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**BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION STUDY:
HONEY SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD PARK,
OKLAHOMA**

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Prepared by the

State of Oklahoma
Oklahoma Historical Society
Division of Historic Sites

in cooperation with the

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southwest Region

3 October 1991

Revised 24 March 1992

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FOREWORD TO THE REVISED REPORT

This version of the *Battlefield Protection Plan: Honey Springs Battlefield Park, Oklahoma* contains essentially the same information as that published 3 October 1991. There have been some additions and revisions, however.

Figures in the sections on Boundary Alternatives in Chapter VIII have been revised. It has been decided to not include the list of property owners since ownership of land is constantly changing. Also, there is a degree of privacy to be protected.

Ralph W. Jones, Curator II
Special Projects Coordinator
Division of Historic Sites
Oklahoma Historical Society
24 March 1992

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

No work of this type could be done by one person. Indeed, the work is the product of several people from various offices and agencies in both state and federal government, as well as many hours of participation by private citizens.

The basic design of the plan was adapted from that prepared for Prairie Grove Battlefield Park, Arkansas, by the Arkansas Department of Parks and Recreation. Much editorial advice came from Tom Carroll, Jim C. Gott, and Steve Morris, of the National Park Service; each read drafts number eight and eleven and offered suggestions to improve the quality and readability of the document.

In April, 1991, Neil Mangum joined Tom Carroll and Jim Gott in a tour of the Battlefield. Landowners Lee Woodard and Bob Hill escorted them and several members of the Oklahoma Historical Society Board and Staff in an examination of battle positions and landmarks. National Park Service Chief Historian Ed Bearss visited the Battlefield in September, 1991, speaking to the Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield Park Inc. and to a public meeting which was attended by nearly 250 interested landowners and other citizens, representing over seventy groups and associations.

Lee Stidham and Mrs. Emmy Scott Stidham have consistently provided unstinting support and leadership in the Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield Park Inc. They have been most generous with their time, talent, and pocketbooks.

Staff members Richard Ryan and Chris Morgan, both of Fort Gibson Military Park, spent countless hours in the courthouses of Muskogee and McIntosh Counties researching land records, and in libraries, archives, and on the battlefield to determine the positions of the combatants during the early hours of the battle.

In June, 1991, Chris Morgan and I traveled to Pea Ridge National Military Park, and Prairie Grove State Military Park, Arkansas, and to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Missouri, where we were cordially received and instructed by the respective superintendents and historians.

The Honey Springs Sub-Committee of the Historic Sites Committee of the Oklahoma Historical Society's Board of Directors provided direction and guidance, as did OHS President Col. Martin A. Hagerstrand. Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer provided editorial commentary and corrections to Draft Number Ten. Susan Allen, Assistant Editor in the Publications Division, gave the report a final editing, though any errors which remain are entirely my own.

John R. Hill, Director of Historic Sites, instructed me in Cultural Resource Management planning, outlined goals, provided specific direction, administrative oversight, and procedural

advisement to the project. Executive Director J. Blake Wade and Deputy Executive Director Dr. Bob L. Blackburn, provided constant encouragement and assistance. And last but certainly not least, Cindy Clark and Geneva Little have greatly assisted with technical services.

Ralph W. Jones, Curator II
Project Coordinator
Division of Historic Sites
3 October 1991

PREFACE

The purpose of this study is to help provide a land protection strategy for a national cooperative effort to preserve Oklahoma's Honey Springs Battlefield, in accordance with the Department of the Interior's American Battlefield Protection Program and the Civil War Studies Act of 1990, P.L. 101-628.

To be successful, this nation-wide effort requires support from all levels of government as well as the private sector. Protection of a major site is dependent upon everyone's help.

Honey Springs Battlefield is a National Register property and it has been listed by the Department of the Interior as one of the twenty-five sites for the American Battlefield Protection Program.

Tom Carroll, Project Coordinator
Southwest Regional Office
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Santa Fe, New Mexico

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The effort of the Oklahoma Historical Society through its board, staff, and membership to provide for the preservation and protection Honey Springs Battlefield is a long-standing endeavor. The OHS is extremely pleased in these efforts to be the beneficiary of the activities of the American Battlefield Protection Program. The Battle of Honey Springs is significant because of its effect on the war in the Indian Territory, the composition of the participants and the important role of the African-American troops involved. While the OHS has obtained significant portions of the site, other equally significant portions are on privately-owned land that is subject to modern development. While it is the stated intent of the OHS to protect all of the site through acquisition, it is apparent that alternative land protection strategies could provide a basis for the long-term protection and interpretation of these resources as stated in the American Battlefield Protection Program.

INTRODUCTION. What Issues Will Be Addressed? "One major issue provides the central focus for this study. The majority of the Battlefield's primary cultural and natural resources are on privately-owned land that is subject to modern development. Which alternative land protection strategies could provide a basis for the long-term protection and interpretation of these resources as stated in the American Battlefield Protection Program?"

Significance of the Battle of Honey Springs. "It was the largest battle of the Civil War in Indian Territory involving 3,000 Federals and 6,000 Confederates; occurring during the Confederate nadir of July, 1863, it opened the way for the capture of Fort Smith, Arkansas, by Federal forces and their control of Indian Territory; the battle involved Confederate and Federal Troops of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indian Territory as well as forces from Wisconsin, Colorado, Kansas, and Texas; while decisively militarily, the Battle of Honey Springs was significant also as one of the first engagements of the Civil War in which African-Americans proved their qualities as fighting men; it was the only battle of the Civil War where Indians, Hispanics, African-Americans, and Anglo-Americans fought both side-by-side as well as against one another.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BATTLEFIELD. **Historical Setting.** The Battle of Honey Springs took place where the Texas Road [Osage Trace or Military Road] crossed Elk Creek of the Canadian River. The battle occurred because of the importance of that road--the major western "interstate highway" of its day. The battle occurred because of the proximity of Fort Gibson, which was linked to Fort Washita in the Choctaw Nation, and to Forts Leavenworth and Scott in Kansas. The battle is one of the events culminating the long-standing intra-tribal feuds stemming from the Indian Removal Treaties of the 1820s and 1830s. It is linked to the Federal

activities at Gettysburg, at Vicksburg, and in middle-Tennessee during the summer of 1863.

The major Heritage Corridor which exists along the Texas Road from Kansas through the Indian Territory into Texas is the location of significant pre-historic activity and historic economic activity associated with Westward Expansion, as well as military actions throughout the expanse of the nineteenth century.

HONEY SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD PARK. There are 2,993 acres included in the National Register District, as of 29 September 1970. The Oklahoma Historical Society is supported by experts within the National Park Service in its recommendation that the park be upgraded to National Historic Landmark status and that approximately 340 acres be added to the district.

The two predominant focal point in the interpretive thrust at the park will be (a) the Battle of Honey Springs and (b) the effect of the Civil War in the Indian Territory. Collateral points include the Civil War in the region and the Military Road.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE BATTLEFIELD. Eighty-six percent (86%) of the National Register Boundary area is owned by private individuals. Although most of the private land is being used for grazing and other agricultural purposes, homesites have been developed very recently. In 1968 there were 38 tracts of land within the then-proposed district; in 1991 there were 119 tracts within that same area, a 313.16% increase in the number of tracts.

At this writing the visual quality of the battlefield is generally good. Where there was once prairie there are several stands of trees, representing the westward movement of the Cross Timbers during the past century. However, much of the battlefield appears as it did in 1863: farms, pastures, and trees lining Elk Creek.

ANALYSIS OF PROTECTION ALTERNATIVES. Protection Method. While Chapter VI provides a "shopping list" of protection methods, Chapter V actually recommends strategies for the preservation of the battlefield including fee simple acquisition (willing seller--willing buyer), donation, conservation easements, reserved interest/right of first refusal, leases, and zoning/regulations.

Implementation Strategies. Many organizations and individuals are vitally interested in the preservation, development and interpretation of the battlefield park. The reader will find a list of over seventy organizations which were represented at the first public hearing on this plan at Appendix I.

Utilizing resources provided by the Conservation Fund, the Secretary of the Interior, and funds raised by interested organizations, the Oklahoma Historical Society hopes to acquire certain tracts of land within the Honey Springs Battlefield. The agency also plans to negotiate with cooperative land owners to arrange Easements, Conservation Easements, Leases, and Donations to provide for Resource Protection of the Honey Springs Battlefield Park.

BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION STUDY:

HONEY SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD PARK, OKLAHOMA

CHAPTER I:

INTRODUCTION

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM

This protection study for Honey Springs Battlefield is prepared as a part of the "American Battlefield Protection Program," Public Law 101-628 [see Appendix A], and the "American Battlefield Protection Plan" initiative, announced on 21 July 1990 by the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Secretary of the Interior [see Appendix B]. The purpose of the study is to create a national strategy and a national cooperative effort to protect historic battlefields for future generations of Americans. As a part of this program, the Honey Springs Battlefield Park has been designated as a priority site by the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

Section 1203 of Public Law 101-628 states

The Congress finds that--

(1) many sites and structures associated with the Civil War which represent important means by which the Civil War may continue to be understood and interpreted by the public are located in regions which are undergoing rapid urban and suburban development; and,

(2) it is important to obtain current information on the significance of such sites, threats to their integrity, and alternatives for their preservation and interpretation for the benefit of the Nation.

This protection study has been prepared as a coordinated effort between the Oklahoma Historical Society, the State Historic Preservation Office of Oklahoma, and the Southwest Regional Office of the National Park Service.

This study provides an overview of the historic resources, their significance, present condition, potential threats, and protection strategies. Additionally it provides alternatives for protecting and interpreting the Honey Springs Battlefield for this and future generations.

The American Battlefield Protection Program emphasizes cooperation between the private and public sectors. The alternatives contained in this report are intended to be further discussed, developed, and implemented through cooperation of government, private, and public entities.

WHAT ISSUES WILL BE ADDRESSED?

One major issue provides the central focus for this study. The majority of the Battlefield's primary cultural and natural resources are on privately-owned land that is subject to modern development. Which alternative land protection strategies could provide a basis for the long-term protection and interpretation of these resources as stated in the American Battlefield Protection Program?

The following issues represent essential components of the overall issue outlined above:

- ▶ What is the significance of the Honey Springs Battlefield?
- ▶ What is the geographical area covered by the Battle of Honey Springs?
- ▶ What cultural and natural resources are an essential part of the Honey Springs Battlefield?
- ▶ What is the current condition of the battlefield?
- ▶ What are the short-term and long-term threats to the battlefield?
- ▶ What are the alternative land protection methods available for site protection and interpretation?
- ▶ Which lands should be protected?
- ▶ Which land protection methods could be effectively utilized in protecting the Honey Springs Battlefield?
- ▶ What is the attitude of the community and battlefield landowners towards protecting and interpreting the site?
- ▶ Who are the potential partners in protecting the Honey Springs Battlefield?
- ▶ What are the potential partnerships and strategies that could be developed to protect the battlefield?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BATTLE OF HONEY SPRINGS

According to LeRoy H. Fischer, there are seven (7) points relative to the significance of the Battle of Honey Springs¹:

- ▶ It was the largest battle of the Civil War in Indian Territory involving 3,000 Federals and 6,000 Confederates.
- ▶ "The Gettysburg of Indian Territory," it opened the way for the capture of Fort Smith, Arkansas, by Federal forces and their control of Indian Territory.
- ▶ The battle involved Confederate and Federal Troops of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indian Territory as well as forces from Wisconsin, Colorado, Kansas, and Texas.
- ▶ While decisive militarily, the Battle of Honey Springs was significant also as one of the first engagements of the Civil War in which Negroes proved their qualities as fighting men. The Negro unit involved was the Federal First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment.
- ▶ It was one of eighty-nine battles, engagements, and skirmishes fought during the Civil War in Indian Territory, an area of 60,000 inhabitants in the grip of guerrilla warfare from 1861 to 1865.
- ▶ It was the only battle of the Civil War where Indians fought Indians.
- ▶ It was the only battle of the Civil War where Indians, Blacks, and Whites fought.

¹ LeRoy H. Fischer, Ph.D., "Honey Springs Battlefield National Park: The Battle of Honey Springs, July 17, 1863," [N.p.: monograph, January, 1969].

CHAPTER II:

DESCRIPTION OF THE BATTLEFIELD

Honey Springs Battlefield Park is a National Register property of national significance. The boundary encloses 2,993 acres, or approximately 4.7 square miles, representing the major portion of the battlefield. According to one theory, the battle extended approximately two miles to the north and slightly east of the northeast corner of the National Register District.

In *Mark of Heritage*² we find the following description:

The battlefield . . . begins near the south edge of Oktaha and extends south over the country side more than two and one-half miles to Honey Springs, on Elk Creek, south of the Muskogee County line in McIntosh County. Beautiful, clear-flowing Honey Springs can be seen about one and one-half miles east and south of Rentiesville, in McIntosh County. On a rise of ground several hundred feet north of the springs was a Confederate commissary depot, where large stores of flour, pork and other supplies in a large warehouse were destroyed by retreating Southern troops to keep them from falling into the hands of the Federal troops. Also now gone is the stone magazine where General Douglas H. Cooper's ammunition supply of Mexican powder, already pasty and worthless from absorption of moisture in rainy weather before the battle, was stored. Hundreds of barrels of sorghum molasses stacked beside the warehouse were broken by the Confederates, leaving the ground covered deep with sticky syrup.

Geographical Setting

The park is located in southern Muskogee County and northern McIntosh county in east-central Oklahoma. It lies north of Interstate Highway 40 and east of U. S. Highway 69 between the communities of Oktaha to the north and Rentiesville to the southwest.

The land currently enjoys a pastoral landscape which retains the flavor of the historical period. Much of the battlefield is used for farming and grazing operations. [See "Use" in Chapter V.]

² Muriel H. Wright and Kenny A. Franks, eds. *Mark of Heritage*, (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, *The Oklahoma Series*, Volume II, 1976), p. 13.

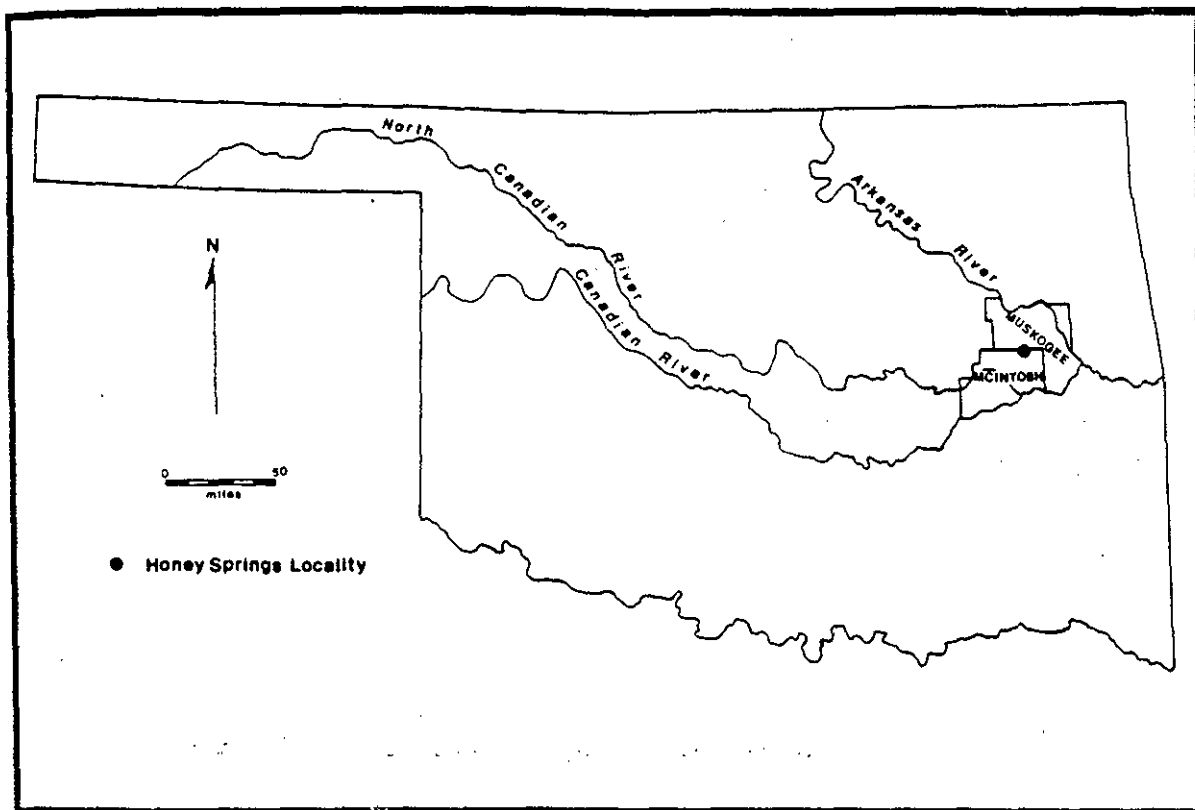


FIGURE 1: Location of Honey Springs Battlefield, Oklahoma.

Environmental Setting³

This region lies within the Claremore Cuesta Plains, a gently rolling upland of shale that is interrupted by hills and ridges capped with resistant sandstones (Curtis and Ham, 1972). The Claremore Cuesta Plains slope gently eastward where they meet the uplifted Ozark and Ouachita mountains. Ecologically, this locality is part of the Cherokee Prairie, a savannah of Indian-grass, switch grass, big bluestem, and little bluestem grasses common to the rolling uplands, whereas patchy woodlands of blackjack and post oak occur on the rocky hills and escarpments (Bruner 1939; Blair and Hubbell 1938:431-433). Streams draining these uplands are typically bordered by forests of oak, bois d'arc, dogwood, elm, sycamore, honey locust, and walnut. Because this region comprises some of the transition zone between eastern woodlands and western grasslands, its mosaic of grassland and forest habitats support many diverse animals. "Approximately 30 species of mammals, 250 species of birds, 150 species of fish, and at least 45 species of reptiles" are still present in the region (Blair 1939; Briscoe 1977:13).

Climatically, the region is characterized as temperate humid with averages varying between 42°F (4°C) in winter and 81.6° (29°C) in summer. The average year-round humidity is 60% (England 1975). The growing season begins in late March and continues into late October or early November; on the average, there are 215 frost-free days per year. Most precipitation occurs during the growing season; the annual average precipitation is 39.63" (76cm) (Knobel and Brensing 1938:4).

RESOURCES

It is important to note that the Battle of Honey Springs was not one of entrenchments and long-term, fixed battle positions but rather was of the "moving battle" variety common to the western fronts.

In her excellent study of the battlefield⁴, Catherine Yates reported that

[s]ixty years of historical research have resulted in much varied information being accumulated about the people, places, and events in the 1863 Battle of Honey Springs. Unfortunately, several problems affect the available information when it is culled for data

³ Catherine H. Yates, Don G. Wyckoff, Timothy G. Baugh, and John A. Harrington, Jr., *A Survey of Prehistoric and Historic Sites in the Honey Springs Area, McIntosh and Muskogee Counties, Oklahoma*, (Norman: Oklahoma Archeological Survey, *Archeological Resources Survey Report Number 11*, 1981), pp. 2-3.

⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 26-27.

needed to find and identify locations integral to developing a Civil War battlefield park. A primary problem stems from the fact that few first- or second-hand accounts of the battle provide substantial details about specific landmarks and their locations on the battlefield. The published version of the battle's official record contains no detailed maps of the battleground and few descriptions of pertinent landmarks. Only a regional map, a portion of which is reproduced herein [Figure 4], appears in the *Atlas* (U.S. War Department 1888). Moreover, Confederate records in the published version are obviously incomplete. Brigadier General Douglas Cooper's battle report is the only Confederate document given in the official record of the "Engagement at Elk Creek, near Honey Springs, Indian Territory." However, other Confederate field officers surely submitted reports to the Confederate command. There is reason to believe that the *War of the Rebellion* editors were biased and excluded some relevant records. "Apparently the editors, half of them northern sympathizers and half of them southern, proceeded upon the principle of selection that necessitated exchanging courtesies of omission" (Able 1919a:361). In addition, many documents, and especially Confederate papers, were either disregarded or lost over the years (Able 1919a: 353-355; Cory 1910:1-2). The later published *Confederate Military History* (Evans 1899) does contain additional information about the Honey Springs Battle (Harrell 1899:200-201), but sources for this information are not provided. Second-hand accounts frequently contain clues to important battlefield locations, but few of these accounts can be confirmed from either the official records or from field findings. Confirmation by this latter approach is partially hindered because pre-1870 records that would allow tracing Creek or freedman family ties or the transfer of their lands are missing or incomplete for the Creek Nation. Although the available records and oral traditions may lack details or contain discrepancies, they still comprise a valuable resource of ideas and information about the Battle of Honey Springs. Hopefully, the Honey Springs Battlefield Commission and the Oklahoma Historical Society will continue to compile, index, and preserve any other records that may be forthcoming on this important battlefield.

Cultural and Natural Resources⁵

Yates identified forty cultural resources in the battlefield area. These include Haggard House, Sisney House, Lane House, Ben Woodard House, Howell-Ray House, Will Smith House, Guillard House, Henry Foreman House, C. Foreman Homestead, Iona Arnett Cabin, R. Woodard Cabin #1, R. Woodard Cabin #2, and three other old houses. Also included are Walker Iron Bridge, "Powder House," Pumpkin Ridge School, Walker Sawmill, a bridge, a well, a spring, as well as Honey Springs Cemetery, Keys Cemetery, Combs Cemetery, Love-Robinson Cemetery, an Indian Cemetery, and an unmarked cemetery.

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 11-15, 31.

There are six named prehistoric sites, two unnamed prehistoric sites, and two unnamed historic house locations, and Hill's Half Section Marker. The last of the forty resources was the Shaw's Inn (stagecoach stop).

In her report, Ms. Yates noted the following:

Although finding and identifying all prehistoric and historic sites within the proposed park boundaries were overall goals, of major interest were locating and identifying sites and landmarks contemporaneous with the 1863 battle at Elk Creek. In particular, the Honey Springs Battlefield Commission and the Oklahoma Historical Society wanted to locate: (1) The Texas Road, (2) graves or a mass burial of the Confederate casualties, (3) the bridge that crossed Elk Creek at the time of the battle, (4) the toll house associated with the Elk Creek bridge, [and] (5) The Shaw Inn [which was later called the Newberry Place]."

HISTORICAL SETTING

The Texas Road⁶

The Texas Road had its origins in the Osage Trace, a very early route used by the Osages to travel from southern Missouri through Kansas and into Oklahoma. This route was extended by early American travellers to Texas. Such an important north-south route was not neglected by the military. The Kansas part of the route was extended north by a military road. The road eventually linked posts such as Forts Leavenworth and Scott with Fort Gibson. [See Figure 3]

⁶ Compiled by Chris Morgan, Property Manager I, Fort Gibson Military Park, Division of Historic Sites, Oklahoma Historical Society. For a fuller discussion of the history see Appendix E. Of course, Grant Foreman's *Down The Texas Road* remains the classic treatise on the subject.

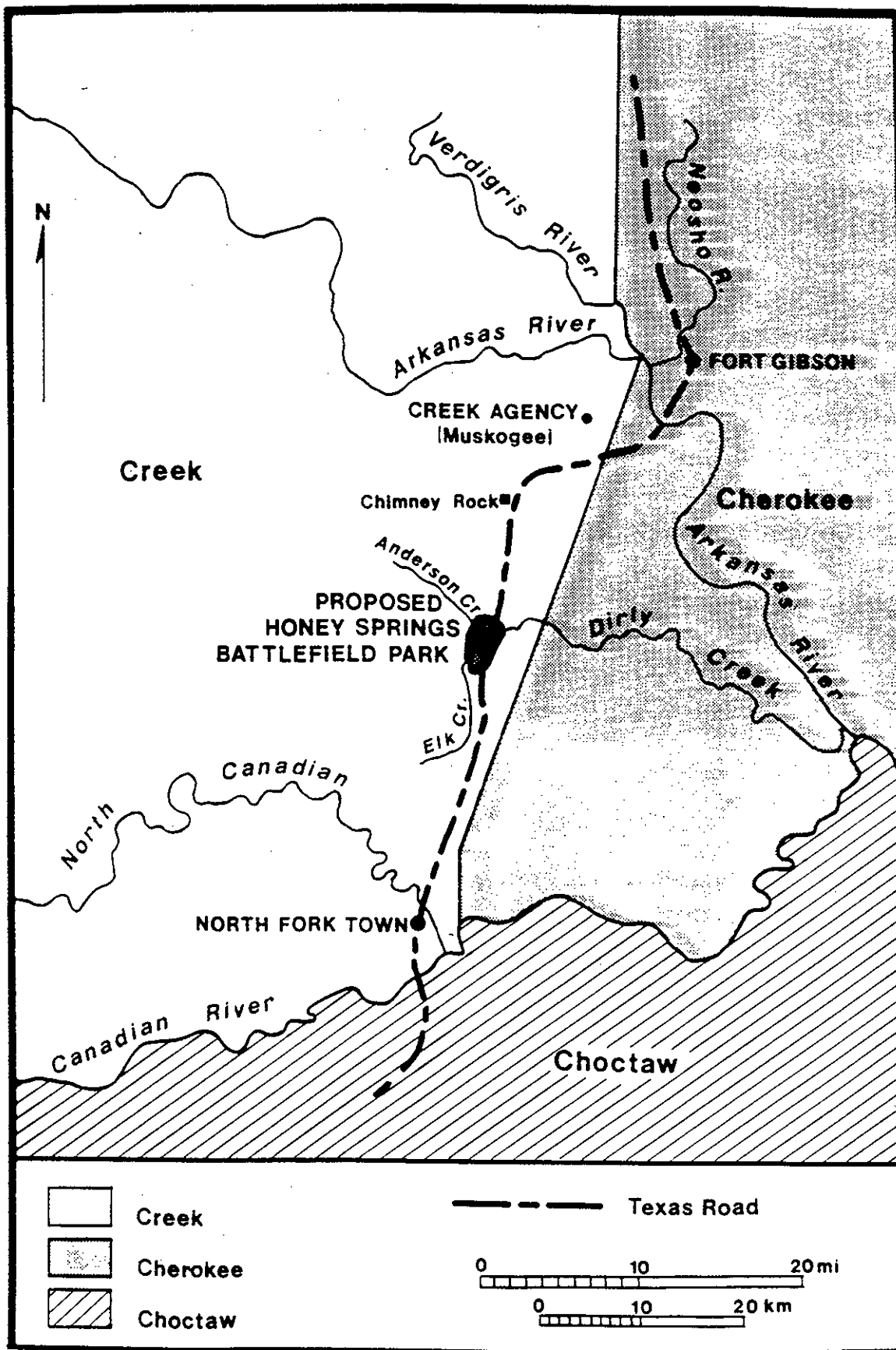


FIGURE 2: Honey Springs Battlefield Park in Relation to the 1863 Boundaries of the Cherokee, Choctaw, and Creek Nations

A Brief Background to the Battle¹

At the outbreak of the Civil War, the region surrounding the [battlefield] was settled and politically controlled by the Cherokee, Creek, and Choctaw, three tribes who had been forcibly removed from their homelands some twenty years previously. Although not integrated political entities of the United States, these tribes had formed separate nations with constitutions modeled after that of the United States and with financial support of the United States (Fischer 1974:1-14, 19-20; Turner 1975; Winsor 1974).

While in their native homelands, the Cherokee, Creek, and Choctaw achieved a degree of political, economic, and social convergency unparalleled in the New world. Such assimilation, however, was not attained without dissension and disintegration. During the colonization of North America, the political and economic structure of these tribes' societies was such that Scottish and Irish traders, themselves refugees from English expansion, were easily incorporated (Gearing 1962; Haas 1940; MacLeod 1928). Typically, these traders married into the tribes. Succeeding generations from such unions, having been partially influenced by European values and cultural background, were able to mold some features of these native societies into facsimiles of the developing American society. This social engineering led to a deeply rooted factionalism that impaired these tribes from withstanding increasing European encroachment (Holm 1976; Savage 1976). These lines became drawn between a Progressive faction who advocated assimilation and a Traditional faction who wished to maintain their aboriginal culture. Removal to Indian Territory did not resolve the problems and damage resulting from the collision of two vastly different cultural systems. Upon removal, the Progressives attempted to transplant the Southern plantation system, whereas the Traditionalist[s] tried to maintain long-held values and the old ways of living. Rifts between Traditionalists and Progressives developed into murder, bloody feuds, and full-scale tribal schisms (Fischer 1974:2-14).

