Interpretive Plan for the Mill Springs Battlefield
Pulaski and Wayne Counties, Kentucky
(GA-2255-08-031)

Part 2

DRAFT

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October 25, 2010
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THE MILL SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD
The Battle of Mill Springs took place on January 19, 1862. Several months earlier the Confederate government had established a defensive line in southern Kentucky stretching from Cumberland Gap to Columbus. The Confederates hoped to push their area of control to the Ohio River. Union forces were equally determined to push the Confederates out of Kentucky. The Union victory at Mill Springs broke the Confederate line. It was the first of a series of Union victories, ending with the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862 that forced the Confederates to abandon not only Kentucky but most of Tennessee.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Battle of Mill Springs is listed in the National Register of Historic Places with national significance and is a National Historic Landmark—the highest honor accorded a historic site in this nation. The National Park Service provides this definition:

National Historic Landmarks are exceptional places. They form a common bond between all Americans. While there are many historic places across the nation, only a small number have meaning to all Americans—these we call our National Historic Landmarks.

*National Historic Landmarks* are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Today, fewer than 2,500 historic places bear this national distinction.
The battlefield’s listing as a *significant and endangered* Civil War battlefield predates the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Study. Mill Springs was named as one of the 25 *at risk* battlefields prior to the monumental CWSAC study and as a result, the CWSAC assigned Mill Springs a Priority I.3 Class B ranking. This ranking means that the battlefield is significant historically and that it has good integrity and it was and is threatened with inappropriate development. The Core and Study areas of the battlefield were both increased as a result of the 2009 CWSAC survey update.¹

**The Union victory at Mill Springs:**
- Helped secure Kentucky for the Union, a vital achievement; President Lincoln said in 1861, “I think to lose Kentucky is to lose the whole game,” and is reputed to have said that he hoped to have God on his side, but he had to have Kentucky.

- Opened east and central Tennessee to invasion by Union forces; in the three months following Mill Springs, Union forces captured Confederate forts Henry and Donelson and defeated the Confederate army at Shiloh.

- Was the first major Union victory of the war, following the disastrous defeat at First Manassas (Bull Run) on July 21, 1861; it greatly boosted sagging morale in the North.

- Showed the Confederate army’s shortage and inferiority of arms and equipment—a handicap that would plague them throughout the war.

**RESOURCE DESCRIPTION**
The Mill Springs Battlefield is located in Pulaski and Wayne counties in southeastern Kentucky. In 1993, 647.5 acres of the battlefield were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The following year, the same boundary was listed as a National Historic Landmark. In 2008, the boundary of the Battle of Mill Springs Historic Areas district was expanded and 1,529 acres are now listed with national significance. The NHL boundary has not been amended.

The Mill Springs Battlefield can be divided into three parts, each defined by unique cultural and natural features—the battlefield, the fortified encampment (Beech Grove), and the Confederate Base of Operations south of the river (Mill Springs) (Map 2).

Map 2: Battle of Mill Springs Historic Areas National Register Boundary.

Battle of Mill Springs Historic Areas
A  Battlefield
B  Timmy’s Branch
C  Beech Grove Fortified Encampment
D  Confederate Base of Operations
   South of the River
The Battlefield
The battlefield is bounded on the north by SR 80, on the south by Timmy’s Branch, on the east by Cliffy Creek, and on the west by a series of ridges formed by Hudson Branch and White Oak Creek. The battlefield is bisected by CR 235, the Mill Springs Road. CR 761 divides the battlefield to the west. Zollicoffer Park is located very close to the center of the National Register boundary. Approximately seven-tenth’s of a mile separates the southern boundary of this area of the battlefield from the smaller Timmy’s Branch portion of the battlefield. The battlefield is the area where most of the combat associated with the Battle of Mill Springs occurred (Figure 14).

The Fortified Encampment (Beech Grove)
The fortified encampment is approximately nine miles south of Zollicoffer Park. The encampment area is located on a peninsula formed by Lake Cumberland and White Oak Creek. The main Confederate encampment area, which is within the NHL boundary, is bisected by the Mill Springs Road (CR 235). Some much-eroded Confederate earthworks remain in the NHL portion of the boundary (Figure 15). The shoreline of Lake Cumberland has numerous lake-front homes and most of that area was excluded from the National Register boundary. The northernmost portion of the fortified encampment includes Moulden’s Hill. This area was originally misidentified, but was included in the National Register boundary expansion of 2008. All of the new property is east of Mill Springs Battlefield Road and west of Lake Cumberland. The land is wooded with some open pasture.
Confederate Base of Operations south of the river (Mill Springs)

In late 1861, the Confederates established a headquarters and encampments in Mill Springs on the south side of what was then the Cumberland River. In 1993, 7.5 acres were listed in the National Register and in 1994 listed as a National Historic landmark. The area includes the Brown-Lanier House and the 1870s Mill Springs mill as well as the site of the 1860s mill. The 2008 National Register boundary expansion added 174.5 acres of rolling farmland south of the original 7.5 acres that includes the West-Metcalfe House and the West family cemetery (Figure 16). The land is bisected by Gap in the Ridge Road.

The West-Metcalfe House (WN-1) was previously listed in the National Register as an individual site; it now also listed as a contributing structure in the Mill Springs Battlefield Historic Areas district nomination.

**The Battle of Mill Springs, January 19, 1862**

The following is adapted from *Battle of Mill Springs Historic Areas (Boundary Increase)* National Register of Historic Places Registration Form prepared by Joseph E. Brent in 2008, which is on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky.

*Figure 16: The fertile farm land surrounding Mill Springs made this area the perfect place for the Confederate army’s base of operations.*

*Map 3: The Confederates hoped to pushed their line in Kentucky north to the Ohio River.*
The Confederate defeat at Mill Springs led to the total collapse of the eastern portion of the Confederate defensive line in Kentucky. This setback forced Confederate authorities to alter their western strategy, which had been based upon defending a line stretching from Columbus, Kentucky, on the Mississippi River, to Cumberland Gap (Map 3). Mill Springs was one of a string of Confederate setbacks, preceded by the Battle of Middle Creek, and followed by the battles at forts Henry and Donelson, culminating in the Battle of Shiloh in April of 1862. These Confederate defeats enabled the Union to regain control of all of Kentucky and to take nearly half of Tennessee.

The Battle of Mill Springs launched the Civil War career of Gen. George H. Thomas. It was the first battle in which Thomas was the general in charge planning and executing a combat operation. His only other independent command was the 1864 Battle of Nashville. He participated in the Siege of Corinth and the battles of Perryville, Stone’s River and Chickamauga, where he earned the nom-de-guerre “Rock of Chickamauga” for holding the Union left flank on Snodgrass Hill, saving the Army of the Cumberland from destruction. Ezra Warner in Generals in Blue wrote, “. . . his performance in these battles was not surpassed by any subordinate commander in this nation’s history.” Mill Springs was Thomas’ first major test (Figure 17). The victory gave Thomas confidence in his ability to command and proved to his fellow officers that a Virginian could and would successfully command a Union field army.

The Campaign

Two columns of Southern troops were sent into the mountainous region of Kentucky to protect the eastern end of the Confederate defense line and to guard East Tennessee from invasion. One, under the command of Gen. Humphrey Marshall, marched from Abington, Virginia, through Pound Gap, and down the Big Sandy Valley towards Paintsville and Prestonsburg. A second, larger force under Gen. Felix K. Zollicoffer, marched from Knoxville, Tennessee, and entered Kentucky through Cumberland Gap in September 1861 (Figure 18).

Zollicoffer’s mission was to relieve pressure on Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston’s right flank by keeping Gen. George H. Thomas’ army, then at Camp Dick Robinson in Garrard County, occupied. Zollicoffer secured and fortified Cumberland Gap and broke up Union recruiting camps at Barbourville and Laurel Bridge. His plan was to move toward the Bluegrass along the Wilderness Road. In October that plan changed. A well-fortified Union army under Gen. Albin Schoepf blocked the road at Camp Wildcat, near Livingston in Laurel County (Figure 19). Schoepf’s well dug-in force occupied the high ground surrounding the Wilderness Road as it wound through the Rockcastle Hills. Zollicoffer made several unsuccessful attacks against the Union lines. After determining that his force was inadequate to carry the Federal works, he withdrew to Camp Buckner at Cumberland Ford (present day Pineville, Kentucky).^3

In November, under orders from Johnston “to observe the enemy,” Zollicoffer moved his army to Mill Springs on the north bank of the Cumberland River in Wayne County. The move put Zollicoffer 75 miles closer to Johnston’s army at Bowling Green. Zollicoffer fortified the south bank of the river in late 1861 and made his headquarters in Mill Springs.^4

The choice of Mill Springs as a base of operations for the Confederate army was no accident. Wayne County was on the Cumberland River where supplies could be brought in from Nashville, and its fertile farmland produced an abundance of corn and hogs. With the river as a buffer and a reliable source of supplies, Zollicoffer was well positioned to defend the Confederate eastern flank.^5

The Preparation

The general from Tennessee had larger plans than to merely watch the Yankees to the north, in Pulaski County. Zollicoffer crossed the Cumberland with most of his army and fortified a narrow strip of land between White Oak Creek and a bend in the Cumberland near a small hamlet known as Beech Grove (Map 4). Although this maneuver positioned his army where its line of retreat was blocked by the river, Zollicoffer’s apparent tactical error was

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4 Ibid.
Map 4: The Official Records map of the Confederate encampment at Beech Grove.
calculated. He saw his primary goal as protecting Johnston from Thomas. If the Confederate army remained on the south bank it could only watch the Union forces, running the risk of Thomas’ army slipping past him somewhere between Cumberland Gap and Mill Springs. If he crossed the river and put his force on the north shore, Zollicoffer reasoned, he had an opportunity to strike Thomas before the latter could concentrate his forces.⁶

The logistical and political problems of the Confederate forces in the west caught up with the troops in and around Mill Springs in the winter of 1861-1862. Confederate President Jefferson Davis appointed Gen. George B. Crittenden, a Kentuckian, overall commander of the district. Upon assuming command, Crittenden ordered Zollicoffer to move his army back to the south shore of the Cumberland. Zollicoffer ignored Crittenden’s order, staying where he was and awaiting Crittenden at his Beech Grove stronghold.⁷

The Battle

George Bibb Crittenden was the son of U.S. Senator John J. Crittenden of Kentucky (Figure 20) and a graduate of West Point, Class of 1832. Commissioned a brigadier general in the Confederate Army, he was given command of the Department of East Tennessee, which included parts of East Kentucky, upon his promotion to major general.⁸

When Crittenden arrived at Mill Springs on January 2, 1862, he found the army occupying both sides of the river. On the south bank of the Cumberland, were the 17th, 28th and 37th Tennessee regiments, the First Battalion Tennessee Cavalry, two companies of the Third Battalion Tennessee Cavalry, and four pieces of artillery. Across the river at Beech Grove the Confederates had assembled the 15th Mississippi, 16th Alabama, 19th, 20th, 25th, and 29th Tennessee regiments, two battalions of Tennessee cavalry, two independent cavalry companies, and twelve pieces of artillery—a force of roughly 5,000 men, of whom approximately 1,500 were unarmed. Only two regiments carried percussion cap muskets. The rest had an assortment of flintlocks and shotguns, weapons that were makeshift at best and totally undependable in wet conditions.⁹

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Thomas’ Union Army arrived at Logan’s Crossroads (present day Nancy, Kentucky) on January 17, 1862. His effective there consisted of the 4th and 10th Kentucky, 10th Indiana, 9th and 14th Ohio, 2nd Minnesota, Wolford’s 1st Kentucky Cavalry, two batteries of the 1st Ohio artillery, and the 9th Ohio battery. Three regiments from Schoepf’s column—the 12th Kentucky and the 1st and 2nd Tennessee—were added to Thomas’s force, bringing the total to approximately 8,000 troops. Unlike the Confederate troops, the Union army was well armed. The Federal forces stood ready to remove the Confederate threat from the area and to open up an invasion route to East Tennessee. This is exactly what Zollicoffer had hoped to prevent when he moved his army across the river.  

