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Mill Springs Battlefield Association, Inc.

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Visitor Center & Museum • Zolliecoffer Park • Mill Springs Info Center • Historic Brown-Lanier House & B&B • West-Metcalf House

Joining or Renewing is Easy!

It's time to renew your membership for 2009. For \$25, you get unlimited free access to our visitor's center, all exhibits, all tours, and the following events: Cornbread Festival, Memorial Day Services, Living History weekend, the Ghostwalk, and our Christmas Open House at the Brown-Lanier House. Members also receive 15% off all merchandise in our gift shop, some that has been recently discounted. You will also receive a complimentary Passport.

Simply Complete this form and mail it to the Mill Springs Battlefield Association,
PO Box 282, Nancy, KY 42544 along with your annual dues:

Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership	\$5.00
Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Membership	\$25.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership	\$140.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Membership	\$480.00
Phone	Make check or money order payable to MSBA.	
E-mail		

Memberships are due annually from the date of last payment. We will remind you of your renewal date.

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MSBA seeks National Park status

By HEATHER PYLES
Commonwealth Journal, Staff Writer

Mill Springs Battlefield has long been considered a historical landmark in Pulaski County. But sometime in the future, it may become more than that.

Think Mill Springs Battlefield National Park.

During Tuesday's [April] Pulaski County Fiscal Court meeting, Gilbert Wilson, the director of the Mill Springs Battlefield Association, presented Pulaski Judge-executive Barty Bullock and the magistrates a resolution in which the court would request that the federal government establish the battlefield as a national park.

"The county government has

been really great to us," Wilson said after the meeting. "But we can't indefinitely depend on them to help us."

Wilson said the request comes after two or three years of consideration over the move.

The Battlefield Association was created in 1992 to help protect and interpret the Mill Springs battlefield, and since then the association has acquired more than 450 acres of battlefield land from private owners, built a 10,000 square-foot visitors' center and museum in Nancy, and restored and preserved two Civil War-era homes in Wayne County.

The association also undertook the expansion of a national register boundary to create a 10-mile corridor encompassing

the entire battlefield, began providing reenactments and educational programs for the public and developed several miles of interpretive trails for visitors.

Despite those expansions and improvements, "the preservation, interpretation and educational effort of the Association has reached beyond the resources of the Association and local government to support itself and to fulfill its original goals," according to the resolution.

"We think we've got the battlefield in the position that for the National Park Service to take it over, it'd be pretty easy to run with it," Wilson said. (cont'd on Page 3)

2009 Upcoming Events

- **OSHER Lifelong Learning Program** for Seniors; May and June
- **Cornbread Festival**-May 23 Mill Springs Mill
- **Memorial Day Celebration**-May 25, 9am Zolliecoffer Park; 11am National Cemetery
- **Living History Weekend**-June 27 & 28 Zolliecoffer Park; \$3 per person
- **Ghostwalk**-Nov. 7, 6-9pm Zolliecoffer Park; \$3 per person
- **Christmas Open House**-Dec. 12, 5-8pm Brown-Lanier House

Association Acquires 11 acres of core Battlefield

The Association has closed on a core part of the Battlefield that surrounds Zolliecoffer Park. It formally belonged to the Hudson heirs. Elements of the 10th Indiana, 9th Ohio, 4th Kentucky, and the 2nd Minnesota clashed with the 15th Mississippi, 20th Tennessee, and 28th Tennessee at what is known as the fight at the fence. Hand to hand combat occurred on this site and a num-

ber of letters from soldiers spoke of soldiers' beards being singed from the muzzle blast of their enemies' guns. 150 southern soldiers died on or near this land and 50 northern soldiers. This is also near where General Zolliecoffer was killed when he encountered Col. Speed Fry from Danville Kentucky and the boys of the 4th Kentucky. The Hudson property has been on lease to

the Battlefield Association for years and contains a beautiful walking trail with several interpretive signs. This part of the Battlefield has been obtained through the efforts of former administrator Norrie Wake, President Bill Neikirk, the Battlefield Board. The Association has applied for a reimbursement grant through the State Highway Department TEA - 21 funds.



CWFSG explores the fortification sites at Beech Grove.

Civil War Fortification Study Group Tour

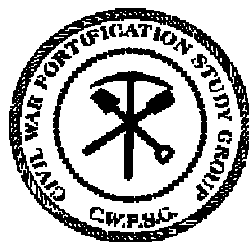
Twenty-five "Trench Nerds" from across the Eastern U.S. received an intensive and thorough tour of the Mill Springs Battlefield in March. As part of the Civil War Field-Fortification Study Group's annual meeting the group toured fortification sites of Cumberland Gap and Mill Springs. The Civil War Fortification Study Group is dedicated to

the study, preservation and dissemination of information of the most visible reminders of the sacrifices made during the American Civil War, the fortifications.

The CWFSG also known affectionately as the "Trench Nerds". was founded in 1993. Membership is comprised of historians, NPS personnel, preservationists, lecturers,

other professionals and vocations.

The CWFSG holds an annual meeting and seminar, in the Spring.



Duke Turpen at Zollicoffer Park around 1945.

Family donates local historian's research

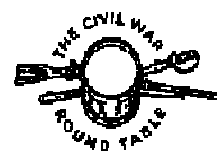
The Association would like to express its gratitude to the family of Duke Turpen for donating many valuable research materials of his on the Battle of Mill Springs, Zollicoffer Park, and Logan's Cross Roads.