With the outbreak of the Civil War, the social and economic ties between the Progressives and the Southern states largely predetermined the Progressives' alliance with the Confederacy. Meanwhile, most Traditionalists attempted to maintain their neutrality in this "white man's war." Unfortunately, such neutrality was not tolerated by the Progressives. They mercilessly attacked Traditionalists' home sites and forced many Traditionalist[s] to seek refuge in Kansas. Here, the Traditionalist[s] were organized into United States fighting units. Labeled the Home Guard, these Traditionalists units returned to Indian Territory to do battle with their Progressive relatives. . . .

¹ Yates, et. al., op. cit., pp. 3, 6.

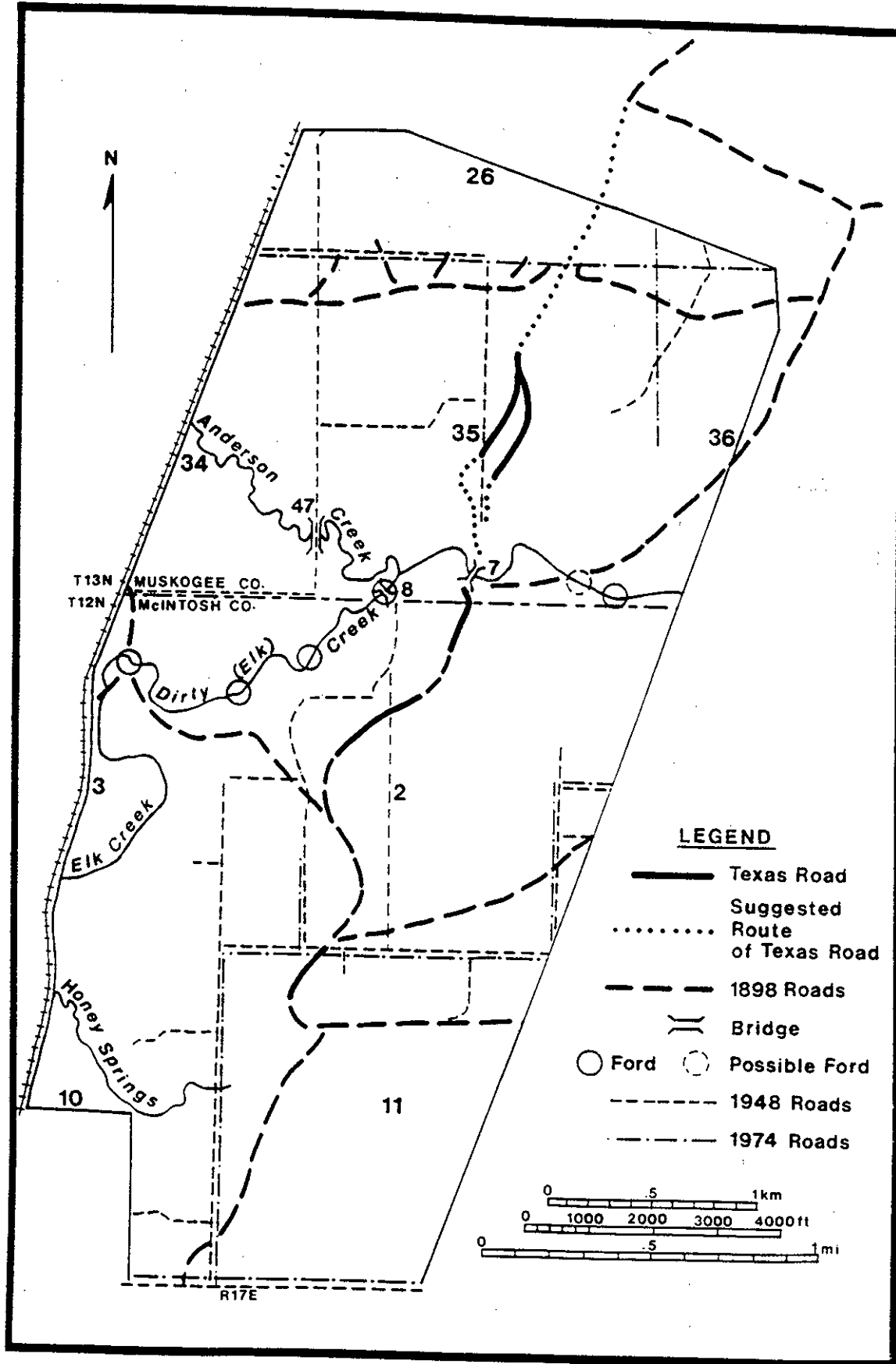


FIGURE 3: The Texas Road and Other Pre- and Post-Statehood Roads as Depicted in Yates' Study.

CHAPTER III:

THE BATTLE OF HONEY SPRINGS, INDIAN TERRITORY*⁸

The Battle of Honey Springs, the climatic engagement of the Civil War in Indian Territory, was fought on July 17, 1863, and had been in the making since the beginning of the war.

More than two years earlier the United States government had withdrawn its small peace-keeping forces from the forts of Indian Territory for what it considered more urgent military needs in the East. Soon afterward, authorities of the Confederate States signed treaties of alliance with the Five Civilized Tribes, and for a year Confederate control of Indian Territory remained unchallenged. Then, as part of an overall plan for conquering the Confederacy, Federal forces invaded Indian Territory.

After a year of unsuccessful efforts to reestablish Federal authority, Colonel William A. Phillips of Kansas occupied Fort Gibson in April of 1863, and Confederate authority in Indian Territory was successfully challenged for the first time.

At once the Confederates made plans to drive the Federals from Fort Gibson. While Colonel Phillips struggled to keep his supply line open to Fort Scott, Kansas, 175 miles to the north, the Confederates assembled 20 miles southwest of Fort Gibson at Honey Springs. From this location Confederate cavalry detachments harassed the Federals at Fort Gibson and attacked supply trains enroute from Fort Scott.

The Confederate installation at Honey Springs consisted of a frame commissary building, a log hospital, several arbors, and numerous tents. Several springs supplied ample water for soldiers and livestock.

Through the encampment ran the Texas Road, the main pre-war transportation route connecting Indian Territory with Texas, Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas. Honey Springs had served for some years as a stage stop, provision point, and watering place on the Texas Road. Early in the Civil War it became an important depot for the Confederates. It took on increased significance as the Confederates planned to drive all Federal forces from Indian Territory during the mid-summer of 1863. For this purpose about 6,000 soldiers were collected. Supplies were brought from Fort Smith, Arkansas, as well as from Boggy Depot, Fort Cobb, Fort Arbuckle, and Fort Washita, all located in Indian Territory.

⁸ LeRoy H. Fischer, "The Battle of Honey Springs," *Battle of Honey Springs, 1863-1988, Official Program*, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press [for the Oklahoma Historical Society], 1988), pp. 2-7.

* "This article, in a slightly different form, appeared in the Winter, 1970-71 issue of *Oklahoma Today*" [note from original document].



Plate 1: "Battle of Honey Springs, Indian Territory,"
from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly*, 18 August 1863

The Confederates at Honey Springs were ready to march on Fort Gibson and awaited the arrival of approximately 3,000 reinforcements and additional artillery from Fort Smith on July 17 under the command of Brigadier General William L. Cabell, a West Point graduate distinguished for bravery in combat. In command of the Confederate forces at Honey Springs was Brigadier General Douglas H. Cooper, a former United States Choctaw-Chickasaw Indian Agent and an officer veteran of the Mexican War. He was highly respected by the Indians he faithfully served in both civil and military life.

Confederate deserters and Federal spies had kept Colonel Phillips informed of the impending attack on Fort Gibson. Supplies and troops were rushed from Fort Scott. On July 1 and 2 at Cabin Creek, Confederate forces attempted to intercept a large military supply train of 200 wagons enroute to Fort Gibson. They did not succeed and the Federals were able to hold Fort Gibson and prepare for an offensive against the Confederate forces at Honey Springs. The supply train had barely reached its destination when Major General James G. Blunt arrived from Kansas with additional troops and artillery. Altogether only about 3,000 Federals were then at Fort Gibson and available for field operations. Information soon reached Blunt that Cabell planned to bring 3,000 men to join Cooper's 6,000 Confederate troops for the planned attack on Fort Gibson.

Blunt's background was unique. Although first a sailor, he became a physician by profession and a general through politics. Before he assumed command of the District of the Frontier, which was his assignment in the summer of 1863, his military campaigns had been uniformly successful and strongly characterized by offensive operations. The challenge of again taking the battle to the Confederates was before him. In addition he considered the Federal situation at Fort Gibson especially critical because of the anticipated arrival of Cabell's troops at Honey Springs on July 17. Thus, Blunt took immediate action to attack Cooper's forces before Cabell could bring reinforcements. But on July 14, several days after starting campaign preparations at Fort Gibson, Blunt came down with an intense fever due to encephalitis. Although still severely ill after spending all day in bed, he decided to begin the advance on Honey Springs because of Cabell's threat.

With the completion of the construction of a number of flatboats to ferry his forces across the Arkansas River, Blunt issued six days of rations to his men. He then took 250 cavalry and four pieces of light artillery at midnight on July 15 and rode about 13 miles up the north bank of the swollen Arkansas River to a ford. At this location he drove away the Confederate pickets, crossed the Arkansas River, and turned downstream to the mouth of the Grand River. Blunt then ordered the remainder of his troops to cross the river, an operation that was completed by 10:00 p.m. on July 16 except for several cavalry units. The Union force consisted of about 3,000 men equipped with late-model Springfield rifles and

twelve pieces of artillery, including several efficient Napoleon guns.

Blunt's men proceeded immediately down the Texas Road. At about midnight, during a rain shower, the first skirmish occurred near Chimney Mountain when the Union advance guard encountered a Confederate scouting party. It was then that the Confederates, who slowly fell back, discovered that some of their gun powder had absorbed moisture and sometimes would not fire. At daybreak, Blunt's cavalry came upon Confederate advance units about 5 miles north of Elk Creek, skirmished briefly, and drove the Confederates back to their main line.

While the Federal force was collecting north of Elk Creek on the Texas Road, Blunt and his staff rode forward to examine the main Confederate position. He discovered their line, about one-and-one-half miles wide, concealed in the timber immediately north of Elk Creek. At about 8:00 a.m., he ordered his wet and exhausted troops to rest and eat lunch behind a little ridge about one-half mile from the Confederate line. When a rain shower occurred during this two-hour rest period, the Union troops filled their empty canteens with water taken from depressions in the Texas Road.

At about 10:00 a.m., Blunt formed his force into columns, one to the left of the road under Colonel William A. Phillips and the other on the right under Colonel William R. Judson. Both columns moved to within a quarter-mile of the Confederate line, and then were rapidly deployed to the left and right. In less than five minutes they were in a line of battle across the entire Confederate front. Blunt's force was composed of units from Wisconsin, Colorado, Kansas, and Indian Territory.

On the other side, the Confederate units, with 5,700 men present for duty in the battle, were arranged in battle formation as Brigadier General Cooper had directed three days before the engagement. About one-quarter of them were without serviceable firearms, and they were supported by only four pieces of light artillery. Several units of Texans were serving with the Indian forces. Colonel Stand Watie had been scheduled to be present at Honey Springs, but at the last minute was sent by Cooper with a small cavalry unit to conduct a diversionary movement in the direction of Webbers Falls. All available Confederate forces were to be committed in case of attack except for the First Choctaw and Chickasaw Regiment and two squadrons of Texas cavalry, which were to be held in reserve.

The Confederates opened the battle by firing on the Federal artillery, which replied with spherical case shot, shell, and solid shot for one-and-one-quarter hours. The four Confederate fieldpieces of Captain Roswell W. Lee consisted of three 12-pounder mountain howitzers and a scarce Confederate Mountain Rifle, an even smaller experimental bronze fieldpiece rifled to take a 2½-inch

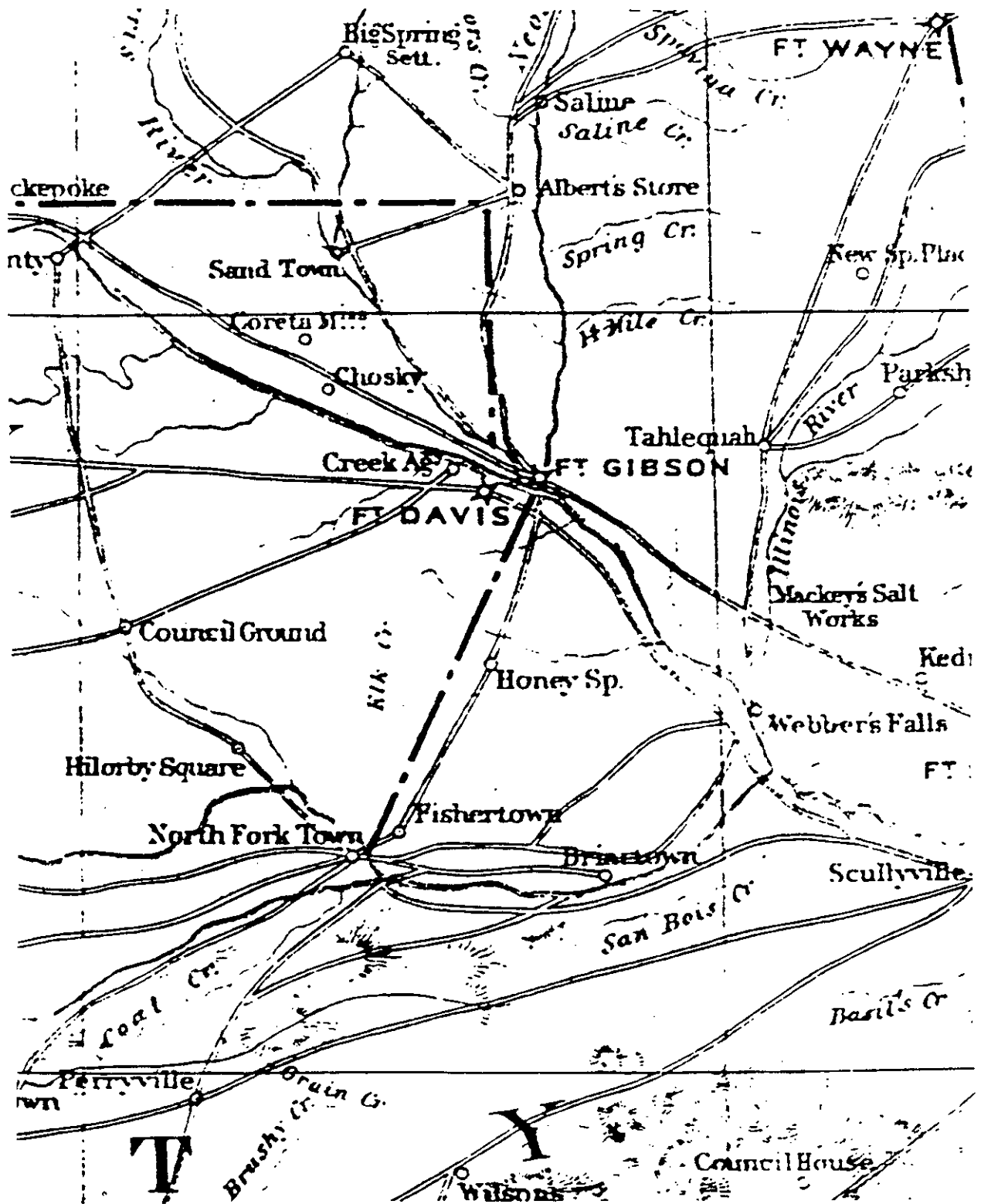


FIGURE 4: Fort Gibson-Honey Springs Depicted on Civil War Map.

diameter explosive shell. Only eighteen of these were made by the Tredigar Iron Works in Richmond, Virginia, in 1862. It is not known how this rare little experimental cannon found its way to the Indian frontier. General Cooper ordered this four-gun battery to support the 20th and 29th Texas Cavalry Regiments in the line of battle opposite the Federal First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

The Federal artillery consisted of twelve fieldpieces brought from Kansas under the command of Captains Edward A. Smith and Henry Hopkins. Six of these cannons were the big 12-pounder Napoleons with which the Union Army was generally equipped; two of the field pieces were iron 6-pounders; and four were 12-pounder mountain howitzers mounted on prairie carriages. General Blunt assigned four of the Napoleons to support the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the center of the line opposite the four Confederate fieldpieces backing the 20th and 29th Texas Cavalry Regiments. Blunt assigned the two remaining Napoleons, together with the two iron 6-pounders, to support the 2nd Colorado Infantry Regiment opposite the 29th Texas Cavalry Regiment. Two of the 12-pounder mountain howitzers bolstered the 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry Regiment on the far right of the Federal line, while the two other 12-pounder mountain howitzers buttressed the 6th Kansas Cavalry Regiment on the far left of the Federal line.

During the early minutes of the artillery duel, the four Confederate mountain cannons concentrated their fire on the four Napoleons of the Kansas Infantry Regiment. One of the Napoleons took a direct hit, thus removing one Federal gun from action. Killed in the attack were a section sergeant and a private, as well as four horses, with four more horses wounded. But the Federal gunners quickly located one of the Confederate howitzers in the underbrush and put it out of action by the concentrated fire of two of the big Napoleons. Within minutes the little howitzer was wrecked and its entire crew and horses killed. The Confederate artillerymen then utilized the accuracy and long range of their experimental mountain rifle fieldpiece to pick off Union officers who could be seen on the high open ground beyond the Union battle line. One of Major General Blunt's aides was killed by a shell from the little mountain rifle and another shell narrowly missed Captain Smith while he directed the fire of his battery.

Meanwhile, Blunt had dismounted his cavalry units to fight as infantry and ordered all commands to fire rapidly as possible against the Confederate line. For over two hours the Confederates effectively held their position while attempting a spirited flanking movement on the Federal left. The fighting in the underbrush was slow moving and confusing as the lines swayed under the impact of close-in and hand-to-hand combat. With many more men committed to the battle than were available to the Federals, the Confederates appeared to be compensating satisfactorily for their inferior gun powder, firearms, and artillery.

Then a set of unusual circumstances prevailed to turn the tide of the battle. Blunt ordered Colonel James M. Williams, the commanding officer of the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment, located near the center of the Federal line, to capture the four-gun Confederate artillery battery supporting the 20th and 29th Texas Cavalry Regiments. Williams, of abolitionist beliefs, had told his men before the battle that no quarter would be given if they were captured. He then ordered them to "fix bayonets" and move forward in formation. Soon the Federal and Confederate lines fired simultaneously. Colonel Williams and Colonel Charles DeMorse of the 29th Texas Cavalry Regiment received severe but not fatal injuries. Incessant firing continued.

As the battle progressed, units of the Federal Second Indian Home Guard Regiment unintentionally moved in between the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Regiment and the Texas dismounted cavalry regiments. Williams' successor, Lieutenant Colonel John Bowles, ordered the Indians to fall back to their position in the battle line. The Confederates heard this command and assumed that the Federals were falling back. The order was then given to pursue the Federals. The Confederates approached to within twenty-five paces of the Federals, to be met with a volley from the deadly accurate Springfield rifles of the Kansas Colored Regiment. The Confederate color bearer fell, but the colors were immediately raised, and again promptly shot down. They were raised again, and once more they were leveled by a volley from the Kansas Regiment. Then Federal soldiers from the Indian Home Guards picked up the Confederate colors, much to the dismay of men and officers from the Kansas Regiment, who asked permission to break ranks and secure them. Permission was refused, but they were promised that the matter would be righted later.

Realizing he could no longer hold his position north of Elk Creek, Cooper ordered his Confederate forces to remove the artillery, vigorously defend the bridge across the creek, and stand firm on the south bank of the stream. They made several determined efforts to hold the bridge, but finally superior Federal firepower prevailed. Many Texans died holding the bridge long enough to move the Confederate artillery across it. As the Federals poured across the bridge and the fords of Elk Creek and onto the prairies beyond, the Confederates were in orderly retreat for about a mile and a half down the Texas Road to Honey Springs Depot. Here a final but effective stand was made, mainly by the reserve Choctaw and Chickasaw Regiment and the two squadrons of Texas cavalry, giving the Confederates time to evacuate virtually all of their forces, artillery, and baggage train. All buildings and supplies at Honey Springs were fired by the retreating Confederates; the Federals arrived soon enough to extinguish some of the flames and save quantities of bacon, dried beef, flour, sorghum, and salt.

By 2:00 p.m., the battle was over--four hours after it began. The Confederates moved east from the battlefield and at about 4:00

p.m. joined Brigadier General Cabell's 3,000-man force enroute with four mountain howitzers from Fort Smith, about 50 miles distant. If Cabell had arrived in time for the battle, the Federals would likely have lost. Cooper attributed his defeat not only to inferior ammunition and superior Federal arms, but also to the lack of Cabell's reinforcements. Blunt decided not to pursue the Confederates because his men and horses were fatigued and his ammunition was almost exhausted. Still suffering from an intense fever that forced him to go to bed, he ordered his forces to bivouac for the night on the battlefield, treat the wounded, and bury the dead, including the Confederates. Late on the day following the battle, Blunt directed his forces to return to Fort Gibson.

Cooper reported his losses as 134 killed and wounded, with 47 taken prisoner. He maintained the Federal killed and wounded exceeded 200. Blunt reported his losses as 17 killed and 60 wounded. He said he buried 150 Confederates, wounded 400 of their men, and took 77 prisoners. The exact numbers will never be known. Cooper afterwards sent a letter of appreciation to Blunt for his burial of the Confederate dead. Their unmarked graves may still be in the Honey Springs area. The bodies of the Federal dead were later reinterred in the Fort Gibson National Cemetery.

The Battle of Honey Springs was in both size and importance the Gettysburg of the Civil War in Indian Territory, for it marked the climax of massed Confederate military resistance and opened the way for the capture of Fort Smith and much of Arkansas. Perhaps, in terms of results, Honey Springs was the Gettysburg of the Trans-Mississippi West. It is significant also because it was one of the earliest engagements of the Civil War in which blacks proved their qualities as fighting men. General Blunt heaped praise on the blacks who fought with him at Honey Springs. He said of them in his official report on the battle: "The First Kansas (colored) particularly distinguished itself; they fought like veterans, and preserved their line unbroken throughout the engagement. Their coolness and bravery I have never seen surpassed; they were in the hottest of the fight, and opposed to Texas troops twice their number, whom they completely routed. One Texas regiment (the 20th Cavalry) that fought against them went into the fight with 300 men and came out with only sixty." The fateful attack by blacks at Fort Wagoner, South Carolina, under the command of Robert Gould Shaw, occurred only one day after the battle of Honey Springs.

The Honey Springs settlement completely disappeared with the construction of the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad soon after the Civil War. The Texas Road was closed with the coming of U.S. Highway 69 in the 1920s. But clear-flowing Honey Springs can still be seen about one and one-half miles east and north of Rentiesville, in McIntosh County. Today the Honey Springs battle site of nearly 3,000 acres is still wooded and rural, much as it was at the time of the engagement between the North and the South.

CHAPTER IV:

HONEY SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD PARK

SUMMARY OF PARK HISTORY⁹

Interest in the area of the Honey Springs battle has been high since the end of the Civil War when veterans returned to Honey Springs to walk over the battle area. The closing of the Texas Road made access to the area difficult, but interest in the battle site continued. Stories of the battle were passed down to the old timers of the area. Many had grandfathers or other relatives who fought in the battle.

This interest in creating a battlefield park was stimulated through commemorative emphasis during the Civil War Centennial years, 1961-1965. In 1962, the first meeting for the development of the Honey Springs battle site was held at a Muskogee Chamber of Commerce dinner. The push for development of a park was headed by the Oklahoma Civil War Centennial Commission, which was active until the spring of 1965.

The Civil War in Indian Territory became the theme of the "1963 Official Highway Map" published by the Oklahoma Department of Highways [now Division of Highways, Department of Transportation]. The Honey Springs battle received special emphasis, including a Honey Springs drawing by James R. O'Neill on the cover. The Oklahoma Civil War Centennial Commission directed the production of the map.

On July 17, 1963, commemorative ceremonies were held at Honey Springs. The day before, a chartered bus toured historic sites in the vicinity of Muskogee. The tour ended with a dinner at which Henry B. Bass, chairman of the OWCWC, spoke on the significance of the Civil War in Indian Territory. The commemorative ceremonies began at 10 a.m. in the Oktaha cemetery. The president of the Muskogee chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy laid a wreath at the base of a memorial erected in the cemetery in 1940 to honor the Confederate dead. The wreath was in memory of all who had died at the Honey Springs battle. Following an address by Ed Edmondson, of the U. S. House of Representatives from Muskogee, LeRoy H. Fischer, a history professor at O[klahoma] S[tate] U[niversity], spoke on the battle. After the ceremonies, Warren Ray took the visitors on a tour of accessible portions of the battlefield.

⁹ G. Gage Skinner, et al., "Origin of the Project," *Honey Springs Battlefield Park Feasibility Study*, (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, Division of Planning and Development, June, 1977). See also, LeRoy H. Fischer, *The Honey Springs National Battlefield Park Movement*, at Appendix F.

The Oklahoma Civil War Centennial Commission made the first formal plea for the establishment of a park when it adopted a resolution on December 10, 1963, to acquire the battle ground area and establish it as the Honey Springs National Battlefield Park. Over a period of years, the Oklahoma City Civil War Round Table adopted a number of similar resolutions addressed to the State Legislature. . . . Individual legislators received resolutions for action taken in behalf of the Honey Springs project. The Indian Territory Posse of Oklahoma Westerners and Great Plains Historical Association also adopted resolutions requesting the purchase of the battlefield site by the State, and the establishment of the Honey Springs National Battlefield Park.

On January 26, 1967, the Board of the Oklahoma Historical Society voted to actively sponsor and encourage the creation of the park as a national memorial. In March of 1967, Representative Vol H. Odom of Wagoner introduced a bill in the House to appropriate \$25,000.00 to purchase a portion of the land upon which the battle had been fought. The bill, which became law, authorized the Oklahoma Historical Society to carry out the purchase of the Honey Springs battle site land. 160 acres of land were acquired near the south perimeter of the battlefield, including the site of Honey Springs. 2,993 acres were proposed for acquisition for the park.

On October 24, 1968, the Honey Springs Battlefield Park Commission was established. The assigned duties of the Commission are to develop, operate, maintain, and establish policies for the park on behalf of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Since 1968, the Battlefield Park Commission has met frequently to discuss development plans for the park. Yearly appropriations to the Oklahoma Historical Society have resulted in the purchase of 545 acres at a cost of \$137,280.00. The original plan proposed acquisition of 2,993 acres for the park.

From 1968 to June 30, 1974, the total appropriation from the Oklahoma Legislature for Honey Springs Battlefield Park was \$174,279.84. Of this amount, \$99,650.00 was used to purchase 475 acres of land during that period. The next purchase of 75 acres was made in 1975.

As of April, 1976, no further land purchases had been made. The total account now stands at \$40,679.29 after the addition of the 1976 appropriation of \$15,000. As of yet, no appropriation of F[iscal] Y[ear] 1978 has been submitted. Future appropriations for the project appear certain as monies already appropriated are utilized for land acquisition.

In 1982, the Oklahoma Historical Society expended \$92,500.00 to acquire certain tracts of land in the southern portion of the battlefield. Because condemnation proceedings were used to acquire some of the land, relations with local residents, land owners, and the Legislature were harmed. Since that time, no state appropriations have been available to purchase land.

In the interim, land owners have been assured that condemnation will not be used to acquire land. However, as no state appropriated funds are currently available it is necessary for the Agency to devise other preservation strategies for the protection of the battlefield.

The duties of the former Honey Springs Battlefield Commission have been delegated to the Honey Springs Sub-committee of the Committee on Historic Sites, Board of Directors, Oklahoma Historical Society.

Heretofore, planning for acquisition and development of the Honey Springs Battlefield Park was based on the boundary of the National Register District which was created in 1970 [See Figure 5].