Crittenden convened a council of war on January 18 and ordered his army to move north at midnight. The nine-mile march was hindered by cold, wet conditions that turned the roads into quagmires, dampening the spirits and the gunpowder of the Confederate troops.

On the cold and no doubt foggy Sunday morning of January 19, Zollicoffer’s brigade ran into Union pickets from the 1st Kentucky Cavalry where the Mill Springs Road crossed Timmy’s Branch (Map 5). The Union troopers challenged the advancing soldiers. When they failed to stop, the Kentuckians fired. Once they realized they were fighting a large force, the cavalrymen mounted up and retreated. Zollicoffer deployed his army as best he could in the heavily wooded area and pushed on before encountering stiff Union resistance “near where the roads fork leading to Somerset.”

The 10th Indiana, the first Union regiment in line, joined the two companies already engaged with the Confederates on a ridgeline along and east of present-day CR 761. Zollicoffer split his brigade. The 15th Mississippi pushed the Union pickets back and moved east of the road while the 19th Tennessee pushed west across the road and moved north toward the main Union line. This action broke the battle into two areas on either side of the Mill Springs Road.

The 20th Tennessee followed the 15th Mississippi east of the road and the 25th Tennessee went to the west. At approximately seven o’clock that morning, the Confederate forces west of the

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Map 5: The battle opens, early morning, January 19, 1862.

Map Based on Faubush and Delmer USGS quads
One inch = 24,000 feet

General Zollicoffer, convinced that the 19th Tennessee was firing on Southern soldiers, rode up and ordered the men to cease fire. The general then advanced toward the troops the Tennessee regiment was firing at and ordered those troops to cease firing. Zollicoffer was mistaken—his troops were firing at the 4th Kentucky, a Union regiment. During the confusion, the Confederate general was killed by Federal troops. Zollicoffer’s death panicked some of the Tennessee troops and the Confederate line fell back (Figure 21).\footnote{OR, Series I, Vol. VII, pp. 80 and 106-107; and William Johnson Worsham, \textit{The Old Nineteenth Tennessee Regiment, C.S.A.}, Press of the Paragon Printing Company, Knoxville, Tennessee, 1902, p. 182.}

Crittenden rallied his troops and ordered a counterattack, with the 15th Mississippi and the 25th Tennessee supported by the 28th Tennessee. Thomas reinforced both sides of his line, sending the 9th Ohio to the right and 2nd Minnesota to the left. Gen. Samuel P. Carter’s 1st and 2nd Tennessee and the 12th Kentucky formed on the far left of the Minnesotans and raked the Confederates with an enfilading fire. The infusion of fresh troops halted the Confederate advance and the gray line slowly began to give ground. This was the hottest part of the battle. Both lines were raked with heavy fire and hand-to-hand fighting broke out along a fence line at the top of a ridge just north of present-day Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery (Map 6).\footnote{OR, Series I, Vol. VII, pp. 80, 97 and 107; McMurtry, “Zollicoffer,” p. 311; and Samuel Powhatan Carter, \textit{A Sketch of the Military Services of Sam. F. Carter, Brig. Genl. & Brevt. Maj. Genl. Of U.S. Vols. During the Rebellion of the Southern States}, 1861-65, Library of Congress Manuscript Division, Washington, DC, p. 29.}

The tide of the battle turned when the 9th Ohio, composed of immigrants who had served in...
Map 6: Union troops attack, forcing the Confederates to retreat.

Map Based on Faubush and Delmer USGS quads
One inch = 24,000 feet
the German army, executed one of the few successful bayonet charges of the Civil War. Col. Robert L. McCook ordered his men to “empty their guns and fix bayonets” and charge into the Confederate line. McCook reported that only a handful of the Confederates made a stand, the rest retreated in a disorganized rout (Figure 22). McCook’s action pushed the Confederate left across the road.17

His command followed, shifting the focus of the battle.17

West of the road, the 15th Mississippi and the 20th Tennessee charged the Union line at a split-rail fence on a ridge west of a deep ravine. The Confederate charge was beaten back with the help of Carter’s Tennessee brigade and the fierce fighting of the 2nd Minnesota and the 4th Kentucky, who held the fence line. The Mississippians were shattered, but the 20th Tennessee managed to retreat in fairly good order. The 12th Kentucky, attached to Carter’s Tennessee Brigade, pursued the retreating Confederates, taking numerous prisoners. The fight broke down into pockets of resistance as the Confederates fought their way back to Beech Grove.18

The 16th Alabama and at least some of the 29th Tennessee, who were approximately 1,500 feet south of present-day Zollicoffer Park, provided the largest organized resistance. From what is known locally as “Last Stand Hill,” they held off the Federals long enough for the rest of the Confederate army to escape (Figure 23). This rearguard action kept Thomas from rounding up Crittenden’s army (Map 7).19

Accounts of the Confederate retreat and the Union pursuit vary. Union forces followed the Confederates to the Confederate field hospital, over a mile from where they began the

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Map 7: Confederate reserves hold Thomas’s main Union line long enough for the Confederates to retreat to Beech Grove.

Map based on Faubush and Delmer USGS quads
One inch = 24,000 feet
battle. Most sources agree that a Union battery unlimbered and fired at Confederate cavalry in the road near the hospital. Either by order or simply from fatigue, the Union momentum stopped at the hospital. Thomas then ordered his men “to reform and refil their cartridge-boxes” before he continued the pursuit.20

Conclusion
The battle lasted less than four hours and Thomas’s slow pursuit of the beaten Confederates brought him opposite the Beech Grove fortifications about four o’clock that afternoon. A single regiment of Confederate soldiers was sent to contest Thomas’ advance. After a brief skirmish, the Confederates retreated back to their works.21

Thomas deployed his troops in line of battle at Moulden’s Hill, a rise commanding Beech Grove, and ordered his artillery to shell the enemy (Map 8). During the night, the Confederates retreated across the swollen river, abandoning their wounded as well as supplies, artillery, horses and mules. Crittenden’s losses in battle had been less than 500 but the retreat cost him his army. Thomas lost less than 300 men, destroyed Crittenden’s army, and consequently, Albert Sidney Johnston’s right flank.22

The Battle of Mill Springs destroyed the Confederate army on the Cumberland and left the Confederate forces at Bowling Green open to attack. Strategically, their flank had been turned. While Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston’s forces held the railroad in Bowling Green, the Union Army held the Cumberland River, at least east of Nashville. On February 6, 1862, Confederate Fort Henry on the Tennessee River surrendered. On February 16, Fort Donelson on the Cumberland fell, opening up Nashville to Union gunboats. Confederate setbacks at Middle Creek and Mill Springs, and the capitulation of forts Henry and Donelson, forced the Confederate commanders to withdraw their troops from Columbus and Bowling Green. Confederate forces abandoned Kentucky and most of West Tennessee finally settling in Corinth, Mississippi. Apart from victories at those river forts in West

20 OR, Series I, Vol. VII, p. 80 (Thomas referred to Standdart’s Battery) and p. 75; Cincinnati Daily Enquirer January 24, 1862; Hafendorfer, Mill Springs, pp. 416-418 (Hafendorfer sites numerous sources).
Map 8: The end of the day, January 19, 1862.

Map based on Mill Springs USGS quad.
One inch = 24,000 feet
Tennessee, the outcome at Mill Springs opened up an avenue of invasion for Federal troops in East Tennessee, even to Nashville if they chose.

The Union victory at Mill Springs, the first major battle that the Union armies had won since the disaster at Bull Run the previous summer, boosted the nation’s morale. Mill Springs was a total and clear-cut victory. Gen. Zollicoffer was dead and Crittenden’s army was in full retreat. There was no way for the South to put a good face on their defeat. The Northern press, flush with the news of Garfield’s triumph at Middle Creek nine days earlier, played the victory for all it was worth. Thomas and Mill Springs grabbed the headlines. Thomas’ first independent battlefield command was a huge success, proving that he could and would command Union troops in battle against Confederates—that he was both loyal and an excellent field commander.
THEMATIC GUIDELINES
The Battle of Mill Springs encompasses much more than a recounting of military strategy and troop movements. It is the story of people caught up in our nation’s most catastrophic event. Interpreting that story is more than simply giving visitors names, dates, and descriptions of events. As National Park Service Historian Freeman Tilden aptly observed more than fifty years ago, “Information, as such, is not interpretation.” What, then, is interpretation? The National Park Service defines interpretation as “the process of helping each visitor find an opportunity to personally connect to a place.”

Interpretation, then, is about helping visitors make connections—helping them empathize with people who lived long ago, and understand on an emotional level events with which they have no experience and that they can hardly imagine. Making those connections requires more than conveying facts; it demands the communication of concepts that every human being regardless of culture, education, or background can understand and relate to—universal concepts such as courage, love of home, fear, anger and joy.

The letters and diaries of Union and Confederate soldiers, many of them young and inexperienced, attest to the fact that they were profoundly affected by the Battle of Mill Springs. It is difficult for those who have not known combat to understand their experience, but it is important to try to do so. Relating the stories of George Bibb Crittenden, George Thomas, Bailie Peyton, Col. Speed Fry and others gives visitors a glimpse at the battle through the eyes of men who lived it and helps make events that
took place 150 years ago real. Human stories can bring the Battle of Mill Springs to life.

**INTERPRETATION:**
- Helps people make meaningful connections to place
- Communicates universal concepts
- Provides more than information
- Provokes questions
- Answers the question, “Why should I care?”

Facts aren’t interpretation: they are the raw material for interpretation. Visitors to historic sites expect that the information they are given is true, that it is based on sound research and documentation. Some visitors will want all of the details—where regiments engaged in the Battle of Mill Springs were and what they were doing every half hour of the battle. It is important that those details are available for the visitors who want them—in books that can be purchased at the gift shop or through an enthusiast’s tour, guided by an expert on the battle—but they should not drive the interpretive program.

**INTERPRETIVE OBJECTIVES**
The interpretive objectives stated by Raymond Price Associates in the 1994 *Mill Springs Battlefield Interpretive Plan* are reaffirmed in this plan.

