

# BATTLEFIELD UPDATE

U.S. Department of the Interior ■ National Park Service ■ Interagency Resources Division  
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## ABPP ASSISTANCE LEADS TO KERNSTOWN LAND PURCHASE OPTION BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The purchase and future preservation of the 342-acre Grim (Pritchard) Farm in Kernstown, VA, which played a significant part in the Civil War battles of First and Second Kernstown, is well on its way. The site is listed as a Priority I Civil War Battlefield in the *Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*.



The County of Frederick and the City of Winchester this year signed a \$500,000 purchase option on the farm, which has a selling price of \$2.7 million. The purchase must be completed or renegotiated by the end of 1995. A major part of the purchase plan is a \$1-million federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) grant. The Virginia State Department of Transportation has committed the ISTEA funds to the Frederick County-Winchester

### Battlefield Task Force.

Funds to cover the remaining \$1.2-million obligation for the purchase of Grim Farm will be sought through a variety of means, says Robert Watkins, director of Frederick County's Department of Planning and Development.

The American Battlefield Protection Program assisted the countywide battlefield preservation effort with a \$21,000 partnership funding award to the task force in fiscal year 1993. The funds are being used to develop a countywide battlefield protection and "vision" plan.

## NEW BOOK DETAILS ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION EFFORTS

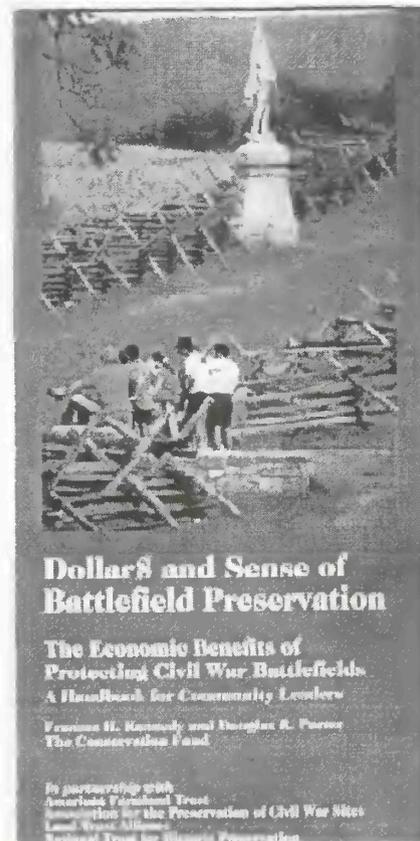
Diversifying local economies through safeguarding battlefields is a major message of the newly published book, *Dollar\$ and Sense of Battlefield Preservation, The Economic Benefits of Protecting Civil War Battlefields, A Handbook for Community Leaders*.

The 99-page handbook, which was written by Frances H. Kennedy and Douglas R. Porter, was published in October by the Conservation Fund in partnership with the American Farmland Trust, the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, the Land Trust Alliance, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The handbook describes how battlefields can become assets to communities as income generators and as open space with historic qualities. Among other information dispensed by

*Dollar\$ and Sense* is an outline of how to develop a battlefield plan and glossary of battlefield preservation tools.

The ABPP will distribute copies of *Dollar\$ and Sense* free of charge to state historic preservation offices, battlefield friends organizations, and other preservation partners.



Individuals who want to purchase a copy of the handbook should contact The Preservation Press at (800) 766-6847.

## PRESERVATIONISTS' BID FOR BRANDY STATION REJECTED BY COURT

A U.S. bankruptcy judge in late September gave a major boost to a

Formula One racetrack proposed for a 425-acre parcel at the Brandy Station battlefield in Culpeper, VA. Judge William E. Anderson ruled that the parcel can be sold by Elkwood Downs L.P. to James Lazor of Benton Ventures Inc., which proposes the racetrack.

Because the site contains wetlands, a permit for altering the property must be obtained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation also must issue a decision on the effect the racetrack will have on the site, which is a part of the historic acreage where the largest calvary battle in the western hemisphere occurred.

The court's action dashes the hopes of preservationists who presented a \$5.2-million bid for the entire 2,300 parcel (*Battlefield Update*, August). The bid was submitted in July on behalf of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and the Brandy Station Foundation. Developer Lee Sammis originally had proposed a 1,500-acre industrial development for the property. The project was approved in 1990 by the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors. However, financial difficulties forced Elkwood Downs to file for protection under Chapter 11 of federal bankruptcy laws.

As a result of the bankruptcy court's decision to accept Sammis's plan for the property, he will retain 250 acres after selling the 525 acres to Lazor. Two other parcels also are being purchased by separate buyers. "They have rejected the idea that a Civil War battlefield park will bring in more economic development than a racetrack that operates 42 days of the year," says Tersh Boasberg, the attorney for the Brandy Station Foundation.

"We're still hoping that the [Army] Corps will not issue the permit and that the Civil War community will be able to raise the money to purchase the property," he says.

## **PROPOSED SHENANDOAH VALLEY BATTLEFIELD PARK DEFERRED BY CONGRESS**

Legislation introduced this year during the 103rd Congress calling for new National Park Service battlefield parks in Shenandoah Valley, VA; Stones River, TN; and Honey Springs and Washita, OK; was not acted on. A proposed National Park Service interpretative center at Corinth, MS, also met the same fate. All of the proposals are likely to be reintroduced by Congress in 1995.

The Shenandoah Valley National Battlefield Partnership Act of 1994 called for a network of battlefields comprising approximately 1,863 acres at Cedar Creek, Cross Keys, Fisher's Hill, McDowell, New Market, Opequon, Port Republic, Second Kernstown, Second Winchester, and Tom's Brook.