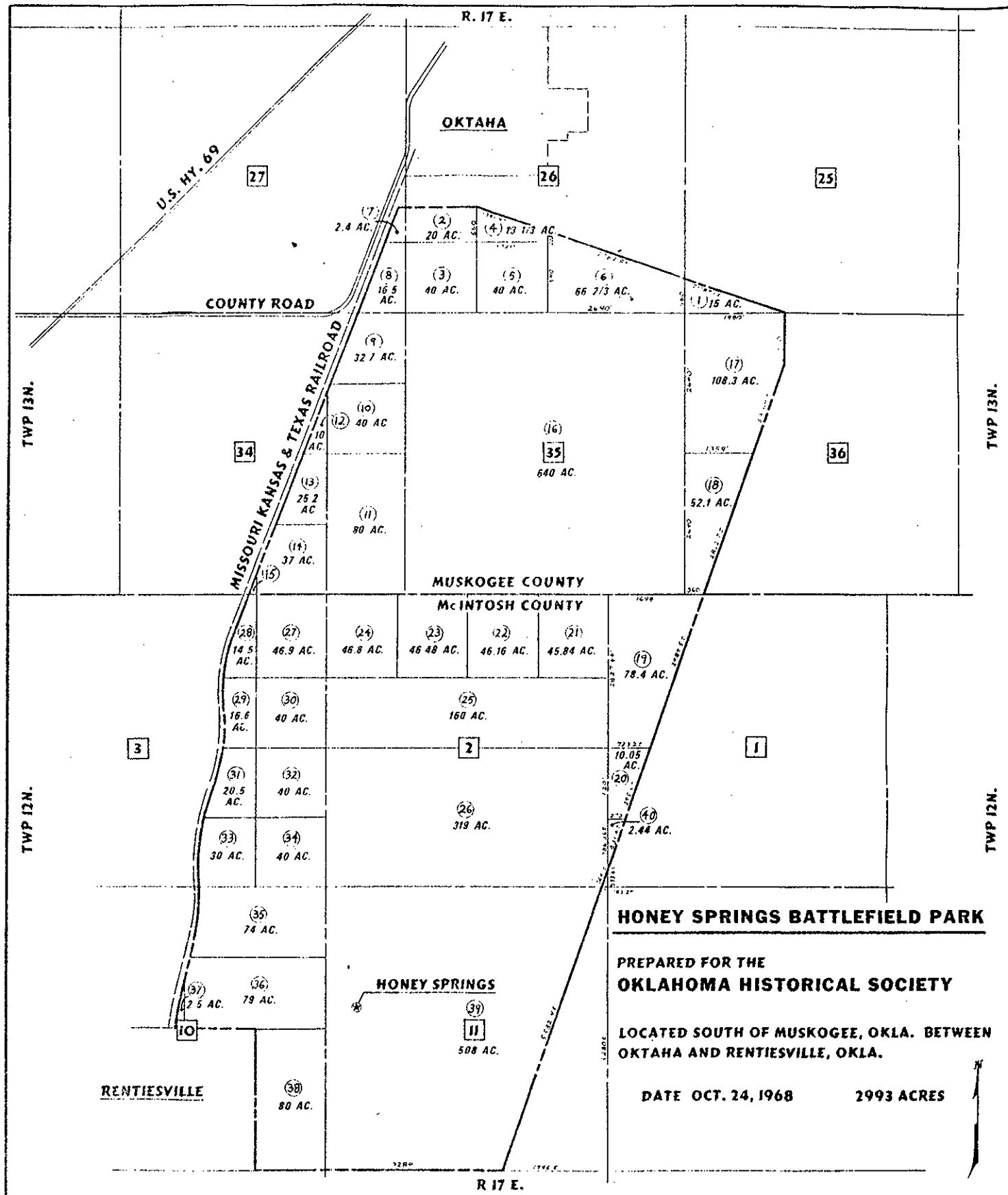


FIGURE 5: National Register Boundary Relative to McIntosh and Muskogee Counties, Oklahoma.

POTENTIAL VISITATION/INTERPRETIVE OPPORTUNITIES

There are two predominant focal points in the interpretive thrust at Honey Springs Battlefield Park: The Battle of Honey Springs and the effects of the Civil War in the Indian Territory. These interpretive directions will be consistent with the major significance and integrity of the battlefield and the effort exerted to develop an interpretive center beside and wayside exhibits in the park.

A comprehensive, integrated interpretation of the Battle of Honey Springs with other battles and encounters in the region (including some of those in Arkansas and Missouri) would benefit not only interpretation at this site but also at the other sites. Coordination between this and other battlefield parks would allow similar operations to provide visitors with a better understanding of the Civil War in this part of the United States.

The agricultural features of the battlefield and its surrounds have been reasonably well documented. With acquisition of the entire battlefield site, the park could better develop the historic vegetation patterns and the associated fences. Development would protect the integrity of the battlefield and restore the historic scene as well as enhance the visitor experience by enabling one to view landscapes which would have been possible at the time.

The outstanding æsthetic view of the battlefield from above the proposed interpretive center site is the key to not only battlefield interpretation but also to the thrust of the protection plan. The fact that most of this view and the majority of the battlefield itself are unprotected from development seriously threatens the site. The presence of on-going development in the vicinity of the battlefield illustrates the increasing potential for site deterioration; the failure to protect the historic landscape will significantly hamper the visitor experience at the site.

Specific proposals for wayside interpretive panels, driving routes, walking tour routes, etc. will be included in the Honey Springs Park Development Plan. [The Preliminary Development Plan is scheduled for completion on or before 31 December 1991. The optimum will be presented but the final plan will be contingent on the amount of land available for utilization.]

Proposed interpretive facilities and programs will include a visitor center with audio-visual programs, maps, exhibits, brochures, and rest facilities. The interpretive programs will include, but not be limited to the following:

- Walking Tour. Points of special interest, including locations of artillery and scenic overlooks of routes of charges and counter-attacks;

► Driving Tour. Visitors will be able to view important areas of the battlefield by using a self-guided tour by vehicle and by utilizing scenic overlooks slightly above the driving route;

► Occasional Programs. Talks on soldier life, demonstrations of small arms and equipment, lectures on Civil War history, and other programs of interest as arranged;

► Special Events. Re-enactments of the Battle of Honey Springs staged every two years, as arranged in cooperation with the Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield Park.

CHAPTER V:

CURRENT STATUS OF BATTLEFIELD

OWNERSHIP

Currently approximately twenty percent (20%) of the National Register Boundary area is owned by the State of Oklahoma, administered by the Oklahoma Historical Society. The remaining eighty (80%) percent of the property is owned by private individuals.

USE

Private land is being used for grazing cattle, growing crops, truck gardening, undeveloped timber, and tracts for housing. One of the eighty acre parcels of land has recently been sub-divided and sold for residential use. Mobile homes have been placed on two of the lots.

Park land owned by the State has remained undeveloped and is only occasionally generally cleared. However, portions of the land are being used for grazing by local landowners. The exception is at the major spring at Honey Springs where a pavilion has been erected. Over the past ten years, five monuments have been placed near the pavilion to commemorate various units which fought in the battle.

The land administered by the Oklahoma Historical Society is just over eighteen percent (18%) of the land included within the current National Register boundary and less than sixteen percent (16%) of the land within the proposed extended boundary. [The boundary extension is discussed in the next chapters.]

TRENDS

By comparing the map from Yates study of the battlefield in 1981 [Figure 7] with the aerial photograph made in 1991 [Figure 8], the reader will note new dwellings and other structures and subdivisions of farm land to housing, highway development, etc. In 1968, there were 38 tracts of land within the proposed National Register District. As of 1 July 1991, there were 119 tracts within that same area, a 313.16% increase in the number of tracts. [Compare the tract boundaries in Figures 5 and 6.] The graphic on population density [Figure 9] provided by the Secretary of the Interior to Governor Henry Bellmon in 1990, also demonstrates a trend of development in the area. Muskogee County is listed as a place of "above average growth" while McIntosh County is showing "extreme growth" in population between 1980 and 1986.

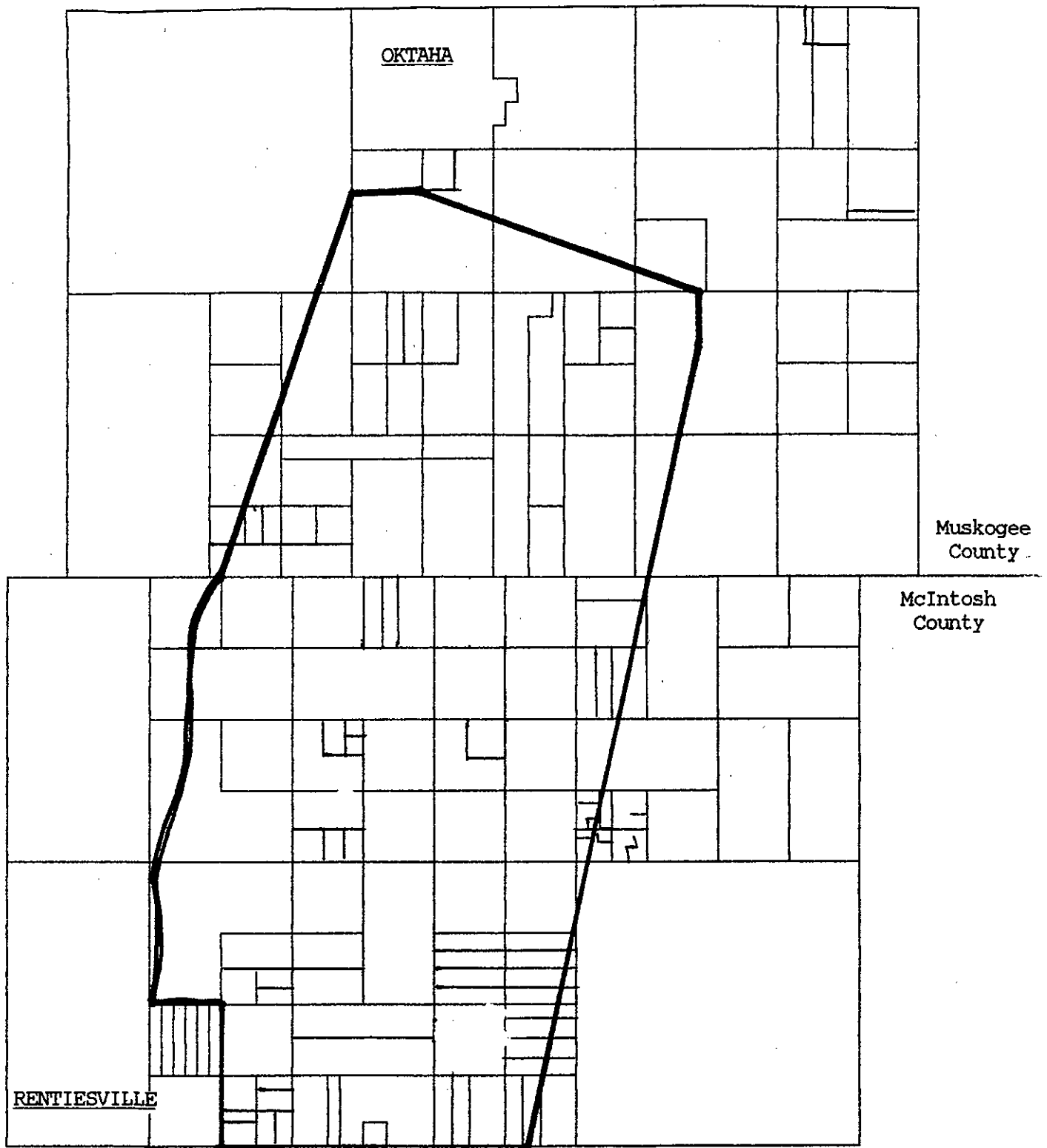


FIGURE 6: Tracts of Land Within National Register District as of 1 July 1991 Depicting a 313.16% Increase in the Number Since 1968.



FIGURE 7: Aerial Photograph Included in Yates' Study, 1981.



FIGURE 8: Aerial Photograph Taken in April, 1991.

CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS AND POPULATION GROWTH (1980-1986)
Oklahoma

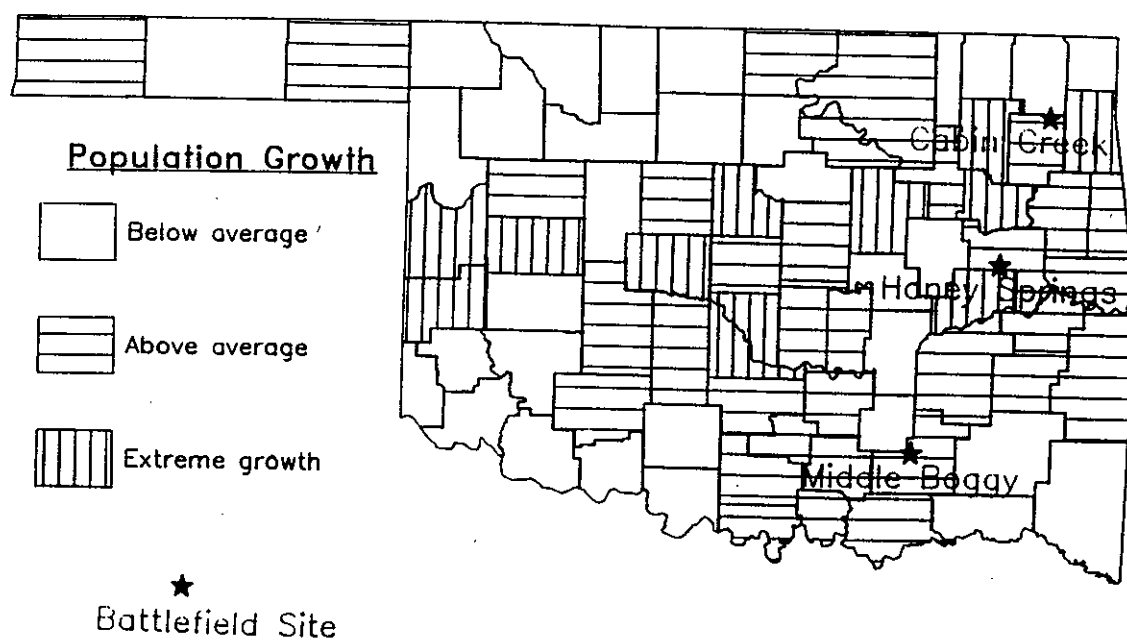


FIGURE 9: Population Density, 1990 (DOI Graphic).

POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT

At this writing the visual quality of the battlefield is generally good. Where there was once prairie there are several stands of trees, representing the westward movement of the cross timbers during the past several decades. However, much of the battlefield appears as it did in 1863: farms, pastures, and trees lining Elk Creek.

The major potentially negative impact is the suburban and rural development taking place south of Oktaha on the battlefield. This is especially true where new housing (often in the form of mobile homes) is being developed significantly impacting the historic landscape.

This portion of Muskogee County is undergoing residential and commercial development due to the ideal of suburban living. Note the relatively small number of land tracts depicted in the map at Figure 5 compared with the number of tracts depicted at Figure 6.

Rural development of the town of Oktaha is taking place on the west side of the battlefield and on the lower portions of the hill northeast of the battlefield. Within the central core of the battlefield there is development occurring in the form of farm buildings and residences. The farms on the south side of the battlefield are also experiencing development in the form of farm structures, residential construction, and commercial buildings.

CHAPTER VI:

RESOURCE PROTECTION METHODS

The intent of this chapter is to provide the reader with information related to the various means of preservation and resources protection. Not all of the following examples will be specifically applicable to the Honey Springs Battlefield Park.

DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE PROTECTION STRATEGIES

National Historic Landmarks and Other Properties Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

Designation as a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior is a status reserved for historic properties of acknowledged and prominent national significance. Though listing in the National Register of Historic Places may be for National significance, listing may also be for Statewide or Local significance, providing a degree of protection to a historic property.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies or their agents must afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation with the opportunity to comment on undertakings which may affect such historic properties.

If a property is an NHL or is listed on the National Register, any undertaking using federal funds, operating under federal license or done on behalf of a federal agency must be assessed as to the effects of the undertaking. This review is managed at the state level by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The SHPO may seek review from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Owners of National Register properties may be eligible for Federal Investment Tax Credits for conservation and rehabilitation purposes. When federal funds are made available by the Congress, owners of such may be eligible for federal grants for preservation needs related to those properties. The National Park Service will from time to time initiate programs to benefit National Register listed properties.

Donation

The donation of historically significant properties may be appropriate when the property owner does not wish to retain title to the property or remain involved in the management decisions of property ownership (because of financial considerations, lack of heirs, the desire to memorialize a family member, etc.).

Although no direct financial compensation is made to the property owner in return for the donation, certain income, estate, and/or property taxes may be reduced or eliminated when the property is donated to a qualified recipient.

Right of First Refusal/Option to Purchase

Through a right of first refusal agreement, an interested party asks a property owner to agree that if it is ever decided to sell the property on which a specific significant site or structure is located they will offer it to that interested party first.

An option to purchase agreement represents a contract allowing a buyer to purchase an interest in the property for a particular time.

Reserved Interest

In this case, the land is sold to the state government but the landowner reserves an interest in the property. This reserved interest is specified in the deed, and its value is deducted from the purchase price. This technique is used when permanent, full-time residents within a park boundary wish to continue residence for their lives (life estate) or a specified number of years (term estate) and when their land is not needed for visitor use, facility development, or intensive resource management.

Fee Acquisition

When all of the rights or interests in a tract of land are acquired, it is owned in fee simple. Fee simple acquisition is recommended only when other methods of protection are not adequate, efficient, or effective in meeting the needs of management and the public.

Easements

Property ownership can be envisioned as a bundle of rights: for example, the rights to graze cattle, build houses, cut trees, extract resources, and exclude others. Easements convey only some rights in property from one party to another. Easements may be positive--such as the giving of right of access for interpretation and resource management; or easements may be negative--such as restricting specific activities on the land to ensure that private uses will remain compatible with the preservation and non-destructive public use of the land.

Easements constitute an interest in land in the form of a

property right, and are binding on subsequent owners. They are appropriate as land protection measures where economic uses of the land are compatible with the purposes of the site to be protected. The cost of an easement depends upon the interest to be acquired, and, depending on the degree of interest and the number of restrictions, can approach the full fee value of the property. Also, monitoring and enforcing the easement conditions are necessary, and could be expensive. The degree of management control depends upon the content of the easement, the skill with which the easement is written, the cooperation of the landowner, and monitoring and enforcement capabilities. Although they are a long-term protection measure, easements may not cover changing conditions affecting land use. Because of privacy and liability concerns, easements, except for trail easements, usually do not include opportunities for public use.

Easements represent a very flexible land use agreement that may be tailored to each preservation situation, as broad or restrictive as may be necessary. Often the use of easements provides the only way to protect a site, and is sometimes preferable to the actual purchase of a site as it may save acquisition money that could be used for other preservation purposes.

Conservation Easement

Conservation easements, which may be donated or purchased, consist of use restrictions landowners place on the use of their property legally binding them and future owners of the property. These restrictions are legally recorded on the property deed. This type of easement is usually associated with a scenic view or landscape and is aimed at maintaining the sense of overall appearance and feeling associated with a historic site. This type of easement may be eligible for Investment Tax Credits to the owner.

If the property owner is to receive a federal income tax deduction in return for the granting of a conservation easement, then the site must be listed on or deemed eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, and the easement must be in perpetuity.

Leases

Certain land use agreements, such as management agreements or management leases, have proven to be effective tools in the preservation of cultural resources. These approaches may be useful when property owners do not wish to encumber their property with deed restrictions, but are willing to commit themselves to a form of resource protection more stringent than a verbal agreement, or are willing to allow a preservation group to use and/or protect the

site for a number of years.

Such agreements are flexible and may be designed so as to reflect the needs and concerns of all parties involved.

Management agreements become legally enforceable instruments when consideration is given to the property owner and the agreement is legally recorded. Consideration may take the form of money or mutual rights and duties. These agreements often resemble leases, and are particularly suitable for property owners who have a history of conscientious management of their cultural resources.

Memoranda of Understanding

Memoranda of understanding establish policies or procedures of mutual concern and can serve as the basis for cooperation among two or more parties. They are most likely to be useful for land owned by federal, state, or local governments, private non-profit organizations, and by individuals or corporations which are supportive of unit purposes. They may be terminated whenever any of the parties to the agreement wish, with proper notice.

Zoning/Regulations

Through zoning, state and local governments may regulate the density, type, character, and location of private development. Also, federal agencies and local governments may administer a variety of other laws that can protect resources by controlling such conditions and activities as air and water pollution, resource extraction and excavation, subdivision of land, and development in flood-hazard areas.

ANALYSIS

Each of the land protection methods listed above, except fee acquisition and donation, require that there be some private use of the land that would be compatible with protection of the battlefield. There may be a number of situations where private use would be either extremely limited or totally absent. In such cases, fee simple interest or donation would be the more effective protection method. The following cases are examples where fee simple acquisition appears applicable:

- ▶ Lands within the central "core" of the battlefield, where no significant degree of private use would be possible and/or acceptable.
- ▶ Some areas where closely adjacent modern development significantly intrudes upon the integrity of the park as it is

planned. Acquisition of simple fee interest would seem to be the only means through which landowners could be compensated and such intrusion could be removed.

► In some areas, there will be the need for facility development for site interpretation. In such areas, fee acquisition may be the only method that would allow for such facility development.

In a much larger area, surrounding what has been called the protected "core" area, the essential need is to preserve the battlefield against further modern development. The most practical alternative means of accomplishing this would be through the use of easements which would protect against additional structural development and adverse ground disturbance within the battlefield.

CHAPTER VII:

ANALYSIS OF PROTECTION ALTERNATIVES

In this section the reader will find alternatives related to the size of the area to be protected. Each is presented with a summary description and a general map. The purpose of presenting boundary alternatives is to enable the reader to identify issues and how different boundary alignments address these issues. Among the primary issues being considered in these alternative alignments are the following relationships:

- ▶ to the protection of the battlefield's features and terrain;
- ▶ to the battle positions;
- ▶ to the protection of the total battlefield;
- ▶ to the protection of scenic and historic landscape;
- ▶ to the towns of Oktaha and Rentiesville;
- ▶ to the development around the battlefield;
- ▶ to present development and land use;
- ▶ to potential new development;
- ▶ to future visitor uses;
- ▶ to the development of park facilities.

COMPATIBLE AND INCOMPATIBLE USES

Much of the land within the historic battlefield area appears to have potential development for many types of structures (e.g. barns, outbuildings, residences, trailer parks, commercial buildings). Such development would detract from the integrity of the battlefield.

In 1863, there were a few structures in the area, for which the exact locations of some are known. Agricultural fields and similar non-structural development use of the area would be compatible with the retention of the integrity of the battlefield.

As development of the site progresses, an attempt may be made to match the historic vegetation patterns within the boundaries of the park. It is anticipated that memoranda of understanding or protective easements may be utilized to maintain or return properties within the historic landscape but outside the boundary of the park.

SUMMARIES OF ALTERNATIVE BOUNDARIES

This section will describe six boundary positions and list potential preservation methods as applicable to each of those boundaries.

► Boundary Number 1 contains approximately fourteen (14%) of the current National Register District [13% of the expanded district] and represents the land administered by the Oklahoma Historical Society as of the date of this report.

- Alternative 1(a). "No Action." No further protection to the land within the current National Register Boundary is planned.

- Alternative 1(b). Exchange portions of the land within the boundary for other "more desirable" land.

- Alternative 1(c). Sell portions of the land within the boundary to acquire funds "for maintenance of a suitable memorial."

► Boundary Number 2 contains approximately twenty-three percent (23%) of the current National Register District [21% of the expanded district] and represents an enlargement of the land in the northern parcel designated in "Boundary Number 1" and includes the positions of Hopkins' Battery and Smith's Battery, as well as portions of the initial battle zone, and Shaw's Inn to the north of the current National Register Boundary. This is a significant improvement over the current status but much of the significant, undisturbed portions of the battlefield remain exposed to modern development. It is most desirable that this land be acquired by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

- Alternative 2(a). National Register of Historic Places addition. [For that portion which is not included in the current National Register District; requires concurrence of State Historic Preservation Office and Keeper of the National Register.]

- Alternative 2(b). Acquisition by Donation. [Donations may be made by the current property owner or by a third party which purchases the land with the intent to donate.]

- Alternative 2(c). Acquisition by Fee Simple Purchase.

- Alternative 2(d). Reserved Interest.

- Alternative 2(e). Lease.

- Alternative 2(f). Conservation Easement.

► Boundary Number 3 contains approximately nineteen percent (19%) of the current National Register District [17% of the expanded district] and represents a corridor of land connecting the two parcels of land depicted in "Boundary Number 1" and includes the highest points in the National Register Boundary; this corridor might contain a walking trail permitting access to the parcels and to the high vantage point on "Rattlesnake Mountain."

- Alternative 3(a). Acquisition by Donation.
- Alternative 3(b). Acquisition by Fee Simple Purchase.
- Alternative 3(c). Reserved Interest.
- Alternative 3(d). Lease.
- Alternative 3(e). Conservation Easement.

► Boundary Number 4 contains approximately ten percent (10%) of the current National Register District [9% of the expanded district] and enlarges the corridor to include the central portion of the battlefield, south of Elk Creek; of the land within the National Register Boundary, a combination of this with the two previous descriptions provides a protected area that includes most of the significant, undisturbed portions of the battlefield. Included in this group of boundaries are most of the positions of the combatants, many of the positions of the field artillery, the Elk Creek fords, and a small portion of Anderson Creek and "Dirty" Creek.

- Alternative 4(a). Acquisition by Donation.
- Alternative 4(b). Conservation Easements.
- Alternative 4(c). Leases.
- Alternative 4(d). Acquisition by Fee Simple Purchase.
- Alternative 4(e). Reserved Interest.

► Boundary Number 5 contains approximately thirty-three percent (33%) of the current National Register District [30% of the expanded district] and extends the protected area to include nearly all of land within the National Register boundary, excepting for the "squaring of corners"; it should be noted that current policy of the Oklahoma Historical Society is that all the land within the National Register Boundary will be acquired.

- Alternative 5(a). Acquisition by Donation.
- Alternative 5(b). Conservation Easements.
- Alternative 5(c). Leases.
- Alternative 5(d). Acquisition by Fee Simple Purchase.
- Alternative 5(e). Reserved Interest.

► Boundary Number 6 extends the protected area to include the land north of the current National Register boundary where first General Cooper and later General Blunt may have viewed the "enemy" forces. The hill also overlooks the area to the north where the Federal troops rested prior to the battle and to the south where Confederate artillery was positioned; it also extends the District to the east and south for the purposes of "squaring up" the parcels. This addition represents ten percent (10%) of the proposed expanded district.

- Alternative 6(a). National Register of Historic Places addition. [Requires concurrence of State Historic Preservation Office and Keeper of the National Register.]
- Alternative 6(b). Conservation Easements.
- Alternative 6(c). Memoranda of Understanding.
- Alternative 6(d). Zoning/Regulations.

The small-scale map of these six alternatives, which follows, provide a summary comparison of their size and configuration.

PROTECTION METHOD

Revision of National Register Forms

In 1970, approximately sixty-three percent (63%) of the Battlefield area was placed on the National Register of Historic Places¹⁰. Effective use of this protection measure would be facilitated through updating the site's National Register status to include those areas known to have been used by combatants, but not now on the Register.

A revision to the National Register form for the Honey Springs Battlefield is important for many of the land protection measures described in the following paragraphs. As a direct measure of land protection, it is only applicable to federal undertakings affecting the site. State or private actions are not affected, unless they are utilizing federal funds, licenses, or privileges.

The revision of the National Register forms for the Battle of Honey Springs is an important action to take as it represents an official determination as to the significance of the site and to the identification and current condition of battlefield resources. National Register determinations are necessary for use of protection strategies, such as tax credits.

Nomination as a National Historic Landmark

Given the significance and excellent state of preservation of the Honey Springs Battlefield, it may qualify for designation as a National Historic Landmark. National Historic Landmark designation provides a higher degree of protection than National Register status.

The Historic Sites Committee of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society has recommended that application be made for this status.

Zoning/Regulations

In the case of the Honey Springs Battlefield, there are no zoning or other protection regulations. Building codes are a prerogative of county government.

¹⁰ United States Department of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places, 29 September 1970, NRIS 70000848, State Historic Preservation Office for Oklahoma.

Fee Interest

Fee simple acquisition of the parcels contained in Boundary Number 2 and Boundary Number 3 would provide the highest degree of protection for the "core" area, the lands within the battlefield in proximity to the present state-owned land. At the Honey Springs Battlefield, the basic purpose of fee acquisition would be to ensure maximum resource protection for the central core of the north center of the battlefield from the ridge down into the central portion of the corridor.

This acquisition, along with the retention of the land within Boundary 1, would result in a central core of fully protected lands for resource preservation and management and visitor use. Also adjacent, intrusive development beside the present state-owned lands could be removed. A "core" protected area, in conjunction with the use of easements for the surrounding lands, would preserve much of the remaining integrity of the battlefield.