- Provide visitors with an understanding of the significance of the battle.
- Give visitors an understanding of the pre-battle civilian population and the effect and impact the battle had on the people and their communities.
- Acquaint visitors with the adverse topographic, vegetative, and weather conditions that existed during the battle that made command, fighting, and the movement of troops difficult for both armies.
- Help visitors understand the action and troop movements associated with the battle on a simplified level and relate these to the present day landscape.
- Present some of the human interest stories associated with the battle.
- Acquaint visitors with the Mill Springs Battlefield Association and its role in preserving and administering the battlefield.
- Promote visitor participation in preserving the battlefield.
- Provide visitors with information on how to best see the battlefield and learn about the battle in the time they have available.
CENTRAL THEME STATEMENT
Most people find it difficult to remember a number of facts but easy to remember themes. Thematic interpretation communicates a message. The visitor leaves with an understanding of the events that took place and why they took place. Relating individual stories to the central theme makes it easier for visitors to remember and understand the story as a whole.

In 2001, Gerard Hilfery & Associates, Inc. articulated a central theme, what they called the main message, to guide the development of the visitor center exhibits. Discussions with MSBA in 2009 and 2010 reaffirmed this theme, with slight modifications.

The following central theme, developed during the planning process, guided the development of exhibit and wayside concepts.

At this place people, events and conditions converged in a pitched battle that ended in Union victory, enabling Federal forces to advance into Tennessee, changing the course of the Civil War in the Western Theater.

SUBTHEMES AND STORYLINES
Possible storylines were suggested by community meetings participants, MSBA staff and Board Members, research, and existing interpretation. Related storylines were grouped into five subthemes that guided exhibit development.

Lincoln was determined to keep Kentucky; Davis was determined to take it.
- The political and military situation in Kentucky was volatile.
- Lincoln’s desire to aid East Tennessee Unionists shaped Federal strategy.
- The Battle of Mill Springs was the culmination of months of military maneuvering.
- The Battle of Mill Springs received a great deal of media coverage.

Where the armies met was dictated by the area’s natural resources.
- Abundant food and access to the Cumberland River influenced Zollicoffer’s decision to move to Mill Springs from Cumberland Ford (Pineville).
- Mill Springs was a thriving agricultural and industrial area.
- Terrain determined where the battle was fought.

The story of the Battle of Mill Springs is the story of individual decisions.
- Virginian George Thomas remains loyal to the Union.
• Newspaperman Felix Zollicoffer becomes a Confederate officer.
• Bailie Peyton refuses to surrender.
• Kentuckian George Bibb Crittenden, son of a loyalist senator, joins the Confederate army.
• Confederate physicians refuse to leave their wounded on the field.
• George Thomas halts at Moulden’s Hill.
• George Crittenden retreats across the Cumberland River.

Many individual and seemingly insignificant factors influenced the battle.
• Confederate command sends Crittenden to Mill Springs.
• There was a heavy rain on January 18 and 19, 1862.
• Part of McCook’s force had served in the German army.
• Felix Zollicoffer mistakes the enemy for his own men.
• The steamer *Noble Ellis* is tied up at Mill Springs on January 19, 1862.

The battle is part of the shared identity of this area; it has always been important.
• Civilians buried the dead after the battle.
• Residents fought to keep the Mill Springs National Cemetery in Nancy.
• Ten-year-old Dorotha Burton begins decorating the Zollie Tree in memory of the Confederate soldiers who died in the battle.
• The Mill Springs Battlefield Association is formed in 1992 to preserve, protect, maintain and interpret the Mill Springs Battlefield.
INTERPRETING THE BATTLE OF MILL SPRINGS
CHAPTER 8
INTERPRETING THE BATTLE OF MILL SPRINGS

Why interpret the Battle of Mill Springs or any site? Because the connections visitors make to a site through interpretive experiences can lead them to take action. The purpose of any interpretive program is to inspire people to go from curiosity (What is this all about?) — to awareness (I’ll think about it) — to understanding (I think I care) — to care about (I want to help) — to care for (I will help) — to stewardship. Interpretation helps the Mill Springs Battlefield Association fulfill its mission to preserve, protect, maintain and interpret the Mill Springs Battlefield by generating support for the MSBA and its programs.

Some might question whether interpretation can really make a difference. Jay Miller, administrator with the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, has seen firsthand what effective interpretation can do. Old Davidsonville State Park, a small historic site in northern Arkansas, has river access, a small fishing lake, two dozen campsites, a visitor center with exhibits about the history of the site and a small gift shop. The park was failing until 1995, when the site hired its first full-time interpreter. In one year, programs increased from twenty-two to 109; visitor contacts from 1,524 to 10,410; park visitation jumped from 28,342 to 78,119 and revenue increased from $7,407 to $23,522.¹ Old Davidsonville State Park is not an isolated example. A good interpretive program can transform a site and attract financial, volunteer, political and administrative support.

Resources for Interpretation
The Mill Springs Battlefield has a wealth of resources. The Mill Springs Battlefield Association owns over 400 acres of battlefield land with excellent integrity, much of which could be opened to the public. This property includes the sites of the heaviest fighting of the battle—the fight at the fence, the bayonet charge, and the site where the first shots of the battle were fired. It includes the site of a Confederate field hospital, the Confederate winter hut sites and earthworks at Beech Grove, an earthwork remnant on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property in Mill Springs, and more. The MSBA also owns the only two extant structures associated with the battle, the Brown-Lanier House and West Metcalfe House, both in Mill Springs. Commemorative sites associated with the battlefield include Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery, which is on MSBA property, and the Mill Springs National Cemetery in Nancy.

Interpretation at the Mill Springs Battlefield
Efforts to interpret the Mill Springs Battlefield began in 1992 when the Mill Springs Battlefield Association (MSBA) received a grant from the Kentucky Heritage Council to develop a brochure for a nine-stop, numbered post driving tour. In 1993, the American Battlefield Protection Program funded an interpretive plan for the battlefield. The plan, completed by Raymond Price Associates of Frederick, Maryland, in 1994, addressed the need for visitor centers in Nancy and Mill Springs, interpretation along the nine-stop driving tour, and interpreted trails at Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery, the Confederate encampment at Beech Grove and in Mill Springs.

The first interpretive wayside, *Mistaken Identity—A Deadly Error* was installed in Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery in 1996. The wayside was funded by Boy Scouts of America Troop 79, Somerset, Kentucky, through the March for Parks program. By June 1999, the driving tour featured fifteen interpretive waysides and was marked with directional and tour stop signs.

In 1999 the Mill Springs Battlefield Association received a direct appropriation from Congress to construct a battlefield visitor center in Nancy. The 10,000 square-foot Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor Center and Museum opened November 4, 2006. A 20-minute video on the Battle of Mill Springs, which is shown on request at the Nancy and Mill Springs visitor centers, was produced that same year. The MSBA hosted a traveling exhibit in 2007, and in 2008 the permanent exhibit gallery, *Combat on the Cumberland*, opened.
The Mill Springs Battlefield offers visitors a number of opportunities to learn about the Battle of Mill Springs, the significance of the events that took place in February 1862, and the people involved. Non-personal interpretation includes the video, *The Battle of Mill Springs,* the ten-stop driving tour and brochure, two walking trails, the exhibit gallery at the Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor Center and Museum in Nancy, and the Mill Springs Battlefield Association website. To date, the MSBA has installed 30 interpretive waysides on the battlefield in Pulaski and Wayne counties with funding from the Kentucky Humanities Council, Kentucky Department of Local Government, Southern and Eastern Kentucky Development Association and private donors.

The MSBA holds four annual events with interpretive content—the Annual Anniversary Observance in January, Memorial Day Celebration in May, Living History Weekend in June, and Ghostwalk in October. All are held in Nancy. Other opportunities for visitors to experience personal interpretation on the battlefield include tours of the Brown-Lanier House, periodic reenactments, and tours given to individuals, special interest groups, and school groups.

**Recommendations**

Maria and Joseph Brent of Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc. met with Bill Neikirk, President, Mill Springs Battlefield Association, Gilbert Wilson, Battlefield Administrator, Karyn Branham, Assistant Battlefield Administrator and Norrie Wake, former Battlefield Administrator, to discuss the MSBA’s interpretive objectives. At the first community meeting, Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc. asked the participants their opinions regarding existing interpretation and directions the interpretive program might take in the future. A visioning session held at the community meeting explored possible storylines for the interpretive program. Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc. also conducted a visitor survey between May 31 and September 30, 2009, to acquire additional information regarding the ways in which visitors use the battlefield’s existing interpretive resources and what resources they would like to see developed (Appendix 1 and 5).

One of the project objectives is increasing awareness that the battlefield encompasses both sides of Lake Cumberland in two counties. The MSBA has been concerned that many of those who visit the battlefield in Pulaski County are not aware that part of the Battle of Mill Springs National Historic Landmark is in Wayne County, and that the same is true of visitors who go to the Wayne County portion of the battlefield. Survey responses tend to support this supposition: 42% of the respondents in Nancy and 37% of the respondents in Mill Springs said that they were not aware that the battlefield extended to the other county. MSBA would also like to increase visitation to the battlefield in
Wayne County, while participants at the community meeting held at the Brown-Lanier House expressed the desire for more interpretation of the role of Mill Springs in the Civil War.

An evaluation of the driving tour led to the conclusion that many people, seeing that it took 45 minutes to reach Mill Springs, and that there were only two stops on the south side of Lake Cumberland, decided to terminate their tour at Tour Stop 8: The Ferry Landing, unless they intended to tour the mill or Brown-Lanier House. It was concluded that the battlefield in Wayne County would benefit from a designation that set it apart and gave it an identity separate from the battlefield proper. It is recommended that the battlefield in Wayne County be interpreted and marketed as the *Confederate Base of Operations*.

It is also recommended that MSBA strengthen the exhibits in the Museum and Visitor Center, expand the driving tour on the north side of Lake Cumberland, improve the driving tour brochure, enhance existing pedestrian trails, construct three new trails, and develop programs incorporating personal interpretation in both Pulaski and Wayne counties.

**Expand Interpretation on the Battlefield**

- Expand Driving Tour to include three new stops
  - The Union Army Gathers at Logan’s Crossroads
  - The Bayonet Charge of the 9th Ohio
  - Last Stand Hill
- Create new, four-color Driving Tour brochure
- Expand interpretation on existing pedestrian trails
  - Battlefield Loop Trail
  - Beech Grove Trail
- Develop three new pedestrian trails
  - Bayonet Charge
  - Last Stand Hill
  - Moulden’s Hill
- Develop programs incorporating personal interpretation
Interpret Mill Springs as the *Confederate Base of Operations*

- Move Mill Springs visitor center to larger facility
- Create exhibits in Mill Springs
- Interpret and open Brown-Lanier House
- Interpret and open West-Metcalfe House
- Develop pedestrian trails
  - Artillery Trail
  - Camp of the 17th Tennessee Trail
- Develop programs incorporating personal interpretation

Strengthen Museum Exhibits

- Strengthen presentation of the central theme
- Reinforce video storyline through the exhibits
- Highlight extant battlefield features
- Improve graphics
- Layer text
MEDIA EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Media has been divided into three broad categories for evaluation: Print and digital media, existing interpretation north of Lake Cumberland, and existing interpretation south of Lake Cumberland. Existing media is described, evaluated for effectiveness, issues discussed, and recommendations made. Lastly, proposed interpretation is described.

