

BATTLEFIELD UPDATE

U.S. Department of the Interior • National Park Service • Interagency Resources Division
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ADDITIONAL ABPP RECIPIENTS OF PARTNERSHIP FUNDING IN 1995

The ABPP is pleased to announce five additional Partnership Funding awards for FY 1995. This brings the total 1995 Partnership Funding to \$450,275 out of a requested amount of \$1,702,209. (Please note, this is a correction to the totals given in the April Battlefield Update, which also reports other 1995 recipients.)

Center for Advanced Spatial Technology Prairie Grove Master Plan

This project involves the development of a viewshed analysis for Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park in cooperation with the Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Arkansas, and Arkansas State Parks. The study is part of the park's long-term planning effort, also sponsored by ABPP, which will expand the park's boundaries and improve interpretation. One of the key issues the viewshed analysis will address is the large, highly-visible, commercial poultry houses that are sighted on the ridgelines near

the core battlefield. Park planners will be designing vegetative screening and earthen berms to block these from view and improve the visitor's sense of the historic landscape.

Frederick County Department of Planning and Development Resource Management Plan and Site Preparation for the Kernstown Battlefield

A detailed plan will be prepared for the management of the Grim Farm and Sand Ridge portions of the Kernstown Battlefield. The battlefield resources will be evaluated and then management activities, such as the stabilization of key features, will be developed. Appropriate provisions for public access, trails, signs, displays, and other interpretive features will be considered, as well as the management of vegetation, land cover, and other natural resources.

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APCWS APPROVES \$3.5 MILLION LANDS ACQUISITION PACKAGE

The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites announced this month their largest land acquisition package to date. The \$3.5 million dollar package will result in the protection of over 364 acres in five states.

As reported in their newsletter, the APCWS and its members have been able "to react quickly to opportunities, unfettered by the bureaucracy that often thwarts efforts by either groups, both private and government." The result of this type of quick action has been impressive. "A total of 33 sites with a combined value of more than \$6.8 million will be saved through the auspices of the Association when these acquisitions are completed," commented Chairman Tom Richards.

The lands included in the package are as follows:
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A REMINDER -- The Civil War commemorative coins are currently available for purchase through the Civil War Coin Program, United States Mint, (301) 436-7400 or by the Civil War Trust, (800) CWTRUST. Proceeds from the surcharges of the coins will be allocated to the Civil War Trust for the preservation of Civil War battlefields.

OWNERSHIP OF 90 ACRES OF BIG BLUE BATTLEFIELD CONVEYED TO KANSAS CITY

On April 29, the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, Inc. officially conveyed ownership of 90 acres of Byram's Ford Battlefield (Big Blue) to the city of Kansas City, Missouri. The deed transfer ceremony culminated twelve years of land acquisition by the Monnett Fund, which is associated with the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City. Assisting with the acquisition was the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, which provided a challenge grant of \$42,600, matched by \$21,300 raised by the WRT of Kansas City.

In appreciation of the Monnett Fund's many years of persistent and dedicated efforts to preserve the Big Blue Battlefield, the ABPP presented its *Battlefield Preservation Award* to the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, Inc.

Representing the Director of the National Park Service was Superintendent Malcolm Berg, of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. He conveyed Director Kennedy's thanks to the Fund, the APCWS, and the city for accepting stewardship of the battlefield, and commended the Fund for their perseverance. "The Fund's leadership, resourcefulness, and sheer tenacity against the odds exemplify the best in grassroots preservation. It has been a privilege for the National Park Service and the American Battlefield Protection Program to support and be associated with this effort."

ABPP GIVES FOUR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION AWARDS

The ABPP is proud to announce four new *Battlefield Preservation Awards* in recognition of outstanding efforts to protect Civil War Battlefields.

The first three of these are for preservation activities at Fort Fisher, North Carolina. East Carolina University's Program in Maritime History & Underwater Research and the Underwater Archaeology Unit of the North Carolina Division of Archives & History each received an award for their joint survey and condition assessment of eight submerged Civil War vessels off the coast of the fort (funded by ABPP in 1993 and 1994). Paul Laird, of the Wilmington, North Carolina, Chamber of Commerce, received the *Battlefield Preservation Award* for championing the cause of a revetment to halt the severe erosion plaguing the remaining features of Fort Fisher. His efforts since 1990 assisted the project in gaining political support and critical state matching funds. The revetment's design has been completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and \$4.5 million construction will begin this spring. The Fort Fisher awards were presented by Kevin Foster, Chief Maritime Historian of the National Park Service, on behalf of the ABPP, at the annual meeting of the North American Society of Oceanic History, in Wilmington, North Carolina, March 15-18.

The fourth award recipient this year is the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, Inc., for its twelve-year effort to acquire and preserve 90 acres

of the Byram's Ford (Big Blue) battlefield, in Kansas City, Missouri. The battlefield was officially deeded to the City of Kansas City, Missouri, in a ceremony on April 29. (See Battlefield Update article, this issue.)

Past recipients of the ABPP's *Battlefield Preservation Award* are the Kentucky Heritage Council, Mill Springs (Kentucky) Battlefield Association, Arkansas Heritage Preservation Program, Arkansas State Parks, and the Southwest Region of the National Park Service.

FORT HILL MANAGEMENT PLAN TO BE PRESENTED

The Kentucky Heritage Council awarded Historic Frankfort, Inc., and the City of Frankfort, Kentucky, a planning grant for the development of a plan to preserve and manage Fort Hill. The Fort Hill battlefield contains two Civil War fortifications and was the site of a skirmish, fought when a group from Morgan's Raiders attacked Fort Boone. The raiding party was defeated, preventing another Confederate occupation of Frankfort.

