



The Vidette

Vol. 11, No 3 Friends of Stones River National Battlefield

October 2003

From the Past President

Greetings:

I have had the honor of serving as president of the Friends of Stones River National Battlefield for the last three years. James Patterson, vice-president for the last three years, was elected as president during the June membership meeting and has taken over in his new leadership role. James' knowledge of Civil War and local history will serve the Friends well.

I will continue be very active with the Friends in my new position as secretary/treasurer and will continue to assist with the publication of The Vidette. I appreciate all the support received from the officers, membership and the Stones River National Battlefield staff during the last three years. I look forward as the Friends move forward in 2003/2004 in its continued support of Stones River National Battlefield.

Best Regards,

Eddie Macon

New ZIP Code for the Friends' Address

Due to the US Postal Service moving the Friends' box to a new post office location, the 37129 ZIP code has replaced the 37133 ZIP code. The PO Box 4092 Murfreesboro, Tennessee address remains the same. Please make note of the new ZIP code for the Friends' address.

The Friends of Stones River National Battlefield, Inc.
P.O. Box 4092
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37129

Friends 2003/2004 Officers and Board Members

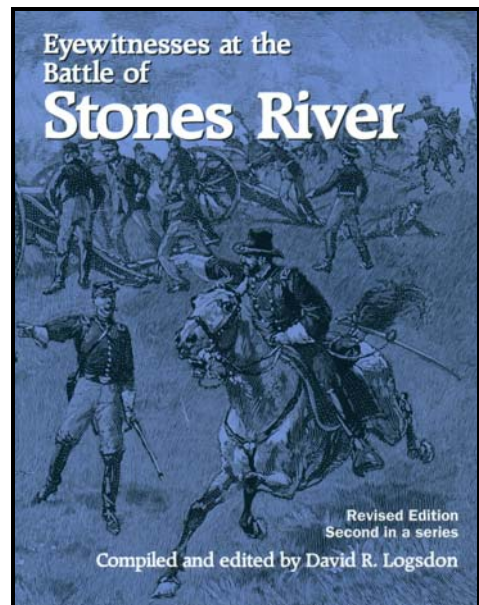
President: James Patterson
Vice-President: Lyle Schultz
Secretary/Treasurer: Eddie Macon
Board of Directors: Shirley Jones, Henry Patthey, Bertha Chrietzberg and Dan Drew.

Special Friends' Fund Raiser

Receive a gift copy of the book "Eyewitnesses at the Battle of Stones River" for a \$50 donation to support the expansion of the Friends' commemorative and education outreach programs. In addition to the book, a one-year membership to the Friends, or one-year membership extension for current members, will be given for each \$50 donation.

"Eyewitnesses at the Battle of Stones River" is a collection of 130 eyewitness accounts of the battle from letters, diaries and memoirs compiled and edited by David R. Logsdon. It will make a great addition to your personal library or as a gift for that friend or relative who would appreciate a close-up and personal view of one the most decisive battles of the Civil War.

Send your \$50 donation and ship to address for your gift book to The Friends of Stones River National Battlefield, P.O. Box 4092, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37129.



Appreciation gift for a \$50 donation

Visitor Center Update



Computer Generated rendering of the renovated and expanded visitor center expected to be completed in March 2004.

James House Damaged by Fire



The James House, headquarters of General Leonidas Polk, CSA, during the Battle of Stones River, was severely damaged by fire on Monday, September 8, 2003. The house was also the birthplace and home to Captain R.F. James who was killed within 50 yards of his home on December 31, 1862, while gallantly fulfilling his duties as an officer in the Confederate Army and protecting his home during the Battle of Stones River.

The James House was purchased by the City of Murfreesboro as part of the Gateway project area. The house was vacant at the time of the fire, and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Special Anniversary Edition of The Vidette

The next edition of The Vidette will honor the 141st anniversary of the Battle of Stones River. There will be special articles including a detailed profile of Pvt. Dennis Murphy, Co. I, 22 Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

Development Continues Near Battlefield

The Murfreesboro Gateway, the official name given to the development of 350 acres purchased by the City of Murfreesboro in the mid-'90's, is moving towards fruition. The "new front door to the city" was part of the original battlefield and is now being targeted for future development of office space, retail outlets, restaurants, conference center/hotel and a medical center. The Gateway project was spurred on by the approval of the Interstate I-24 interchange at Manson Pike that is slated for completion in 2005 and the purchase of 68 acres by Middle Tennessee Medical Center.

Bettie Cook Retires

Bettie Cook retired in June after 31 years of service at Stones River National Battlefield. Bettie's first assignment in 1972 was as Environmental Education Coordinator. She later held positions in law enforcement and historical weapons supervision. Bettie and her husband Curtis have one daughter and two grandchildren, ages 13 and 16. We will miss seeing Bettie at SRNB, but wish her the best in retirement.



Bettie at work prior to retirement

October Programs Scheduled at SRNB

October 25-26: Rutherford Country Bicentennial Programs:

Murfreesboro: City of Conflict

Experience the hardships of living in wartime Murfreesboro as a ranger shares excerpts from letters and diaries of citizens. Programs offered at 10AM each day (30 minutes).

The War Comes Home

The living history program that looks at the war through the eyes of Middle Tennessee civilians, 11:00AM and 1PM each day. (30 minutes)

A Ride Through History Bicycle Tour

Join a Ranger for a two-hour bike tour of Stones River National Battlefield. Tour begins at 2 PM. Reservations are required and must be made by calling (615) 893-9501.