Existing interpretation north of Lake Cumberland includes the Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor Center exhibit gallery, the driving tour, the pedestrian trail at Beech Grove, and the Battlefield Loop Trail. Existing interpretation south of Lake Cumberland includes six interpretive signs, the Brown-Lanier House tour and the driving tour stops for the Brown-Lanier House and the West-Metcalfe House.

Print and Digital Media

- Brochure: *Mill Springs Battlefield*
- Mill Springs Battlefield Association website
- Mill Springs Battlefield Passport
- Video: *The Battle of Mill Springs*

Brochure: *Mill Springs Battlefield*

The Mill Springs Battlefield Association developed an 8 ½ x 11-inch tri-fold, color brochure, *Mill Springs Battlefield*, as a promotional piece describing battlefield features open to visitors that are owned and interpreted by the MSBA. The cover features a list of Battlefield sites: Visitor Center & Museum, Zollicoffer Park, Historic Brown-Lanier House B&B and the Driving Tour, and a photograph of two reenactors, one Confederate and one Union, each holding the appropriate Civil War-era flag.

When unfolded the left panel gives directions to the Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor Center & Museum from Lexington, Louisville and Richmond, Kentucky, and Nashville and Knoxville, Tennessee. Below, is a green box with the text, “got history?”, a historic photograph and the text, “Become a preservationist and support the Mill Springs Battlefield.” The center panel has the MSBA logo, post office box address and a mission statement: “. . . dedicated to the preservation, protection, interpretation and maintenance of the Mill Springs Battlefield . . .” When the brochure is folded the center panel is the back of the brochure.

The inside of the brochure is divided into two parts. The first two panels are devoted to the history of the battle, the history of MSBA/battlefield interpretation, The Mill Springs Visitor Center & Museum and the Brown-Lanier House B&B. These two panels feature
three modern photographs, a historic photograph and a Civil War-era lithograph. The third panel features a photograph of reenactors; contact information including phone numbers, street addresses, email, and web address for the Mill Springs Visitor Center & Museum and the Brown-Lanier House B&B; a list of annual events; and an appeal to join the Mill Springs Battlefield Association. The MSBA logo is repeated on this side of the brochure.

Evaluation
The cover is simple and straightforward. The reenactors are young men with grim or determined looks on their faces. The image is effective and illustrates Union and Confederate—brother against brother. The title *Mill Springs Battlefield*, in white on in a dark green band, is eye-catching and easy to read. The MSBA logo below the cover image is good, but it could be larger and clearer. The MSBA logo is used on the driving tour signs and elsewhere on the battlefield. If the visitor has this brochure and sees one of the driving tour signs, the connection is made. The use of the logo on the plain white back panel of the brochure reinforces the idea that the battlefield and the MSBA are synonymous.

The text on the inside of the brochure is well-written and the font is large enough to read easily. The images seem right for the text as written and they are generally well-placed. Most, but not all, of the images are crisp and clear.

The directions on the brochure are not overly detailed and someone coming from any of the five locations should be able to find the visitor center without problems. The contact information should also include the web and email addresses for the Visitor Center and Museum and the street address for the Brown-Lanier House. The membership appeal is easy to understand.

This piece might be trying to do too many things. The appeal to join the MSBA uses a lot of space on this brochure that could be devoted to other information that visitors might want. The main purpose of this piece should be to promote the battlefield. An appeal for membership or a donation could still be made, but instead including a coupon, point visitors to the MSBA website, which allows individuals to donate online.

Recommendations
As mentioned elsewhere, the MSBA should adopt a tag line for the Battle of Mill Springs that tells the reader something about the site, such as *Mill Springs: The Battle for Kentucky!* Use this line on all printed material.
• Use consistent addresses. The back panel of the brochure gives the post office box address for the MSBA. Using the street address for the Visitor Center and Museum would be more helpful for travelers using GPS.

• Give directions from Cincinnati. Instead of using Richmond, Kentucky, as the reference for visitors coming south on I-75 use Cincinnati, Ohio. It is a larger population center and many people from there visit Lake Cumberland.

• Emphasize the logo. Make the logo on the front of the brochure bigger, it’s OK if it goes into the picture. The logo on the brochure is digitized. Substitute a clear, high resolution logo.

• Shorten the text in the body of the brochure. The first two panels on the inside of the brochures have over 500 words. Shorten the text by using bullet points. Head this section with *The Battle of Mill Springs—The Battle for Kentucky!*

Use a combination of historic images and battlefield photographs to illustrate the battlefield and visitor centers. Consider using pictures of the exhibit gallery. Instead of giving readers a complete history, tease them with some highlights and story points: a nearsighted general wanders into the enemy lines and is killed, a Virginian leads Union troops to victory, rain renders most of the weapons of one side useless, the battle that saved Kentucky for the Union—come to Nancy, Kentucky, and experience these stories as you explore the Mill Springs Battlefield.

• What do you want visitors to know? Keep reinforcing, “the battle for Kentucky.” When a visitor comes to the battlefield, they want to know what it is, what there is to see and do, and where it is. The visitor center and museum, exhibit gallery, national cemetery, Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery, West-Metcalf House, Brown-Lanier House, walking trails, driving tour and five annual events should all be bullets or otherwise highlighted in the brochure. The current brochure does not mention the Mill Springs Information Center and Bookstore.

• Tell visitors the battlefield is an NHL. The front of the brochure and the text inside should tell visitors that the battlefield is a National Historic Landmark. The header on the front of the brochure might say: *The Battle of Mill Springs: The Battle for Kentucky;* while the footer might read: *Mill Springs Battlefield National Historic Landmark.*

• Use larger photographs. Shortening the text will make it possible to use larger,
more effective images. The images should shout, “Civil War!” and portray the battlefield as an interesting, exciting destination. Use crisp, clear high resolution images to insure that they reproduce well and look professional.

- Create a separate brochure for the B&B. Use this brochure to promote the resources associated with the battlefield. It’s fine to mention the B&B on the battlefield brochure, but it will be more effective to promote them separately.

- Use the name Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery. Zollicoffer Park is listed on the front of the brochure and in the text. In other publications, the site is given as Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery. The word “park” denotes recreation for most people. Consistently using the name Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery on all printed and digital material will tell visitors that this area is part of the battlefield and is hallowed ground, not a place for picnics and play.

- Get the brochure into Kentucky Welcome Centers. To get a brochure approved for display in a welcome centers it first has to be sent to Pam Lyons at the Kentucky Department of Travel & Tourism for approval. Get in touch with Ms. Lyons to find out what is required for approval and submit a proof before the final printing. See Appendix 3: Kentucky Department of Travel & Tourism Welcome Centers’ Brochure Policy.

Mill Springs Battlefield Association Website
Mill Springs Battlefield Association has had a website for years, and its focus has always been the Association’s—mission of preserving battlefield land and raising money to fund land purchase.

The MSBA website emphasizes the Nancy visitor center. The visitor center has been a goal of the MSBA almost since their inception. The home page features an exterior shot of the visitor center. The hours of operation for the Nancy visitor center are clearly stated in the right hand column of the webpage. The site provides the opportunity for those visiting to donate money, join the MSBA and subscribe to the newsletter.

Tabs access information on the MSBA, recent events, a history of the battle, the death of Zollicoffer, the order of battle, the Brown-Lanier House and back issues of the Zollie Tree, the MSBA newsletter. Site visitors can view historic images of the battle and those who participated in it, and images from 2009 events. There is also a “contact us” tab.

Evaluation
Almost everything that one would want to know before visiting the Mill Springs Battlefield is available on the MSBA website, but the focus of the site is the MSBA, not the battlefield-as-historic-attraction.

The website was not created with visitors in mind. For instance, the driving tour brochure is available online, but it is found under the tab “our downloads.” There is a satellite map that shows where the Nancy visitor center is located, but driving directions are not included. There are no links to the Somerset-Pulaski CVB or the Monticello-Wayne County Chamber of Commerce.

The MSBA website was developed for the Association and its events and activities, and the battlefield sometimes gets lost. Many Kentuckians familiar with Civil War Sites in the Commonwealth, and probably most local people familiar with the battlefield, view it and the Association as synonymous; yet the two are separate.

It is absolutely essential to have a good website; one that is focused strictly on the Mill Springs Battlefield would be a welcome addition for tourists and those interested in the battle. The MSBA has done a remarkable job with land preservation. It is now time to focus on the battlefield and bringing visitors to Nancy and Mill Springs to see the fruits of their labor and to hear the Association’s message.

Recommendations
The MSBA website could be retooled but doing so shortchanges the MSBA. It is recommended that the MSBA develop a Battle of Mill Springs Battlefield website to promote the battlefield and serve as an educational resource. Think of the website as an electronic brochure that can be continuously updated without the need for reprinting.

- Show them your best side. The first picture someone visiting the Battle of Mill Springs—The Battle for Kentucky! website should see is a colorful view of the battlefield—a shot of the Zollicoffer Monument in the snow, a landscape shot of the rolling battlefield land and the split-rail fences, a cannon, or one of the historic houses in Wayne County. These images could rotate or they could form a collage. Seasonal shots, shots with reenactors, sunsets, or other atmospheric photographs will draw the eye to the screen and the visitor to the battlefield.

- Introduce your visitors to the battlefield. The home page of the Battle of Mill Springs website should feature three short paragraphs with images. The introductory paragraph should be a summary of the Battle of Mill Springs,
emphasizing that it was a decisive Union victory that secured Kentucky for the Union. A second paragraph should tell the visitor where the Mill Springs Battlefield is located. The third should tell visitors what there is to see and do when they visit. Each paragraph should contain a link to pages with more detailed information—a detailed history of the battle, a map and driving directions, and the “plan your visit” section.

- Tabs and links. The Battle of Mill Springs website should have a variety of tabs and links that help potential visitors plan their trip to the battlefield and their stay in the area. Tabs should include, but need not be limited to:

  o Contact us
  o Directions and a map
  o Detailed history of the battle
  o MSBA website
  o Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor Center and Museum, with a virtual tour
  o Driving tour with downloadable map and brochure, with a virtual tour
  o Pedestrian trails
  o Confederate Base of Operations in Mill Springs, with a virtual tour
  o Annual events
  o Special events, workshops, educational activities
  o Group and special tours
  o Where to stay, with links to Brown-Lanier House B&B, Somerset-Pulaski CVB and Wayne County Chamber of Commerce

**Mill Springs Battlefield Passport**

In 2008, the Mill Springs Battlefield Association initiated a passport program. For one price, an individual is entitled to unlimited visits to the Museum and Visitor Center exhibit gallery, tours of the Brown-Lanier House, and admittance to all annual events. The passport is good for one year from the date of purchase.

