

BATTLEFIELD UPDATE

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JAN E. TOWNSEND APPOINTED CHIEF, ABPP

ABPP is pleased to announce the appointment of its new Chief, Jan E. Townsend. Townsend brings with her years of experience as an archeologist and cultural resources manager, as well as extensive knowledge of Civil War resources and battlefield preservation.

Before joining the National Park Service, Townsend served as the Cultural Resources Coordinator for Prince William County, VA. Her accomplishments included preparing an overview of the county's Civil War history and placing nine Civil War sites plus a multiple property listing on the National Register.

In January 1991, Townsend was hired as the archeologist for the National Register of Historic Places. A year after her arrival she was designated Project

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6 STATES USE ISTE A TO PRESERVE BATTLEFIELDS

Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Maryland, New Mexico, and West Virginia have taken advantage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act's (ISTEA) Surface Transportation Program's (STP) enhancement funding to protect Civil War battlefields. ISTEA is a Federal-aid highway program that provides money for highways and other transportation related projects. As of November 1994, these six states committed \$18.4 million, almost 13 percent of their combined enhancement money, on battlefield preservation, with \$5.5 million in applications still pending decision. More than 800 acres of battlefield land have already been protected through these funds, and an additional 4,208 acres are expected to be acquired.

A key component to the STP program is the requirement of a local monetary match that supplies additional money for enhancements and gives local residents a sense of ownership in a project. According to Fred Skaer, Chief of the Environmental Program for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal guidelines stipulate that STP enhancement funds cover up to 80 percent of a project's cost while local governments typically provide 20 percent. This guideline is flexible for states that have a high percentage of land owned by the Federal Government. Federal legislation governing ISTEA funding requires that local governments supply the match and does not allow the match to be met through private donations or the work of volunteers. This creates complications for states that typically rely on these sources for matching funds.

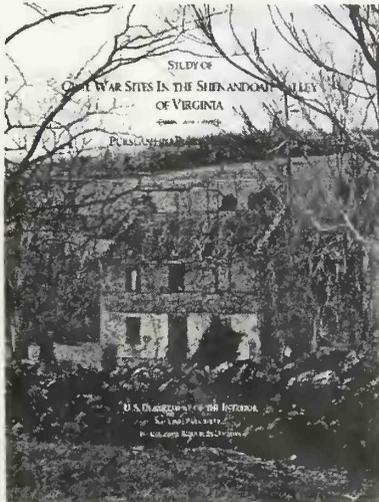
In April 1995, the FHWA revised its guidelines to permit a state's use of STP money to fund 100 percent of an enhancement project's cost if any additional outside investment equals 20 percent. This allows organizations such as the Conservation Fund and the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites to participate in STP-funded battlefield preservation projects without channeling their money through state agencies. States with limited budgets can include the cost of volunteer time for their match, allowing them to take on projects that would otherwise be too costly.

States have flexibility in determining if a greater local match is required than the Federally mandated 20 percent, and this has resulted in an additional \$5 million for battlefield preservation. The Alabama Historic Trust contributed \$200,000 to an ISTEA grant of \$100,000 to purchase 32 acres of the Mobile Bay Battlefield. A nationwide survey undertaken by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy indicates that Maryland has raised more money in ISTEA matches than any other state. Maryland's State Highway Administration, the state agency administering the ISTEA program, requires a 50 percent match from the state agency sponsoring the project. If the project is on a state or federal roadway, the Maryland Department of Transportation must also contribute 10 percent of the project cost. As of November 1994, Maryland has matched dollar-for-dollar \$6.5 million in federal STP enhancement funds designated for battlefield protection, for a total of \$13 million.

States have worked with a wide range of partners, from state agencies to local preservation organizations, in securing the required match for STP projects. Arkansas secured a 25 percent match from the state's Natural and Cultural Resources Council to

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Study on Civil War Sites in the Shenandoah Valley released. See story on page 2.



