



Nelson's stock soars

Jessamine camp on national scope with designation as 'Railroad' site

Camp Nelson's recent Underground Railroad designation means three important things for the Civil War park.

"The designation gives us national recognition, will be of great help in fundraising and will aid efforts in seeking National Park Service transfer," according to Mary Kozak, special projects coordinator for Jessamine County.

The 525-acre Camp Nelson, owned and maintained by the Jessamine County Fiscal Court, served as a recruitment center and training camp for African-American soldiers who fought for the Union.

The camp was named part of the "National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom" by the National Park Service (NPS), which makes the facility eligible for network grants and other funding assistance. It's one of 328 sites, facilities and programs to earn such a designation.

Dr. Stephen McBride, director of interpretation and archaeology at Camp Nelson, submitted the initial application for the designation.

The Underground Railroad was the name given to an escape system that provided slaves with a route to freedom in the north.

"Being in the Underground Railroad doesn't mean that



Among the new at Camp Nelson is a highway marker on U.S. 27 about its founding in 1863. The marker was dedicated by (from left) Foundation Chair Michael Crutcher, Jessamine Judge Executive Neal Cassity, State Rep. Bob Damron and Magistrate George Dean.

everything was hidden," Kozak points out. "It was a matter of being able to find refuge, and that was what Camp Nelson was about."

Documented evidence that black soldiers were emancipated and that refugees came to Camp Nelson for safety made the camp eligible for Underground Railroad designation.

Transfer of Camp Nelson to the National Park Service has been acknowledged as "a great idea" by Underground Railroad Research Institute Director Alicestyne Adams. However, she said the NPS would have to receive greater funding for the transfer to occur.

U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler (D-Versailles) is exploring funding for a feasibility study for the transfer.

Camp Nelson was established in 1863 and served as a strategic quartermaster depot, recruitment and training center and hospital for Union troops. It was one of

see *SOME 10,000*, page 8

Contract let for barracks

A contract has been signed to reconstruct a military barracks at Camp Nelson that is expected to be completed by June.

Mary Kozak, special projects coordinator for Jessamine County, said county officials are working with Kentucky state government contacts on plans for the 40x100-foot frame building.

"We received a state appropriation of \$400,000 for the project through the assistance of Rep. Robert Damron (D-Nicholasville) and Sen. Tom Burford (R-Nicholasville), who are very dedicated to helping Camp Nelson," Kozak said.

"We are seeking additional funds, however, to purchase interior furnishings."

Dr. Stephen McBride, Camp

see *WILL BE*, page 5

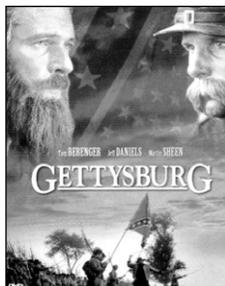
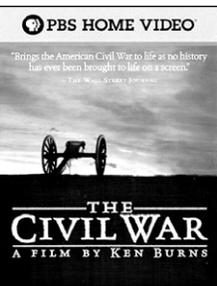
CSA fatality

Pvt. Stanford Jessee, 29th Virginia Infantry, was one of 10 Confederate soldiers killed during the Battle of Middle Creek. See story on page 4.

Burns, "Gettysburg" . . .

Films spurred Civil War interest

Interest in the Civil War has increased, Glenn LaFantasie points out, because of the success of a public television series and a motion picture.



The Western Kentucky University professor and director of WKU's Center for Study of the Civil War in the West says the beneficial effects of Ken Burns' 1990 series on the Civil War and Ted Turner's 1993 film, "Gettysburg," helped the war come alive for many Americans.

see *VISITATION*, page 5

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Joe Brent says . . .

***Ahead of curve?
no, we are curve***

(Bugle Columnist Joseph E. Brent is vice-president of Mudpuppy and Waterdog, a historic preservation consulting firm. Contact him at jbrent@alltel.net.)

For those of you who may not know, the American Battlefield Protection Program has hired me, through my company, to resurvey a portion of the 384 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission battlefields.

The National Park Service created this list of the nation's most significant and endangered battlefields in the late 1980s, and the initial survey was conducted in the early 1990s.