The passport, the size of a large post card, is printed on glossy cardstock and features four images: the Museum and Visitor Center, Brown-Lanier House, West-Metcalfe House and Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery (Figure 24: The Passport issued by the MSBA.
23). The back of the card lists the cost of the passport for adults, students and seniors/military—MSBA members are entitled to a free passport. There is also a list of sites and events the bearer is entitled to visit and attend, and an invitation to join the MSBA. The card must be initialed by an MSBA employee and the date of purchase and the end date written on the card.

Evaluation
The passport program is an excellent idea. For the cost of touring the exhibit gallery, visitors get a nice keepsake and unlimited visits for the next year to all MSBA/battlefield facilities and events. The recommendations could be easily addressed in the next printing.

Recommendations
- Update the image of the West-Metcalfe House. The restored West-Metcalfe house is a source of pride and an asset. The caption should be changed to West-Metcalfe House—Confederate supply depot and hospital. Make this change on the back of the card as well.

- Change the caption under Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery. Change the caption under the picture that reads Mill Springs Battlefield/ Zollicoffer Park. Make this change on the back of the card as well. If the photo’s purpose is to highlight the battlefield, use an image that does not include headstones.

- Remove hours of operation. Opening and closing times are subject to change. The MSBA can avoid visitor confusion and getting stuck with 10,000 out-of-date cards by listing the web address where timely information is always available.

- Make sites “destinations.” This is a passport program; the visitor is seeking destinations where they can experience the Mill Springs Battlefield. Changing the header from sites to destinations will compliment the passport theme.

- Highlight the Driving Tour. The driving tour is listed on a line that reads Mill Springs Battlefield/ Zollicoffer Park—Driving Tour. The driving tour is free but it is the best way to see the battlefield. List the driving tour as the Battle of Mill Springs Driving Tour on a separate line on the back of the card to draw attention to it.

- Remove the Provost Initials. It’s hard to read the text behind the provost stamp and removing it will make the back look less cluttered. Use an inked stamp, which
is a better fit with the passport theme, to validate the card and add text under the line *Please present for admission*, reading “This passport is not valid without the proper stamp.”

**Video: The Battle of Mill Springs**
The video, *The Battle of Mill Springs*, is shown to visitors upon request at both visitor centers. The nineteen-minute film features footage of reenactors taken on the battlefield, maps showing troop movements, and historic images of significant figures and events. The video is divided into several parts: Kentucky’s neutrality, the war in Kentucky, the Battle of Mill Springs, and its aftermath.

**Video storyline:**
- Kentucky Neutrality
- Lincoln and the significance of Kentucky
- Early Confederate offensive in Kentucky
- Union counter moves
- The Crittendens: A Kentucky family—brother vs. brother
- Kentucky the prize for the winner
- The weather and weapons
- Timmy’s Branch
- Battle on two sides of the road
- Fight at the fence
- Bayonet charge
- Confederate retreat
- Battle’s aftermath

**Evaluation**
The video provides an excellent overview of the battle. The narrative is well-written and easy to understand and is sprinkled with lively quotes that lend it a nineteenth-century feel. Adult viewers will leave with a good, basic understanding of the battle and its place in Civil War history. The video was created for a general audience and is appropriate for students at the eighth-grade level.

**Recommendations**
- Ask teachers to review the video. Most of the students that come on field trips to the Nancy visitor center are fifth graders. Some of the concepts introduced in the video may be difficult for ten-year-old children to grasp unless they have been instructed about the battle and its significance before coming to the site.
The MSBA could invite local fifth-grade teachers to see the video and to discuss the materials needed to help them prepare students. Offer teachers the option of not seeing the video and instead moving directly to exhibit gallery, where the battle can be explained in small increments as illustrated by the exhibits and other materials the individual giving the tour has prepared.

- Close caption the video. The video relies heavily on the narration to relay its message and it is not closed captioned. Visitors with hearing loss will probably not leave with an understanding of the battle. The MSBA should investigate the possibility of having closed captioning added to the video.
**Mill Springs Visitor Center and Museum**

Most visitors to the Mill Springs Battlefield begin their visit at the Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor Center and Museum in Nancy. Front desk staff report that most visitors opt to see the video. About half of the battlefield’s visitors elect to pay the $5.00 fee for admittance to the exhibit gallery, for which they receive a Mill Springs Battlefield Passport.

When asked where in the Visitor Center and Museum the Mill Springs Battlefield is interpreted, most people would answer “in the exhibit gallery.” In fact, the exterior of the building, plaza, lobby, and community room offer many opportunities to interpret and introduce the battlefield to visitors.

**Visitor Center and Museum Exterior**

Very tall, red brick walls frame the entrance plaza of the Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor Center and Museum (Figure 25). Hanging large banners with figures of Union and Confederate soldiers and the words *Mill Springs Battlefield* or *Relive the Battle of Mill Springs* on one or both walls would break up the expanse of brick, attract attention, and alert visitors on their way to the Visitor Center and Museum that they have arrived at their destination.

A concrete sidewalk leading from the plaza follows the front wall of the visitor center and terminates in a small circular area. A wood chip path leads from the concrete walk to an entrance in the fence around the Mill Springs National Cemetery, allowing pedestrians to enter the cemetery from the visitor center grounds. A three-panel kiosk could be placed on the circular concrete pad; the first panel interpreting Nancy S. and William H. Logan and the Logan’s Crossroads settlement, the second discussing the National Cemetery system and Mill Springs National Cemetery’s place in its history, and the last listing the names of the Union soldiers who died at the battle of Mill Springs and are interred in the Mill Springs National Cemetery.

Split-rail worm fence was recently erected along the road in front of the Visitor Center and Museum. Extending the split-rail fence along the north side of the entrance drive and...
parking area, and along the back of the parking area would give the visitor center grounds more visual interest.

**Plaza**

Welcome visitors to the battlefield with text next to the lobby entrance reading “Welcome to the Mill Springs Battlefield National Historic Landmark.” Place the MSBA logo (four-color laminate) next to the text. If the modifications to the gift shop discussed in Chapter 5: Facilities, are implemented, a large graphic in the lower half of the exterior gift shop windows with text reading *Mill Springs Battlefield National Historic Landmark* will be visible to people on the plaza.

A stack of cannon balls or simple works of art would add interest to the plaza. Stacked rifles, created by cutting silhouettes out of one-quarter-inch sheet metal and silhouettes of soldiers could be created by a welder if the MSBA supplied patterns.

The plaza would also be an appropriate place to acknowledge the battlefield’s supporters. A “donor wall” could be created on the wall facing visitors as they enter the plaza from the parking area. Donor’s names could simply be engraved on brass plaques and affixed directly to the wall or to a larger plaque. Many organizations incorporate their logo or some signature design into their donor walls; the MSBA might create a Zollie Tree, with the donors’ names engraved on individual leaves.

**Lobby**

A lobby is often thought of only as a space to greet visitors, relay information about the site, and as a transition area from which offices, restrooms, the community room and the exhibit gallery can be accessed. In fact, the lobby presents a number of opportunities to introduce visitors to the Mill Springs Battlefield.

The Mill Springs Battlefield Association mission statement is displayed below the counter adjacent to the lobby entrance—*Mission Statement: The Mill Springs Battlefield Association is dedicated to the preservation, protection, maintenance, and interpretation of the Mill Springs Battlefield.* Consider moving the mission statement to the wall behind the reception counter where it would be more visible. Place the MSBA logo (in four-color laminate) next to the text. Delete the words *Mission Statement* and, if possible, put the mission statement in active voice—*The Mill Springs Battlefield Association is dedicated to preserving, protecting, maintaining, and interpreting the Mill Springs Battlefield.*
Place oversize photographs on one or both sides of the text reading *Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor Center* to give visitors a glimpse of the battlefield, or position cut-outs of figures identified with the battlefield, like generals George Thomas and Felix Zollicoffer, adjacent to the text (Figure 26).

Moving the figure of Brent Woods, the display case and framed panel to the corner between the entrance to the library and the door marked “114/Employees Only” (Figure 27) will free up very visible wall space for a map illustrating the battlefield from the Visitor Center and Museum to the West-Metalffe House. Label the location of strategic sites on the map and place photographs of the same sites on the map to give visitors a quick visual tour. The map will instantly alert visitors that the battlefield has sites on both sides of Lake Cumberland. Reproduce the map as an 11-inch by 14-inch tear-off sheet and add driving directions to give visitors a handy, accurate guide to navigating the battlefield.

Place the exhibit gallery title on the wall adjacent to the gallery entrance to let visitors know that there is something to see. In addition, a sign on an easel near the reception desk could be used to announce the presence of the exhibit gallery.

Display only prints that depict the Battle of Mill Springs, people that took part in the battle, or images otherwise directly related to the battle. The image of General Robert E. Lee could be moved to the library or an office.

**Community Room**

Give visitors waiting to see the video or in the community room after the video ends and individuals that have come for a meeting or other purpose something to look at—and help them learn something about the battlefield at the same time. Battlefield staff already displays some art works depicting the battle. Add others as space permits. Place captions giving the name of the artist or photographer, name of the work, what is depicted, where
and when the image first appeared if it was published in a magazine or newspaper, and other relevant information, next to each print or painting.

Exhibit Gallery
The exhibit gallery contains nineteen permanent exhibits (Figure 30). The exhibits were evaluated individually and as a whole for their ability to convey the central theme, to provide a clear picture of the events of the battle and factors that led to Union victory, and to convey the significance of the Battle of Mill Springs, both at the time it took place and today, as a National Historic Landmark.

The exhibits were also evaluated in terms of presentation—whether exhibit elements reflect the profession’s best practices for text length and formatting, and the use of color and graphics to create visual interest. The exhibit storyline was also compared to the storyline of the video to determine if the exhibits agree with and reinforce the information visitors receive in the video.

Exhibit Gallery Title: *Combat on the Cumberland* (Figure 28).

Exhibit 1: Prelude to Battle
Four panels enclose a life-size diorama representing a room. The exhibit title is mounted on the right hand panel. A mannequin of General George H. Thomas points to a reproduction Civil War-era map of Kentucky. A chair, and small table holding an oil lamp and some papers, completes the furnishings (Figure 29). A two-minute audio, presented as if General Thomas is speaking, describes the military situation in Kentucky at the beginning of 1862, refers to the importance of keeping the Confederates from advancing northward, and the decision to send Union forces to Logan’s Crossroads.

There are four text blocks. The first, a short history of Thomas’s military career, is positioned on the chair in the exhibit. The second, listing the various names given to the Battle of Mill Springs, is mounted next to the map. The third, at the feet of the mannequin, describes Thomas’s physical appearance. The last, on the floor of the exhibit, says “Please do not touch.”
Figure 30: Museum exhibit gallery floor plan.

Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor Center and Museum Exhibits

1: Prelude to Battle
2: Federals
3: How do You Compare to a Civil War Soldier?
4: Confederates
5: Confederates at Beech Grove
6: The Fog of War
7: Untitled Exhibit (Battle Maps)
8: Untitled Exhibit (Envelopes)
9: The Field of Battle
10: The Fight at the Fence
11: The Death of Zollicoffer
12: The Plight of the Wounded
13: Untitled exhibit (Artillery Piece)
14: Untitled Exhibit (Glass-front cases)
15: Never Forgotten
16: The Zollic tree
17: After Mill Springs
18: Untitled Exhibit (Col. John M. Harlan Bridge)
19: Untitled Exhibit (Zollicoffer Bridge)
Exhibit 2: Federals
This exhibit is composed of ten panels, a reproduction tent, and a case exhibit. Panels 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are blank (Figures 31-34).