In addition, the tracts to the east along the upper part of the ridge would provide access to and space for developing visitor facilities for the north/central/east portions of the battlefield.

Easement Interest

Conservation easements could be effectively used to protect the remaining battlefield included within Boundaries Number 4 and 5 as well as portions of Boundary Number 6. Such easements would ensure retention of the visual qualities of much of the battlefield and protect the resources from being disturbed through development.

INTERPRETIVE TREATMENT

The following interpretive objectives are consistent with and support the potential boundary alignment and protection methods outlined above:

- ▶ Provide for the dual function of interpreting the battle, as well as the effect of the Civil War on the Indian Territory. These functions will be well defined and carefully separated.
- ▶ Concentrate efforts towards ensuring that the primary visitor experience of the battlefield, its excellent aesthetic and historic integrity, is ensured through protection of the historic landscape qualities of the battlefield.
- ▶ Utilize cultural resource management efforts to attempt to recreate historic vegetation patterns and fence patterns and battle position exhibits as lands adjacent to the core area are acquired in fee.

► Develop, in conjunction with other battlefields and military forts in Indian Territory, in northwest Arkansas, and possibly in Kansas the integrated story of the Civil War in this region.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Many organizations and individuals are vitally interested in the preservation, development, and interpretation of the battlefield park. The Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield Park Inc. was organized and chartered by the Oklahoma Secretary of State in 1991. Within a two month period during the summer, the group enrolled several hundred members.

Even though only recently chartered, this group has been active since 1984 when planning for various commemorations and reenactments began. However, even before that groups such as the Oklahoma Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy were active in placing monuments at the site of the springs.

Although the Honey Springs Battlefield Commission is no longer in existence, its work (and many of its former members) is continued by the Honey Springs Battlefield Park Sub-committee of the Historic Sites Committee of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society. The Black Heritage Committee of that Board is also interested in the preservation project.

The Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma Divisions of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Military Order of the Stars and Bars, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy are all active in supporting preservation efforts. Also, the Oklahoma Civil War Roundtable and the Indian Territory Posse of Oklahoma Westerners have not lost the interest which prompted them to send resolutions to the Oklahoma Legislature.

Counselors of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, as well as representatives of the Choctaw and Creek Nations, have expressed a desire to participate in the preservation of the history of the Civil War in Oklahoma.

Utilizing resources provided by the Conservation Fund, the Secretary of the Interior, and funds raised by the organizations listed above, the Oklahoma Historical Society hopes to acquire certain tracts of land within the Honey Springs Battlefield. All such acquisitions will be acquired on the basis of "Willing Seller-Willing Buyer." The agency also plans to negotiate with cooperative land owners to arrange Easements, Conservation Easements, Leases, and Donations to provide for Resource Protection of the Honey Springs Battlefield Park.

APPENDIX A:

PUBLIC LAW 101-628

TITLE XII—CIVIL WAR AND OTHER STUDIES

SEC. 1201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Civil War Sites Study Act of 1990".

SEC. 1202. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this title—

(1) the term "Commission" means the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission established in section 105;

(2) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior; and

(3) the term "Shenandoah Valley Civil War sites" means those sites and structures situated in the Shenandoah Valley in the Commonwealth of Virginia which are thematically tied with the nationally significant events that occurred in the region during the Civil War, including, but not limited to, General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's 1862 "Valley Campaign" and General Philip Sheridan's 1864 campaign culminating in the battle of Cedar Creek on October 19, 1864.

Civil War Sites
Study Act of
1990
Historic
preservation.
16 USC 1a-5
note.
16 USC 1a-5
note.

16 USC 1a-5
note.

SEC. 1203. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) many sites and structures associated with the Civil War which represent important means by which the Civil War may continue to be understood and interpreted by the public are located in regions which are undergoing rapid urban and suburban development; and

(2) it is important to obtain current information on the significance of such sites, threats to their integrity, and alternatives for their preservation and interpretation for the benefit of the Nation.

16 USC 1a-5
note.

SEC. 1204. SHENANDOAH VALLEY CIVIL WAR SITES STUDY.

(a) **STUDY.**—(1) The Secretary is authorized and directed to prepare a study of Shenandoah Valley Civil War sites. Such study shall identify the sites, determine the relative significance of such sites, assess short- and long-term threats to their integrity, and provide alternatives for the preservation and interpretation of such sites by Federal, State, and local governments, or other public or private entities, as may be appropriate. Such alternatives may include, but shall not be limited to, designation as units of the National Park System or as affiliated areas. The study shall examine methods and make recommendations to continue current land use practices, such as agriculture, where feasible.

(2) The Secretary shall designate at least two nationally recognized Civil War historians to participate in the study required by paragraph (1).

(3) The study shall include the views and recommendations of the National Park System Advisory Board.

(b) **TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date that funds are made available for the study referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary shall transmit such study to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate.

16 USC 1a-5
note.

SEC. 1205. ESTABLISHMENT OF CIVIL WAR SITES ADVISORY COMMISSION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is hereby established the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. The Commission shall consist of thirteen members appointed as follows:

(1) Twice individuals who are nationally recognized as experts and authorities on the history of the Civil War, and two individuals who are nationally recognized as experts and authorities in historic preservation and land use planning, appointed by the Secretary.

(2) The Director of the National Park Service or his or her designee.

(3) The chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, or his or her designee.

(4) Three individuals appointed by the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives in consultation with the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

(5) Three individuals appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate in consultation with the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

(b) **CHAIR.**—The Commission shall elect a chair from among its members.

(c) **VACANCIES.**—Vacancies occurring on the Commission shall not affect the authority of the remaining members of the Commission to carry out the functions of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall be promptly filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(d) **QUORUM.**—A simple majority of Commission members shall constitute a quorum.

(e) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet at least quarterly or upon the call of the chair or a majority of the members of the Commission.

(f) **COMPENSATION.**—Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation. Members of the Commission, when engaged in official Commission business, shall be entitled to travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in government service under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(g) **TERMINATION.**—The Commission established pursuant to this section shall terminate 90 days after the transmittal of the report to Congress as provided in section 8(c).

SEC. 1206. STAFF OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The Director of the National Park Service, or his or her designee, shall serve as the Executive Director of the Commission.

(b) **STAFF.**—The Director of the National Park Service shall, on a reimbursable basis, detail such staff as the Commission may require to carry out its duties.

(c) **STAFF OF OTHER AGENCIES.**—Upon the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of such agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties.

(d) **EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.**—Subject to such rules as may be adopted by the Commission, the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services to the same extent as authorized by section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates determined by the Commission to be reasonable.

16 USC 1a-5
note.

SEC. 1207. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.

16 USC 1a-5
note.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission may for the purpose of carrying out this title hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission may deem advisable.

(b) **BYLAWS.**—The Commission may make such bylaws, rules and regulations, consistent with this title, as it considers necessary to carry out its functions under this title.

(c) **DELEGATION.**—When so authorized by the Commission, any member or agent of the Commission may take any action which the Commission is authorized to take by this section.

(d) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and upon the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

16 USC 1a-5
note.

SEC. 1208. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) **PREPARATION OF STUDY.**—The Commission shall prepare a study of historically significant sites and structures in the United States associated with the Civil War, other than Shenandoah Valley Civil War sites. Such study shall identify the sites, determine the relative significance of such sites, assess short- and long-term threats to their integrity, and provide alternatives for the preservation and interpretation of such sites by Federal, State and local governments, or other public or private entities, as may be appropriate. The Commission shall research and propose innovative open space and land preservation techniques. Such alternatives may include but shall not be limited to designation as units of the National Park System or as affiliated areas. The study may include existing units of the National Park System.

(b) **CONSULTATION.**—During the preparation of the study referred to in subsection (a), the Commission shall consult with the Governors of affected States, affected units of local government, State and local historic preservation organizations, scholarly organizations, and such other interested parties as the Commission deems advisable.

(c) **TRANSMITTAL TO THE SECRETARY AND CONGRESS.**—Not later than 2 years after the date that funds are made available for the study referred to in subsection (a), the Commission shall transmit such study to the Secretary and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate.

(d) **REPORT.**—Whenever the Commission submits a report of the study to the Secretary or the Office of Management and Budget, it shall concurrently transmit copies of that report to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate.

APPENDIX B:

REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE MANUEL LUJAN, JR.,
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, TO ANNOUNCE THE
AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM

21 JULY 1990

REMARKS TO ANNOUNCE THE
AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM
SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1990
MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK, VIRGINIA

- o Thank you, Senator Warner and Congressman Slaughter -- and Jim Ridenour, our National Park Service Director. And thank you to all the other committed men and women who share in a concern for the fate of our nation's historic battlefields.
- o This is a very significant day at Manassas, because July 21st marks the 129th anniversary of the Civil War's first major battle. It started early in the morning at the Stone Bridge - less than two miles from where we stand.
- o 900 men -- Union and Confederate -- were killed here in that battle. Yet, we almost lost this historical treasure. Not to a hurricane or a forest fire -- but to a shopping mall.
- o On October 21, 1989, Congress passed a bill to acquire 540 acres of historic ground to be added to Manassas National Battlefield Park. The land was the scene of two critical Civil War battles, and it was about to be converted into a shopping mall. In fact, the very spot from which Robert E. Lee directed his forces would have been in the middle of a parking lot.
- o Even as Congress approved the act, however, there was deep concern by several underlying questions:
 - How could it be that the United States was rushing to spend an unknown but certainly large amount of money on land that was acknowledged to be historic, when it could have been acquired a few years earlier at a fraction of the cost?
 - What could be done about the fact that historic roads through the battlefield had become busy, noisy, and dangerous highways?
 - What about other unprotected historic lands at Manassas and other battlefields that were still vulnerable -- would we wind up acquiring them at some later moment of crisis for an inflated price?
 - And, what about the many other ways of protecting historic properties without Federal acquisitions -- why couldn't this have been handled by our preservation partners in the State Historic Preservation Office, the County Historic Preservation Commission, the National

Trust for Historic Preservation, or some other private sector entity?

- o Little did I know in 1988 that I would soon have the National Park System as part of my stewardship responsibilities, and I would have an even greater need to answer these questions.
- o One of the great lessons of Manassas is that leadership can make the difference between success and failure. Interestingly, leadership seems to be just as important a factor in the struggle to preserve battlefields as it was in the winning of the battles themselves.
- o If we are to bring together the various interests that are always involved in these controversies, if we are to solve the problems without huge Federal "land grabs," if we are to harness the great American volunteer spirit, it must be through leadership.
- o After extensive personal review, I have resolved upon several ways in which I believe the Secretary of the Interior can provide the necessary leadership to give history a fighting chance.
- o Let us begin with a clear understanding of the situation. Battlefields -- especially Civil War battlefields -- are a particularly important part of our national heritage, and they are worthy of our best efforts to protect them.
- o Therefore, we need to improve our ability to preserve such sites -- before investments have been made and before development proposals have been filed -- in short, before the preservation lines have been drawn. We need to deal with protection in a manner that makes good sense for all concerned:
 - for owners who have a right to full use and enjoyment of their private properties;
 - for builders and developers who, after all, are providing the facilities that people need for residences, for commerce, and for other purposes; and,
 - for local governments that need revenue from development or from alternative sources in order to provide the services their citizens demand.
- o Especially, we need to be wary of old knee-jerk reactions, such as Federal acquisition and operation, that only rarely are the best approaches to today's world. Instead, we must develop a comprehensive plan that is sensitive to all groups.

- o I have come to Manassas today to take one critical step forward in achieving that goal by establishing the American Battlefield Protection Program, which ensures that our battlefields will never be lost.
- o By establishing this program, we have at our command today a far-reaching partnership through which we identify historic places and work to encourage their preservation
- o This partnership involves the Federal government, 59 state and Territorial Historic Preservation Offices, over 540 local governments, and both the non-profit and profit-making sectors. We must make better use of all the combinations into which this partnership can be gorged.
- o Some sites are clearly important on a national scale. Others may have only local significance. A carefully chosen few may need to be added to the National Park System. Others -- to State or local park systems, but the majority need to be preserved or commemorated in ways that allow private land owners to maintain title and to use their properties in free and economically productive ways.
- o Finally, some are simply beyond preservation, having suffered so much loss of historical integrity that, although they might still be commemorated with plaques, markers, or exhibits, little is left of the actual historic sites to preserve.
- o These problems are complex, and we are presented with several possibilities for solutions. At this time, we now need a careful and high-level review of these points.
- o Accordingly, I expect to soon create, in cooperation with the Congress, and American Battlefield Sites Advisory Commission - - composed of historical experts and others who, by virtue of their experience, should be able to contribute to this preservation effort.
- o The Commission will include five citizens who are nationally recognized as experts and authorities in the history of the Civil War. In addition, it will include the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, three citizens recommended by the United States Senate and three by the United States House of Representatives.

APPENDIX C:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS RELEASE ON

THE SECRETARY'S PUBLIC COMMENTS



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release: July 21, 1990

Steve Goldstein (O) (202) 208-6418
(W) (202) 887-5268

INTERIOR SECRETARY LUJAN ANNOUNCES NEW "AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PLAN"

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan today unveiled his "American Battlefield Protection Plan," to create a national strategy and a national cooperative effort to protect historic battlefields for future generations of Americans.

"Battlefields represent some of America's most hallowed ground," Lujan said. "They are essential in conveying to citizens of every age how our ancestors fought for our closest held ideals: freedom, democracy, human rights and independence."

"While many of these battlefields are protected by federal or state governments, still others are threatened by incompatible adjacent development. And, unfortunately, last minute efforts to protect endangered sites sometimes result in inefficient and inappropriate expenditures of public and private funds and energies."

"The American Battlefield Protection Plan is designed to bring order in the struggle to protect battlefields from unprecedented development pressures," Lujan said, "and to marshal the limited available resources in effective protection plans based on public and private cooperation and planning."

While the program will extend to battlefields from all conflicts, Lujan said, it will focus initially on Civil War sites and involve federal and state governments, state historic preservation offices and battlefield protection groups.

(more)

The plan has four basic parts:

1. Negotiate with federal, state, regional, and local officials and private conservation organizations to protect imminently threatened properties using creative public and private land use tools such as zoning, historic district designation, land and easement acquisition, technical assistance and land-banking.
2. Develop and disseminate information on public and private battlefield protection projects, such as the plan to protect Richmond National Battlefield and other Civil War sites in the Richmond, Virginia, area.
3. Apply limited Federal funds toward promoting a protective interest in land and leveraging the purchase of land by private conservation organizations and other public agencies.
4. Develop a national strategy to protect other significant battlefield sites not immediately threatened. Expand the documentation and recognition of battlefields from all wars on American soil so that public and private interests may be alerted to protect sites worthy of preservation.

Lujan said he would propose the following parks (listed by state) as priority parks for the American Battlefield Protection Program:

Alabama--Blakeley, Fort Morgan; Arkansas--Prairie Grove Battlefield Park; Georgia--Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Resaca; Kentucky--Mill Springs, Perryville Battlefield; Louisiana--Port Hudson; Maryland--Antietam National Battlefield, Monocacy National Battlefield; Mississippi--Corinth, Corinth Siege; Missouri--Byram's Ford Historic District; New Mexico--Glorieta Pass Battlefield; North Carolina--Port Fisher; Pennsylvania--Gettysburg National Military Park; Tennessee--Franklin Battlefield, Stones River national Battlefield; Virginia--Brandy Station, Glendale, New Market Heights, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Shenandoah Valley, The Wilderness; West Virginia--Harpers Ferry national Historical Park.

-DOI-

APPENDIX D:

THE TEXAS ROAD¹¹

Also known as the Osage Trace, the Shawnee Trail, and later the Sedalia Trail, the Texas Road dates back to at least 1802 when Osage travelled from Missouri to trade at August Chouteau's posts along the Grand River and at the Tree Forks locale, some fifteen miles north of Honey Springs (Cheek 1976:3; Foreman 1936). In the 1820s, as emigrants settled the Texas frontier, the route was extended south into north-central Texas. Between 1830 and 1850, the route became a major north-south road for resettled Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, and Chickasaw as well as for emigrants and supplies to Texas (Figure 2; Foreman 1936:112, Note #5; Gibson 1976:228). Federal troops from Fort Gibson and Fort Washita used the trail as a military road to protect resettled Indians from the Wild tribes to the west. By 1854, the Shawnee Trail was a recognized and important cattle driving route (Gard 1969:27-28), and, after the Civil War, it continued to be a principal trail for Texas drovers taking longhorn cattle north to Missouri railheads. After 1867, when Joseph McCoy opened a stockyard in Abilene, Kansas, new shipping points opened almost monthly in central and western Kansas (Gard 1969:70). To serve these new railheads, other trails, including the famous Chisholm Trail, were blazed, but some of these used part of the existing Shawnee Trail through the southern part of Indian Territory before veering off to the east or west beyond the Canadian River. Other trails crossed the Red River farther west in Indian Territory and resulted in more direct routes with more reliable sources of water and forage than the Shawnee Trail (Hunter 1963:ix-x). Consequently, although traffic lessened on the Shawnee or Texas Trail, it continued to be an important route for north-south travellers and drovers in eastern Oklahoma.

Besides being a primary route for Texas and Oklahoma settlers, on July 17, 1863, the Texas Road figured prominently in one of the decisive Civil War battles of the Trans-Mississippi region. During the late 1850s border hostilities and subsequent 1861-1863 period of declared armed conflict, the Texas Road was used by Southern sympathizing refugees, by bands of Union and Confederate guerrillas, and by Confederate troops and supply trains needed to hold and expand control of eastern Oklahoma, northwestern Arkansas, and southwest Missouri. Thus in July of 1863, the Honey Springs rest stop became a staging point of some 6,000 Confederate Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Texas troops under Brigadier-General D. H. Cooper (Fischer 1970).

Meanwhile, Union forces tenuously held northeast Oklahoma lying north of the Arkansas River, and a beleaguered Union

¹¹ Yates, et. al., op. cit., pp. 31-35.

detachment occupied Fort Gibson, just fifteen miles northeast of the Confederates (Fischer 1974:20-22). On July 11, 1863, Major General J. G. Blunt arrived at Fort Gibson with fresh troops and supplies from Kansas. Without delay he began probing actions to the south while moving men to the Arkansas River's south bank. On July 16, between 3,000 and 4,500 Colorado, Kansas, Wisconsin, and Indian troopers marched south, down the Texas Road, to within five miles of the Honey Springs encampment (Blunt 1888:447; Schaurte 1888:451). On the morning of the seventeenth, the Union soldiers advanced to within a half mile of the Confederates, who by this time were deployed in an east-west line in the woods on the north and south sides of Elk Creek (Gibson n.d.:2; Howland 1937:392).

Before engaging the enemy, Blunt used the Texas Road to position the Union troops and to form them into a desirable line of battle (Figures 3 and 38; Blunt 1888:447; Schuarte 1888:451; Smith 1888:454). During the ensuing battle, this road served as a principal landmark in the rugged, wooded terrain. In fact, the Kansas Battery apparently followed the Texas Road south across Elk Creek, through the bordering woods, and to a vantage point where the cannons could easily shell the fleeing rebels (Hopkins 1888:456-457). In conclusion, the several battlefield reports clearly attest that the Texas Road was the major north-south landmark during the battle of Elk Creek.

Location and Identification Problems. Grant Foreman, renowned historian of the region and the Texas Road (1936), wrote an interesting history of the trail but provided little information on its exact route. Despite many historical references to the Texas Road, few details exist about its course and character through specific localities. The trail appears on most maps as a line between two points, for example, between Fort Gibson and Honey Springs and North Fork Town. Surprisingly, military maps of the period show no greater detail (Figures 7 and 8). Apparently because few roads or trails extended through the Indian Nations, few landmarks were needed for existing routes; everyone in the area must have known the route to Kansas or Texas.

Near Honey Springs, the original route of the Texas Road became almost inextricably mixed with those of local wagon trails. From 1865 to 1898, when the area was finally laid out in townships, numerous wagon trails were established to haul corn and cotton from farmsteads to local markets. These local trails gradually were phased out as section roads were opened, and occasionally they often criss-crossed previous wagon trails. Consequently, a maze of rutted areas exist through and around the Honey Springs Battlefield. Within this maze are the Texas Road, numerous post-Civil War trails, and some twentieth century section and half-section line roads. Finally, identification is further compounded by plowed fields that obliterate ruts, by historic erosion that has filled in ruts or eroded them into gullies in cleared but unplowed fields, and by bedrock exposures where ruts were never preserved.

APPENDIX E:

THE CIVIL WAR IN INDIAN TERRITORY¹²

Nowhere was America's Civil War more intense or its impact more severe than in Indian Territory, present-day Oklahoma. Every able-bodied male in the area fought either with the Confederacy or the United States, and many fought with both. Death and destruction prevailed for four years.

As war neared in 1860-1861, neutrality appeared unlikely for the Five Civilized Tribes of Indian Territory. Their relations with both the southern states and the Federal government had been unpleasant. Each had forced their removal from the lower South.

Washington authorities controlled the investments of the tribes and owed them large sums of money, all of which would be lost if they changed allegiance. But many Indians held slaves, and the Federal agents assigned to them were southerners, and actively sympathetic with the secession movement. Moreover, their nearest neighbors were Arkansas and Texas, both determined to keep Indian Territory with them in secession.

Confederate Treaties

As Texas troops moved into Indian Territory in April, 1861, to capture Forts Washita, Arbuckle, and Cobb, these Federal posts were abandoned and their inadequate forces recalled for services in the East. This action removed the last United States Army troops, and the Indians were without a guardian. The abandonment of the area and its occupation by the South made tribal support of the Confederate government necessary. The alternative was unaided opposition.

Captain Albert Pike of Arkansas, already well known to the Indians, was sent to Indian Territory in May, 1861, by the Confederates to negotiate treaties of alliance. The Choctaws, Chickasaws, and Seminoles readily agreed, but only a faction of the Creeks signed. Chief John Ross of the Cherokees managed at first to keep his tribe officially neutral. But a serious split occurred and Colonel Stand Watie began raising troops for the Confederate army. Finally, in October, Ross reluctantly signed with the Confederacy. Most other tribes in the territory also allied with the South.

¹² LeRoy H. Fischer, Ph.D., "The Civil War in Indian Territory," *Battle of Honey Springs, 1863-1988, Official Program*, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press [for the Oklahoma Historical Society], 1988), pp. 8-10.

In these treaties the Confederacy took over the obligations of the United States. The Indians were required to furnish troops for their own defense, but were not to serve outside of Indian Territory. The Confederacy promised protection against invasion and domestic uprisings, and agreed to include Indian delegates in its congress.

Indian Regiments Formed

The Confederate government in May, 1861, authorized three Indian regiments for service; four were organized. Colonel Douglas H. Cooper, a former Indian agent, commanded the Choctaw-Chickasaw regiment; and Colonel John Drew commanded the Cherokee regiment whose officers were supporters of Chief Ross. A month before the Ross unit was organized, Watie had formed a regiment of his own followers who were staunchly sympathetic with the Confederacy. Together the four regiments numbered well over 5,000 men, and involved approximately 10,000 men before the war ended.

Creeks and Seminoles Flee

Opothleyahola, revered leader of the Upper Creeks, assembled 6,000 Union sympathizers among the Creeks and Seminoles. By early November this expedition of men, women, children, and movable property sought sanctuary in Kansas.

Colonel Cooper, with an Indian and Texan regiment, was fast on Opothleyahola's trail, and attacked at Round Mountain on November 19, 1861, the first battle of the war in Indian Territory. Opothleyahola's forces suffered additional assaults at Chusto-Talasa and Chustenahlah. Because they were traveling to Kansas in mid-winter, they also lost large numbers from exposure and starvation.

Confederate Indians Fight

General Pike returned from Richmond in February, 1862, and was immediately placed in command of Indian Territory forces. The Federals in Missouri were then driving the defending Confederates into Arkansas, and Pike was requested to supply troops. In violation of treaty provisions, he sent two Cherokee regiments, who fought largely against their will in the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, March 6-8, 1862. In this Confederate defeat, Watie's forces captured a battery of artillery, although he was not present. Confederate Indian troops also participated in the Battle of Poison Springs, Arkansas (1864), again captured a Federal battery and assisted in taking a large wagon train.

First Federal Invasion

The Federal invading expedition of June and July, 1862, developed primarily because of the sympathy of Kansans and the determination of Union Indians. Its chief purpose was to return the fugitive Indians to their homes in Indian Territory. Six Kansas regiments, one Wisconsin regiment, and two regiments of Indian refugees made up the force. The Confederates gave little opposition and were defeated at the battles of Cowskin Prairie and Locust Grove.

At Park Hill the Federals were almost welcomed by Chief Ross, who saw the remainder of his Confederate regiment enroll in the Union army. Rations were nearly exhausted, and, amid rumors that Watie's forces were closing in, the decision was made to withdraw to Kansas. Violence and destruction followed in the Cherokee Nation.

Second Federal Invasion

The Union Indian Brigade and a Kansas brigade, commanded by General James G. Blunt, moved into the Territory and defeated Colonel Cooper's forces at Fort Wayne, opposite the Arkansas line, on October 22, 1862. Fort Gibson, near Muskogee, was soon occupied by units under Colonel William A. Phillips.

Heartened by Federal victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, and reinforced by additional troops from Kansas, Colorado, and Wisconsin, General Blunt determined to break Confederate resistance in Indian Territory. The armies clashed in the climactic Battle of Honey Springs, about twenty miles southwest of Fort Gibson, on July 17, 1863. Blunt, with 3,000 men, defeated Cooper's force of Indians and Texans which numbered 6,000.

The Confederates were at a decided disadvantage because of wet powder and the vigorous attack of the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment, who were informed before the battle that if taken captive no quarter would be given. Honey Springs was significant as one of the earliest engagements of the war in which blacks proved their abilities as fighting men. This battle was also important in that it opened the way for Blunt's capture of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and assured United States control of Indian Territory.

Federal March South

Even after Fort Smith was occupied in September, 1863, by Union forces, Confederate resistance in Indian Territory continued. Colonel Phillips led 1,500 Union soldiers from Fort Gibson south to a point near the Texas border in February, 1864, intent upon

bringing the area under control, and to offer the amnesty terms provided in President Lincoln's proclamation of the previous December. His purpose was not only to obtain formal repudiation of Confederate treaties with the tribes, but also to gain active support among the Indians.

Phillips' tactics were hardly conducive to friendly relations. He told his men: "Those who are still in arms are rebels, and ought to die. Do not kill a prisoner after he has surrendered. But I do not ask you to take prisoners. I do ask you to make your footsteps severe and terrible." Phillips sent side parties from his main column to clean out Confederate pockets and to distribute copies of Lincoln's amnesty proclamation, which were printed in the Indians' languages. To each tribe he wrote: "I think you understand that I am in earnest. Do you want peace? If so, let me know before we come to destroy." The countryside was systematically and totally laid waste. A large quantity of forage and equipment was halted to Fort Gibson in an ox train of confiscated wagons and teams. At Middle Boggy, near present-day Atoka, a sharp engagement occurred when a detachment from Phillips' force came upon a group of Confederate soldiers, forty-seven of whom were killed, with many additional wounded. In all, Phillips marched about 400 miles, killed 250 Confederates, lost none of his own men, and returned only when his ammunition ran low. He was away from Fort Gibson for nearly a month, and, except for six day's rations, subsisted off the countryside. But his mission was only partially successful, for it served to strengthen Confederate Indian resistance in the Territory, while it made no converts to the Union.

General Watie's Activities

Colonel Phillips had his Confederate counterpart in Stand Watie, a persistent and implacable enemy of Union Indians. After defeat at the Battle of Honey Springs, full-scale Confederate resistance was no longer possible. At this point the military talents of Watie, best suited to guerrilla actions, earned him the sobriquet, "The Indian Swamp Fox," because his style of warfare was modeled after that of General Francis Marion of Revolutionary War fame.

Following Phillips' march, Watie burned much of Tahlequah and destroyed the home of Chief Ross at Park Hill. Then in June of 1864 his dramatic capture of the Union Steamboat *J. R. Williams*, enroute from Fort Smith to Fort Gibson on the Arkansas River, cheered despondent Confederates. The cargo, consisting of food, clothing, and other provisions, and valued at \$120,000, was probably the largest ever sent by water into Indian Territory. Watie ambushed the vessel with a three-gun artillery battery and a cavalry party, causing the Union guard of twenty-five to hastily desert the vessel. Loaded with loot, Watie's Indians scattered to visit their destitute families. The General could do little until

his soldiers returned.