These sites are being revisited after 15 years to evaluate their condition. The assessment is based on more than just the physical condition of the battlefields, though that is an important part of the work. I also look at preservation activities, interpretation, and so on. What I have found should make Kentuckians sit up and take notice.

To date, I have surveyed more than 100 battlefields in Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana. From what I have seen, there are very few local not-for-profit organizations working to preserve individual battlefields. Frankly, it has been shocking.

In most states the best efforts are associated with battlefields in parks. In Virginia, for instance, the only battlefields listed in the National Register of Historic Places that I saw were either state, national and, in one case, private

see MOST STATES, page 5

Rudy Abramson, 1937-08

Bugle Editorial

The savior of Manassas

Some 15 years ago, I received a call from a friend in Washington, D.C., with some news about a "new job." Rudy Abramson, who was a staff writer for the Washington Bureau of the Los Angeles Times, told me he was now engaged in my line of work - public relations.

Rudy and I had met at Berea College when I was public relations director there. While he was on leave from the Times. Rudy was teaching a journalism course at Berea and finishing a biography on Averell Harriman.

"The Walt Disney Company wants to build a history theme park near the Manassas (Bull Run) Civil War battlefield," Rudy explained, "and I've been asked to head up a campaign to stop it."

Rudy had been in Washington for more than 25 years, had covered every major story to come out of D.C. since 1966 and knew everybody who was anybody. He was a natural to mount public opposition to an effort that could overrun and destroy the area where two Civil War conflicts took place.

Taking on Disney and its chairman, Michael Eisner, was like spitting in the wind or tugging on Superman's cape. But Rudy did it. As executive director of the ad-hoc group Protect Historic America, he recruited prominent writers and historians such as William Styron, Shelby Foote and C. Vann Woodward and mounted a national campaign to defeat the proposal. With Rudy's leadership, the effort became a national story and made headlines across the country.

In 1994, Goliath acquiesced to David. Disney and Eisner surrendered and an area known for its natural beauty and historical importance was saved.

While he was directing the campaign, Rudy was writing a book, "Hallowed Ground: Preserving America's Heritage" (2006) about the Piedmont region of Northern Virginia where some of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War took place. He also was co-editor of "The Encyclopedia of Appalachia" (2006), the first comprehensive work on the 13-state region that extends from New York to Mississippi.

Rudy, an outstanding writer and a tribute to journalism excellence, was as fine an individual as you'd ever know. He had a sharp mind, loved and could tell great and funny stories and was a good and loyal friend. He died Feb. 13 at age 70 after sustaining massive head injuries from a fall at his home in Reston, Va.

All who knew Rudy, and especially those involved in preserving the history and heritage of the Civil War, will miss him. Manassas survives, thanks to Rudy Abramson.

- Ed Ford, Editor

Kentucky slaves were not freed

Did the Emancipation Proclamation (January 1863) set slaves free in Kentucky?

The Commonwealth, which remained in the Union, was not affected by the document. Only slaves in Confederate states were

set free.

However, in 1864, President Abraham Lincoln declared that any slave who enlisted in the Union army would be granted freedom as would the members of his family.

Similarities were too great

Elliott was destined to portray Lincoln

Perhaps it was predestined that Larry Elliott would portray Abraham Lincoln.

Consider these comparisons:

- Lincoln and Elliott, a Louisville insurance representative, are similar in size - 6-foot-4 and about 190 pounds;
- Lincoln wore a size 14 shoe as does Elliott;
- the 16th president had four sons - so does Elliott;
- their wives are both named Mary, and
- both are staunch Republicans and strong believers in God and the Bible.

For the past four years, Elliott has spent an increasing amount of time portraying Lincoln at a variety of events and activities. And, in 2006, his wife joined him, assuming the role of the former president's wife, Mary Todd Lincoln.

This year, the couple will make some 125 appearances as the Lincoln bicentennial celebration moves into high gear.

Elliott, a Louisville native, grew up as a fan of Lincoln, mostly because of his family roots. Larry's father was a native of Hodgenville and his family visited there often. And, as a youngster, Larry knew it also was the place of the president's birth.

However, it wasn't until 2003 that his association with Lincoln really came together.

"My wife was on the computer and discovered a Lincoln look-alike contest scheduled in Hodgenville," Elliott said. "She suggested that I enter, and, with her urging, I decided to do it."