Panel 1 gives the exhibit title and has a wall-mounted case holding a reproduction Union army uniform jacket and artifacts recovered from the battlefield. Two small text blocks describe the items in the case.

Panel 2 has three text blocks; one describes the Union army at Mill Springs and two list the regiments at Mill Springs. The regiments are divided into those that took part in the battle, those not directly engaged in the main battle, and those that arrived after the battle but participated in the pursuit to Beech Grove. When applicable, the regiments are organized by brigade and the commanding officer is identified. The panel also has photographs of five of the Union generals and colonels at Mill Springs.

Panel 3 contains over 30 photographs of Union soldiers at Mill Springs, most of them identified by name and regiment. The MSBA actively collects photographs of soldiers who served at Mill Springs. It is hoped that visitors will eventually provide information regarding the unidentified photographs.

Panel 5 contains a framed photograph of General George Thomas and a text block with a short biography. Some of the information duplicates that on the text block in Exhibit 1.

Panels 6 through 9 enclose the reproduction tent.

Panel 10 has two period illustrations of army encampments and a text block describing the reproduction “wedge” tent used by both armies. The text ends with an invitation to enter the reproduction tent and to inspect the reproduction blanket, uniform and equipment in the tent.

The case exhibit holds swords, a knapsack, kepi, officer’s sash, flag and other items. Small text blocks identify the items and provide insight into their significance, function and use.

Exhibit 3. How do you compare to the Average Civil War Soldier?
In this exhibit, a mannequin dressed in a worn Confederate officer’s uniform stands immediately to the left of five wall-mounted text blocks with statistics about the Civil
Figure 31: Panels 1-3, Exhibit 2: Federals.

Figure 32: Panel 5 and the reproduction wedge tent, Exhibit 2: Federals.

Figure 33: Panel 10 and the reproduction wedge tent, Exhibit 2: Federals.

Figure 34: Exhibit case, Exhibit 2: Federals.
War soldier asking visitors how they compare (Figure 35).

Exhibit 4: Confederates
This exhibit has four panels, the third holding a wall-mounted case. (Figure 36, 37). It is structured much the same as its counterpart, Exhibit 2: Federals.

Panel 1 is primarily text but has photographs of the three Confederate generals on the field during the battle—George Bibb Crittenden, Felix K. Zollicoffer and William Henry Carroll. The photos of Crittenden and Zollicoffer are accompanied by short biographies. One text block gives a short description of the Confederate army at Mill Springs; another, regiments that participated in the battle and those on the south side of the river that were not engaged. Others give the complete text of Zollicoffer’s *Proclamation to the People of Kentucky* issued December 16, 1861.

Panel 2 has an unidentified period illustration of an encampment above a mounted case. The case contains artifacts associated with Confederate camps and areas of the battlefield associated with the Confederates, and a blanket believed to have been used by a Confederate soldier during the Civil war. Three short text blocks describe the items.

Panel 3, the counterpart to Exhibit 2: Panel 3, displays over 30 photographs of Confederate soldiers who fought at the Battle of Mill Springs. All but two are identified.

Exhibit 5: Confederates at Beech Grove
Exhibit 5 has five elements—a wall-mounted map drawn by the commander of the 20th Tennessee depicting the Confederate fortifications at Beech Grove; a full-size, fully furnished reconstruction of a winter hut; two mannequins, one a Confederate soldier and one an African American servant; a floor-mounted case of artifacts recovered during archeological investigations at Beech Grove; and two panels, one with the exhibit title
and the other with a copy of a period engraving of the Beech Grove encampment and a text block (Figures 38, 39).

The Map is simply identified with a caption naming the artist and subject.

The Recreated Cabin is the centerpiece of the exhibit. The mannequins stand outside the cabin, near the entrance. A text block in the cabin relates that the Confederate army arrived in Beech Grove in December, constructed a line of fortifications and, expecting to stay some time, built cabins similar to that in the exhibit, which was created with the aid of information recovered during archaeological investigations. The text block on the exterior of the cabin describes the size and construction of the Beech Grove cabins. A small text block near the feet of the mannequin depicting an African American reads, “Several African-Americans are known to have participated in the Mill Springs campaign as servants to Confederate officers. At least one received a pension in recognition of his service here.”

The floor-mounted case (Figure 40) contains artifacts associated with the Beech Grove encampment. Text blocks identify the artifacts and what they tell us about activities at Beech Grove.

The engraving depicting the Beech Grove encampment when the Union army arrived there after the Battle of Mill Springs is identified with a short caption.
Exhibit 6: The Fog of War
This one-panel exhibit consists of a framed engraving identified with a caption and a text block (Figure 41) describing the influence of the weather on the battle and the confusion and miscalculation resulting from compromised communications and military intelligence.

Exhibit 7: Untitled Exhibit
This one-panel exhibit consists of five 8½ by 11-inch laminated maps showing troop movements during the battle. Each map bears a short title, such as “Opening of Battle.” The exhibit has no title or additional text (Figure 42).

Exhibit 8: Untitled Exhibit
A small wall-hung panel with a framed set of twelve commemorative envelopes depicting scenes from the Battle of Mill Springs, enlargements of three of the envelopes, and a small text block make up this exhibit. The text identifies the envelopes, which were produced by a New York company after the Civil War to raise money for children orphaned by the war. It notes that the fanciful renderings are consistent with the romantic public attitude toward the war in its early months (Figure 43).

Exhibit 9: The Field of Battle
Exhibit 9 consists of a title block, a copy of a period engraving of the Battle of Mill Springs, a text block giving a short synopsis of the Battle of Mill Springs, and a battle map mounted on a small wall-hung panel (Figure 44). The exhibit is located to the left of one of two windows in the exhibit gallery. The text begins, “The northernmost part of the Mill Springs battlefield can be seen through this window. The Confederates marched northward—toward the area seen out the window—from their camp at Beech Grove to attack Union troops camped in the vicinity of Logan’s Crossroads—now the town of...
Nancy.” The account of the battle ends with the Confederate retreat to the Cumberland River.

Exhibit 10: The Fight at the Fence
A life-size diorama on a low riser is the centerpiece of this exhibit. Five mannequins depicting Confederate soldiers are arranged on the far side of a split-rail fence; three Union soldiers, one lying on the ground, are on the near side of the fence. The exhibit title, “The Fight at the Fence,” is on the first of four panels that form the back of the exhibit. The single text block sits on the left side of the riser, which is behind a plastic chain barrier (Figure 45). The text begins, “This scene depicts some of the hardest fighting of the Battle of Mill Springs.” It goes on to tell the reader which Union and Confederate regiments were involved in the fight at the fence and that the diorama depicts men of the 2nd Minnesota and the 15th Mississippi. The remainder of the text describes the Union and Confederate soldiers’ uniforms and weapons. The text does not tell the reader what the outcome of the fight at the fence was or its place in the battle.

Exhibit 11: The Death of Zollicoffer
This exhibit consists of five images and five text blocks arranged on three panels (Figure 46). The images portray the events that led the to the death of Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer, which occurred after he approached Union troops that he believed were his own. The text addresses Zollicoffer’s background, events surrounding his death, and the Confederate retreat to Beech Grove.

Panel 1, right panel of this three-panel exhibit, gives the exhibit title and features an original oil painting depicting Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer talking to Union Colonel Speed Fry, who in the fog and smoke of the battle he mistook for a Confederate officer. A text block adjacent to the painting gives a short biography of Zollicoffer and his role in the battle. It does not discuss the subject of the painting.

Panel 2, the center panel, has a mounted case holding two framed period images
depicting the death of General Zollicoffer and a text block. In addition to the period image, the upper framed element has an original newspaper article, and a fragment of Zollicoffer’s overcoat. The text begins “The death of General Felix Zollicoffer was a critical event in the Battle of Mill Springs.” It then discusses how Zollicoffer made the mistake that led to his death. It does not explain how Zollicoffer’s death was a critical event in the battle.

Panel 3, the left panel, has two images—one on the left showing General Zollicoffer being placed in a wagon and one on the right depicting the death of Zollicoffer, an enlargement of one of the commemorative envelopes in Exhibit 7. Both are accompanied by text blocks; a third text block is above the first image (Figure 47).

The uppermost text block has copies of two short Tennessee newspaper articles reporting Zollicoffer’s funeral. The text block adjacent to the image of Zollicoffer being placed in a wagon begins by saying that the Confederate defeat at Mill Springs was complete and decisive and then discusses the Confederate retreat and the crossing on the steamboat Noble Ellis. The text block below the enlargement of the commemorative envelope discusses the affect Zollicoffer’s death had on the Confederate troops; Union soldiers taking “souvenirs” of buttons, pieces of the dead general’s clothing and his hair as he lay beneath a tree; and the media’s coverage of Zollicoffer’s death.

Exhibit 12: The Plight of the Wounded
The principle element of Exhibit 12 is a life-size diorama depicting a Union army surgeon treating a wounded soldier. The soldier is positioned on a makeshift table of boards supported by barrels. Three wood packing crates are positioned around the table. A banner over the exhibit reads “The Cost of War.” The exhibit title is mounted on one of four panels enclosing the diorama. Two text blocks and a case containing Civil War-era medicine bottles and reproduction medicines complete the exhibit (Figure 48).
The text block near the head of the wounded soldier discusses Civil War medical practices and the horrible conditions in field hospitals. The text block in front of the case of Civil War-era medicines discusses the treatment of Union and Confederate wounded in field hospitals at the Battle of Mill Springs.

Exhibit 13: Untitled Exhibit
This exhibit consists of a reproduction 10-Pounder Parrott rifle, limber with chest, and two text blocks (Figure 49). A text block on the artillery piece describes the features of the gun, what its name refers to, and states that the 9th Ohio Battery was armed with these guns and used them effectively at the Battle of Mill Springs. The text block on the limber explains its function, and position and use during a battle. The cannon and limber are functional pieces, used by the MSBA for artillery demonstrations on the battlefield.

Exhibit 14: Untitled Exhibit
Exhibit 14 consists of two wood-framed glass display cases on either side of a framed original New York Herald article reporting the Battle of Mill Springs, dated January 21, 1862. The display cases are approximately six feet high and three feet wide (Figure 50).

The left-hand case contains a number of reproduction weapons and accessories used in the Battle of Mill Springs—rifles, flintlocks, percussion caps and packages of musket balls. Seven small text blocks identify the items, and where applicable, how their use influenced the outcome of the battle.

The New York Herald article reporting the Battle of Mill Springs, headlined “The Important Victory in Kentucky,” appeared on the newspaper’s front page. The original framed article is two full pages.
The right-hand case displays reproductions of items used by artillerymen and a Light Artillery saber on the top shelf. The second and third shelves display original shells and fragments recovered from the Mill Springs Battlefield—a 10-pounder shell and fragments on the second shelf, Hotchkiss shells and fragments on the third shelf.