ISTEA Continued...

fund the addition of 3.96 acres to the Prairie Grove Battlefield. Kentucky, which was the first state to use ISTEA funds for battlefield preservation, received \$2.5 million for battlefield land acquisition at Perryville. The state acquired the matching funds from national preservation organizations which channeled money through state agencies as battlefield land came available for purchase. In New Mexico, an ISTEA grant of \$299,060 paid for developing a plan to relocate a highway off the Glorieta Pass battlefield, and the State Highway Department provided a local match of \$50,940. Preservationists at Rich Mountain in West Virginia pooled funds from several local organizations, including the Randolph County Development Authority, the Benedum Foundation, and the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation, to raise a match of \$54,000.

Although Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Maryland, New Mexico, and West Virginia continue to allocate ISTEA money for battlefield preservation, these represent a small fraction of the states that have endangered battlefields. Many states are hesitant to fund battlefield preservation through STP enhancement programs because they do not see its link to the federal highway system and the original intent of the legislation. However, states that have broadened the scope of their enhancements to include battlefield preservation have contributed large sums of money to their protection.

The ISTEA funding cycle ends in 1997, and its renewal is uncertain. Organizations or government agencies interested in securing ISTEA grants for battlefield protection must apply soon. To apply for remaining funds contact your state's Department of Transportation, the agency that administers local ISTEA programs.

The ABPP is building a database on battlefield preservation and planning on the top 50 priority sites identified in the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission report. Information about ISTEA funding at each site is needed. If you are interested in contributing information about ISTEA funding or battlefield preservation or land acquisition at a battlefield site, please contact Chris Shaheen, ABPP, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC, 20013-7127, 202-343-4259, e-mail chris_shaheen@nps.gov.

ABPP RELEASES STUDY ON CIVIL WAR SITES IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY

The American Battlefield Protection Program is proud to announce its newly published *Study of Civil War Sites in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia*.

Authorized by Public Law 101-628 and prepared by the ABPP, the study examines 15 battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley. It identifies the condition of each site, assesses the threats to integrity, and provides alternatives for preservation and interpretation.

In 1990, Congress directed the National Park Service to undertake this study because of the critical role that the Shenandoah Valley played in the conduct and outcome of the Civil War. The resulting report informs us that many of the Valley's most important Civil War sites now face threats to their survival and that quick action is needed to ensure that these places will be around for future generations to visit and learn firsthand how the Civil War shaped our country.

The draft version of the report already has stimulated many battlefield preservation efforts in the Shenandoah Valley. For example, the Lord Fairfax Planning District Commission is compiling a cooperative battlefield preservation plan for five northern Shenandoah Valley counties based on the report's findings. Other private and public efforts have included land purchases, heritage tourism, land-use planning, and two improved battlefield-related museums.

The 177 page study includes a series of foldout color maps that illustrate the boundaries and conditions of these historic sites. A limited number of copies of the report are available and can be obtained at no cost by contacting the ABPP at 202-343-9505 or fax 202-343-1836 or by mailing a letter to ABPP, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127.

GPS TEAM MAPS TRENCHES AT CORINTH

The National Park Service Cultural Resources GIS Facility (CRGIS) sent a team to Corinth, Mississippi, for two weeks in April as part of a cooperative effort to identify, document, and map resources from two important Civil War campaigns. Shiloh National Military Park, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Alcorn County, City of Corinth, and the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission, a not-for-profit preservation group, all participated in the mapping effort. Guided by park historians and local volunteers, the team mapped surviving field fortifications in the study area from Corinth to the state line, using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. This amounted to about 6.2 linear miles of surviving siege works, including 56 cannon positions. Thanks to everyone's exertions in cutting a path through the imposing scrub and briars, historians were able to examine many of the details of the Confederate fortifications north of town and assess their integrity for the first time. A large artillery redan east of town was newly discovered by following a map created by Federal topographic engineers in 1863. The crew also mapped 250 miles of modern roads encompassing the approach routes of the Federal armies, 1.3 miles of historic road traces, 18 structure sites, and 21 interpretive signs and monuments.