When they arrived, there were 3,000 people gathered in the town square and 15 serious-looking Lincoln look-alikes waiting to present.



Larry Elliott and his wife, Mary (at left), will make some 125 appearances this year as President and Mrs. Lincoln. Larry (below) is treasurer of the Abraham Lincoln Presenters Association.

Jim Sayre, a veteran Lincoln impersonator from Lawrenceburg, asked Elliott if he had his speech ready. Larry thought he was kidding.

"I learned I had to have a three-minute first character portrayal," Elliott explained. "I leaned on my Toastmasters speaking experience and made some impromptu remarks that contained a totally false statement. Also, I had a terrible outfit (purchased from a discount store) and made a terrible impression."

Sayre, however, asked Elliott if would like to join the Abraham Lincoln Presenters Association. Larry did, got caught up in doing portrayals and was elected treasurer of the organization.

He re-entered the Hodgenville contest the following year, came in second in a field of 19 and was on



his way.

Larry now does 10 basic Lincoln programs tailored to different age groups and settings. Mary, as Mary Todd Lincoln, joins him in a 45-

minute performance.

One of Elliott's programs concerns Lincoln's ties to Daniel Boone.

"Abraham was a distant cousin of Boone," Larry stated. "Abe's grandfather - also Abraham Lincoln - lived in Virginia and his cousin, Daniel Boone, would stop by on his way back from Kentucky and tell great tales of a land that was "vast with plenty of game."

In 1780, Boone convinced grandfather Lincoln to move his family to Kentucky and the family settled on a farm just outside Louisville. Years later, the grandfather was killed by an Indian and was buried in Louisville.

"President Lincoln, on his way from Illinois to Washington," Elliott related, "would stop in Louisville to visit his grandfather's grave. He did that maybe three or four times."

Because of his family's Hodgenville roots, Larry asked a family genealogist to see if he might be related to Lincoln.

"No," his Aunt Doris later reported, "none of us are related. But, one of your great-grandmothers - Mary LaRue Enlow - was one of the midwives who delivered Abraham."

Larry and Mary recently played to one of their biggest audiences, 300 students at Wilmore Middle School. But Elliott always will remember his most captive audience.

"That was at LaGrange Reformatory. I was just getting started and did the performance for free.

"I got a great response and the prisoners were most appreciative.

"But," he added, "maybe that was because they didn't have to pay."

- Ed Ford

Battle of Middle Creek**This conflict would launch a presidency**

BY ED FORD
Bugle Editor

As a youngster, Franklin Fitzpatrick would wander the grounds of his family farm, aware that a significant moment in American history took place there.

The Floyd County farm, obtained in 1798 by John Fitzpatrick of Virginia, has been in the family for some seven generations. But it was what took place on Jan. 10, 1862 that made the property hallowed ground.

"I always was reminded that this is where the Battle of Middle Creek occurred," Frank said.

Although considered a somewhat minor skirmish of the Civil War, the battle marked the beginning of an illustrious career for Union Col. James A. Garfield, which eventually led to the presidency of the United States.

Garfield, an Ohio college professor and a brand-new colonel of a regiment of Ohio volunteers, was directed to lead inexperienced Union troops against a force commanded by Confederate Brig. Gen. Humphrey Marshall.

Union Brig. Gen. Don Carlos Buell ordered Garfield to stop Marshall's advance and drive his army back into



This Harper's Weekly illustration (at left) shows Union troops cheering Col. James A. Garfield following the victory at Middle Creek. The fire (background) shows supplies being burned by Confederate Gen. Humphrey Marshall to avoid them falling into Union hands.

Virginia.

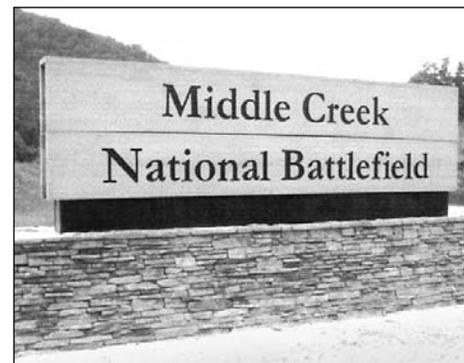
At 4 a.m. on the 10th, Garfield marched to the mouth of Middle Creek, fought off some Confederate cavalry then moved to attack Marshall. Garfield began his offensive shortly after noon and the fighting continued well into the day. Union reinforcements then arrived and the Confederates were forced to retire to the south.