Exhibit 15: Never Forgotten
The first panel of this two-panel exhibit has fourteen text blocks—three listing Federal casualties buried in the Mill Springs National Cemetery and ten listing Confederate soldiers killed in action or mortally wounded in the Battle of Mill Springs. The last text block directs readers wanting more information to the Mill Springs Battlefield Association website. Mounted on the second panel are a photograph of Confederate Lieutenant Bailie Payton and a text block describing his bravery and death at the Battle of Mill Springs. The second text block gives the number of Confederate soldiers killed or mortally wounded in each regiment; the third text block gives the same information for Union regiments (Figure 51).

Exhibit 16: The Zollie Tree
Three panels enclose a life-size diorama depicting mortally wounded Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer in this exhibit. The seated general is leaning against the lower portion of a white oak tree decorated with a wreath of flowers (Figure 52).

Panel 1 bears the exhibit title, an early 1900s photograph of Dorotha Burton next to the decorated Zollie Tree, a photograph taken in the early 1990s of the decorated Zollie Tree and the Historical Highway Marker 1920: “Zollie Tree,” and a text block. The text block explains that the tree fragment is the remains of the white oak that came to be known as the Zollie Tree, which was destroyed by a storm in 1995. It tells visitors
that commemorative items made from the Zollie tree are available in the gift shop and that “The tree also appears in the logo of the Mill Springs Battlefield Preservation Association.” A text block sitting on the tree fragment relates the story of Dorothea Burton. The third text block, on the lap of the mannequin, asks and then answers the question, “Why is General Zollicoffer wearing a blue uniform?”

Panels 2 and 3 are blank.

Exhibit 17: After Mill Springs
This exhibit consists of a wall-hung panel with the title, a period illustration of the Confederate encampment at Beech Grove as it appeared when the Union army arrived, and a text block summarizing events after the Battle of Mill Springs from the Confederate perspective—the fall of forts Henry and Donelson, the abandonment of Bowling Green and the fall of Nashville (Figure 53).

Exhibit 18: Untitled Exhibit
A life-size cut-out figure made from a photograph of Colonel John Marshall Harlan and a text block make up this exhibit. The emphasis of the text, which also describes Colonel Harlan’s role in the Battle of Mill Springs, is his service as a justice on the United States Supreme Court, where he wrote his most influential opinion as a dissenter in the case of *Plessy vs. Ferguson*. (Figure 54)

Exhibit 19: Untitled Exhibit
This case exhibits contains labeled photographs and items related to the memory of General Felix Zollicoffer, including the dedication plaque from the *Felix K. Zollicoffer Memorial Bridge* (Figure 55).
The Legacy Room, which can be secured independently from the exhibit gallery, was built to display artifacts with considerable monetary value. The displays change as new artifacts or collections are acquired. Visitors enter the Legacy Room when they reach the end of the exhibits in the gallery and proceed through it to exit into the lobby (Figure 56).

Exhibit Evaluation
Some of the exhibits are colorful and eye-catching. The gallery is spacious; there is ample room to move from exhibit to exhibit, and to look at an exhibit, without impeding the progress of other visitors. However, there are issues with exhibit flow, text presentation, and design that prevent the exhibits form doing all that they could to communicate the messages that MSBA needs and wants to communicate.

Ability to convey the central theme
One of the primary functions of the exhibits as a whole is to convey the central theme: “The Union victory at Mill Springs helped secure Kentucky for the Union and enabled Federal forces to advance into Tennessee, changing the course of the Civil War in the Western Theater.”

Conveying the central theme requires stating the theme at the beginning of the exhibits and then repeatedly stating it in whole or in part throughout the exhibits. It’s like that old saying about making an effective speech: tell your audience what you are going to tell them; tell them what you want to tell them; then tell them what you told them.

The exhibits fail to do this and it is unlikely that most visitors would be able to articulate, when asked why the Battle of Mill Springs is important, that after the battle, Kentucky was firmly in Union hands, leaving Federal forces free to advance south.
Ability to provide a clear picture of the battle
The audio in Exhibit 1: Prelude to Battle tells visitors about the political and military situation in Kentucky in the months preceding the battle. In the following five exhibits information regarding weapons, quality of leadership, and the Confederates’ march from Beech Grove is referred to, but in text primarily devoted to other subjects. The sequence of battle maps in Exhibit 7, which is untitled, shows and describes troop movements at the regimental level. They show blocks representing regiments changing position; they do not convey what was happening to the soldiers involved or why. Visitors unfamiliar with battle maps of this type will find the exhibit unintelligible.

The text in Exhibit 9: The Field of Battle; summarizes the entire battle, from the Confederate march from Beech Grove to their return to the same site. The text for the diorama of the fight at the fence, Exhibit 10, begins by describing the fight but the narrative ends with the 2nd Minnesota and 9th Ohio infantries joining the regiments engaged at the fence and does not tell the reader the outcome. Exhibit 11: The Death of Zollicoffer alludes to the effect his death had on Confederate morale but does not tell the reader when in the battle his death occurred. Text on the last panel of the exhibit wraps up the battle, beginning “The Confederate defeat at the Battle of Mill Springs was complete and decisive.” The text describes the Confederate retreat and transport across the Cumberland River in the steamboat Noble Ellis. Exhibit 17: After Mill Springs provides a concise summary of events following the battle, ending with the fall of Nashville and the Confederate retreat to northern Alabama and Mississippi.

The exhibits fail to give the visitor a sense of the ebb and flow of the battle. Information that should take the visitor from one event to another is absent—they leave the fight at the fence not knowing what happened and in the next exhibit the Confederates have been defeated and the retreat is described. Some events including the first shots at Timmy’s Branch and the Bayonet Charge of the 9th Ohio are not mentioned. Only the bare bones summary of Exhibit 9: The Field of Battle gives visitors a sense of the sequence of events. That description, while accurate, relays none of the ferocity, anguish, bravery, and personal sacrifice that marked the battle.

Ability to convey the significance of the Battle of Mill Springs
Visitors get some sense of the significance of the battle at the time it took place, although it’s not spelled out. The audio of the first exhibit, Prelude to Battle, makes it clear that the outcome of this battle, which Federal command knew was imminent, was of great importance to the Union. The presentation tells listeners that President Abraham Lincoln believed that keeping Kentucky in Union hands was vital to the Union cause. Visitors
who read even part of the New York Herald article in Exhibit 14 will know that the Battle of Mill Springs was considered an important victory. Exhibit 17: After the Battle states that the Union Victory was a catastrophe for the Confederacy.

Nowhere in the exhibits is the significance of the Battle of Mill Springs as part of this nation’s history addressed. There is no mention that the battle is a National Historic Landmark and what that designation means.

Exhibit storyline compared to the video storyline

The video narrative is excellent, presenting a complete, clear and concise story. The same cannot be said for the exhibit storyline. Although most of the information presented in the video is touched on at least briefly in the exhibits, it is not presented sequentially or as clearly. The video narration also conveys more emotion than the exhibits do.

The first four points made by the video—Lincoln’s belief in Kentucky’s importance, Kentucky’s abandoned stance of neutrality, the moves and counter moves of the armies before January 19, 1862, and Kentucky as a prize for the victor—are restated in the audio narrative in Exhibit 1: Prelude to Battle. The Crittenden family and its loyalties are touched on briefly in Exhibit 4. The weather and weapons are featured in Exhibit 6: The Fog of War. General Zollicoffer’s death in mentioned in the video, but the event is not accorded the importance that it is given in the exhibits. In fact, General Zollicoffer is mentioned repeatedly in the exhibits but Crittenden, Thomas and Schoepf are scarcely referred to. The Confederate retreat is described Exhibit 11: The Death of Zollicoffer; and events in the months following the battle are briefly described in Exhibit 17: After Mill Springs. The exhibits do not adequately cover the fight at the fence or the fact that the fight took place on both sides of the Mill Springs Road. The engagement at Timmy’s Branch and the bayonet charge are omitted in the exhibit gallery. The video also has a different tone—the narrative is neutral; this is not true in the exhibit gallery where text tends relate events from the Confederate point of view, as in Exhibit 17: After Mill Springs.

The exhibits do not contradict the video narrative but they do not adequately reinforce the points it makes or its presentation of the events of the battle. The exhibits storyline would be improved if the video narrative was used to guide exhibit development.

Exhibit Presentation—Text, Graphics and Design

The exhibits’ design—text, graphics, use of color, arrangement of elements—was evaluated to assess whether they reflect the profession’s best practices as described
in *Designing Interpretive Signs: Principles in Practice* by Gianna Moscardo, Roy Ballantyne and Karen Hughes.

**Text Formatting**

In general, the exhibit text is too long and its formatting and type size often make it difficult to read. Most of the text is presented as one, long, unbroken paragraph, which can be intimidating and may simply look like too much work for the information visitors expect to receive in return for their investment in the time and effort it takes to read it. Most of the text is justified. Unless done with sophisticated software and great skill, justified text often has awkward spacing that makes it more difficult to read.

There are no universal standards but there is agreement that text for interpretive signs, which include exhibit text, should be short. Definitions of just how short differ, ranging from 50 to 150 words. It is generally accepted that serif type styles are easier to read, as is text with a ragged right margin, as opposed to justified text.

Exhibit text should be layered. Sam Ham, in *Environmental Interpretation*, suggests organizing text into four levels. Level One includes the title and a short introduction to the theme. It should give visitors the main message quickly and easily so that they can understand and follow the story. Level Two refers to the subheads that divide the pieces of text. Level Three is the main body of the text and key illustrations. Level Three is subdivided into text intended for all readers, which contains the main point of the theme; and text that provides more detailed information for those that want to pursue the theme further. Level Four includes ideas about what visitors can do with the new information. In this case, depending on the topic being interpreted it might suggest places they can go to see, or actions they can take, like joining the Mill Springs Battlefield Association.

The information should be organized and each level distinguished from the others by type size or placement. Titles should be large and color or font can be used to attract attention. The introductory text should be in a smaller font, but larger than Level Three text. The smallest type size used should be easy to read when standing or seated in front of the exhibit—about 25 point for text and 18 point for captions, depending on the font. Text should be broken into short paragraphs, each with a heading. The leading, the space between the lines, should be generous, to help the reader’s eye follow the line of text being read.

**Graphics and Design**

Graphics include any type of illustration—drawings, paintings, period engravings,
photographs, charts and maps. Illustrations are an important component of any exhibit, especially so when the subject being interpreted cannot be seen or experienced firsthand, like a Civil War battle. Research has found that it is easier for people to understand, remember, and learn more from text when it is accompanied by illustrations. But not just any illustrations will do. They must be relevant to the text, should demonstrate one main idea, and should not be so complex that they need their own explanation. The themes and text for an exhibit should be developed before graphics are selected. Illustrations should illustrate and support the message, not the other way around.