By triangulating satellite signals with GPS receivers and hand-held computers, the team was able to pinpoint locations on the ground to within 1-5 meters. From this information, CRGIS will make maps of the area that incorporate both modern and historic features. State and local planners will use these maps in their efforts to preserve key parcels of land, devise a resource management plan, and design a driving tour and interpretive trails. The CRGIS team plans to return in November to map the study area in Tennessee from the state line to Shiloh NMP in cooperation with the Tennessee Division of Archeology. Upon completion in 1996, the database will be maintained by Alcorn County, Shiloh NMP, and state agencies.

PRESERVING CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS IN MISSISSIPPI IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Jackson, MS, May 2--National Park Service Director Roger G. Kennedy hosted a one-day symposium and strategy session on the preservation of monumental Native American architecture and Civil War battlefield heritage in the state of Mississippi. The symposium, cosponsored by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, brought together nearly 50 federal, state, local and tribal government representatives and private nonprofit organizations.

The attendees explored the issues and challenges facing the preservation of Mississippi's heritage. Specific topics addressed were: (1) ways to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of Mississippi's historic resources; (2) development of a strategic plan for protecting these resources; and (3) building coalitions within the state, region, and the nation to implement the plan and achieve preservation. The symposium was part of a larger National Park Service initiative that focuses on the unique culture and resources of the Lower Mississippi River Valley.

Much of the discussion focused on using advanced communication technologies. America is a different place from twenty five years ago. As a people we communicate differently, learn differently, and have different things to say to one another. The question debated in Jackson was how to harness this new way of learning to build consistent support for preserving Civil War battlefield sites and all other important cultural, natural, and recreational sites for future generations in the twenty first century.

PORT HUDSON GIFT HONORS CONFEDERATE AND FEDERAL TROOPS

Baton Rouge, LA, May 20 -- In ceremonies at Port Hudson State Commemorative Area, officials dedicated historic land on the Mississippi River at the site of the first major assault by black troops led by black officers in the Civil War. The dedication marked the formal acceptance of the gift of 256 acres of historic land from The Conservation Fund and the Port Hudson Campaign Committee to the Louisiana Office of State Parks.

Port Hudson has been designated by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission as one of the fifty highest priority Civil War battlefields in need of preservation action.

Port Hudson, Louisiana, was the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River; its fall in July 1863 gave the North undisputed control of that critical artery. For the 2 months before its surrender, it was also the site of the longest true siege in American history, engaging more than 10,000 Union soldiers against 7,500 Confederates.

The 1st and 3rd Louisiana Native Guards Regiments, on May 27, 1863, attacked Confederate entrenchments and suffered heavy casualties. This was the first major assault by an African American regiment in American History, and preceded the well-known charge of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry at Fort Wagner, South Carolina, by seven weeks. It first underscored the fact that African Americans could and would fight with the same gallantry and élan as the best white units. Northern press reports of Port Hudson and Fort Wagner resulted in increased black enlistment, until by the end of the war there were 180,000 African Americans in the Union Army.

For more information write to The Conservation Fund, Suite 1120, 1800 North Kent St., Arlington, VA 22209, or to the Louisiana Office of State Parks, P.O. Box 44426, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4426.

ABPP CHIEF Continued...

Manager for the congressionally mandated Civil War Sites Advisory Commission study. She coordinated the activities of the Commission and their study of 384 Civil War battle sites. The two year study evaluated the historical significance and current condition of each site and developed recommendations for preservation, which are presented in the 1995 Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields.

Townsend reports she is "pleased and honored" by her appointment. "I look forward to working with all of our partners to accomplish the goals of the program-- that is, preservation of this nation's battle sites. It is these sites that are the most tangible reminders of the conflicts that have shaped our history and brought us to where we are today." Townsend officially began serving as ABPP Chief on May 30, 1995.

Note: *Battlefield Update* is distributed free of charge. We invite readers to submit new 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.

National Park Service
Interagency Resources Division
American Battlefield Protection Program
P.O. Box 37127, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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