Garfield's victory at Middle Creek proved that the Big Sandy River Valley could be used to successfully halt any Confederate threat from Southwestern Virginia.

That battle, followed by a Union victory at Mill Springs Jan. 19, cemented Federal

control of Eastern Kentucky.

The victory earned Garfield a promotion to brigadier general. He went on to commands at Shiloh and Corinth and served as chief of staff for Gen. William Rosecrans at



This sign welcomes visitors to the Battle of Middle Creek, where casualties and losses numbered 65 for the Confederacy and 27 for the Union. Confederate and Union walking trails (below) contain interpretive signage about the battle and the Civil War in Eastern Kentucky.



Chicamauga, then finished the war as a major general. He was elected president in 1880 and served only a few months before being assassinated July 2, 1881.

Frank Fitzpatrick, an authority on the Battle of Middle Creek, looks at the waterway now and describes what it was like when Garfield ordered his men to cross the swollen creek and attack the Confederate line.

"It was rainy and cold and the water level was about chest high when Garfield's troops moved across," Fitzpatrick noted. "Just some 20 days after the battle, the region suffered one of the greatest floods in Eastern Kentucky history."

The history of the battle that launched a presidency continued to impress Frank, a Prestonsburg real estate developer. After work with the Kentucky Heritage Council and the state highway department, he spearheaded a movement in 1992 to have the area declared a National Historic Landmark. He also formed the Middle Creek National Battlefield Foundation, which he continues to serve as president.

The Foundation now owns the farm of approximately 255 acres, which, Fitzpatrick explains, is "pretty much in its original state."

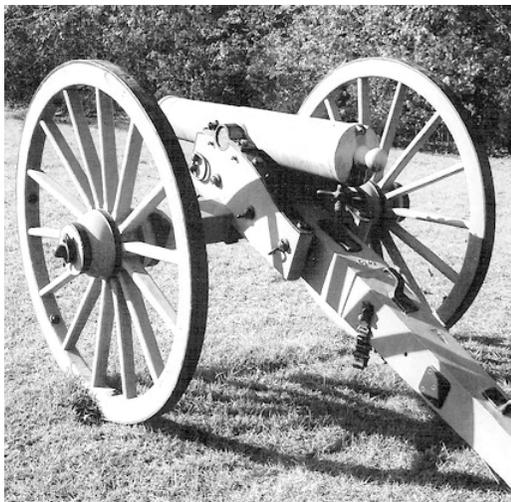
"There are no buildings on the property," he said, "which has remained undeveloped and mainly in timberland."

"The battlefield is at the fork of Middle Creek and is

see *PRESERVATION*, page 6

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Joe Brent says . . .

Most states note sites with highway markers

(continued from page 2)

parcs. For the most part, what I saw in Virginia was limited to Petersburg, Appomattox and battles in southwestern Virginia. There were intact battlefields in all three places and the only sign I saw that anyone was aware of this was a Virginia Civil War Trails wayside.

Most states simply mark the site of a battle with a state highway marker. Sometimes this marker is part of a larger trail; sometimes it's not. Alabama has a Civil War Heritage Trail, so

does Louisiana and Georgia has several campaign trails. The Georgia trail includes waysides; the other two do not.

I have heard rumors of a Red River Trail in Louisiana, which would be a good thing as many of those battlefields survive. This trail would prove especially interesting to Kentuckians as many of the soldiers who were engaged at the Battle of Richmond, Ky., were also on the field at Mansfield, Pleasant Hill and other battles in the Red River



These rocky remains are all that's left of Confederate cabins at Camp Allegheny in West Virginia. Joe Brent has recorded information at Civil War sites in nine states for the ABPP.

Visitation increased

(continued from page 1)

"These two events are some 15-20 years old, but I give them credit for stimulating an interest in American adults to seek more knowledge about the Civil War. This interest is experiencing a generational spillover and young people now are beginning to have an interest themselves."

Visitation at Gettysburg National Battlefield has increased, he noted, because of this media exposure.

"Gettysburg visitation has gone from less than one million a year to 1.9 million annually," he said. "That's a dramatic increase in Civil War interest and it's something I think we'll see continuing."