The Corinth proposal called for a \$6 million appropriation for an interpretative center to be managed by the Shiloh National Military Park. The bill also authorized the Secretary of the Interior to mark 14 sites associated with the siege and battle of Corinth. The legislation concerning the Honey Springs Battlefield and the Battle of Washita bill called for establishing National Park Service units at both sites. The proposal concerning Stones River requested authorization to add historic land to the park.

## **NEW BATTLEFIELD LESSON PLANS ADDED TO TEACHING WITH HISTORIC PLACES**

New classroom lesson plans prepared by the Teaching with Historic Places program will soon be available to a number of teachers throughout the nation in a continuing effort to help them convey to their students the importance and relevance of several American battlefields and sites from diverse wars.

The program is sponsored by the National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Lesson plans will soon be available that explain the history and significance of the Stones River

National Battlefield and the USS *Arizona* at Pearl Harbor.

Earlier this year Teaching with Historic Places released a lesson plan on the first Battle of Manassas. Among other lesson plan topics expected to be published later in 1995 are on the Revolutionary War-related Guilford Courthouse National Military Park in North Carolina; Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania and the Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park in Virginia.

For further information about Teaching with Historic Places, contact Brenda Olio at the National Park Service, (202) 343-9547.

## **CENTRAL VIRGINIA'S CIVIL WAR SITES TO BE LINKED BY TRAILBLAZING SYSTEM**

Fifty-one historic sites with ties to the final campaign of the Civil War will be interpreted and linked through an innovative plan that will be funded with a \$408,000 federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act grant and with \$102,000 in other funds.

This new interpretive effort came about through extraordinary cooperation among the counties of Caroline, Charles City, Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Prince George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford, and among the cities of Fredericksburg, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond. The Central Virginia Civil War Consortium says it will begin constructing interpretive displays at the sites in March and expects to complete the project in July.

"There exists in Central Virginia a unique opportunity to educate the public about the Civil War. This project intends to link dozens of the area's rich historic sites like a string of pearls offering the public a Civil War experience they can receive nowhere else," according to application state released by the consortium. Among the sites to be linked are the Frederickburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park, the Richmond National Battlefield, the Petersburg National Battlefield, and the Museum of the Confederacy in

Richmond.

Visitors will start the tour at either Fredericksburg or Peterburg. Pictorial and map displays will be installed at each of the sites. The Final Campaign interpretation will bound maps of each site with a description of the locality printed on the overleaf. The project will meet the ISTEA requirements for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, scenic and historic highways, landscaping and other scenic beautification, historic preservation, and rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities, including historic railroad facilities and canals.

The Final Campaign application notes that, according to a 1992 Virginia Division of Tourism study, 25 percent of all visitors to Virginia plan to tour a Civil War site during their stay. Virginia was the site of more than 60 percent of the battles and 75 percent of the casualties of the Civil War, according to the consortium's statement.

### **GETTYSBURG RAILROAD CUT PROPOSALS DUE IN DECEMBER**

A study of alternatives for repairing damage incurred at historic Oak Ridge adjacent to the Gettysburg National Military Park will be completed in December. The recommendations will then be reviewed by National Park Service Director Roger Kennedy.

The 7.5-acre parcel was traded in 1990 by the National Park Service to Gettysburg College in exchange for a conservation easement on the college's 47 acres of playing fields. Oak Ridge was the site of action on July 1, 1863, the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Because of its concern over the hazard of a railroad line cutting through its campus, Gettysburg College rerouted the line along Oak Ridge and excavated the ridge's southeast corner in the process. Public comments about the situation and possible ways of mitigating damage to the site were heard during a September 28 meeting at Gettysburg National Military Park. Several of the suggested reconstruction proposals

could cost \$6 million or more, according to preliminary estimates.

### **CONGRESS OKAYS FUNDS FOR NEEDED NPS CIVIL WAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

Construction and planning projects at National Park Service Civil War Parks received an \$9.6-million allocation, according to a 103rd Congress conference report released in September.

The appropriation covers the following projects: Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park, road relocation, \$2,000,000; Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, town restoration, \$3,000,000; Kennesaw National Battlefield Park, visitor center rehabilitation, \$1,000,000; Monocacy National Battlefield, Gabrill Mansion restoration and rehabilitation, \$1,500,000; Stones River National Battlefield, trail connector, \$985,000 and \$95,000 (planning), \$750,000 for transportation planning; and Fort Smith National Historical Site, historic structure report, \$300,000.

Congress also allocated funds for the acquisition of land at: Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park, \$500,000; Palo Alto National Battlefield, \$500,000; and Stones River National Battlefield, \$500,000.

### **OHIO'S LARGEST CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD THREATENED BY GRAVEL QUARRY**

Ohio's largest Civil War battlefield, the Battle of Buffington Island, may become the site of a gravel quarry.

Buffington Island became a part of Civil War history following the July 19, 1863 battle. The Meigs County Historical Society currently is trying to purchase the battle site to preserve it and to prevent the proposed quarry operation. The society also plans to erect markers indicating the path of Confederate Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan's Raid through Meigs County. Further information is available from the historical society, P.O. Box 145, Pomeroy, OH 45769.

### **FORTIFICATIONS GROUP TO MEET AT VICKSBURG**

The Civil War Fortifications Study Group (CWFSG) will hold its third annual meeting at Vicksburg, MS, on February 16-19. Tours of fortifications located on Vicksburg Campaign-related battlefields and Port Hudson will be lead by historian Ed Bearss and others. Evening presentations will focus on fortifications and their preservation. Anyone interested in the history and preservation of Civil War fortifications is eligible to join the study group and to attend annual meetings. For further information, contact Dale Floyd, CWFSG president, at 8107 Greeley Blvd., Springfield, VA 22152, (703) 569-9566.

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