The consultant team of Merideth A. Hildreth, Planner, and H. Powell & Company, Inc., are preparing the *Fort Hill Management Plan: Recommendations for Preservation, Interpretation and Marketing*. The planning process has involved extensive community consensus, including a series of meetings and a public hearing. The final document will be presented to the community on May 31st.

For more information, contact Merideth A. Hildreth, evenings only, at (606) 846-5522, or write, P.O. Box 4492, Midway, Kentucky 40347.

ACQUISITIONS--CONT.

Third Battle of Winchester, Virginia: 222 acres, \$2524,000

On September 19, 1864, this site, also known as Opequon, was home to one of the bloodiest battles of the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign and for the past few years this has been threatened by its high rate of development. The APCWS has already signed purchase agreement and must make a \$5,000 down payment by August.

Spring Hill, Tennessee: 110 acres, \$880,000

This battlefield saw vicious fighting between Confederate Brig. Gen. Mark Lowrey and Federal Brig. Gen. Luther Bradley on October 29, 1864. The result of this acquisition, according to the APCWS newsletter, will be the creation of Tennessee's first state battlefield park enacted under the Tennessee Wars Commission.

Griswoldville, Georgia: 20 acres, \$23,000

This acquisition provides a roadway access which allows the interpretation of Sherman's only battle while en route to Savannah. Easements are also being sought on adjoining historic battlefield land.

Fort DeRussy, Louisiana: 6.25 acres, \$12,500

This fort, built in 1862, was captured twice by Federal troops in 1864 and in its day was considered "formidable." The APCWS plans to work with La Commission des Avoyelles in purchasing land that contains almost 80 percent of the fort's original breastworks and rifle pits.

Grand Gulf, Mississippi: 6 acres, \$3,000

This site was to be the landing for Grant's Vicksburg Campaign but fell to a Confederate naval attack on April 29, 1863, forcing Grant and his troops to a landing 10 miles downriver. The land acquired by the APCWS contains a gun battery site and abuts the existing state battlefield park.

If you would like more information on these acquisitions or the APCWS, contact Bob Edmiston at (703) 371-1860 or write APCWS, 305 Charlotte St., Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

CIVIL WAR TRUST ANNOUNCES NEW PRESIDENT

On April 6, 1995, The Civil War Trust's board elected their new President, Edgar M. ("Matt") Andrews, III. Andrews joined the Trust in May 1992, as Executive Vice-President and has been acting Chief Operating Officer since last July.

Board Chairman, J. Roderick Heller, III, remarked in the Trust's news release, "I am delighted that Matt is assuming the presidency of the Trust. His leadership, dedication and sheer hard work have provided a basis for what we hope will be a very successful commemorative coin sales program and national membership campaign. His enthusiasm is contagious. We are all excited and optimistic about the Trust's potential under Matt's leadership."

THOMAS SWEENEY LEAVES BATTLEFIELD PROGRAM FOR BIA

Thomas Sweeney, who served as publications manager for the **American Battlefield Protection Program** since January 1994, left on April 7 to begin a new job as Deputy Director of Public Affairs for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Sweeney was the editor of **ABPP's Battlefield Update** and was responsible for its expanded coverage and improved appearance. He also oversaw the production of several publications, including the *Study of Civil War Sites in the Shenandoah Valley*, and the transference to the National Archives of the battlefield inventory assembled by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission.

As a long-time journalist, educated at the University of Oregon and Trinity College in Dublin, Sweeney first became interested in historic preservation while covering the Manassas situation in the 1980s for *Preservation News*, the newspaper of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It was the near-loss of battlefield land at Manassas that led to the creation of the **ABPP**, as a means of working with local communities to preserve battlefields before crises arise.

Despite the move to BIA, Sweeney says historic preservation will remain an important part of his life. "It was an exciting period in my career to be part of the **ABPP's** many efforts to further the work and recommendations of the CWSAC. The **ABPP** deserves more credit and visibility to solid and lasting gains in preserving Civil War battlefields through partnerships with local communities."

Mill Springs Battlefield Association

Professional Staff Support

ABPP will provide partial funding for a full-time staff person for the Mill Springs Battlefield Association. The staff person will be responsible for implementing the Mill Springs Battlefield Protection Plan and the Interpretation Plan.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Port Gibson Preservation Plan

MDAH will develop a battlefield preservation plan for Port Gibson, Mississippi, which will identify significant Civil War sites, assess current and potential threats, and develop preservation strategies.

The MDAH will also conduct public meetings and work with local officials and landowners to implement the preservation plan.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Atlanta Campaign Civil War Sites Inventory

The Georgia Historic Preservation Division will undertake a three-year survey and documentation study of the Civil War sites associated with the Atlanta Campaign. The inventory will be compiled by an interdisciplinary team including a Civil War historian, historical archeologist, and cultural landscape specialist. The project will

culminate in the development of a GIS database to be available to local, State, and Federal agencies and other interested groups for land-use planning, heritage tourism, and other preservation activities in the rapidly growing Atlanta area.

Note: *Battlefield Update* is distributed free of charge. We invite readers to submit news items for the *Update* (we reserve the right to select and edit items as space requires) and to be added to our mailing list. Please call (202) 343-1210 or fax information to (202) 343-1836 or mail to the return address on page 4.

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