LaFantasie also is attracting a lot of interest in Western's Civil War program and is engaged in an extensive speaking tour at Civil War Roundtables.

Will be authentic

(continued from page 1)

Nelson's interpretation and archaeology director, said the one-story building will be an authentic reproduction of what the original barracks was like during the Civil War.

"The original building housed at least a company of soldiers," he added, "and the reproduction probably could accommodate some 170 men.

"For the interior, we'll need funds for such things as bunk beds, stoves, tables, chairs and gun racks. Also, we expect to have a small kitchen."

Kozak asked those interested in making furnishings contributions to call her at 859-492-3115.

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Campaign.

The more I see the better I feel about what we have in Kentucky. The only way a battlefield can be preserved is through the efforts of a strong local leader-organization. We have had the good fortune in Kentucky to see that happen. As a result, battlefields at Richmond, Mill Springs, Perryville, Munfordville, Tebbs Bends, Sacramento, Middle Creek, as well as Camp Nelson, the Civil War fort at Boonesboro, Ft. Duffield, Ft. Boone, and others have been preserved and interpreted.

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Kentucky's Civil War leaders Marshall's political career overshadows military course

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fifth in a series about Kentucky officers and battle leaders during the Civil War.)

Confederate Brig. Gen. Humphrey Marshall had a more interesting political career than the one he experienced in the military.

The Frankfort native served two terms in Congress (1849-52) before being appointed Minister to China from 1852-54. He then served two more terms as a Kentucky representative (1855-59) and declined a fifth term despite being renominated by acclamation.

The West Point graduate (1832) enlisted in the Confederate army in 1861 as a brigadier general, but resigned twice before being elected to the Second Confederate Congress from Kentucky's Eighth District in 1863.

With the collapse of the

GEN. HUMPHREY MARSHALL

*Was native
of Frankfort*

Confederacy, he fled briefly to Texas, but had his citizenship restored in 1867 and resumed his law practice in Louisville.

Marshall resigned from the army in 1833 to study law, being admitted to the bar that same year. However, he served in the Kentucky state militia and, in 1846, was a Kentucky cavalry colonel during the Mexican War

In January 1862 he lost the Battle of Middle Creek in Floyd County and participated in Gen. Braxton Bragg's invasion of Kentucky that fall.

Marshall died in 1872 and is buried in Frankfort.



Preservation is primary goal

(continued from page 4)

located at the intersection of Ky. 114 and 404. It's actually within the city limits of Prestonsburg, just about three miles from the center of town.

"At present, we have an entrance sign, Union and Confederate loop trails with interpretive signage, a large parking lot and a kiosk with historical depictions of the battlefield and the Civil War in Eastern Kentucky.

"We're looking for additional funding sources," Fitzpatrick continued. "With that, we hope to add a visitor's center, a research library and a multi-media theater."

A re-enactment and living history programs also are in the offing.

COL. JOHN GARFIELD

*Fame led
to presidency*

Fitzpatrick sees a completed park as a great complement to other area attractions such as the Mountain Arts Center, Jenny Wiley Theater, Jenny Wiley State Park and Dewey Lake.

The overall market area is about 25,000 people, he added.

But, preserving the history and heritage of "the largest and most important Civil War battle in Eastern Kentucky" remains the primary goal.



JIM DAUSE

BLUE GRASS STOCKYARDS GROUP

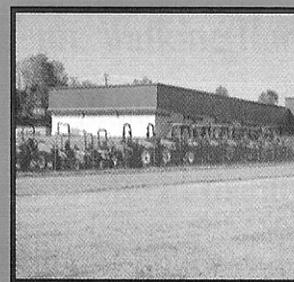
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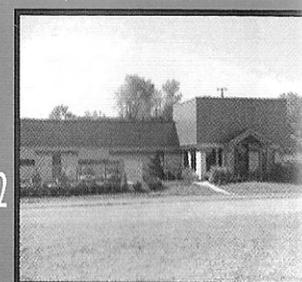
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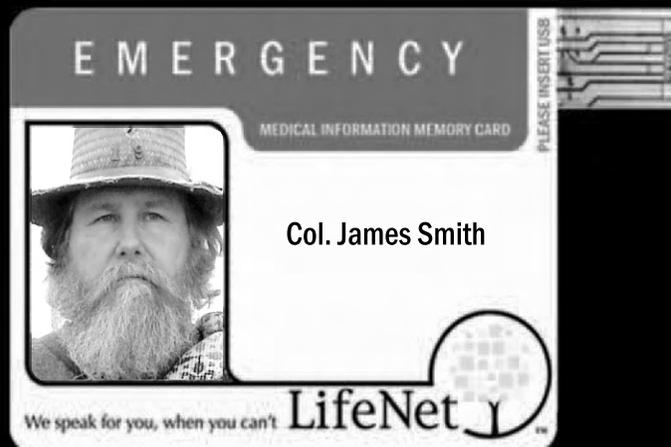
Central Kentucky Civil War Trails, May 13

