



THE

VIDETTE

Vol. 6, No 1 Friends of Stones River National Battlefield

February 1999

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors met January 26, 1999 to discuss plans for the upcoming year. Several ideas from the end of last year were discussed again. We need to get the web page built and we need to see if we have enough interest to print our T-shirts. For the web page we need some people interested in layout design, editing, or story writing. We can have stories, pictures, maps, and anything else someone can think of for our site. Please let me know if you are interested or have any ideas for the content of our web page. We also need help with the T-shirt design. We would like to have something that will sell well but also historical significance. Please let us know if you have any ideas.

We also discussed forming an alliance with Save the Franklin Battlefield and other Franklin Heritage groups. These groups are really making progress and we should be more effective if we consolidate our efforts. We will have more to follow on this in the future.

We have been asked by the Daily News Journal and Sun Trust Bank if we have anyone who needs to be recognized for their community service. The nominations for community service award need to be turned in by February 19, 1999. If you know of someone, please let us know.

We have changed how we bill our membership, starting this year we will bill the entire membership in January. This will make bookkeeping much easier since the treasurer will not have to keep up with individual billing dates.

On the backside of this newsletter you will find a questionnaire for you to fill out. Since you will be sending in your dues this is a good time for us to gather your opinions and find out what skills we have. Please take the time to fill this out and return it to us as soon as possible. We do need your help with several of our projects and hopefully some people in the membership can step forward.

Battlefield Purchases Miller Property

The National Park Service has purchased the Dr. Ray Miller farm adjacent to Stones River National Battlefield for \$3.6 million dollars Superintendent Mary Ann Peckham announced. The 50-acre farm was included in the boundary

by Congress in a bill signed in December 1991. After Congress later appropriated funds, negotiations began between the NPS and Miller in 1993, and the sale concluded after a jury trial determined the purchase price in August 1998. The Miller family will be given time to relocate before the National Park Service begins to actively manage the property.

The property is the site where, in the early hours of December 31, 1862, repeated lines of Confederates marched against Union troops in the "Slaughter Pen" and "Hell's Half-Acre." Tennessee troops were a big part of the Confederate brigades that surged across this land in pursuit of Sheridan's command, and in a frontal assault on Hazen's Brigade. Sheridan fell back to the Nashville Pike, but Hazen held firm at the Round Forest, where the Hazen Brigade Monument was built by the Union troops during the summer following the battle. "Acquiring this property allows us to tell the story of the early part of the battle in a way we have been unable to do in the past. Visitors will be able to stand on the ground where the troops camped on the eve of battle, where they joined together singing 'Home, Sweet Home.' The purchase will preserve the viewshed across this field that was so tranquil in the evening of December 30, 1862, and was so bloody just a few hours later, when the Confederates smashed into the Union center with devastating effect," explained Peckham.

February 23, 1999 Meeting

At Stones River National Battlefield
7:00 PM

Founding Ideals/Premises of the Confederate Nation and the Impact on the Southern Approach to the Military Conflict East/West

Speaker: Dr. Robert Hunt, professor of history
Middle Tennessee State University

News Flash: Park to Release General Management Plan

Copies of the final plan will be available for review at the Stones River National Battlefield visitor center and at Linebaugh Public Library in Murfreesboro.

The National Park Service is expected to issue the final general management plan for Stones River National Battlefield during the week of February 8th. The plan incorporates development plans for specific portions of the battlefield along with an Environmental Impact Statement. The plan describes three alternatives that were examined after review of historical documents, and meetings with the public and local agencies; and it includes public comments to the Draft General Management Plan which was released in June, 1997. National Park Service responses to the public comments are also included. The National Park Service identifies a preferred alternative in the final document.

Officers for 1998-99.

President: Mary Craig 890-9026
Vice-President : James Patterson
Secretary: Eddie Macon
Treasurer: Henry Patthey

Board of Directors:

Bertha Chrieztenberg Harris Hooper
Del Horton Shirley Jones
Jim Schroeder



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SUPPORT YOUR BATTLEFIELD!

Let Us Know More about you

Do you have an email account? If so would you like to get updates or the newsletter electronically.

Email acct.

Would you like to serve on the Board of Directors?

Do you have any interest in helping lay out the web page? We need help with editing/writing text and artistic layout of page.

Would a family membership interest you? (\$10 individual or \$15 for family)

If we sell T-shirts for \$10-\$12 would you be interested in buying one?

Do you have any ideas for a design? (example – on front left chest use SRNB emblem and have a map of the battlefield on the back).

Are you interested in helping with the newsletter?

Any other comments _____