The outstanding Confederate military achievement of 1864 in Indian Territory was the brilliant capture of a Federal supply wagon train at Cabin Creek in September by Watie and General Richard M. Gano of Texas. Watie and Gano had recently burned an estimated 5,000 tons of hay and killed a party of forty Federal blacks engaged in the harvest. Then they continued by the Texas Road to Cabin Creek, where they encountered a large Federal supply train, enroute from Fort Scott, Kansas, to Fort Gibson. The train contained food, clothing, and other provisions valued at \$1,500,000, and was intended for the 16,000 refugee Indians in and around Fort Gibson who were loyal to the United States. The Confederates partially encircled the Federal force guarding the train and subjected it to an effective cross fire. Meantime, the mule teams became unmanageable and stampeded, causing teamsters, wagonmasters, and the train guard to hastily retreat in the direction of Fort Scott. The Confederates burned the disabled wagons, killed the crippled mules, and took over the remaining 130 wagons and 740 mules. Success came too late. While Confederates in Indian Territory were greatly encouraged by this victory, the Federals soon replaced their loss, resupplied Fort Gibson, and no longer considered Watie a serious menace.

Confederates Surrender

When spring came the following year, not even General Watie took to the field with his usual aggressiveness. He knew the Confederacy was doomed, but decided to wait upon events. Belated news drifted his way of the capitulation of General Robert E. Lee to General U. S. Grant on April 9, 1865; General E. Kirby Smith, in command of the Trans-Mississippi Department, surrendered on May 26. General Watie, however, made no effort to give up, and kept a small force together until a detachment of Federal troops sought him out at Doaksville, deep in the Choctaw Nation, on June 23. He was the last Confederate general to lay down his arms.

APPENDIX F:

"ENGAGEMENT AT ELK CREEK, NEAR HONEY SPRINGS,

INDIAN TERRITORY, JULY 17, 1863"¹³

REPORTS.

- No. 1.-- Maj. Gen. James G. Blunt, U. S. Army, commanding District of the Frontier
No. 2.-- Lieut. Col. John Bowles, First Kansas Colored Infantry, Judson's brigade.
No. 3.-- Lieut. Col. Frederick W. Schuarte, Second Indian Home Guards.
No. 4.-- Lieut. Col. William T. Campbell, Sixth Kansas Cavalry.
No. 5.-- Capt. Edward R. Stevens, Third Wisconsin Cavalry.
No. 6.-- Capt. Edward A. Smith, Second Kansas Battery.
No. 7.-- Maj. J. Nelson Smith, Second Colorado Infantry, Phillips' brigade.
No. 8.-- Col. Stephen H. Wattles, First Indian Home Guards.
No. 9.-- Capt. Henry Hopkins, Hopkins' Kansas Battery.
No. 10.-- Brig. Gen. Douglas H. Cooper. C. S. Army, commanding consolidated forces.

No. 1

*Report of Maj. Gen. James G. Blunt, U. S. Army,
commanding District of the Frontier*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF THE FRONTIER,
In the Field, Fort Blunt, C. N., July 26, 1863

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that, on my arrival here on the 11th instant, I found the Arkansas River swollen, and at once commenced the construction of boats to cross my troops.

The rebels, under General Cooper (6,000), were posted on Elk Creek, 25 miles south of the Arkansas, on the Texas road, with strong outposts guarding every crossing of the river from behind rifle-pits. General Cabell, with 3,000 men, was expected to join him on the 17th, when they proposed attacking this place. I could not muster 3,000 effective men for a fight, but determined, if I could effect a crossing, to give them battle on the other side of the river.

¹³ Scott, Robert N., et al., Editors. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series I--Volume XXII--In Two Parts. Part I--Reports.* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1888), pp. 447-462. [Note: Footnotes appearing in the original will instead appear in brackets within the text.--Rwj.]

At midnight of the 15th, I took 250 cavalry and four pieces of light artillery, and marched up the Arkansas about 13 miles, drove their pickets from the opposite bank, and forded the river, taking the ammunition chests over in a flat-boat. I then passed down on the south side, expecting to get in the rear of their pickets at the mouth of the Grand River, opposite this post, and capture them, but they had learned of my approach and had fled. I immediately commenced crossing my forces at the mouth of Grand River in boats, and, by 10 p.m. of the 16th, commenced moving south, with less than 3,000 men, mostly Indians and negroes, and twelve pieces of artillery. At daylight I came upon the enemy's advance about 5 miles from Elk Creek, and with my cavalry drove them in rapidly upon their main force, which was formed on the south side of the timber of Elk Creek, their line extending $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the main road running through their center.

While the column was closing up, I went forward with a small party to examine the enemy's position, and discovered that they were concealed under cover of the brush awaiting my attack. I could not discover the location of their artillery, as it was masked in the brush. While engaged in this reconnaissance, one of my escort was shot.

As my men came up wearied and exhausted, I directed them halted behind a little ridge, about one-half mile from the enemy's line, to rest and eat a lunch from their haversacks. After two hours' rest, and at about 10 a.m., I formed them in two columns, one on the right of the road, under Colonel [William R.] Judson, the other on the left, under Colonel [William A.] Phillips. The infantry was in column by companies, the cavalry by platoons and artillery by sections, and all closed in mass so as to deceive the enemy in regard to the strength of my force. In this order I moved up rapidly to within one-fourth of a mile of their line, when both columns were suddenly deployed to the right and left, and in less than five minutes my whole force was in line of battle, covering the enemy's entire front. Without halting, I moved them forward in line of battle, throwing out skirmishers in advance, and soon drew their fire, which revealed the location of their artillery. The cavalry, which was on the two flanks, was dismounted, and fought on foot with their carbines. In a few moments the entire force was engaged. My men steadily advanced into the edge of the timber, and the fighting was unremitting and terrific for two hours, when the center of the rebel lines, where they had massed their heaviest force, became broken, and they commenced a retreat. In their rout I pushed them vigorously, they making several determined stands, especially at the bridge over Elk Creek, but were each time repulsed. In their retreat they set fire to their commissary buildings, which were 2 miles south of where the battle commenced, destroying all their supplies. I pursued them about 3 miles to the prairie south of Elk Creek, where my artillery horses could draw the guns no farther, and the cavalry horses and infantry were completely exhausted from fatigue. The enemy's cavalry still hovered in my front, and about 4 p.m. General Cabell came in sight with 3,000 re-enforcements. My ammunition was nearly exhausted,

yet I determined to bivouac on the field, and risk a battle in the morning if they desired it, but the morning revealed the fact that during the night they had retreated south of the Canadian River.

The enemy's loss was as follows: Killed upon the field and buried by my men, 150; wounded, 400; and 77 prisoners taken, 1 piece of artillery, 1 stand of colors, 200 stand of arms, and 15 wagons, which I burned. My loss is 17 killed, 60 wounded, most of them slightly.* [* But see revised statement, p. 449 (p. 66 this appendix).]

My forces engaged were the First, Second, and Third Indian, First Kansas (colored), detachments of the Second Colorado, Sixth Kansas, and Third Wisconsin Cavalry, Hopkins' battery of four guns, two sections of Second Kansas Battery, under Capt. E. A. Smith, and four howitzers attached to the cavalry.

Much credit is due to all of them for their gallantry. The First Kansas (colored) particularly distinguished itself; they fought like veterans, and preserved their line unbroken throughout the engagement. Their coolness and bravery I have never seen surpassed; they were in the hottest of the fight, and opposed to Texas troops twice their number, whom they completely routed. One Texas regiment (the Twentieth Cavalry) that fought against them went into the fight with 300 men and came out with only 60. It would be invidious to make particular mention of any one where all did their duty so well.

I am indebted to Col. Thomas Moonlight, chief of staff; Capt. H. G. Loring, acting assistant adjutant-general, and Captains Cox and Kinter, of the Fourth and Fifth Indian Regiments, acting aides-de-camp, for valuable aid rendered during the engagement.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES G. BLUNT,
Major-General

Maj. Gen. JOHN M. SCHOFIELD,
Commanding Department of the Missouri,

P.S.--I have designated this engagement as the "Battle of Honey Springs," that being the headquarters of General Cooper, on Elk Creek, in the immediate vicinity of the battle-field.

*Return of Casualties in the Union forces in the Engagement
at Elk Creek; near Honey Springs, Ind. T., July 17, 1863.
[Complied from nominal list of casualties, returns, &c.]*

Command	E . M . K i l l e d	Wounded		A g g r e g a t e
		O f f i c e r s	E n l i s t e d	
2d Colorado	5	...	14	19
1st Indian Home Guards	2	...	6	8
2d Indian Home Guards	*3	...	3	6
3d Indian Home Guards .....	...	...	2	2
2nd Kansas (colored)	2	1	29	32
2nd Kansas Battery .....	...	...	1	1
Hopkins' Kansas Battery	1	...	1	1
6th Kansas Cavalry .....	...	...	5	5
2d Wisconsin Cavalry + .....	...	...	...	...
TOTAL.....	13	1	61	75

[* Drowned while crossing the Arkansas River, en route to field of battle.]

[+ No loss reported.]

No. 2.

*Report of Lieut. Col. John Bowles,
First Kansas Colored Infantry, Judson's Brigade*

FORT BLUNT, C. N., July 20, 1863

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the First Regiment Kansas Colored Volunteers at the battle of Honey Springs, July 17, 1863:

Previous to forming a line of battle, Colonel [James M.] Williams was informed that his regiment would occupy the right and support Captain Smith's battery. Colonel Williams then called "attention," and said to the men, "I want you all to keep cool, and not fire until you receive the command; in all cases aim deliberately and below the waist. I want every man to do his whole duty, and obey strictly the orders of his officers." We then moved in column, by company, to the position assigned us, and formed in line

of battle, when the engagement was opened by the battery. After the lapse of ten minutes, during which time the fire from the battery was incessant, General Blunt came in person to Colonel Williams, and said, "I wish you to move your regiment to the front and support this battery (which was already in motion); I wish you to keep an eye to those guns of the enemy, and take them at the point of the bayonet, if an opportunity offers." Colonel Williams then made some remarks to the men, intimating that we had work to do, and ordered them to "fix bayonet." We then moved to the front and center, forming to the right of a section of Smith's battery, consisting of two 12-pounder field pieces, that had already taken position within 300 yards of the enemy's lines, which was only apparent by the smoke from the frequent firing of their battery, so completely were they concealed by the brush in their position. Quite a number of rounds of shell and canister had been fired from our guns, when our gallant colonel gave the command "forward," and every man stepped promptly and firmly in his place, advancing in good order until within 40 paces of the concealed foe, when we halted on the right of the Second Colorado. Colonel Williams then gave the command, "Ready, aim, fire," and immediately there went forth two long lines of smoke and flame, the one from the enemy putting forth at the same instant, as if mistaking the command as intended for themselves, or as a demonstration of their willingness to meet us promptly.

At this juncture Colonel Williams fell, he and his horse at the same instant; Colonel Williams badly wounded in the right breast, face, and hands. Being on the right, and partly shut out from view of the left by the thick brush, I was, therefore, ignorant of the fact that Colonel Williams had fallen, and could not inform myself until it was too late to give the command "charge bayonet," for which every man seemed so anxiously awaiting. In the mean time the firing was incessant along the line, except on the extreme right, where some of our Indians had ridden in the brush between us and the enemy. I immediately ordered them to fall back, and to the right. The enemy, which has since proven to have been the Twenty-ninth Texas Regiment, commanded by Colonel De Morse in person, who was badly wounded in the right arm, supposed from the command that we were giving way in front, and, like true soldiers, commenced to press, as they supposed, a retreating foe. They advanced to within 25 paces, when they were met by a volley of musketry that sent them back in great confusion and disorder. Their color-bearer fell, but the colors were immediately raised, and again promptly shot down. A second time they were raised, and again I caused a volley to be fired upon them, when they were left by the enemy as a trophy to our well-directed musketry.

As soon as I learned of Colonel Williams having been severely wounded and having left the field, I assumed command, our right pressing the enemy back to a corn-field, where he broke and fled in confusion. Further pursuit being impossible on account of the nature of the ground, I ordered the right back to our original line of battle. At this time Lieutenant-Colonel [F.W.] Schaurte, of the Second Indian, sent an orderly informing me of the near approach of

his command, and that he wished to pass to the front, and I would please inform my command of the fact, to prevent accident. Some of his command passed to our front and carried off the colors we had three times shot down and driven the enemy from in defeat and loss. Some of my officers and men shouted out in remonstrance, and asked permission to break ranks and get them. I refused permission, and told them the matter could be righted here-after.

Lieutenant-Colonel Moonlight, chief of staff, ordered us to the front. We advanced in line for a distance of 3 miles, skirmishing occasionally with the enemy from the high bluffs in front and to the left. The enemy being completely routed and defeated, we were ordered to fall back to the Springs, rest the men, and cook supper.

At 7 p.m. we were ordered to take position on the battlefield, near the ford, on Elk Creek, and bivouac for the night.

Our total on entering the battle was 500 men, including the commissioned officers. Our total in killed and wounded was 2 killed and 30 wounded.* [* But see revised statement, p. 449 (page 66 this appendix).]

* * * * * [omitted in the original] * * * * *

In conclusion, I feel it but justice and my duty to state that the officers and men throughout the entire regiment behaved nobly, and with the coolness of veterans. Each seemed to vie with the other in the performance of his duty, and it was with the greatest gratification that I witnessed their gallant and determined resistance under the most galling fire. Where all performed their duty so well it would be hard to particularize.

J. BOWLES,

Lieut. Col., Comdg. First Regiment Kansas Colored Vols.

Col. WILLIAM R. JUDSON,

Commanding First Brigade, Army of the Frontier.

No. 3.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Frederick W. Schaurte,
Second Indian Home Guards.*

FORT BLUNT, C.N., July 20, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to forward to you the following report of the battle on Elk Creek, Creek Nation, July 17,, 1863, in which my regiment was engaged:

I was ordered to get all my available force in readiness to march on Thursday, July 16, 1863. My command consisted of field and staff officers, Major [M.B.C.] Wright, Surg. A. J. Ritchie, Adjutant [Ezra W.] Robinson, Chaplain J. B. Jones, and Sergt. Maj. Ed. Baldridge; of line officers, 4 captains, 9 first lieutenants, and 5 second lieutenants; of enlisted men, 345, 10 of whom were

mounted. Total, 368.

My command crossed the Arkansas River, below the mouth of Grand River, at 11 p.m. on the 16th instant. Three privates of Company F. Second Regiment Indian Brigade, were drowned while attempting to swim the river--Privates Huston Mayfield, Key Dougherty, and To-cah-le-ges-kie. We moved forward on the Texas road (course west of south), and arrived at camp, to the north of and near Elk Creek timber, at 8.45 o'clock, July 17, 1863. About an hour afterward I received orders to get my command in readiness, and take position in close column of companies in rear of the First Kansas Colored Regiment. The First Brigade, of which my regiment formed a part, moved forward in close column of companies, on the right of the Texas road, and formed in line of battle near and in front of Elk Creek timber. About 10.20 a.m. Blair's battery, consisting of four pieces, commanded by Capt. E. A. Smith, commenced firing. Soon afterward the right section changed position from the right to the left of the brigade, supported by the First Kansas Colored Regiment. As soon as the artillery ceased firing I was ordered to deploy my command as skirmishers, and enter the timber. My command continued to act as skirmishers during the entire engagement, which lasted about four hours. The enemy were repulsed from the field, and pursued till pursuing became useless, they being well mounted and our men worn down with fatigue. A little after 2 o'clock my command was ordered back to camp on Elk Creek, where it remained until 5 p.m., July 18, 1863, when we were ordered to march for Fort Blunt, on the same route pursued in going to the scene of action. We camped about 12 p.m., on the prairie 2 miles south of the Arkansas River. My command left camp soon after sunrise, and arrived at Fort Blunt at 11 a.m., July 19, 1863.

A stand of colors was captured by my men; also a quantity of arms; the number I could not ascertain, as the men threw them in a pile whenever they found them.

The casualties of my command are as follows: Private Huston Mayfield, Company F, drowned in the Arkansas; Private Key Dougherty, Company F, drowned in the Arkansas; Private Tocah-le-ges-kie, Company F, drowned in the Arkansas; Private Grass, Company B, wounded in left side, severely; Private Backwater, Company A, right thigh broken, wound mortal; Private Leach Rice, Company I, right hand wounded slightly.

I feel it my duty to state that the officers and men of my command behaved nobly and gallantly. They were the first who charged through Elk Creek and took position in the farther edge of the timber, opposite to where the enemy had massed their forces for the time.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRED. W. SCHAURTE,

Lieut. Col. Second Regiment Indian Brigade, Comdg. Regiment.

ACTING ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL,

Brigade, Army of the Frontier

No. 4.

*Report of Lieut. Col. William T. Campbell,
Sixth Kansas Cavalry.*

CAMP NEAR FORT BLUNT, C. N., July 19, . 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report the part taken by my command, consisting of Companies A, C, F, and H, commanded, respectively, by Lieutenant [Thomas J.] Darling, Lieutenant [Richard L.] Phillips, Captain [William] Gordon, and Captain [David] Mefford; also section of mountain howitzers, under Lieutenant [John P.] Grassberger, in action on the 17th instant, at Honey Springs, Creek Nation.

My command left camp at 4 o'clock on the morning of the 16th instant, with a section of Second Kansas Battery, crossing the Verdigris and Arkansas Rivers without loss. After a halt of a few hours, I, with my command, was ordered to take the advance, Company F, Captain Gordon, being advance guard. About daybreak the advance came up with the enemy in considerable force, posted on a rise of ground, and near the timber. The captain immediately formed his men and opened a brisk fire on the enemy, but was compelled by superior numbers to fall back. I brought the rest of my command forward at a gallop to the support of the advance, and, after a sharp skirmish, drove the enemy from his position, with a loss of 1 killed and 3 wounded. Private Banks, of Company C, and Allingham, of Company F, were slightly wounded; also had 1 horse killed. I then advanced and came up with the enemy, posted in force under cover of timber at Elk Creek. Here I came to a halt, and sent a company forward to reconnoiter; found the enemy strongly posted in the woods, their line extending on the right and left of the road. I kept up a brisk fire on them; they, however, kept under cover. Private White was here shot through the shoulder. At 7 o'clock I was transferred from the command of Colonel Judson to that of Colonel Phillips (Colonel Judson retaining the section of howitzers), and assigned to the extreme left of our line of battle. Shortly after the general engagement commenced, I discovered the enemy endeavoring to flank us, under cover of timber. I immediately dismounted Companies C, F, and H, and sent them into the woods as skirmishers, and after sharp work of about an hour and a half succeeded in driving the enemy back, and turning his right flank, with slight loss. During this time, Colonel [S.H.] Wattles, First Indian Regiment, made a gallant charge, driving the enemy from his position, which relieved my flank. I immediately recalled my men, and, after obtaining a supply of ammunition, mounted and started in pursuit. Shortly after crossing the creek, I charged into a large body of rebels, whom I took to be Stand Watie's Indians and Texans. They retreated to the woods, where they made a stand. My men dismounted and opened a vigorous fire, which together with a section of Hopkins' battery and the mountain howitzers, soon put them to flight. I followed on until ordered to cease pursuit, the enemy retreating in great disorder. Hospital Steward Holdeman was badly wounded while on the field.

I state with great pleasure that the officers and men under my command behaved, without exception, coolly and bravely.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. CAMPBELL,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Regiment.

Col. WILLIAM R. JUDSON,
Commanding Troops in the Field, &c.

No. 5.

*Report of Capt. Edward R. Stevens,
Third Wisconsin Cavalry.*

CAMP NEAR FORT BLUNT,
July 19, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report on the part taken by the battalion of the Third Cavalry Wisconsin Volunteers in the action at Honey Springs, on the 17th instant:

My command was formed in battle order on the right about 10 a.m., in accordance with your orders, and moved forward toward the enemy, posted in the edge of the timber. A portion of my battalion was sent further on to the right, for the purpose of flanking the enemy. The howitzers, which we were supporting at this point, opened upon the enemy, posted behind a rail fence, in the edge of a corn-field. These two movements forced the enemy to fall back upon their center. Dismounting a portion of my command, I skirmished the woods, capturing 98 prisoners, with their arms, and, following the enemy through the timber, I encamped on the prairie beyond.

I am highly gratified to speak in terms of praise of the conduct of officers and men under my command, and of their bravery and promptness in obeying orders. The able manner in which our force was handled in other parts of the field drew the attention of the enemy in such a manner that they inflicted no loss upon my command.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. R. STEVENS,
Capt. Third Wisconsin Volunteer Cavalry, Comdg. Battalion.

Col. WILLIAM R. JUDSON,
Commanding Brigade.

No. 6.

*Report of Capt. Edward A. Smith,
Second Kansas Battery*

CAMP NEAR FORT BLUNT, C. N., July 19, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken by the Second Kansas Battery in the battle of Honey Springs, on the 17th instant:

My command consisted of two 12-pounder brass guns and two 6-pounder iron guns, manned by 77 officers and men. At 3 a.m. of the 16th instant, my two 6-pounder guns, under Lieutenant [Aristarchus] Wilson, were ordered out to assist the Sixth Kansas Volunteers in forcing a passage at the upper ford of the Arkansas. This was effected without opposition, and that portion of the command proceeded to the ford at the mouth of Grand River, where I rejoined it at 5 p.m. of the same day with the 12-pounder guns. The march was continued during the night in the direction of Honey Springs, Creek Nation, and at 8 a.m. of the 17th we came in sight of the enemy's line on Elk Creek. After a rest of two hours, I was ordered forward, preceded by the Third Wisconsin Cavalry, and supported by the First Regiment Kansas Colored Volunteers and the Second Regiment Indian Home Guards. Changing direction to the right of the road, I continued in that direction about 600 yards, when I wheeled the battery into line, and moved down upon the left of the enemy's line, which could be faintly discerned through the timber and brush. At this moment the Rebel batteries on their right opened upon Captain Hopkins' battery, in Colonel Phillips' brigade. By direction of General Blunt, I came forward at a trot, and went into battery facing the rebel guns on my left. A single shot from one of their rifled guns flew over my head as I went into position. I opened with spherical-case shot, shell, and solid shot on the rebel batteries, which were soon silenced, as rebel prisoners report, by my 12-pounder guns to the left, near the road, go up within 300 yards of the rebel line, and open with canister. I did so, passing through and 100 yards in front of the line of the Second Colorado Regiment, and, going into battery almost at the edge of the brush, I fired 3 or 4 rounds of canister and 10 or 12 of shell at the rebel position on the hill, when we could see them retreating in the direction of a small corn-field in my immediate front. Before I had time to open on this position I was ordered to cease firing, and the infantry charged the timber. I limbered up and moved forward, in rear of the infantry, which was soon hotly engaged with the enemy. For a few moments the firing was terrific, and I was compelled to dismount my drivers, and, our own men being directly in front of me, was compelled to remain a silent spectator of the contest, which, fortunately, was soon ended by the rout of the foe. Our infantry lines had now disappeared in the timber, across which the rebels were being driven rapidly and with severe loss, and I was ordered to follow. This order was countermanded soon after I reached the timber, and I moved back and encamped on

the prairie, north of the creek.

My officers and men behaved throughout with great coolness and courage, a fact worthy of notice, as it was the first time they had ever been under fire.

My losses were as follows: Private William C. Caskey, wounded severely in the thigh; 3 horses slightly wounded.

All of which is respectfully submitted, by your obedient servant,

E. A. SMITH,
Captain, Commanding Second Kansas Battery.

Col. WILLIAM R. JUDSON.

No. 7.

*Report of Maj. J. Nelson Smith,
Second Colorado Infantry, Phillips' brigade*

FORT BLUNT, July 19, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to transmit the following report of the part taken by the battalion of the Second Regiment Colorado Volunteers at the battle of Honey Springs, after having been put in command by Colonel [Theodore H.] Dodd, he going to the rear with prisoners:

I was ordered by General Blunt to rally two companies of my command to support Hopkins' battery, which was to cross the creek in pursuit of the enemy. After rallying my companies, we crossed the stream, and discovered the enemy on a hill, or rise of ground in the advance. Here Hopkins' battery, supported by my infantry, opened upon the enemy, who fled in confusion after the second fire. I as here ordered by Colonel [William A.] Phillips, commanding brigade, to have the rest of my command brought forward, which order was promptly obeyed, I at the same time moving my two companies forward in support of the battery, until we occupied the enemy's former position. Here the remainder of my command came up. After halting a short time we were ordered into camp.

Killed or wounded, none.* [* But see p. 449 for casualties in remainder of regiment (page 66 this appendix).]

I have no one to censure or praise, as every officer and soldier tried to do his duty.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. NELSON SMITH,
Major Second Regiment Colorado Volunteers

Col. WILLIAM A. PHILLIPS,
Third Indian Volunteers, Commanding.

No. 8.

*Report of Col. Stephen H. Wattles,
First Indian Home Guards*

HDQRS. FIRST REGIMENT OF INDIAN HOME GUARDS.
Fort Blunt, C. N., July 18, 1863.

COLONEL: On the morning of the 17th of July, 1863, we came upon the enemy at Elk Creek. My command was ordered to the left, in support of Hopkins' battery, and then ordered to charge the enemy out of the timber. I advanced, under a destructive fire from the enemy, after hard fighting, gained a position in the timber, and finally drove them across the stream, on the left of the bridge, the enemy forming several times, and desperately contesting every foot of ground.

Too much praise cannot be awarded to both officers and men for their gallant conduct in the battle. Among the former who did efficient service were Lieut. Col. George Dole, who had command of the left wing, and was the first to cross the stream, which he accomplished, under a most galling fire from the enemy, who were formed on the opposite side; Actg. Adj. E. C. Lowe, Captains No-ko-so-lo-chee and So-nuk-mik-ko, and Lieuts. R. T. Thompson, Fred. Crafts, Ferd. R. Jacobs, and Charles N. Rix. Of the latter who deserve honorable mention are O. P. Willetts, A. Flanders, and Thompson Overton.

My loss was: Killed, 2; wounded, 6; missing, none. Number of guns captured, 24.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, &c.,

STEPHEN H. WATTLES,
Colonel, Commanding First Indian Regiment.

Col. WILLIAM A. PHILLIPS,
Commanding Fort Blunt.

No. 9.

*Report of Capt. Henry Hopkins,
Kansas Battery*

FORT BLUNT, C. N., July 21, 1863.

COLONEL: I would submit the following as a report of the part taken by Hopkins' battery in the engagement of July 17, 1863, at Honey Springs, Ind. T., between the forces under Major-General Blunt and the rebels under Cooper:

Receiving orders to be in readiness to march at 6 a.m. on the 16th instant, with six days' rations, at 12 m. of the same day orders were received to cross the Arkansas, at the mouth of Grand

River. Effecting a crossing at dark, marching 2 miles south, and resting for three hours, we again took up line of march in a southwest direction, coming upon the enemy's outposts at daylight. Line of battle was formed, but discovering the enemy had fled, we were again ordered forward. Moving forward 6 miles, the enemy, under command of Cooper, was discovered in force, occupying a strong position, in a thickly wooded ravine. Moving up in line of battle to within 300 yards of the enemy's position, we were ordered by yourself to commence firing and shell the woods in the immediate front, which continued for one hour and a quarter. Immediately after our fire opened, the enemy's battery was discovered occupying a position to our right and front, which opened fire upon us with shot, shell, and canister, wounding 1 sergeant, mortally (left leg shot off above the knee), killing 1 private, killing 4 horses, and wounding 4 others, totally unfitting them for service.

Discovering one of their guns occupying an open space in the woods, an order was given to direct the fire of the two guns upon it, and, if possible, dismount it, which was soon effected. By the explosion of one of our shells, the cannoneers belonging to that piece and all their horses were killed or wounded. Orders were given to cease firing, limber up, and move forward to the edge of the woods, the position the enemy's battery first occupied, and halt until one section of Captain Smith's Second Kansas Battery should pass and cross the ravine.

