor and fertile agricultural region in Virginia. In 1864, Union Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan was ordered to destroy Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early's army defending the valley. After a series of Union victories in September and early October 1864, Sheridan believed Early's army was no longer a threat. He moved his troops to Middletown, Virginia, where his men encamped near Cedar Creek. On October 19, 1864, Early ordered a surprise attack on the Union troops as they recuperated. Initially, the attack succeeded. Sheridan, however, attacked the flank of his opponent's outstretched line and compelled the Confederates to retreat in defeat. This Union victory marked the end of effective Confederate resistance in the Shenandoah Valley; the South would never again launch an offensive in the region. The outcome of the battle also boosted President Lincoln's popularity, helping him win re-election that November.

Preservation activity at this site began in 1964 when the owner of Belle Grove, an 18th century mansion located on the battlefield, donated the home and an adjacent 100 acres to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In 1969 the National Park Service prepared a study of the site and designated Belle Grove and 900 acres of the Cedar Creek battlefield a National Historic Landmark. Local residents established the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation (CCBF) in 1988 after developers proposed building an office and light industrial park on part of the site. By 1989, CCBF, with assistance from the National Trust and The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS), had negotiated with the developer and financed the acquisition of 158 acres.

In 1990, the Secretary of the Interior established the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), and Congress and the Secretary appointed the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission to study and rank the nation's Civil War Battlefields. Cedar Creek was designated among the nation's top 50 most important Civil War sites. Since that time, preservation activity at the battlefield has increased. The Hupp's Hill Battlefield Museum, a private enterprise featuring segments of U.S. entrenchments, opened in 1992. Later that same year, the National Trust sponsored archaeological digs on the battlefield. Several groups actively protected the site in 1995: the CCBF, with funds provided by the Summerlee Foundation in Dallas, began restoring the Theater House, a structure located on the site at the time of the battle; the ABPP provided funding for a wayside exhibit; the CCBF opened a visitor center and bookshop; the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board rejected a proposal for a four-lane highway that would have bisected the battlefield; and the Civil War Trust added the site to their Civil War Discovery Trail. In February 1996, the CCBF board voted to acquire an additional 3.2 acre site adjacent to the protected battlefield land. The CCBF began renovating a building on that site for use as an interpretation center and museum. That same year, the CCBF, with grants from APCWS and Civil War Commemorative coin revenues awarded by The Civil War Trust, paid off the debt on its 158 acres and placed the site under a perpetual conservation easement held by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Today 261 acres of this 6,273 acre battlefield—as determined by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission in 1993—are protected. Civil War resources beyond the boundaries of protected battlefield land include Union and Confederate earthworks, remnants of fords crossed by Confederate infantry, and several homes and structures that stood at the time of the battle.

*For more information about this site, contact the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 229, Middletown, VA, 22645, (540) 869-1438.*

## VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN TRAIL ENDANGERED

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has named the Vicksburg Campaign Trail one of the nation's Eleven Most Endangered Historic Sites. The Trust issues its Most Endangered list once a year to identify and call attention to extremely significant historic properties that may be lost if immediate action is not taken to preserve them.

Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Vicksburg campaign and siege of 1863 resulted in the defeat of Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton's Confederate forces. Thus, the Union army achieved its first objective in the Western Theater--the capture of the bluffs at Vicksburg and control of the Mississippi River. Following the path taken by Grant, the Vicksburg Campaign Trail links battlefields at Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hill, the Big Black River Bridge, and Vicksburg in Mississippi, as well as East Carroll, Madison, and Tensas Parishes in Louisiana.

The trail includes more than 40 individual sites, about half of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and a variety of resources, including battlefields, buildings, cemeteries, historic roads, waterways, and fording places. Many of the sites associated with the campaign have been altered very little since the Civil War. These sites possess a rare degree of historical significance and integrity and offer an excellent opportunity for comprehensive preservation and interpretation. Today, however, many of these sites face immediate threats from timber operations, highway construction, casino development, and neglect. The Jackson battlefield, for example, has been lost to development, and two significant buildings, the Shaifer House in Claiborne County and the Coker House in Hinds County, are collapsing due to deterioration and erosion.