WILDCAT-LONDON

Central Kentucky Civil War Trails, May 16

WINCHESTER

Central Kentucky Civil War Trails, May 17



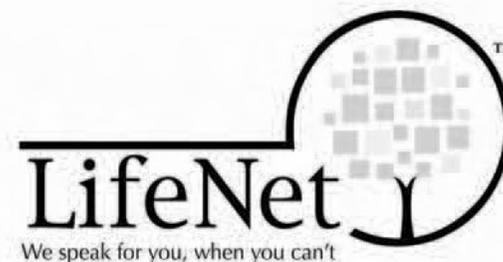
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White House

The Oliver Perry House, also known as the White House, is a renovated Camp Nelson structure that introduces visitors to the Jessamine County park. The private residence was used as an officers' quarters during the Civil War.

Some 10,000 granted emancipation

(continued from page 1)

only three U.S. locations where African-Americans could enlist and be trained. The others were in New Orleans and Boston. Camp Nelson is the only site not overtaken by development.

Approximately 10,000 Camp Nelson recruits were granted emancipation in exchange for military service. Many recruits brought their families with them, more than 3,000 people. As a result, a camp was built for the refugees and missionaries

cared for the refugee families.

Camp Nelson, located on U.S. 27 five miles south of Nicholasville, attracts more than 8,000 visitors per year.

Grant not known as music master

Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, who made several forays into Kentucky, was not fond of military ceremonies nor music.

Grant, reportedly, could only recognize two songs.

"One is Yankee Doodle," he allowed, "the other one isn't."

BORA picks Rominger as managing director

Paul D. Rominger of Berea has been named managing director of the Battle of Richmond Association (BORA).

Rominger, secretary and member of the BORA Board of Directors since 2005, assumed his new duties Feb. 1. He succeeds Rob Rumpke who has served as executive director of BORA for the past six years.

In his new post, Rominger will direct day-to-day operations of BORA and coordinate the Association's events and activities. He also will work with Madison County's Historic Properties Director on activities and projects involving Battlefield Park. Rominger will continue as board secretary and will report directly to BORA President George N. Ridings and the organization's board of directors.

A long-time secondary school teacher and college professor, Rominger holds degrees in education and history from the University of Kentucky and has a doctorate

PAUL
ROMINGER

Assumed new
duties Feb. 1



in history from Oxford Graduate School and is authorized to read history annually at the University of Oxford in Great Britain. He has taught that subject at institutions in Kentucky and Georgia and is a specialist in early American and Civil War history.

For additional information about BORA or its events and activities, contacts should be directed to Rominger. He can be reached by phone at 859-248-1974, e-mail at pdrominger@netscape.net, and by direct mail at Battle of Richmond Association, 101 Battlefield Memorial Highway, Richmond, KY 40475. BORA's website is www.battleofrichmond.org.

CWPT announces

Richmond, Perryville among 1,616 acres saved in 2007

Three hundred acres at Richmond and 96 at Perryville were among the 1,616 acres of hallowed ground permanently protected by the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) during 2007.

The CWPT announced in late January that the acreage was saved at 12 different Civil War battlefields in five states.

The land preservation accomplishments enabled the national organization to attain a total of 25,000 acres saved during two decades of

preservation work.

Overall, the CWPT has protected 25,289 acres of battlefield land at 99 sites in 18 states. The Washington, D.C., group helps raise and provide matching funds for the purchase of Civil War land threatened by modern development.

CWPT traces its origins to 1987 when a group of historians, concerned with the destruction of Northern Virginia battlefields, formed the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites.

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