One of the teams being disabled, I ordered Lieutenant [John F.] Aduddell forward, with three pieces, and as quickly as the disabled horses were replaced I followed with the other piece, and rejoined the other three. The section of Captain Smith's battery not passing, orders were received to move forward on double-quick, and occupy a position on the prairie beyond the ravine. Lieutenant Aduddell moving to the left of the road with one section, opened upon the enemy's cavalry, upon a hill beyond, causing them to fall back quite precipitately, the shell bursting in their immediate vicinity. Again moving forward one-quarter of a mile, a line of the enemy's cavalry was discovered and driven back after the firing of a few rounds of shell. At this point the sections were divided and ordered to move forward to the right and left of the road, the right section under command of First Lieut. John F. Aduddell and the left under Sergeant [C.M.] Greve. Firing now almost entirely ceasing, excepting a few rounds from the left section, and moving forward about 1½ miles, we were ordered to halt, as the enemy had retreated, and our stock was too much exhausted to follow them farther. Immediately after fighting had ceased, and we were selecting a camp-ground, we discovered at the edge of the woods, in their old camp, nearly the entire camp-equipage of one regiment, cooking utensils, tents, &c., which we destroyed.

Casualties: One killed and one mortally wounded, since died.

The sections and pieces were commanded as follows: Right section by Lieut. J. F. Aduddell; left section by Sergeant Greve, acting first sergeant; first piece, Sergeant [J.G.] Pettigrew; second piece, Sergeant [Daniel] Sayre, mortally wounded; third piece, Corporal [J.R.] Rice; fourth piece, Sergeant [O.F.]

Fahnestock. Sergeant [J.F.] McKibben, on detached service, recruiting, not being assigned to any duty, assisted, and much credit is due him for his services rendered during the action. Great credit is due Lieutenant Aduddell for his coolness and bravery during the entire action, moving to any part of the battery when necessary, and directing the fire of the pieces with good effect; also Sergeants Greve, Fahnestock, Pettigrew, Corporals, Rice, [J.S.] Payne, [T.] McCain, and Farrier [Joseph] Ibbatson, acting gunner to second piece. The fire of the enemy's artillery being directed at us, and taking considerable effect among both men and horses, great praise is due the men for their coolness and courage during the entire fight, and [they] proved themselves worthy of promotion.

I have the honor to be, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. HOPKINS,
Captain, Commanding Hopkins' Battery

Col. WILLIAM A. PHILLIPS,
Commanding Brigade.

No. 10.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Douglas H. Cooper, C. S. Army,
commanding Confederate Forces.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, INDIAN TROOPS,
Imochiah Creek, near Canadian, August 12, 1863.

GENERAL: My official report of the affair at Elk Creek, on the 17th ultimo, has been delayed in consequence of the movements of the troops under your command and the difficulty of getting correct reports from subordinate officers of the killed and wounded. Referring to my notes of the 18th ultimo, I now have the honor to submit the following:

On July 15, reports were sent to me from the officer in charge of the pickets on the Arkansas River that it had become fordable above the mouth of Verdigris; that Federal officers were seen examining the fords; that the two spies, Clark and Lane, formerly employed in the quartermaster's department at Forts Arbuckle and Cobb, who imposed themselves upon you, and thereby obtained permission to enlist in this brigade, had reached Gibson; that they had been at the agency examining that ford, &c. Believing there was a probability that the attack might be made upon me before General Cabell arrived, whose movements were known to these spies, or at all events that a heavy scout might be sent across to capture the pickets on the Arkansas, I directed their concentration on Coody's Creek, with instructions to send vedettes to the different fords.

Early on the 16th ultimo, information reached me that the Federals were crossing in force at the Creek Agency. Col. Tandy Walker, commanding First Cherokee and Choctaw Regiment, and Captain [L.R.] Gillett, commanding squadron Texas cavalry, with their commands, accompanied by Lieutenant [T.B.] Heiston, aide-de-camp and acting assistant adjutant-general, were ordered out in the direction of the Chimney Mountain, where the roads to Creek Agency and to Gibson intersect, with orders to send out small parties of observation on both roads and to withdraw the pickets from Coody's Creek. Up to this time I had been unable to determine whether the force which crossed at the Creek Agency was merely a heavy scout or the advance of the main body of the enemy. About 200 or 300 had been reported moving from the Creek Agency down the river toward Nevins' and Rabbit Fords, near Frozen Rock, to capture or drive off our pickets, who were supposed, no doubt, still to be there.

About daylight on the morning of the 17th, the advance of the enemy came in sight of the position occupied by the Choctaws and Texans; commenced a brisk fire upon them, which was returned and followed by a charge, which drove the enemy back upon the main column. Lieutenant Heiston reported the morning cloudy and damp, many of the guns failing to fire in consequence of the very inferior quality of the powder, the cartridges becoming worthless even upon exposure to damp atmosphere. Soon after the Federals had been driven back, it commenced raining heavily, which rendered their arms wholly useless. These troops then fell back slowly and in good order to camp, for the purpose of obtaining a fresh supply of ammunition and preparing for the impending fight. A few remained with Lieutenant Heiston at Prairie Mountain, about 3 miles north of camp on the Gibson road, and were so disposed as to create the impression on the enemy that a large force was there awaiting them. Accordingly, their advance halted until the main body came up and formed in line of battle, thus affording my aide opportunity to form an estimate of their strength. He reported their force to be probably 4,000, which I found nearly correct, though some 500 under the mark. After ascertaining that the enemy were advancing in force, orders were issued to the officers commanding corps to prepare for immediate action and take their positions, all which had been in anticipation of an attack, previously defined by General Orders, No. 25, to copy of which, marked A, herewith, reference is made. Captain [R.W.] Lee's light battery had been moved up on the Gibson road the evening previous, intending it to go with the scout under Colonel Walker, but, owing to some misunderstanding or neglect in delivering the order, the scout left without it. Colonel [T.C.] Bass, with his regiment, was ordered forward to support Lee's battery. [John] Scanland's squadron and Gillett's squadron were directed to support the Creeks at the upper crossing of Elk Creek, and Colonel Walker to hold his regiment in reserve at their camp near Honey Springs, sending pickets out on the road across the mountain in the direction of Prairie Springs. Having made these arrangements, I rode forward to the position north of Elk Creek, where Captain Lee's light howitzer battery had been posted, and found it supported by Colonel Bass' regiment

(Twentieth Texas dismounted cavalry), by a portion of the Second Cherokee Regiment, and a body of skirmishers to the right, under command of Capt. Hugh Tinnin, of the First Cherokee Regiment, the remainder of the Cherokee regiments being near the creek.

A movement on my right was discovered, and Captain Tinnin reported that the skirmishers would soon be engaged. One-half of Colonel Bass' regiment, under Captain [J.R.] Johnson, was then ordered to the right to support Captain Tinnin, and I rode over to their position and found, by movements of officers, that there was a body of troops on my extreme right. A part of Second Cherokee Regiment, just returned from a scout to Prairie Springs, who were getting breakfast at camp, were then ordered up and conducted by myself to the right, and a messenger sent for half of the Choctaw regiment, which soon arrived and were placed also on the right along the edge of the prairie. Upon reconnoitering the enemy from the high prairie, where I had a full view of them, the advancing upon the Gibson road, I found their force larger than reported by Lieutenant Heiston, and larger than I supposed they would bring from Gibson, and seeing a heavy force wheeling off to their right and taking the road up the creek to the second crossing above the bridge--our weakest point, and from which the road continues up to the third crossing, where the Creeks were posted--I rode back to the main road, sent orders to the Creeks to move down and support Colonel [Charles] De Morse and [L.M.] Martin, who were directed to support Colonel Bass, and, if possible, flank the enemy on our left. I then rode to where I expected to find the Choctaws, in order to bring them to the support of Colonel Bass' command and the battery, which was engaged with that of the enemy. Colonel Walker, mistaking the order, had moved off on the mountain several miles with his whole force, instead of sending a picket. Messengers were sent after him and he returned promptly, but too late for the defense of the bridge. Riding back near the creek, I discovered our men in small parties giving way. These increased until the retreat became general. Colonel Bass' regiment and Captain Lee's battery, after a most gallant defense of their positions, were compelled to fall back; Colonel De Morse's regiment and Colonel Martin's, on the left, also retiring, except a few who were cut off from the main body.

We have to mourn the loss of many brave officers and men to fell here, sacrificing their lives in opposition to an overwhelming force to save our little battery, all of which was brought off, except one howitzer, dismounted by the heavy ordnance of the enemy.

Colonel Martin, who retired in good order across the creek when the line along the prairie near the battery gave way, was directed to hold the ford above the bridge; but seeing the whole right wing falling back from the bridge and below it, Colonel Martin was withdrawn and ordered to fall back to Honey Springs. Our forces were now in full retreat and the enemy pressing them closely. The Texans, under Scanland's and Gillett's command, were ordered to join me at Honey Springs, and the Creeks to withdraw from the extreme left and also to concentrate at the same place. Colonel Bass' and Colonel De Morese's regiments, a part of which

(under Major [J.A.] Carroll) had reached their horses, were directed also to rally at the same place. The remainder of this regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel [O.G.] Webb, who bravely maintained his position on the north side of the creek too long to rejoin his [regiment], were cut off and compelled to make a circuit via North Fork to this camp. Captain Gillett's squadron, arriving promptly, was formed on the road, and for a short time held the advance of the enemy in check. The Choctaw, under Colonel Walker, opportunely arrived at this time, and under my personal direction charged the enemy, who had now planted a battery upon the timbered ridge about 1,000 yards north of Honey Springs. With their usual intrepidity, the Choctaws went at them, giving the war-whoop, and succeeded in checking the advance of the enemy until their force could be concentrated and all brought up. The Choctaws, discouraged on account of the worthless ammunition, then gave way, and were moved to fall back with the others in rear of the train, which had moved off in an easterly direction, covered by the same troops, who remained formed for hours in full view of the enemy, thus giving the train time to gain some 6 or 8 miles on the road to Briartown, which had been indicated by yourself as the route by which re-enforcements would be sent.

Too much praise cannot be awarded the troops for the accomplishment of the most difficult of all military movements--an orderly and successful retreat, with little loss of life or property, in the face of superior numbers, flushed with victory. The retreat of the forces under my command eastward instead of south completely deceived the enemy, and created, as I anticipated, the impression that the re-enforcements from Fort Smith were close at hand, and that by a detour in rear of the mountain east of Honey Springs our forces might march upon Gibson and destroy it while General Blunt was away with almost the whole Federal force. Under the influence of this reasonable fear, General Blunt withdrew forces and commenced a hurried march for Gibson. North Fork, where we had a large amount of commissary stores, was then saved, as well as the whole of the train, except one ambulance purposely thrown in the way of the enemy by the river. A quantity of flour, some salt, and sugar were necessarily burned at Honey Springs, there being no transportation for it.

Our loss was 134 killed and wounded and 47 taken prisoners, while that of the enemy exceeded 200, as I learned from one of our surgeons who was at Gibson when General Blunt's forces returned.

I feel confident that we could have made good the defense of the position at Elk Creek but for the worthlessness of our ammunition. The Choctaws, who had skirmished with the enemy on the morning of the 17th, returned wet and disheartened by finding their guns almost useless, and there was a general feeling among the troops that with such ammunition it was useless to contend with a foe doubly superior in numbers, arms, and munitions, with artillery ten times superior to our, weight of metal considered. Notwithstanding all these untoward circumstances, the men of Colonel Bass' regiment stood calmly and fearlessly to their posts in support of Lee's battery until the conflict became a hand-to-hand one, even

clubbing their muskets and never giving way until the battery had been withdrawn; and, even when defeated and in full retreat, the officers and men different command were readily obeyed orders, formed, falling back and reforming at several different positions, as ordered, deliberately and coolly. Their steady conduct under these circumstances evidently intimidated the foe, and alone enabled us to save the train and many valuable lives. The Creeks, under Col. D. N. McIntosh, at this juncture behaved admirably, moving off in good order slowly and steadily across the North Fork road in full view of the enemy. They contributed greatly to the safe retreat of the train and brigade.

Among the officers who were distinguished for gallantry and good conduct, Col. T. C. Bass and Captain Lee were particularly conspicuous. Col De Morse's conduct, though suffering under a sever wound, has been represented to me as all that should characterize a brave man. Colonel Martin, for his coolness and good management of his command, deceiving the enemy as to his real strength, and preventing our left from being turned, deserves great credit. Captain Gillett behaved with his usual gallantry. Major Carroll was active and prompt in bringing his men into line to cover the retreat. Colonel Walker and his Choctaws behaved bravely, as they always do. Captain [F.M.] Hanks, of Bass' regiment, was also distinguished for his gallantry, being dangerously wounded while carrying orders which I had sent to Colonel Bass to draw the right wing to his support. And the lamented [H.H.] Molloy, of the same regiment, fell, mortally wounded, soon after having delivered my order to his colonel to move De Morse's and Martin's regiments up on the right flank of the enemy, who were advancing upon the battery at the center.

Captain Johnson, who commanded a detachment from Colonel Bass' regiment, came under my immediate notice. His conduct was, at the most trying time, cool and collected--that of a brave man and good officer. The nature of the ground precluded the possibility of personally observing all the movements of our troops and the conduct of the men and officers. Among those who are mentioned with praise by the immediate commanding officers are Capts. Hugh Tinnin, James L. Butler, and James Stewart, First Cherokee Regiment; Adj. L. C. De Morse, Twenty-ninth Texas Cavalry; Lieut. Henry Forrester and Sergt. J. Riley Baker, Lee's light battery; Lieut. A. G. Ballenger, Second Cherokee Regiment (killed), and Acting Sergt. Maj. J. H. Reiersen, of Bass' regiment, and Sergt. Henry Campbell, of same regiment, were particularly distinguished, &c.

Mr. P. N. Blackstone was particularly distinguished for his courage on the field. After being severely wounded, he succeeded in repulsing three of the enemy who attacked him, killing one of them and taking his gun, which he brought off with him, together with his own, closely pursued by the enemy, after the greater portion of our troops had left the field.

Of my personal staff, Lieut. T. B. Heiston, aide-de-camp and acting assistant adjutant-general, all speak in the highest terms. He was on this, as on all former occasions, wherever duty called

him, conspicuous for his gallant bearing.

My son, Douglas H. Cooper, jr., additional aide-de-camp, is mentioned favorably by Colonel Bass in his report for his good conduct while conveying my orders amid the thickest of the fray.

I am also indebted to Mr. S. A. Robinson for valuable assistance in conveying orders.

Referring to accompanying reports for further details, and to list of killed and wounded, I am, general, respectfully,

DOUGLAS H. COOPER,
Brigadier-General.

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM STEELE,
Commanding Department of Indian Territory.

[Inclosure A.]

GENERAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., INDIAN TROOPS,
No. 25. } Elk Creek, July 14, 1863.

I. The First and Second Cherokee Regiments will constitute the right wing of the brigade, Col. Stand Watie, senior colonel, commanding.

II. The left wing will be composed of First and Second Creek Regiments, Col. D. N. McIntosh commanding.

III. The center will consist of Twentieth Texas dismounted cavalry, Twenty-ninth Texas Cavalry, Fifth Texas Partisan Rangers, and Lee's light battery, Col. Thomas C. Bass, senior colonel, commanding.

IV. Scanland's squadron, [L.E.] Gillett's squadron, and First Choctaw and Chickasaw Regiment, Col. Tandy Walker commanding, will be attached to headquarters and constitute the reserve, to which such other troops belonging to this brigade as may report will be added until further orders. Captain [John] Scanland will fall back to a position which will be assigned him near headquarters, Honey Springs.

The right wing will encamp convenient to the two lower crossings on Elk Creek; the center near or at such places as may be convenient to the middle ford, and the left wing at or near the upper ford; the reserve near headquarters, Honey Springs Depot. Commandants of each wing will see that necessary ways are opened along the front and near Elk Creek to enable the troops to move with facility from point to point, and also that proper roads from the camps perpendicular to the way along the bank of the creek are opened. Each regiment will occupy a front at least equal to the number of files, minus one-fifth. For example: If the total of a regiment be 1,000 men, or 500 files, the front will be 400 yards.

The proper intervals between squadrons and regiments will be observed, and kept free from obstruction, to allow the passage of the troops. These intervals may be increased where the ground is obstructed, and in timbered places the line may be extended. In case of attack there should be an advance party thrown out to and along the skirt of the prairie in front (north side of the creek), with adequate supports formed near the creek. The enemy must, if possible, be prevented from gaining the cover of the timber on the north side. Commandants will examine the ground in front of them, and especially creeks, bayous, or wooded ways leading from the prairie north and west of camp down southward and connecting with the main bottom of Elk Creek. These smaller creeks will be used in case of attack by the enemy to penetrate to Elk Creek, and thus flank the different positions near the fords. These can be used by our troops to advantage in gaining a position in advance of the general line of the prairie to flank the columns of the enemy while advancing on the roads leading to the fords. It is necessary that commanding officers should examine and understand the ground in front of their own positions, and also those occupied by other corps.

By order of Brig. Gen. D. H. Cooper:

THORNTON B. HEISTON,

Lieutenant and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General

APPENDIX G:

HISTORY OF HONEY SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD PARK MOVEMENT¹⁴

Public interest in the site of the Civil War Battle of Honey Springs dates almost from the battle itself. Returning veterans, after arriving by rail in Muskogee, Creek Nation, often walked, rode horseback, or drove carriages through the area by way of the Texas Road, which ran lengthwise through the center of the battleground. They sought out familiar natural features, viewed trees shattered by the Federal cannonade, and enjoyed the scenic beauty of prairie and dense forest enroute to Honey Springs Station, originally a stage stop and provision point on the Texas Road. Honey Springs was usually the focal point of these excursions, and picnics were sometimes held near the clear flowing waters of the spring area or the ruins of the stone building used by the confederate forces to house their powder. In later years visits to the battlefield area continued with increasing frequency even though the Texas Road had been closed with the coming of paved highways and the area over which the battle had been fought was now privately owned. The late Dr. and Mrs. Grant Foreman of Muskogee, for example, sought out the battle site several times during the 1920s and 1930s.¹⁵

Dr. Foreman, who was research minded on his visits to the Honey Springs location, emphasized the significance of this military confrontation in numerous books and pamphlets, and also in an illustrated article in the *Daily Oklahoman*.¹⁶ Other authors, such as Wiley Britton, himself a Federal soldier stationed at Fort Gibson during the Civil War, also wrote of the importance of the

¹⁴ LeRoy H. Fischer, *The Honey Springs National Battlefield Park Movement*, 15 page pamphlet, revised and reprinted from *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XLVII, No. 1 (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1969). [Footnotes not in the original will appear in brackets; the following footnote was unnumbered in the original.]

LeRoy H. Fischer is a Professor of History and Civil War period specialist at Oklahoma State University. The preparation of this article was aided by a grant from the Research Foundation of Oklahoma State University, and this assistance is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the author.--Ed.

¹⁵ Unidentified newspaper clipping, Battle of Honey Springs folder, Grant Foreman Collection, Indian Archives Division, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; interview of the author with Mrs. Grant Foreman, Muskogee, Oklahoma, July 17, 1963.

¹⁶ Grant Foreman, *Lore and Lure of Eastern Oklahoma* (Muskogee, Oklahoma: Muskogee Chamber of Commerce, no date; reprinted in Muskogee in 1963), pp. 58-69; Grant Foreman, *Down the Texas Road* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1936), pp. 38-39; Grant Foreman, *A History of Oklahoma* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1942), pp. 20-123; Grant Foreman, "Battle of Honey Springs," *Daily Oklahoman*, February 16, 1936.

Battle of Honey Springs in several book-length publications.¹⁷ Joseph B. Thoburn and Muriel H. Wright have emphasized the battle on the printed page, as did Gaston Litton, Edwin C. McReynolds, Arrell M. Gibson, Jess C. Epple, Phil Harris, Alice Hamilton Cromie, and others in a number of textbooks and trade books.¹⁸

Public awareness of the significance of the Battle of Honey Springs has always been soundly based. From the beginning the battle has generally been recognized as the largest and most important of the eighty-nine combat actions fought during the Civil War in Indian Territory, present-day Oklahoma. Approximately 6,000 Confederates and 3,000 Federals were engaged at Honey Springs. Confederate and Federal troops of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indian Territory as well as forces from Wisconsin, Colorado, Kansas, and Texas participated. It was, in fact, not only the largest, but the most significant battle fought at any time in what is now Oklahoma. It was in both size and importance the Gettysburg of the Civil War in Indian Territory, for it marked the climax of massed Confederate resistance in the area and opened the way for the capture of Fort Smith, Arkansas, by Federal forces and their control of Indian Territory and much of Arkansas. Perhaps, in terms of results, Honey Springs was even the Gettysburg of the trans-Mississippi West.¹⁹

Although the Battle of Honey Springs is important because it was decisive militarily, it is significant also as one of the first engagements of the Civil War in which Negroes proved their

¹⁷ Wiley Britton, *The Civil War on the Border* (2 vols., New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1890-1904), Vol. II, pp. 112-126; Wiley Britton, *Memoirs of the Rebellion on the Border, 1863* (Chicago: Cushing, Thomas and Co., 1882), pp. 302-362; Wiley Britton, *The Union Indian Brigade in the Civil War* (Kansas City, Missouri: Franklin Hudson Publishing Co., 1922), pp. 267-285.

¹⁸ Joseph B. Thoburn, *A Standard History of Oklahoma*, (5 vols., Chicago and New York: The American Historical Society, 1916), Vol. I, pp. 306-308; Joseph B. Thoburn and Muriel H. Wright, *Oklahoma: A History of the State and Its People*, (4 vols, New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1929), Vol. I, pp. 345-346; Gaston Litton, *History of Oklahoma at the Golden Anniversary of Statehood* (4 vols., New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1957), Vol. I, p. 217; Edwin C. McReynolds, *A History of the Sooner State*, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954), pp. 217-218; Arrell M. Gibson, *Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries* (Norman, Oklahoma: Harlow Publishing Corp., [1965]), p. 206; Jess C. Epple, *Honey Springs Depot, Elk Creek, Creek Nation, Indian Territory* (Muskogee, Oklahoma: Hoffman Printing Co., 1965), pp. 11-76; Phil Harris, *This Is Three Forks Country* (Muskogee, Oklahoma: Hoffman Printing Co., 1965), [pp.] 55-56; Alice Hamilton Cromie, *A Tour Guide to the Civil War* (Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1965), p. 250; in addition, most Oklahoma history high school textbooks emphasize the significance of the Battle of Honey Springs.

¹⁹ Ten basic military reports on the Battle of Honey Springs were published in the United States War Department, *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (four series, 128 vols., Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), Ser. I, Vol. XXII, Pt. 3, pp. 447-462.

qualities as fighting men. The Negro unit involved was the Federal First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry Regiment.²⁰

In addition, Honey Springs has the unique distinction of being in all probability the only Civil War battle west of the Mississippi River to be recorded in a drawing made by a combat artist. James R. O'Neill, representing *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* of New York City, drew his first-hand impressions of the battle. O'Neill (who was killed several months later at Baxter Springs, Kansas, by a Confederate guerrilla force led by William C. Quantrill) accompanied the forces of Major General James G. Blunt, the Federal commander at Honey Springs.²¹

The national, regional, and territorial importance and relationships of the conflict at Honey Springs are pointed up by the fact that it took place on July 17, 1863, during the same month and year in which the major Federal victories occurred at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and Vicksburg, Mississippi. Indeed, the Battle of Honey Springs was also a Federal victory and closely paralleled the military scene east of the Mississippi River.

As one of the three most significant Civil War battles fought west of the Mississippi, the Battle of Honey Springs rates in importance with the Battle of Wilson's Creek, which occurred on August 10, 1861, in the southwest section of Missouri near Springfield. That Confederate victory involved 5,400 Federals and 8,000 Confederates, a total of 13,500 men.²²

The action at Honey Springs also ranks in importance with the Battle of Pea Ridge, fought on March 7 and 8, 1862, in northwest Arkansas near Rogers, where 10,500 Federals were victorious over 16,000 Confederates, an engagement of 26,500 men.²³

²⁰ James G. Blunt to John M. Schofield, July 26, 1863, and John Bowles to William R. Judson, July 20, 1863, *ibid.*, pp. 447-451; Dudley Taylor Cornish, *The Sable Arm: Negro Troops in the Union Army, 1861-1865* (New York: Longmans, Green and Co., 1956), pp. 78, 146, 241, 252, 261.

²¹ The Battle of Honey Springs drawing was published in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, August 29, 1863; O'Neill's death was announced in Leslie's newspaper on October 31, 1863, after being reported by Major General James G. Blunt on October 7, 1863, in Frank Moore, ed., *The Rebellion Record: A Diary of American Events* (12 vols., New York: G. P. Putnam and D. Van Nostrand, 1861-1868), Vol. III, p. 553.

²² The standard treatments of the Battle of Wilson's Creek are in Britton, *The Civil War on the Border*, Vol. I, pp. 69-107, and in Jay Monaghan, *Civil War on the Western Border, 1854-1865* (Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1955), pp. 170-181.

²³ The standard treatments of the Battle of Pea Ridge are in Britton, *The Civil War on the Border*, Vol. I, pp. 242-278, and in Monaghan, *Civil War on the Western Border, 1854-1865*, pp. 239-251.

The citizens of both Arkansas and Missouri have been actively aware for some years of the significance of their major Civil War battles and the need to develop the sites as national battlefield parks. Accordingly, the State of Arkansas bought 4,210 acres of land on which the Battle of Pea Ridge was fought and deeded it to the United States Government for the establishment of the Pea Ridge National Military Park. The State of Arkansas paid \$500,000.00 for the land. The United States Government spent \$1,500,000.00 on the initial development of the park, provides additional money each year for improvements, and allocates \$150,000.00 annually on the operation of the Park. The Congress of the United States created the Pea Ridge National Military park in the year 1960.²⁴

Meanwhile, the citizens of Missouri had been at work on the creation of a national memorial park on the site of their major Civil War Battle. The State of Missouri purchased over a period of several years the 1,726 acres of land on which the Battle of Wilson's Creek had been fought and deeded it to the United States Government. Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park was established in 1960, and the last of the park land was purchased and deeded to the Federal Government in 1968. Missouri paid a total of \$450,000.00 for the land. The expenditure projected for the initial development of the park is \$2,500,000.00, with additional monies each year for improvements, and an annual estimated operating budget of \$130,000.00 when the park is fully operational. The Advisory Board on National Parks has urged immediate development of the Park.²⁵

The accomplishments in Arkansas and Missouri stimulated interest in creating a Honey Springs National Battlefield Park; added impetus was gained through the commemorative emphasis of the Civil War Centennial years from 1961 to 1965. In October of 1962 the first meeting for the development of the Honey Springs battle site as a national park was held at a dinner in Muskogee hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. Interested citizens attended not only from Muskogee, but also from Fort Gibson, Okay, Oktaha, Checotah, Warner, Stillwater, Oklahoma City, and Enid. Members of the Oklahoma Civil War Centennial Commission and the Oklahoma City Civil War Round Table were present and recommended action. It was mutually agreed at the meeting that the site of the Battle of Honey

²⁴ William E. Dyer, Superintendent, Pea Ridge National Military Park, Pea Ridge, Arkansas, to the author, December 9, 1966; Pea Ridge National Military Park brochure, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

²⁵ David L. Hieb, Superintendent, George Washington Carver National Monument, Diamond, Missouri, to the author, December 8, 1966; Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park brochure, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; "Buck and Ball" newsletter, Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks, Springfield, Missouri, issues of February, 1967, September, 1968, and January, 1969.

were held in the Oktaha Cemetery, near where the battle began. The day was warm and sultry, much as it had been at the time of the battle. E. B. "Hugh" Maytubby, of the Chickasaw Indian Tribe and country treasurer of Muskogee County, presided at the ceremonies. Following an opening prayer, Mrs. A. Lester Buck, president of the Muskogee General Nathan B. Forrest Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, laid a wreath at the base of a memorial erected in Oktaha Cemetery in 1940 to honor the Confederate dead. In placing the wreath, Mrs. Buck said that it was "in memory of all who died on both sides in the Honey Springs Battle." Maytubby next called for a show of hands of the descendants of those who had fought in the battle, and about twelve persons responded. Then the Honorable Ed Edmondson of Muskogee, Representative of the Oklahoma Second Congressional District in the United States' House of Representatives, spoke briefly. "I think this centennial observance will have much significance in future years," Edmondson said. "I feel it is the first step to the establishment of a permanent national park."

Following Edmondson's comments, LeRoy H. Fischer, a professor of history at Oklahoma State University and a Civil War period specialist, spoke on the history of the Battle of Honey Springs, which had been in progress precisely one hundred years before. He emphasized that the battle was not only the Gettysburg of Indian Territory, but in some respects the Gettysburg of the West. In concluding, he said: "This commemoration is the beginning of what I hope will be a first-class national battlefield park."