The crisis facing the Vicksburg Campaign Trail sites is severe enough that the National Trust for Historic Preservation,

the nation's leading private preservation organization, added the trail sites to its 1997 Most Endangered list. The Trust's Most Endangered list has been a powerful tool for raising public awareness about threatened sites and for rallying support to help save them. Richard Moe, the Trust's President, commented that "It would be a tragedy to lose the Vicksburg Campaign Trail. Nowhere else in this country do we have the chance to preserve the sites of an entire Civil War campaign. We must rally around the Vicksburg Campaign Trail and protect this pivotal, dramatic piece of American history for future generations."

## GEORGIA-PACIFIC AWARDS GRANT TO WILDERNESS FRIENDS

The National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA) announced in April that the Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield would receive a donation of lumber and other building materials worth approximately \$12,000 from the Georgia-Pacific Corporation and the NPCA. The Friends will use the materials to repair or replace about 30 foot bridges throughout the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park that have deteriorated due to age, overuse, and flooding. Some park trails have had to be closed because bridges were unsafe.

The donation is part of an ongoing program between Georgia-Pacific and NPCA to help National Park friends groups finance essential park-improvement projects. The Friends of Wilderness Battlefield is one of eight groups around the country that received cash grants, materials, or technical assistance this year.

*For more information about the NPCA/Georgia-Pacific grant program, please contact the NPCA at 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036 or (202) 223-6722. Story excerpted from FOWB Summer 1997 Newsletter.*

## FORT LAMAR SAVED

Fort Lamar, part of the **Secessionville** battlefield near Charleston, South Carolina, was dedicated as a state Heritage Trust site on Monday, June 16, 1997. Preservation of the endangered James Island site was accomplished through the cooperative efforts of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, volunteers, and two local property owners who donated 10.5 acres of the 14 acre site. The fort itself, comprising three and a half acres, was purchased with \$150,000 through the state Heritage Trust program, which is primarily funded by a fraction of documentary stamp purchases required in real estate transactions.

Local Civil War re-enactors and members of the Charleston-based **South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust** spent hundreds of hours clearing underbrush and providing for public access around the fort, generally considered by historians as second only to Fort Sumter among significant Civil War sites in South Carolina. From its ramparts, Confederate defenders of Charleston beat back a superior force of Union troops on June 16, 1862.

At the dedication, State Senator Glenn McConnell urged the 200 attendees to press for government assistance for the preservation of other historic sites. He quoted Abraham Lincoln: "A country with no respect for its past will have little worth remembering in the future."

*For more information about Fort Lamar, contact the SC Battleground Preservation Trust, P.O. Box 12441, James Island, SC 29412. Story originally published in The Post and Courier (Charleston, SC) June 21, 1997.*

COIN GRANTS, from page 1

Fredericksburg battlefield. Two acres of the new land was officially opened to the public on June 21, 1997. The remaining 6.2 acres will open to the public within the next year.

According to the United States Mint, sales of Civil War commemorative coins generated \$5,909,649. Based on this figure and the total amount of approved expenditures from 1995-1997, the ABPP estimates that \$1,658,205 in coin revenues remain for the acquisition of endangered battlefield lands. The Civil War Trust is expected to forward five additional applications for grants to the Department of the Interior in 1997.

## NOTICES

Numerous events are planned for the 135th anniversary of the **Battle of Antietam**, in Sharpsburg, Maryland. Antietam National Battlefield will present special tours on the weekend of September 13 and 14. That same weekend, the town will host its annual **Sharpsburg Heritage Festival**. The Festival includes free band concerts of Civil War music, living history demonstrations, plays, walking tours of the historic town, a craft fair, lectures, and more. All events are free and will be held at street level or in handicapped-accessible buildings.

At 6 pm on Wednesday, September 17, an anniversary ceremony will be held on the battlefield near the Dunker Church. Afterwards, a special lecture will start at 7 pm in the park visitor center auditorium. There is no charge for this special program beyond the regular park entrance fee of \$2 per adult or \$4 per family.

*For more information about the Sharpsburg Heritage Festival, call 1-800-228-STAY. For park events information, call (301) 432-5124.*

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