Duke Turpen was a lifelong member of the MSBA. He never missed a Memorial Day

service until the last few years, when his health prevented him from doing so. Duke's knowledge and wealth of the Battle of Mill Springs greatly helped the MSBA in their preservation and interpretation of the battlefield. We are sad the battlefield lost such a great friend, and grateful for the donation of his collection of artifacts

and memorabilia.

Duke's research will be used to add to the Visitor Center and Research Library in Nancy.



Civil War Round Table of Chicago visits battlefield

The Chicago Civil War Round Table visited the Mill Springs Battlefield as part of their 59th annual. The groups 2009 tour was centered around "Kentucky & Lincoln". Headquartered in the Campbell House in Lexington, the Round Table visited various historically significant places in Kentucky, during the last weekend in April. Some of the places included: Perryville Battlefield, Wildcat Mountain, Lincoln's Birthplace, Richmond Battlefield and Mill Springs Battlefield.

The Round Table's tour was attended by 90 people from the Chicago area and other interested members from as far away as Denver, Colorado. Noted Historian Ed Bearss, lead the group through the rough terrain of the Mill Springs Battlefield on Friday, April 24, 2009. Mr. Bearss retired as a chief historian for the National Park Service and now gives battlefield tours for various Civil War roundtables, and other tour groups. Bearss is also responsible for placing the Mill Springs Battlefield on

the list of the 25 most endangered Civil War Battlefields which has resulted in the Mill Springs Battlefield Association qualifying for various grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program National Park Service and the Department of the Interior.

Round Table members were complimentary of the MSBA for the interpretation and the upkeep of the battlefield. "Mill Springs was one of the most important battles of the early part of the Civil War," said Bearss, "It was the first



Ed Bearss, noted author, historian and tour guide for Civil War affiliated groups.

victory of any significance in the Western Theatre of the Civil War and the first breach of the Southern Defensive line."

President's Message:

A new chapter is about to unfold for Mill Springs Battlefield. After much discussion & research, the Board voted unanimously to ask the National Park Service to take over Mill Springs battlefield.

Our reason for doing this is twofold: 1) operating expenses- ever since our inception, Pulaski Fiscal Court has subsidized us. Without them, we would not be able to operate as our expenses are far outside our income. Our original goal was to have an endowment

fund that would generate enough interest to pay our expenses. We have since found out this is not possible and the County Government cannot continue to support us indefinitely.

Secondly, being a part of the National Park System brings vast resources that will move Mill Springs to national prominence. We have taken the first step in the process of becoming a National Park, but a lot of work is ahead of us. The process can take 4 to 5 years to

complete. It's not a sure thing as the National Park Service has to agree to take us, but we have something to offer that most times, they do not see. We have an up and running park already in pristine condition with a new 10,000 square foot Visitors Center & museum. It's a turn-key operation for them. The Park Service will not have to spend any money to take us in. It will be our gift to the Nation.



Bill Neikirk, President of the MSBA.

Resolution (cont'd.)

(cont'd. from front) And the battlefield - marking the site of the January 19, 1862 battle that is considered the first major Civil War victory in the West for the Union Army - would need to be handed over should the federal government decide to deem it a national park.

The Mill Springs Battlefield Association would remain a friend of the Battlefield organization after the transition.

"Mill Springs Battlefield has grown to be a major tourist stop in southern Kentucky and needs to take the next step in its development," stated a press release from the association.

Wilson said the association is also seeking support from local organizations and schools in taking the step toward establishing the battlefield a national park.

"This is going to be a four or five year process," Wilson said.

Wilson emphasized that the park became what it is today through support from the fiscal court and other local entities.

Still, for the park to grow, funding that isn't possible through the association alone, Wilson said.

"Everybody's been real positive," Wilson said about reaction to the resolution.

The Pulaski County Fiscal Court approved the resolution.

Beyond The Top of The Zollie Tree

Poem by Duke Turpen

When I die, for die I must,
These are the words to mark my dust.
After the battle at the age of one hundred thirty-three,
Plus maybe a century and more.
Figuratively speaking, I was on the farm
On which I was raised.
Standing on top of a once blood-covered knoll,
Dotted by soldiers bodies here and there.
Carpeted until placed in a mass grave beneath our boughs.
My back was to the setting sun.
My eyes were focused on the tree-lined horizon
Where the tops of tall pine trees
Disappeared into the bluish haze.
A remembered question comes to mind,
"What's over there?"
I answered, "I don't know."
Then comes the challenge,
"Go and see."
I answered, "I will go.
I will not fail, but met my destiny Friday, June 9, 1995."
Dedicated to the memory of Colanza Frances Logan Trimble,
and husband, H.G. Trimble, who donated the acre plot where
I once stood.

Notes from the Director

CORRECTION—Members who received their Passports in April may have noticed that their membership expiration date is incorrect ('09 instead of '10). Please contact Karyn Branham at 606-636-4045 or assistadmin@millsprings.net for a Passport with the correct date on it.

THANK YOU to the Volunteers who came out on April 25th, during National Volunteer Week, to help plant the rose bushes in front of the Visitor Center in Nancy.

CREDITS

Content: Gilbert Wilson (except where noted)
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