



# The Vidette

Vol. 9, No 1 Friends of Stones River National Battlefield

March 2002

## **From the President**

Living near Stones River National Battlefield, I pass the Battlefield several times each day via Manson Pike and the Nashville Pike in route to work, taking my children to school and making other local trips. Since the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, Stones River National Battlefield has taken on an even greater significance to me. Viewing the headstones in the cemetery, thinking about Union and Confederate soldiers who died and thinking about the survivors who may have carried physical and/or psychological wounds for the remainder of their lives; it's difficult for me not become emotional. Stones River National Battlefield, small in scope when compared to the acreage of other national parks, is a significant factor in history that defines who we are as a country.

Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, I've become more committed than ever to accept my role of responsibility as a member of the Friends of SRNB, to be a steward of this national treasure called Stones River National Battlefield.

Eddie Macon

## **Friends Assist California College Student**

The Friends provided information to assist a California State University, Long Beach student in writing a research paper on the endangerment issues at Stones River National Battlefield. Jo Wales, CSU student majoring in Recreation Resource Management, read about SRNB's endangerment issues in national publications and then contacted the Friends requesting information. The Friends provided information from its archive of local and regional newspaper articles. The research paper gave details on the proposed I-24 and Manson Pike interchange, the widening of Manson Pike and the development of land owned by the City of Murfreesboro.

## **Reunion for the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary We Need Your Input!**

The Friends Board of Directors is exploring the possibility of the Friends sponsoring a reunion for descendants of those who fought at Stones River. The reunion would be held in Murfreesboro during the upcoming 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle. Saturday, December 28 and Sunday, December 29 are the dates in consideration. The gathering would give participants the opportunity to meet other descendants, participate in programs at Stones River National Battlefield and participate in special festivities. Please use the enclosed envelope or send an Email message to friends\_srn@yahoo.com to notify the Friends about your willingness to participate in a reunion. Your input is very important in consideration of this project.

## **SRNB Makes Top 10 Endangered List**

Stones River National Battlefield made the Top 10 list of America's most endangered Civil War sites for the second year in a row. The Civil War Preservation Trust released its list of America's most endangered Civil War sites at a Washington, D.C. press conference.

## **The Battle Continues**

The Nashville Business Journal reported in a front-page story on February 25<sup>th</sup> that construction on a \$22 million, 220,000-square-foot shopping center is expected to begin in the fall on land located near Stones River National Battlefield. The site, located on Thompson Lane south of Manson Pike, is on property currently owned by the City of Murfreesboro. Murfreesboro City Manager Roger Haley said reports of a proposed retail development are premature and that negotiations are currently in progress. Phoenix Associates acknowledged that discussions are currently in progress with the city, but no deal is pending on the city-owned property.

**Murfreesboro: A Town “Captured”**

by Shirley Farris Jones

Editor’s note: This is the last of a three-part series. Shirley Farris Jones has served as President of the Friends and is currently on the Board of Directors. Shirley is a Civil War historian and preservation activist.

.....From this day on, Murfreesboro was known as a “captured town.” In consequence, a town which is not surrendered to the Federal Army on their first appearance, and which is claimed to have been the duty of the Mayor at the time according to an act of Congress, shall be declared “captured” as a failure to comply with this requirement. Had a proper “surrender” been tendered, the town and citizens would be protected in person and property during the time of Federal occupation, citizens being allowed compensation for rents and damages sustained by the army. Two examples of war claims by prominent citizens of Murfreesboro which were filed against the Federal government are listed accordingly.

In October of 1872, Dr. James Maney, owner of Oakland’s Plantation, filed a claim in the amount of \$27,012.00 for damages incurred by the Union Army during its occupation in 1863-64. Most of this was for timber and rails. Dr. Maney unfortunately died thirty-nine days after filing this claim and the burden for proving it was now placed on his heirs. Since the claim was in excess of \$10,000 it would be heard in Washington D.C., and the family would have to transport all witnesses to the nation’s capitol at their own expense. Moreover, it would also now have to be proved that Dr. Maney had remained loyal to the Union, even though his son and son-in-law both served the Confederacy. “Oaklands” is the same 1500 acre plantation where General Nathan Bedford Forrest accepted the surrender of Murfreesboro from the injured Union General Duffield on July 13, 1862 and where President Jefferson Davis spent the night prior to General John Hunt Morgan’s wedding to Miss Martha Ready on December 14, 1862. It was also used as Braxton Bragg’s private residence while he was in the city. The family was never awarded any money from the government for this claim.

Thomas Hord, anti-secessionist and owner of “Elmwood”, a 1,000 acre plantation adjacent to lands where the Battle of Stones River occurred, fared a little better. Mr. Hord was also one of the sixty-five businessmen of Murfreesboro who had previously, but unsuccessfully, wished to restore relations with the Union. In a petition to the government for redress he wrote, “ During 1862 I furnished the Federal army 500 bushels of corn and oats, five or six stacks of hay, for which I received receipts but they were defective. In August, 1862 my men were taken to work on the stockade forts here and in Murfreesboro until the army fell back from Alabama to Kentucky and they were taken off by the army. For their services I claim pay and for the men if not returned. On December 29, 1862, the Army of Rosecrans passed. That was on Monday and on Saturday I had nothing left but 300 pounds of bacon. During the week of the battle [Stones River] a large number of wagons and teams were captured by the rebels, necessitating their being replaced as quickly as possible. I furnished 21 head of horses and mules, 37 head of cattle, 100 hogs, 900 barrels of corn, 35 or 40 tons of hay and fodder. The house was unexpectedly and suddenly taken for a hospital and the wounded brought in so rapidly that there was not time or means of removing the carpets or furniture as of December 31, 1862. The wounded and dying were brought in, 500 or 600 of them, and laid on fine Brussels carpets which became so soaked with blood as to be removed and thrown over the carriage house. In addition, between 80,000 and 90,000 fence rails were taken. Twenty-six houses, two barns, and the overseer’s house were torn down to make three bridges, two stockades and cross-ties for the railroad. ... “

When it was all over, Thomas Hord estimated his damages at \$59,124.60. However, only a portion of this claim was honored, and it was not until 1911 that his heirs received a small portion in settlement.

To date, Murfreesboro has yet to surrender! And, in all probability, Mayor John Dromgoole had absolutely no inkling of the long-range ramifications his actions would have on the citizens of Murfreesboro when he picked up his fishing pole on that fateful spring day in 1862. But, as Southerners have learned time and time again, the price of pride can sometimes be a very costly one indeed.