During the ceremonies a number of visitors to the Muskogee area were introduced. These included Henry B. Bass of Enid, the chairman of the Oklahoma Civil War Centennial Commission; Muriel H. Wright of Oklahoma City, the editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*; Homer L. Knight of Stillwater, professor of history and head of the history department at Oklahoma State University; and George H. Shirk of Oklahoma City, the president of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Among those taking part in the battlefield ceremonies were members of the Oklahoma Civil War Centennial Commission, the Oklahoma Historical Society, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Oklahoma City Civil War Round Table, the 65th Troop Carrier Squadron from Davis Field, the Oklahoma National Guard, the Boy Scouts of America, the Checotah Chamber of Commerce, and numerous residents of Muskogee, Oktaha, Rentiesville, and Checotah.

Following the ceremonies in the Oktaha Cemetery, many visitors mailed cachet envelopes from the battlefield posted with the Battle of Gettysburg commemorative stamp issued earlier in July, 1963, by the United States Post Office Department. Each envelope was stamped: BATTLE OF HONEY SPRINGS, INDIAN TERRITORY, July 17, 1863, 100th ANNIVERSARY CACHET, July 17, 1963, ON THE BATTLEFIELD. Also, Warren Ray of Muskogee took the visitors on a tour of the accessible portions

of the battlefield, completing the trip at Honey Springs, some two and one-half miles south of the site of the morning ceremonies in Oktaha Cemetery. A large crowd had also gathered at Honey Springs, where informal comments were made on the battle itself and the prospects discussed for a national park of the battle area.²⁹

After the centennial commemoration of the battle, public interest continued in the effort to acquire the battleground area and establish it as Honey Springs National Battlefield Park. The first body in Oklahoma urging this after the battle commemoration itself was the Oklahoma Civil War Centennial Commission; on December 10, 1963, it adopted a resolution to this effect. The Oklahoma City Civil War Round Table over a period of several years adopted a number of similar resolutions addressed to the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma and to individual members of the Oklahoma Legislature. This same Civil War study group also sent a number of resolutions of appreciation to individual legislators and to the Oklahoma Legislature itself for action taken in behalf of the Honey Springs project. Governor Dewey Bartlett and the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society and its officers were also commended in resolutions of the Oklahoma City Civil War Round Table. Additional resolutions requesting the purchase of the battlefield site by the State of Oklahoma and the establishment of a Honey Springs National Battlefield Park were voted by the Indian Territory Posse of Oklahoma Westerners and the Great Plains Historical Association.³⁰ The subject of a Honey Springs Battlefield Park received favorable attention in the quarterly Board of Directors meetings of the Oklahoma Historical Society, and on January 26, 1967, the board voted to actively sponsor and encourage the creation of the park as a national memorial.³¹

From the time of the centennial commemoration of the Battle of Honey Springs, numerous newspaper articles have appeared in Oklahoma telling of that combat action, emphasizing its importance,

²⁹ Muskogee Times-Democrat, July 17, 1963; Tulsa Daily World, July 18, 1963; Battle of Honey Springs 100th Anniversary Cachet, author's possession; Battle of Honey Springs 100th Anniversary Cachet rubber stamp, Oklahoma Historical Society.

³⁰ Copies of these resolutions are in the author's possession; Elmer L. Fraker, Administrative Secretary, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to the author, May 29, 1967; Dewey F. Bartlett, Governor, State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to the author, May 30, 1967; Basil R. Wilson, Secretary, Oklahoma State Senate, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to the author, June 5, 1967.

³¹ Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, January 26, 1967, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XIV, No. 1 (Spring, 1967), pp. 99-100; George H. Shirk, President, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Representative Vol H. Odom, January 27, 1967, copy in author's possession; George H. Shirk, President, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Senator John D. Luton, January 27, 1967, copy in author's possession.

and recommending the purchase of the site by the State of Oklahoma for presentation to the United States Government as a national battlefield park.³² The Southwestern Bell Telephone Company devoted its January-February, 1967, issue of *Telephone Talk* to a photograph and description of the Honey Springs battlefield. This leaflet was mailed to all Southwestern Bell Telephone Company customers in Oklahoma.³³

The next significant action to establish a Honey Springs National Battlefield Park occurred the following March when the Honorable Vol H. Odom of Wagoner introduced a bill in the Oklahoma State House of Representatives to appropriate \$25,000.00 to purchase a portion of the land upon which the Battle of Honey Springs had been fought. Senator John D. Luton of Muskogee and other members of the Oklahoma Legislature from the legislative districts in which the battle had occurred served as co-sponsors of the bill. Several days earlier, on February 27, 1967, sixty interested Honey Springs National Battlefield Park boosters gathered in the Conference Room of the State Capitol for a discussion with Governor Dewey F. Bartlett on the possibilities of Oklahoma acquiring the site of the battle.³⁴ The \$25,000.00 appropriation bill, which became law, authorized the Oklahoma Historical Society, as an agency of the State of Oklahoma to carry out the purchase of Honey Springs battlefield land.³⁵ With this appropriated money, 160 acres of land were acquired near the south perimeter of the battlefield, including the site of Honey Springs and the Confederate powder house. Elbert L. Costner, Field Deputy of the Oklahoma Historical Society, carried through the land acquisition with the cooperation of the Attorney General's Office of the State of Oklahoma, and Elmer L. Fraker, the Administrative Secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society. These acres represent the first parcels of land of the proposed, 2,993 acres to

³² Examples of such newspaper articles are in the Muskogee *Sunday Phoenix and Times-Democrat*, June 5, 1966, August 14, 1966, October 30, 1966, January 8, 1967, January 15, 1967, February 5, 1967, March 17, 1968, November 17, 1968; Muskogee *Daily Phoenix*, February 24, 1967; Muskogee *Times-Democrat*, February 27, 1967; Stillwater *News-Press*, June 26, 1967; [Oklahoma City] *Daily Oklahoman*, February 18, 1967, February 28, 1967, June 14, 1967.

³³ *Telephone Talk*, January-February, 1967, copy in files of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, 221 North Fifth Street, Muskogee, Oklahoma; L. D. Bushnell, District Manager, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Muskogee, Oklahoma, to Phil Harris, January 23, 1967, copy in author's possession.

³⁴ Representative Vol H. Odom, Oklahoma House of Representatives, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Honey Springs Battlefield Park Boosters, February 15, 1967, copy in author's possession.

³⁵ House Bill No. 279, Oklahoma Historical Society appropriation for 1967, Thirty-First Legislature, First Session, 1967, *Oklahoma Session Laws, 1967* (St. Paul, Minnesota: West Publishing Co., 1967), pp. 423-424.

be purchased for the establishment of the park.³⁶

The Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors at its quarterly meeting on October 24, 1968, established the Honey Springs Battlefield Park Commission and directed George H. Shirk, the president of the society, to appoint a commission composed of a chairman, vice-chairman, and members. The duties of the commission consist of developing, operating, maintaining, and establishing policies for the Honey Springs Battlefield Park on behalf of the Oklahoma Historical Society. The commission was authorized "to enter into any fund raising activity consistent with the character of your responsibility." James C. Leake of Muskogee was designated chairman, and LeRoy H. Fischer of Stillwater was appointed vice-chairman. Commission members are Representative Vol H. Odom of Wagoner, Senator John D. Luton of Muskogee, Chief W. E. McIntosh of Tulsa, Nettie Wheeler of Muskogee, Warren Ray of Muskogee, Jess C. Epple of Warner, Phil Harris of Muskogee, Earl Boyd Pierce of Muskogee, Mrs. Mabel McLain of Checotah, Henry B. Bass of Enid, and Wendell E. Howell of Oklahoma City.³⁷

In keeping with the decision of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Honey Springs Battlefield Park Commission, and also upon the recommendation of other concerned groups, the entire site of the Battle of Honey Springs should be acquired by the State of Oklahoma and presented to the United States Government for the creation of a national battlefield park. The State of Missouri has accomplished this for its major Civil War battle at Wilson's Creek and the State of Arkansas has achieved this for its major Civil War battle at Pea Ridge. Located on the Muskogee County-McIntosh County line about fourteen miles south of the city of Muskogee, the site of the Battle of Honey Springs is composed of some tillable agricultural land, but it is made up primarily of a lightly-populated, hilly and rocky grazing area covered with trees. The site is of major scenic beauty as well as of primary historical importance. The battle location parallels on the east and is immediately adjacent to the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas railroad, the first railroad constructed through present-day Oklahoma. The battle site includes not only a readily discernible section of the Texas Road, the major artery of travel and commerce between Missouri, Kansas, and Texas during the last century, but Honey Springs itself, which was a stagecoach, provision, and watering point for travelers on the Texas Road. The site of the battle is readily accessible by major roadways, for it is paral-

³⁶ The deeds to the 160 acres of Honey Springs Battlefield Park land purchased by the Oklahoma Historical Society with the \$25,000.00 appropriated by the 1967 session of the Oklahoma Legislature are in the possession of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

³⁷ Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, October 24, 1968, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XLVI, No. 4 (Winter, 1968-1969), p. 481; and Minutes of Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors, April 24, 1969.

leled on the west by United States Highway 69 at the approximate distance of one mile, and on the south is about five miles from Interstate Highway 40. The battle site is located only 100 miles from Pea Ridge National Military Park in Arkansas and just 170 miles from Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park in Missouri.

The Battle of Honey Springs site is near the population, recreational, historical, and cultural centers of east-central and northeast Oklahoma. It is sixty miles from Tulsa, with its 265,000 people; fourteen miles from Muskogee, containing 40,000 residents; and forty-four miles from Tahlequah, a city of 6,000 persons.³⁸ The battle site is but a short distance from the housing and recreational facilities of Arrowhead State Park, Fountainhead State Park, Greenleaf Lake Park, and Sequoyah State Park. The Honey Springs site is located in the old Creek nation near its eastern boundary, in the midst of one of the more historic and culturally significant areas of Oklahoma.

Oklahoma's heritage, state pride, and tourism would be vastly enhanced by the acquisition of the 2,993 acre site of the Battle of Honey Springs by the State of Oklahoma and its gift to the United States Government for the establishment of a Honey Springs National Battlefield Park. With this park, the Civil War for the first time would be suitably commemorated in Oklahoma and the proportions and intensity of that conflict in the state and region adequately understood. Oklahoma should take action at once to acquire and convert the site of its major Civil War battle into a national park, thereby joining with Arkansas and Missouri in a tri-state complex of Civil War battlefield tourism west of the Mississippi River.

³⁸ [United States Census Bureau statistics for 1990 include the following figures: Tulsa, 367,302; Muskogee, 37,708; Tahlequah, 10,398; (personal communication with Steve Blue, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, July 24, 1991).]

[Additionally, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation reports that in 1989, 9,200 vehicles per day traveled north and south on US 69 between I-40 and US 266, while 8,500 vehicles per day traveled east and west on I-40 just west of its intersection with US 69; (personal communication with Jerry Wiley, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, July 24, 1991).]

APPENDIX H:

POTENTIAL PRESERVATION PARTNERS

Private

- ▶ Checotah Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Civil War Roundtable Associates
- ▶ Civil War Roundtable of Oklahoma City
- ▶ The Conservation Fund
- ▶ Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield Park, Inc.
- ▶ Indian Territory Posse of Oklahoma Westerners
- ▶ Military Order of the Stars and Bars
- ▶ Sons of Confederate Veterans
- ▶ Trans-Mississippi Rifles
- ▶ United Daughters of the Confederacy

Local Government

- ▶ Town of Checotah
- ▶ McIntosh County
- ▶ Muskogee County

State Government

- ▶ Oklahoma Historical Society
- ▶ Oklahoma Department of Tourism & Recreation
- ▶ Oklahoma Department of Transportation

Federal Government

- ▶ American Battlefield Protection Program
- ▶ National Park Service

APPENDIX I:

NOTES ON PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD 11 SEPTEMBER 1991

On Wednesday, 20 August 1991, press releases were mailed to newspapers in four counties [McIntosh, Muskogee, Oklahoma, and Tulsa]. On Wednesday, 27 August 1991, review copies of this plan were deposited at the Checotah City Hall and at public libraries in Checotah [near the battlefield], Eufaula [seat of McIntosh County], and Muskogee [seat of Muskogee County].

On Wednesday, 11 September, two meetings were held in Checotah to present the plan and other information to the public. The first meeting was held in the conference room of the Peoples National Bank, where Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian of the National Park Service, addressed the board of directors of the Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield Park, Inc. In his remarks, Mr. Bearss outlined the history of the American Battlefield Protection Program and the special interest of the Secretary of the Interior. Following the meeting, several board members and interested citizens guided representatives of the National Park Service and the Oklahoma Historical Society on a tour of the battlefield.

The second meeting was held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Katy Depot [operated by the Checotah Landmark Preservation Society]. This meeting was attended by more than 240 people, including or representing the groups and people listed at the end of this section.

The Public Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Martin A. Hagerstrand (Col. USA, Ret.), President of the Oklahoma Historical Society. He noted that the meeting was scheduled to last two hours and outlined the procedures that would be used during that time. The first 25% of the meeting was allocated to Dr. Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian, US National Park Service, who provided an overview of the America Battlefield Protection Program and the recent events at Manassas Battlefield which led to the establishment of the program.

The second 25% of the meeting was given to John R. Hill, who provided an overview of the Oklahoma Historical Society's experiences at Honey Springs Battlefield Park and development of Cultural Resource Management Planning, and to Ralph W. Jones, who discussed Possible Protection Methods and Recommended Protection Actions and used a map of the battlefield to illustrate his remarks.

The final 50% of the meeting was reserved to provide ample opportunity for landowners and other interested citizens to make comments and to ask questions. Col. Hagerstrand opened this portion of the meeting by asking Dr. Bearss, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Jones to sit as a panel to answer questions. He re-iterated for

the third time, "I want to remind you that we are seeking your comment--not just asking for questions."

The tape-recording of the meeting contains the following questions and comments:

Question> [Citizen from audience, name unintelligible]: "A number of people have noted that if federal funds are used in this project, as I understand it, we'll not be able to have re-enactments there on the battlefield."

Answer> [Mr. Bearss was asked to respond]: "No, actually what I said was that because of the liabilities involved, it is the policy of the National Park Service that no reenactments will be allowed in National Parks."

Comment> [Citizen from audience, name unintelligible]: "I want to make a comment that if the Historical Society can guarantee that this will be a working program there will surely be interested parties to make donations toward the fulfillment of the program. One of the groups I belong to gave over \$125,000.00 to the establishment . . . for the education of children because we knew that the program would be established and would continue. Now if the Historical Society can show that something is likely to be done here at this battlefield I think there will be associations which will be glad to donate some money, but they will want to be sure that something is going to take place."

Question> [Lee Woodard, landowner]: "Now how much of this land do you want? [Pointing to map] And do you want any additional land outside this red line? Do you want any of the land up north here where the battle started?"

Answer> [Col. Hagerstrand, pointing to map]: "The Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors has identified this area here as integral to the needs of the park. The additions in black to the north and south have to do with the 'landmark status' which is being sought."

Colonel Hagerstrand asked the audience for additional comments or questions. After repeating the solicitation, he asked the two state senators if they would like to comment.

Comment> [Senator Shurden]: "We are very glad to see this type of response from the citizens. We've supported the program from the very beginning and are glad to see this progress being made."

Comment> [Senator Robinson]: "Thank you Colonel; I'm proud to be here; I'm glad I got invited and am glad I made it over

but am sorry to be so late. [Pointing to Senator Shurden], "You've got the man here who can get you all the money so you don't have anything else to worry about," [general laughter].

Then Colonel Hagerstrand asked again for comments and questions. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Following the meeting, he and John R. Hill were approached by two leaders of a family of landowners who had previously been quite negative in their feelings toward the Oklahoma Historical Society and its Honey Springs Battlefield Park project. They visited for twenty-five minutes about the project and the alternative protection methods. Toward the end of the conversation the two owners admitted that the content of the meeting had enabled them to change their attitudes toward the agency and its plans for the battlefield.

During that same time period, two other landowners had approached Ralph Jones and Richard Ryan. These men stated an interest in offering conservation easements for the immediate protection of the land and in perusing the deeding land to the agency with life-tenency or long-term leasing options.

In the round-table discussions which were held to analyze the meeting, it was agreed by all (National Park Service staff, OHS Board, and OHS Staff) that the Public Meeting had been quite successful in allowing the agency to present its plans and in answering so well the concerns of the land owners and other citizens interested in the Battlefield. The NPS staff were highly complimentary toward the apparent success of the meeting, especially noting the large turn-out, the diversity of the audience, and the succinct presentations of the OHS staff.

The following groups were represented at the Public Meeting:

Heritage, Historical Preservation, and Patriotic Organizations

The Conservation Fund
National Park Service
Oklahoma Historical Society
Cherokee National Historical Society
Creek National Heritage Committee
McIntosh County Historical Society
Muskogee County Historical Society
Checotah Landmark Preservation Society
Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield Park, Inc.

Daughters of the American Revolution
Sons of Confederate Veterans
United Daughters of the Confederacy

Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Muskogee
14 Flags Heritage Club, Sallisaw
Checotah Round-up Club

American Legion, Post #21 and Auxiliary
American Legion, Post #267
V.F.W., Paul Henry Carr Post #7824 and Auxiliary

Tourism and Commercial Interests

Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department
Oklahoma Wildlife Commission
Green County, Inc.
Lake Eufaula Association
FLEAS [Friendly Lake Eufaula Association Supporters]
Fishing Association of Oklahoma

Checotah Chamber of Commerce
Muskogee Chamber of Commerce

Education and Community Service Groups

Checotah Board of Education
Checotah Parent-Teachers Association
Checotah Public Schools Administrators
Checotah Classroom Teachers Association
Checotah Alumni Association

NAACP, Checotah Chapter
Checotah Red Cross
Checotah Indian Community Center (Creek nation)
Community Relations Task Force
Deep Fork Community Action (Senior Citizens)
Checotah Area Artists
McIntosh County Extension Homemakers
Boy Scouts of America
Girl Scouts of America
Checotah Ministerial Alliance

Fraternal and Civic Groups

Kiwanis International
Lions International
Rotary International
I.O.O.F.
Rebekahs
Masonic Lodge #86
Order of the Eastern Star
Nobles of the Mystic Shrine

P.E.O. Chapter BX
Beta Sigma Phi
Epsilon Sigma Alpha

Governmental Agencies and Functions

The Cherokee Nation
The Creek Nation
The Choctaw Nation

Field Representative of U. S. Senator Don Nickles
Field Representative of Congressman Mike Synar

State Senator Ben Robinson
State Senator Frank Shurden

McIntosh County Commissioners
Muskogee County Commissioners

Mayor of Checotah
Checotah City Council
Checotah City Planning Commission
Checotah Volunteer Fire Department
Checotah Police Department

The National Park Service was represented by its Chief Historian, the Superintendent of Pea Ridge National Military Park, and the Special Projects Coordinator of the Southwest Regional Office. The Oklahoma Historical Society was represented by its President and four members of the Executive Committee, as well as the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Director of Historic Sites, Special Projects Coordinator, and Superintendent of Fort Gibson Military Park.

The Conservation Fund was also represented at the meeting.

The following pages contain a press release, a locally published meeting notice, and newspaper clippings regarding the meetings and interviews with Mr. Bearss conducted the day after the meetings.

NEWS!

NEWS!

NEWS!

National Park Service Chief Historian to Speak in Checotah

J. Blake Wade, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, announced today that Ed Bearss, Chief Historian of the National Park Service will be in Checotah on September 11, 1991. Mr. Bearss will be visiting the Honey Spring Battlefield Park and participating in various meetings. During this time he will be providing information related to various aspects of the US Department of the Interior's American Battlefield Protection Program.

Mr. Bearss will meet with the Board of Directors of the Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield Park Inc. to provide information about the program and its possible effect on the development of the Honey Springs Battlefield Park.

He and other members of the National Park Service will also be present at a public meeting to be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. that night at the Katy Depot on John Carr Drive in Checotah. The topic of this meeting will be a presentation and discussion of a "Resource Protection Plan" being developed for the Honey Springs Battlefield Park.

This meeting is being sponsored by the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield Park Inc. to provide an opportunity for review of plans for the park. An open forum discussion will be held during which public comments will be solicited.

The "Resources Protection Plan" is a public document which outlines potential methods for preserving and conserving the historic battlefield site. Beginning Wednesday, August 28, a copy of the document will be available for public reading at the Checotah Town Hall, 115 North Broadway, Checotah. It will also be available at the Jim Lucas Checotah Public Library, 140 South Broadway; at the Eufaula Memorial Library, 301 South First Street, Eufaula; and, at the Muskogee Public Library, 801 West Okmulgee.

CONTACT: John R. Hill, Director of Historic Sites
Oklahoma Historical Society
Wiley Post-Historical Building
2100 North Lincoln Boulevard,
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

(405) 521-2491 [extension 80]

Press Release Issued by Oklahoma Historical Society,
August 22, 1991

T O W N M E E T I N G



Hosted by
National Park Service
and
Oklahoma Historical Society
and
Friends of Honey Springs

Discussion of HONEY SPRINGS

as part of the

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM

Led by ED BEARSS, chief historian
NPS, Dept. of Interior
Washington, D.C.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1991 7 p.m.

KATY DEPOT Paul Carr Drive, Checotah

Friends of
HONEY SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD PARK, INC.

P.O. Box 756, Checotah, Oklahoma 74426

Meeting Announcement Published by Local Support Groups
September, 1991

Democrat

OKLAHOMA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1991

THIRTY-FIVE CENTS

DEMOCRAT VOL. 83, NO. 41

National Park Service Historian To Conduct Town Meeting Here

The chief historian of the National Parks Service will conduct a town meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Katy Depot in Checotah to discuss a protection program for the Honey Springs battle site. The session will begin at 7 p.m.

Prior to the open-to-the-public meeting, Ed Bearss will visit the battle site and participate in various other meetings while in the Checotah area.

He is expected to provide information related to the multi-faceted aspects of the U.S. Department of Interior's American Battlefield Pro-

tection Program during visits with the the board of directors of the Friends of Honey Springs Park, Inc.

Bearss and other members of the National Park Service also are expected to present and explain the "Resources Protection Plan", a public document which outlines potential methods for preserving and conserving historic battle sites.

A copy of this document will be made available for public reading on Wednesday, Aug. 28, at the Checotah City Hall, 115 N. Broad-

way; Jim Lucas, Checotah Public Library, 140 S. Broadway; the Eufaula Memorial Library, 301 S. First Street, and the Muskogee Public Library at 801 W. Okmulgee.

The Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield Park, Inc. was formed to develop the potential of the battle site and to preserve a vital park of Oklahoma and national history.

The board of directors urges those interested in these goals to attend the Sept. 11 meeting at the Katy Depot, which is located on Paul Carr Drive in Checotah.

McIntosh County Democrat,
Thursday, August 29, 1991, page 1

National, Local Officials To Evaluate Honey Springs

More than a dozen National Park Service and Oklahoma Historical Society officials will be in Checotah next week for an in depth on site evaluation of Honey Springs Civil War Battlefield.

Highlight of the three day, two day stay, will be Town Meeting forum to be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Katy Depot on Paul Carr Drive. The public is urged to attend the discussion.

The survey project will complete background material in asking for a portion of the new \$15 million federal "American Battlefield Protection Program", being sent to Congress by Oct. 1 by the Department of the Interior.

The local park is considered by Department Secretary Michael Lujan, Jr., as one of the 25 most important battlefields needing the protection plan and is ranked in the top three west of the Mississippi.

Locals Ask That Park Be Part Of Battlefield Preservation Program

Heading the team of experts is Ed Bearss, chief historian, NPS. A trio of deputies from the regional office headquartered in Santa Fe who made a previous visit in April will accompany Bearss.

According to J. Blake Wade, executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, preliminary research by the OHS historic sites division has already produced a 40-page study. It is an overview of historic resources, their significance, present conditions, potential threats, alternatives for protecting and interpreting the area. Copies are on file at the Checotah City Hall and the Jim Lucas

Checotah Public Library and the Eufaula Memorial Library and the Muskogee Public Library.

"The Battlefield Protection Plan can work successfully only with government, private and public entities in full cooperation," Wade said. "We think the first strong foundation for the future of Honey Springs will be laid in the next weeks."

The July 17, 1863 battle, called the Gettysburg of the West, was the first struggle in which white and Indian troops fought on both sides and black units were part of the combat forces. The area was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

LAKE EUFAULA WORLD, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1991,

Lake Eufaula World,
Thursday, September 5, 1991

Honey Springs Battlefield Site May Be Eligible For Protection

Honey Springs Battle site, considered one of the three most important Civil War grounds west of the Mississippi, could possibly come under the "American Battlefield Protection Program."

The site's eligibility will be discussed during a town meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Katy Depot in Checotah.

Ed Bearss, National Park Historian, will be at the meeting to explain the program after visiting the battle grounds earlier in the day.

The town meeting will open at 7 p.m.

Currently, the U.S. Department of Interior expects to have \$15 million to launch the preservation plan.

The overall purpose of the Battlefield Protection Program is to create a national strategy and a national cooperative effort to protect historic battlefields for future generations of Americans, according to Manuel Lujan, Secretary of the Interior.

The program emphasizes cooperation between private and public sectors.

This is why Bearss will meet with the directors of the Friends of the Honey Springs Battle Site prior to the town meeting.

Congress will appropriate the \$15 million in federal funds, according to the ABP program portfolio, so that the "Civil War may continue to be understood and interpreted by the public."

(Continued on Page 6)

page 1 ebc

Honey Springs

The following issues will be under consideration during the town hall meeting:

- *What is the significance of the Honey Springs Battlefield?
- *What is the geographical area covered by the battle site?
- *What is the current condition of the battlefield?
- *What are the short-term and long-term threats to the battlefield?
- *What are the alternative land protection methods available for site protection and interpretation?
- *Which lands should be protected?
- *Which land protection methods could be effectively utilized in protection the Honey Springs Battlefield?
- *What is the attitude of the community and battlefield landowners towards protecting the interpreting the site?
- *Who are the potential partners in protecting the site?
- *What are the potential partnerships and strategies that could be developed to protect the battlefield?

McIntosh County Democrat,
Thursday, September 5, 1991, page 1

THE KATY FLYER!

Fast Train

TO THE

Indian Territory,

TEXAS,

Mexico and Pacific Coast

RESORTS.

Wagner Buffet Sleepers.

Free Katy Chair Cars.

C. HALL, Traffic Manager.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

JAMES BARKER, Gen'l Passenger and Ticket Agent.

School has started, Labor Day has passed, and the Katy keeps having interesting visitors and scheduled activities.

Two dates will make our property busy the second week in September.

The first is set for Wednesday, Sept. 11, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m., when a town meeting will be held. At that time four members of the Department of the Interior's National Park Service will join the executive staff of the Oklahoma Historical Society to discuss a Resources Protection Plan for Honey Springs Battlefield Park.

Led by Ed Bearss, Chief Historian, NPS, from Washington, D.C., the other out-of-state federal personnel are Tom Carroll, Southwest Regional coordinator, Santa Fe; Jim Gott, superintendent, Pea Ridge (Ark.) National Military Park; and Neil Mangum, NPS Regional office, St. Smith.

OHS staff members will be J. Blake Wade, executive director; Dr. Bob L. Blackburn, deputy executive director; John R. Hill, historic sites division; Richard Ryan and Chris Morgan, both of Ft. Gibson; and Ralph W. Jones, Project coordinator.

This team will spend two nights and part of three days here in a hands-on evaluation and extensive walk-through of the local Civil War battle site. They are especially interested in local understanding of probable long-range goals and the multiple ways of achieving them. It is important for our citizens to come and be a part of this shared evening.

The findings will be our input in the "American Battlefield Protection Plan" now being readied for Congressional action.

Honey Springs has been designated as one of the county's 25 sites for the program, and one of the top three west of the Mississippi.

Consider this your invitation to be part of this important discussion.

On Thursday, Sept. 12, at 6:30 p.m., we'll be kicking off the fall season of CLPS meetings with a supper in the freight room. That week marks the seventh anniversary of our chartering (Sept. 7, 1984) of our Preservation Society by the State of Oklahoma.

We've come a long way. The Depot was still on the M-K-T track

then; and we didn't even expect to own it. On this occasion we will honor a special group.

To carry out a commitment specified in our Bylaws, we will be hanging a plaque giving recognition to the Katy Benefactors who in 1988 signed a three-year payout note for nearly \$27,000. This money funded Phase II, completion of the station's restoration as a tourist information center/museum on Paul Carr Dr.

One organization and those individuals which enabled the Katy's interior work to be completed area: Checotah Area Artists, Bob and Joan Frame, W. H. and Vivian Frame, Clarence R. Futrell, Gene and Martha Harrison, Robert and Kathy Jennings, Milam M. King, R. J. and Margaret Koch, Russell and Nancy Koch, Mick and Sally Meador, Mitch and Karen Myers, Jo Walberg Sharp, Logan and Donna Sharpe, Lou and Ruth Sharpe, Emmy Scott Stidham, Gregory and Ann D. Stidham, Lee and Mary Stidham, and Mike and Glenna Stidham.

No reservation for the meal is necessary, but bring a dessert or salad to complete the menu of slivered turkey for sandwiches.

Dues will be payable that evening for the new year. Categories (and the appropriate donation) include: individual - \$10; junior - \$2; family - \$15; sustaining - \$25; centennial - \$100; and life - computed on age.

Come be a part of our birthday celebration!

Checking the guest register during the past six weeks, tabulation shows that we've had company from 14 states, and they live from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Home states, in addition to Oklahoma are: Texas, Indiana, California, Arkansas, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Kansas, Louisiana, Washington, Missouri, Virginia, and Illinois.

Have you been a visitor to the Katy lately?

To complete the summer news without commending our Eastern Private Industry Council employee, Brenda Minnick, would be a serious omission, indeed!

Brenda, who was fourth in her 1991 CHS graduating class, spend eight most helpful weeks with us. In 1990 she did a hot-weather stint at Jim Lucas Checotah Public Library, and the Katy was her "learning experience" this year.

Her work was efficient, creative and thorough. Add to that, Brenda's willingness to come early and stay late, to do extra chores on off-days (like decorating the Mini-Museum windows and serving as a special Honey Springs envoy) making her a real joy to have as our staff person. The volunteers and Miss Katy, our watch cat, truly enjoyed Brenda's hours at the station.

We hope to lure her back for other activities.

Meantime, we wish her all good luck as she continues her college studies at Connors, leading to a career in science.

We are grateful to her, and to the county office headed by Darlene Coleman, for placing her at the Depot.

The death last week of W. E. "Dode" McIntosh has made us all pause to reflect on his contributions to the world, and to our town (he called himself "Checotah's biggest booster") and to CLPS.

It was his motivating influence which led to the organization of our group. He was its only honorary charter member.

As we close our year, we remember not only the former Creek chief for whose family our county was named, but two other very important charter members who have died in recent months: Milam M. King and Edward H. Lynn.

This trio of local leaders was generous with their time and talents, always interested in our projects. They left an invaluable heritage. Each man was a great historian, and we shall continue to miss them.



Muskogee
Daily
Phoenix

Page 7—Section A
Wednesday, Sept. 11, 1991

Opinion

■ Editorially speaking

Honey Springs: Opportunity for all of Oklahoma

Oklahoma Historical Society officials want to develop the Honey Springs battlefield near Checotah.

Those interested in improving tourism in eastern Oklahoma should sit up and take notice.

If the park were developed like Wilson's Creek near Springfield, Mo., or Pea Ridge, Ark., thousands of visitors would visit the site each year. Equally important, those same visitors could be lured to drive to Muskogee, Fort Gibson, Tahlequah, Wagoner and Sallisaw. Along the way, they would spend valuable tourist dollars, as much as \$100 if they spend the night.

All the attractions — from Sequoyah's home near Sallisaw to the U.S. National Cemetery at Fort Gibson — have a common theme of frontier heritage, of cowboys and Indians. Those are the images tourism specialists say visitors most want to see. Add to that the natural beauty of the area, recreation resources and there's every reason for the Muskogee region could be Oklahoma's number one tourist attraction.

This area teems with history.

Honey Springs development is a natural to reach deeper into that history than the limits of the historic battle of 1863. Two other historic Oklahoma sites should be brought into this tourism development opportunity — Fort Gibson and the Texas Road.

Seizing control of the Fort Gibson military post was the major goal of the 6,000 Confederate troops involved in the battle of Honey Springs.

The Texas Road, east of the battle site, ran from the northern to the southern border of Indian Territory. Skirmishes were fought all along the length of the historic trail.

All three sites figured prominently in Indian Territory development. Honey Springs offered invaluable water needed by travelers and provided access to Fort Gibson, the westernmost outpost of the new frontier for many years. The Texas Road was a major thoroughfare.

Imagine coupling these three tourist attractions with other historic tourists sites in the area: The Five Civilized Tribes Museum, Bacone and its Atalua Lodge, Tsa-La-Gi and its Trail of Tears Drama, the antique fashion museums at Wagoner and the 14 Flags Heritage Museum at Sallisaw.

A National Park Service representative is in the Checotah area this week looking at the potential for development of the Honey Springs battlefield. The Phoenix urges tourism representatives, business and community leaders and citizens to attend a public meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the Katy Depot in Checotah.

Development of the Honey Springs battlefield can be an important link in a strong chain of attractions that will bring increased tourism to eastern Oklahoma.



Muskogee
Daily
Phoenix

Friday, Sept. 13, 1991
Page 8—Section A

Opinion

■ Editorially speaking

Page 8—Section A—Friday, Sept. 13, 1991

Phoenix

Local

Link Fort Gibson, Honey Springs as tourist draw, historian urges

By PHIL BURROWS

Phoenix Staff Writer

FORT GIBSON — National Park Service chief historian Ed Bearss gazed over parts of Fort Gibson Military Park as he reflected on the Battle of Honey Springs site at Rentiesville.

Bearss toured the Honey Springs site Wednesday and Fort Gibson on Thursday.

For both historic sites to be recognized as major tourist attractions, linking the two through their Civil War roles is a must, Bearss said.

"The potential of linking Honey Springs and Fort Gibson, the Texas Road and Baxter Springs (Kan.) and Fort Scott (Kan.) is there. People must spend time at these two, otherwise they'll just drive through and go on," he said.

"We must make people cognizant of the outstanding historical resources here. Fort Gibson was important, because without it, there wouldn't have been a Battle of Honey Springs."

At Checotah and Fort Gibson, Bearss met with members of local and state historical societies, county



Bearss

officials and landowners. He focused on U.S. Secretary of Interior Manuel Lujan Jr.'s battlefield protection program. The program will provide preservation funds for some battle sites.

"We've got to get these groups to work together and look toward preservation and interpretation of the level of Honey Springs and its national importance," he said.

Fort Gibson housed 3,000 Union troops under Gen. James G. Blunt near the Arkansas River. The 6,000 Confederate troops at Honey Springs were out to destroy Blunt's army.

On July 17, 1863, the Union scored a major victory at Honey Springs. At about the same time, it was winning battles at Gettysburg, Pa., and Vicksburg, Miss.

"Blunt's strategy was to take his 3,000 against the Confederates' 6,000 before 2,000 more Confederates came from Arkansas," said John Hill, Oklahoma Historical Society site director. "Those other 2,000 arrived at Honey Springs four hours after the battle."

Another factor that made the Battle of Honey Springs important was various ethnic groups' roles, Hill said. Whites, blacks, American Indians and Hispanics were involved in the battle.

"It was the first time all those came together and battled," he said. "The 1st Kansas Colored Infantry was significant in the Union's victory."

Starts Sunday On Lake Eufaula
Grand National Bass Championship



THE VOICE
OF THE
GREATER LAKE
EUFULA
AREA

Lake Eufaula World

LAKE EUFAULA WORLD
USPS 114-130

LAKE REPORT

Tuesday,
September 17, 1991

LAKE LEVEL 582.93

NORMAL LEVEL 585.00

LAKE TEMP. 72F

(30 ft. depth)

LAKE COND. Calm & Clear

RAINFALL 1.76"

Vol. 19 No. 14 Thurs., Sept. 19, 1991

35¢

Honey Springs Development On Track

By Don Campbell

The Rev. Jessie Jackson talked of a "Rainbow Coalition" during his bid for the presidency, but, says Ed Bearss, chief historian for the National Park Service, the original Rainbow Coalition took part in the July 17, 1863, Battle of Honey Springs.

Speaking to a packed house on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Katy Depot in Checotah, Bearss, of Washington, D.C., reminded us that not only white soldiers fought at Honey Springs.

"One of the factors that made the Battle of Honey Springs unique was the various ethnic groups that fought there," explained Bearss. "Whites, Blacks, American Indians and

Hispanics were involved in the battle. The 1st Kansas Colored Infantry was significant in the Union's victory."

Bearss was in Checotah to discuss a Resources Protection Plan for Honey

Springs Battlefield Park.

Bearss headed a group that included Tom Carroll, Southwest Regional coordinator from Santa Fe, N.M. and Jim Gott, superintendent of the Pea Ridge (Ark.) National

Military Park.

Others visiting the Honey Springs battle site and attending the evening meeting included J. Blake Wade, executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society. See "Track" Page 32

Track

Continued from Page 1
cal Society (OHS); Dr. Bob L. Blackburn, executive director of the OHS; John R. Hill of the Historic Sites Division; Richard Ryan and Chris Morgan, both of the Fort Gibson Military Park; and Ralph W. Jones, project coordinator.

Bearss gave a brief talk on just how the Department of the Interior's Resource Protection Plan came about and what the plan meant in reference to the Battle of Honey Springs.

Jones talked about the various methods of acquiring the land that would be needed to develop Honey Springs into a national tourist attraction such as Pea Ridge in Arkansas.

Jones also used a map to show what lands were already state owned and what lands the project would want to acquire in priority sequence.

Bearss then turned the meeting over to Hill and Jones who dealt more specific with Honey Springs and plans to develop the Honey Springs Battle Site as a historical attraction.

All involved in the one-day visit to Honey Springs and Checotah agreed that due to the work of the Oklahoma Historical Society and Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield Park and the support of the Checotah Landmark Preservation Society and the Checotah Chamber of Commerce, as well as other local, state and national groups, the groundwork for Honey Springs was in place and it was time to run with the project.

Both Hill and Jones said this was just the first of several meetings that will be held concerning the development of Honey Springs as a park. Both said the desires and wishes of the local people was a major factor in making this project a success.



Checotah Mayor Mike Earlywine, left, presented Ed Bearss, Chief Historian for the National Park Service, with a key to the city during his Sept. 11, visit to the Checotah area. Several national, state and local officials attended the meeting at the Katy Depot to discuss the future of the Honey Springs Battlefield Park. STAFF PHOTO

Lake Eufaula World,
Thursday, September 19, 1991, page 1



OFFICE: 1000 N. 10TH
CHECOTAH, OK 73022

McIntosh County

Democrat

ONE SECTION

TWO SUPPLEMENT

CHECOTAH, OKLAHOMA

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1991

THIRTY-FIVE CENTS

DEMOCRAT VOL. 83, NO. 44

National Park Historian Sees Bright Future For Honey Springs

By DON CAMPBELL

The Rev. Jessie Jackson talked of a "Rainbow Coalition" during his bid for the presidency but, says Ed Bearss, chief historian for the National Park Service, the original Rainbow Coalition took part in the July 17, 1863 Battle of Honey Springs.

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local, state and national groups, the groundwork for Honey Springs was in place and it was time to run with the project.

Following the briefing and question and answer period, Bearss was asked about the potential of Honey Springs as a major tourist attraction.

"The potential of linking Honey Springs, Fort Gibson, the Texas Road, and Baxter Springs and Fort Scott, Kan. is there. People must spend time at these two, otherwise they'll just

(Continued on Page 12)

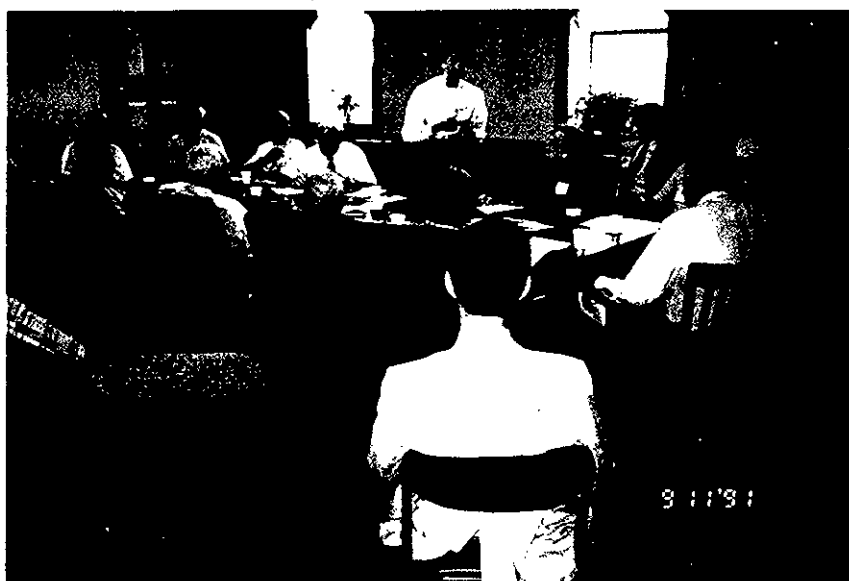
(Continued from Page 1)
drive through and go on," Bearss said.

He went on to say, "We must make people cognizant of the outstanding historical resources here. Fort Gibson was important, because without it, there wouldn't have been a Honey Springs."

Both Hill and Jones said this was just the first of several meetings that will be held concerning the development of Honey Springs as a park. Both said the desires and wishes of the local people was a major factor in making this project a success.



CHECOTAH MAYOR MIKE EARLYWINE, center, presented a key to the city of Checotah to Ed Bearss, right, chief historian for the National Park Service, also standing is Col. Martin Haggerstrand, president of the Oklahoma Historical Society. (Staff Photo)



Photograph No. 1: Emmy Scott Stidham making introductions at Board Meeting, Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield Park Inc.



Photograph No. 2: Ed Bearss (r), Chief Historian of the National Park Service receiving the "Key to the City of Checotah" from Mayor Mike Earlywine (c) with Oklahoma Historical Society President Colonel Martin A. Hagerstrand (l) observing.



Photograph No. 3: View of Some of the Participants During Public Meeting, Wednesday, 11 September 1991, Checotah, Oklahoma



Photograph No. 4: View of Some of the Participants During Public Meeting, Wednesday, 11 September 1991, at Katy Depot

APPENDIX J:

PARTICIPANTS IN DEVELOPMENT OF PROTECTION PLAN

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STAFF:

Ed Bearss, Chief Historian, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1100 "L" Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20013;

Tom Carroll, Special Project Coordinator, Southwest Regional Office, National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, Post Office Box 728, Santa Fe, NM 87504-0728;

Jim Gott, Superintendent, Pea Ridge National Military Park, National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, Pea Ridge, AR 72751;

Neil Mangum, Regional Historian, Southwest Regional Office, National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, Santa Fe, NM; Acting Superintendent, Fort Smith National Historic Site, Fort Smith, AR 72902.

Steve Morris, Preservation Planner, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1100 "L" Street NW, Room 6111, Washington, DC, 20013;

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY STAFF

Protection Plan Development Staff

John R. Hill, Director, Division of Historic Sites, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK 73105;

Ralph W. Jones, Curator II, Division of Historic Sites, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK, [Project Coordinator];

Chris Morgan, Property Manager I, Fort Gibson Military Park, Oklahoma Historical Society, Fort Gibson, OK 74434;

Richard Ryan, Superintendent, Fort Gibson Military Park, Oklahoma Historical Society, Fort Gibson, OK 74434;

Consultants

Bob L. Blackburn, Ph.D., Deputy Executive Director, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK;

Whit Edwards, Programs Coordinator, Divisions of Historic Sites and Museums, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK;

Marshall Gettys, Historical Archeologist, Office of the State Historic Preservation Officer, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK;

Melvina Thurman Heisch, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK;

CERTAIN "FRIENDS OF HONEY SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD PARK"

Steve Adams, President, Oklahoma Land and Cattle Company, Tulsa, OK; [Member of the Board, National Park Conservation Fund, Washington, D.C.];

Mark Lee "Beau" Cantrell, Esq., Attorney and Counselor at Law, El Reno, OK; [former Member Honey Springs Battlefield Commission; Honorary Curator, Confederate Room, The State Museum of History, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK];

LeRoy H. Fischer, Ph.D., Oppenheim Regents Professor Emeritus, Department of History, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK; [Member of the Board of Directors, Oklahoma Historical Society; former Secretary, Honey Springs Battlefield Commission];

Col. Martin A. Hagerstrand (USA, Ret.), Tahlequah, OK; [President, Oklahoma Historical Society; former Member, Honey Springs Battlefield Commission];

Bob Hill, long-term resident of the battlefield, Oktaha, Oklahoma; [former Member, Honey Springs Battlefield Commission].

Jordan B. Reaves, retired wholesale appliance dealer, Oklahoma City, OK; [Member Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society; former Member, Honey Springs Battlefield Commission];

Emmy Scott Stidham, Director, Checotah Landmark Preservation Society, Checotah, OK; [Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society; former Member, Honey Springs Battlefield Commission];

Lee Stidham, Chairman and CEO, People's National Bank, Checotah, OK; [President, Friends of Honey Springs Battlefield Park, Inc.];

Lee Woodard, life-long resident of battlefield, Checotah, OK; [former Member, Honey Springs Battlefield Commission].

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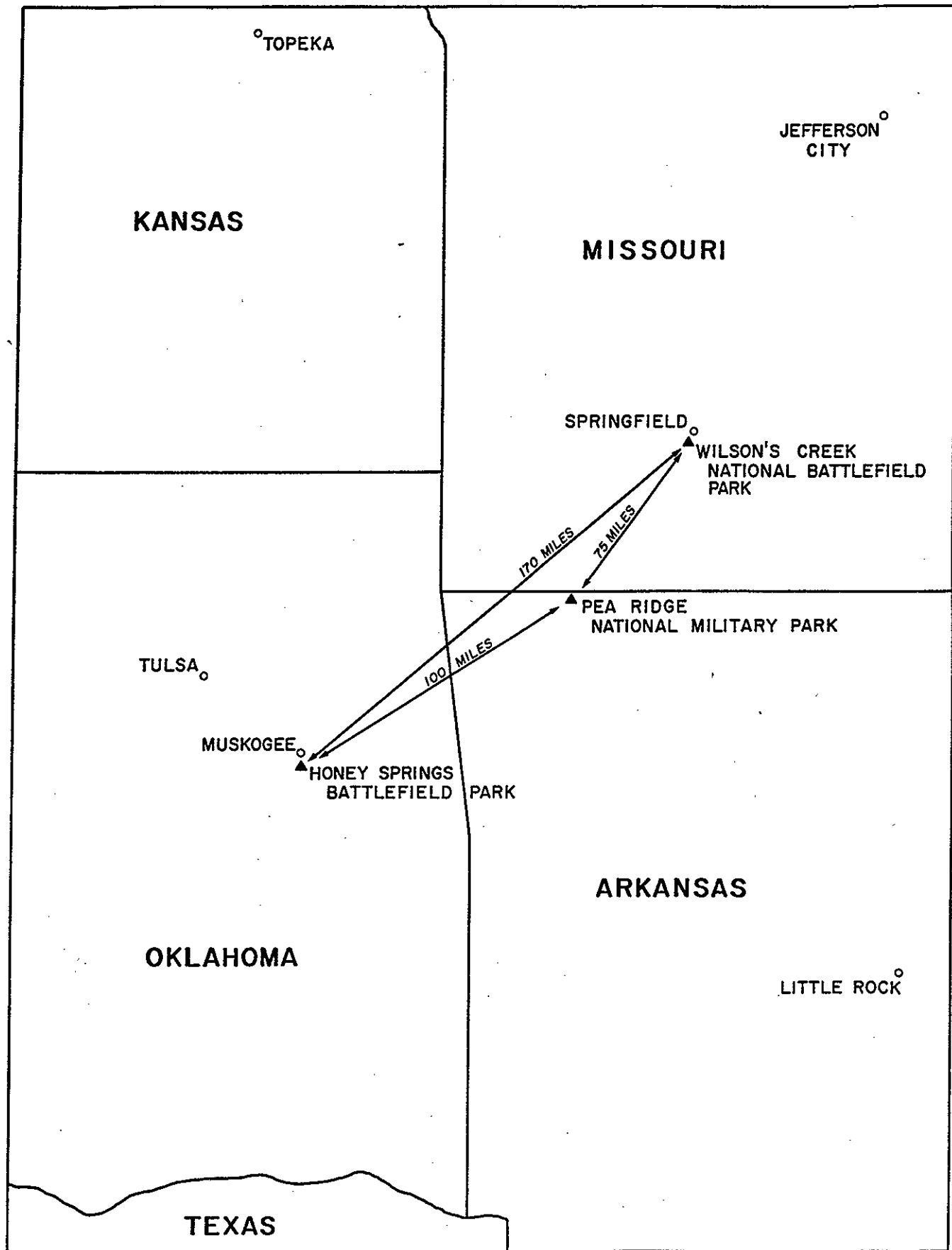
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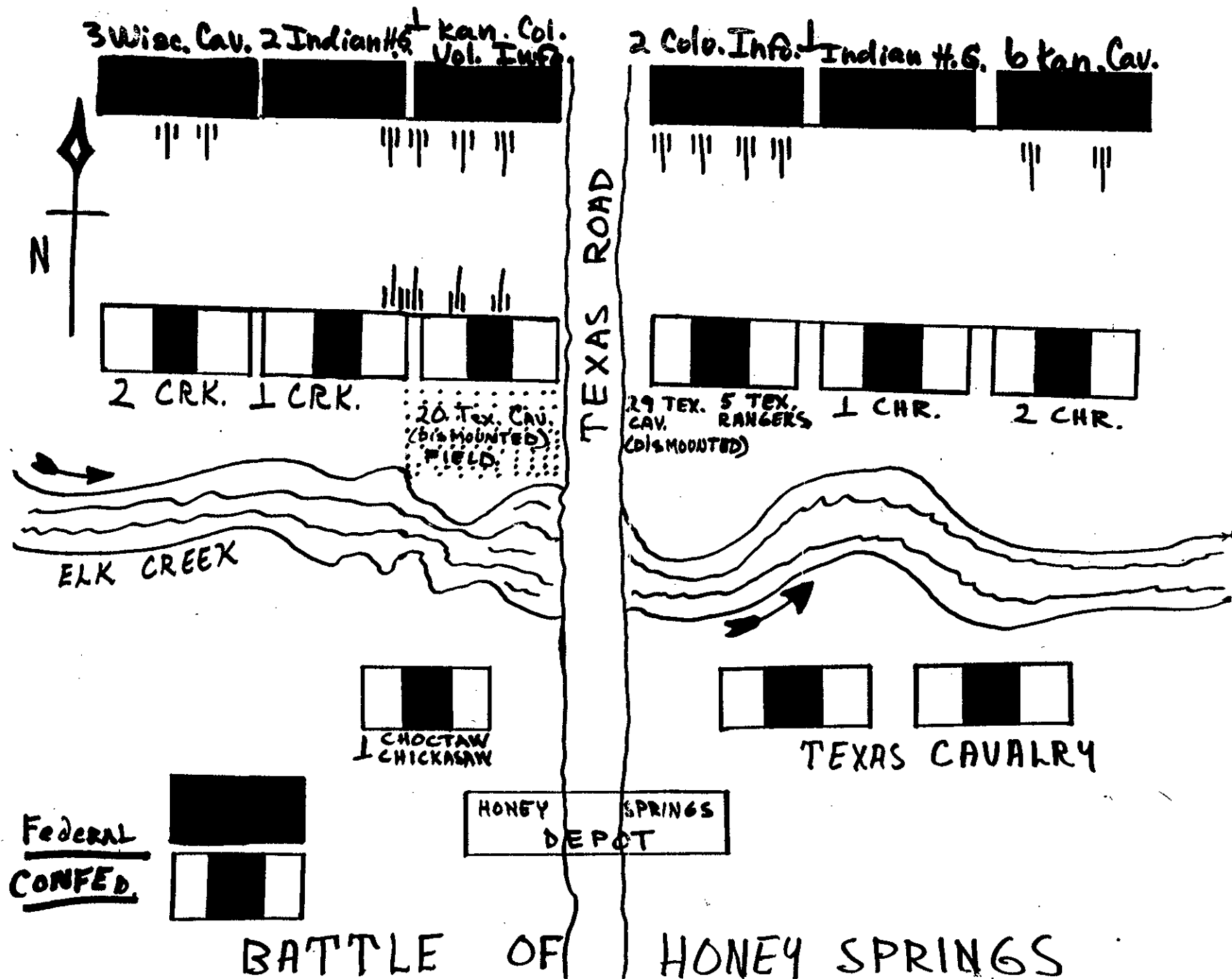
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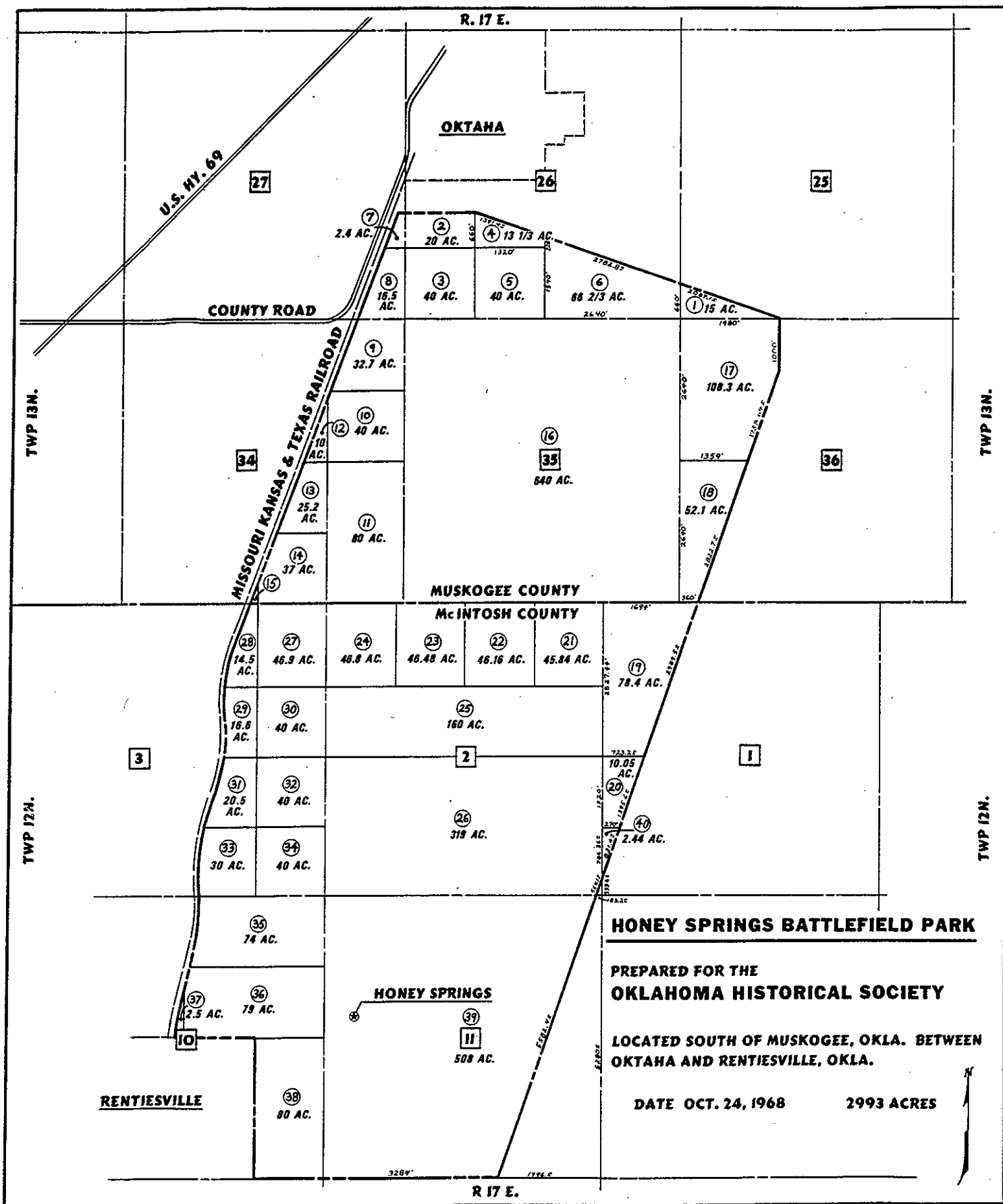
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