Most of the graphic elements used in the Visitor Center and Museum exhibits are small. A number of the illustrations are framed prints or paintings that seem more suited to an art gallery than exhibits. Some are displayed alone on a large panel with a text block, as the framed print of General George Thomas in Exhibit 2: Federals and Exhibit 6: The Fog of War. In some exhibits the text overwhelms the illustrations, as on the first panel of Exhibit 4: Confederates. There are few large graphics, composite images, grouped images, or color photographs. Four by eight-foot panels form the background for most of the exhibits. All are a solid color, there are no large graphics used as backgrounds or to provide context for the dioramas. Color is contributed mostly by objects—diorama furnishings, artifacts in cases, uniforms on mannequins—rather than as a conscious design decision, the exception being the red background in Exhibit 1: Prelude to Battle. Color can be a powerful design tool. Introducing color into individual exhibits would enliven the gallery as a whole.

Recommendations
There are steps that MSBA can take to make the exhibits more effective in conveying the central theme and other messages the Association wants and needs to convey. Help visitors understand and remember the messages by dividing exhibit content into five topics: context, the Battle of Mill Springs, the battle’s significance in the context of the Civil War, aftermath and commemoration, and the battlefield’s significance today.

Proposed Exhibit Areas
1. Exhibits in Area 1 will provide the context visitors need to understand the battle and its significance; will introduce important individuals and describe the decisions that resulted in both armies being here. The exhibits will bring the visitor to the evening of January 18, 1862.
   - Both sides needed to win Kentucky.
   - Abraham Lincoln, George Thomas, Albin Schoepf, George Crittenden and Felix Zollicoffer played a part in the Battle of Mill Springs story.
Lincoln wanted to secure Kentucky for the Union and advance into Tennessee.
- The Confederates wanted to advance north, to the Ohio River.
- The Confederates fortified Mill Springs and later, Beech Grove.
- Union forces marched to Nancy to remove the Confederate threat.

2. Exhibits in Area 2 will take visitors through the Battle of Mill Springs—the decisions made by commanders on both sides, the ways in which weather and terrain influenced the battle, the Union victory and Confederate retreat.
- Crittenden decides to attack.
- The Confederates march from Beech Grove.
- The weather and its repercussions for the Confederates.
- The position of the Union forces, and Schoepf’s timely arrival.
- The battle begins at Timmy’s Branch; the Confederates lose the element of surprise.
- Union troops deploy on the high ground near present-day Zollicoffe.
- Confederate Cemetery to make their stand.
- The Confederate army deploys on both sides of the Mill Springs Road and the engagement becomes general; terrain forces the Confederates to attack from the ravine on the east side of the road and the swale on the west.
- The death of General Felix Zollicoffe.
- The fight on both sides of the road is fierce, the fight at the fence results in a stalemate.
- But the Confederates west of the road retreat in the face of a perfectly executed bayonet charge by the 9th Ohio.
- As a result, the Confederates in the ravine are flanked.
- The retreat becomes general, the 16th Alabama holds off the Union pursuit at Last Stand Hill.
- General Thomas pauses to regroup and then advances to Moulden’s Hill, where an artillery exchange marks the last shots exchanged in the battle.
- Crittenden decides to continue the retreat; the Confederates cross the Cumberland River the night of the 19th and march through Mill Springs as they retreat to Tennessee.
- Union troops arrive at Beech Grove to find the camp abandoned.

3. The objective of the exhibits in Area 3 will be to impress on visitors the significance of the Battle of Mill Springs in the context of the Civil War in the Western Theater and its effect on Northern and Southern morale.
- Mill Springs, the first major Union victory since First Manassas, on July 21,
1861, was a great boost to the lagging Northern morale.

- The battle was reported in the Northern and Southern press.
- The Union victory helped secure Kentucky for the Union.
- The retreat of Crittenden’s army made the continued occupation of Bowling Green untenable.
- The Union victory opened East and Middle Tennessee to invasion by Union forces.
- Subsequent Union victories forced the Confederates to northern Mississippi and Alabama.
- The battle showed the Confederate army’s shortage and inferiority of arms and equipment.

4. Exhibits in Area 4 will explore the aftermath of the battle, the formalization of the Confederate burial ground, and the establishment of Mill Springs National Cemetery.

- Civilians bury the Confederate dead.
- General Thomas selects a knoll at Logan’s Crossroads as the Union burial ground.
- Union soldiers return General Zollicoffer’s body to the Confederates.
- Union soldiers return Lt. Bailie Peyton’s body to his family in Tennessee.
- Mill Springs National Cemetery is established.
- Dorotha Burton begins to decorate the tree under which General Zollicoffer died.
- Bennett Young, inspired by Dorotha Burton, is instrumental in erecting the Zollicoffer Monument and Confederate mass grave monument.

5. Area 5 exhibits will discuss the significance of the Battle of Mill Springs today, its relevance to all Americans, and the preservation efforts of the MSBA.

- The Civil War changed this nation forever, and the Mill Springs battlefield is a tangible link to that event.
- The Mill Springs Battlefield Association is formed to preserve, protect, maintain and interpret the battlefield.
- Suggested actions that visitors can take to protect and preserve the Mill Springs Battlefield.

All Exhibits

Critically evaluate all text to determine if it conveys what it should; eliminate information
that doesn’t contribute to visitor understanding. If MSBA feels that the complete text of Zollicoffer’s Proclamation, descriptions of uniforms and weapons, and similar information must be included, put it in a flip book on a stand near the exhibit.

- Give every exhibit a title.
- Give every exhibit a short introduction.
- Shorten and layer exhibit text.
- Use effective graphics.
- Employ effective design.

It is recommended that battlefield staff consult the following references before beginning exhibit renovation.


Area 1: Context
Create new exhibits as necessary to address topics outlined in Proposed Exhibit Areas.

Gallery Title—The exhibit gallery title, Combat on the Cumberland, is descriptive, but doesn’t give the visitor any insight into the reason for the battle or its significance. The title The Battle for Kentucky would tell visitors that what was being fought over was the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Exhibit 1: Prelude to Battle—This exhibit relies on an audio presentation to convey its message. The audio is too long and is hard to follow without visual aids. Add text and illustrations on a rail in front of the exhibit to illustrate the content. The audio also runs continuously once started, distracting visitors for other exhibits. It would be advisable to shorten the audio or eliminate it altogether. Remove the text block discussing Thomas’s military career, it will be discussed in Exhibit 2: Federals.
Exhibit 2: Federals—Eliminate the reproduction tent; move jacket and kepi to Exhibit 13, Artillery Piece. Add content to address topics described above.

Exhibit 3. How do you compare to the Average Civil War Soldier?—No changes recommended.

Exhibit 4: Confederates—Add content to address topics outlined in Proposed Exhibit Areas, highlight Mill Springs as the Confederate Base of Operations, eliminate Zollicoffer’s Proclamation from exhibit.

Exhibit 5: Confederates at Beech Grove—Add a short text to tell people something about the map and what it depicts. Add text rails to the exhibit to make text easier to read. Use a drawing of the exhibit with key items shaded to help visitors identify the items in the reproduction cabin. Don’t avoid the issue of slavery; the African American depicted in the diorama was a slave and should be identified as such.

**Area 2: The Battle of Mill Springs**
Coverage of the battle is one of the weakest areas in the exhibit gallery. Much of the information visitors want and need is there, but it is hard to get at and is not presented in an orderly manner. Find a way to give visitors a visual clue that they are entering a new area—start the next exhibits around the corner from Exhibit 2, rearrange the panels to create a physical break, and/or use color or banners to set it apart from Area 1. Create new exhibits as necessary to address the topics outlined in Proposed Exhibit Areas.

Exhibit 6: The Fog of War—The text in this exhibit seems overly complicated. The information regarding the weather and its effect on the Confederate flintlocks should be included in an exhibit on the march from Beech Grove.

Exhibit 7: Untitled Exhibit (maps)—Eliminate this exhibit. The maps exhibit will be replaced by more effective graphics in exhibits throughout Area 2.

Exhibit 8: Untitled Exhibit (envelopes)—Use the artifacts in this exhibit as an element in an exhibit in Area 4.

Exhibit 9: The Field of Battle—Eliminate this exhibit; the information it contains will be incorporated into a series of exhibits in Area 2. Instead, invite visitors to look out on the battlefield and remember what happened here, at the Battle of Mill Springs, and how it
continues to affect us today.

Exhibit 10: The Fight at the Fence—Rewrite text; put details about uniforms in a flip book. The soldiers portrayed have been fighting in the rain and mud for some time. Their appearance should reflect this.

Exhibit 11: The Death of Zollicoffer—Rework this exhibit; tighten the text, make more effective use of illustrations, and confine the exhibit to one panel.

Exhibit 12: The Plight of the Wounded—This exhibit is interesting but it does not help to move the overall story along. If Driving Tour Stop 4: Confederate Hospital is developed as recommended, some of the furnishings could be moved to the reconstructed cabin or they could be used in a new exhibit in the gallery. The mannequins could be reassigned to an exhibit on the bayonet charge or another exhibit.

Exhibit 13: Untitled Exhibit (artillery piece)—The artillery piece is not so much an exhibit as it is an item stored here when not in use. Integrate it into the interpretation of the battle by discussing the role artillery played in the battle. Use the artifacts in the right-hand case in Exhibit 14 to create a more modern and effective exhibit and relate to the exhibit to artillery piece. Move the glass-front display case to the Legacy Room or an office.

Exhibit 14: Untitled Exhibit (tall case exhibits and New York Herald article)—The artifacts in this exhibit should be used in other exhibits. The reproduction weapons and other items in the left-hand case could be used in an exhibit discussing the disparity in the quality of weapons on each side. The items in the right-hand case are discussed above, with Exhibit 13. The items should be removed from the glass-fronted cases and displayed in a way that is more effective. The New York Herald article should be used in an exhibit in Area 3.

Area 3: The Significance of the Battle of Mill Springs, 1862
The objective of the exhibits in Area 3 will be to impress upon visitors the significance of the Battle of Mill Springs at the time it took place. Incorporate the New York Herald article into this area’s exhibits. Develop new exhibits to the address points outlined in Proposed Exhibit Areas.

Exhibit 17: After Mill Springs—Rework and incorporate into Area 3.
Area 4: Aftermath and Commemoration
Exhibits in this area will explore the aftermath of the battle, the formalization of the Confederate burial ground, and the establishment of Mill Springs National Cemetery. Develop new exhibits or add to existing exhibits to address points outlined above.

Exhibit 15: Never Forgotten—Represent the information in this exhibit more graphically. Consider placing the names in a flipbook. Provide equivalent information on Union dead: complete research to identify the names of all individuals who died in the battle or as a result of wounds received, not just those interred in the Mill Springs National Cemetery.

Exhibit 16: The Zollie Tree—Rework the text to focus on the burial of the Confederate dead by area citizens, the actions of Dorotha Burton and Bennett Young, and the placement of the Zollicoffer and mass grave monuments. Move the information on the destruction of the Zollie Tree and the MSBA to an Area 5 exhibit.

Exhibit 18: Untitled Exhibit (John Marshall Harlan)—Eliminate this exhibit.

Area 5: Commemoration and Preservation
The significance of the Battle of Mill Springs today, its relevance to all Americans, and the preservation efforts of the MSBA will be the subject of exhibits in the area. Develop exhibits as needed to address the points outlined in Proposed Exhibit Areas. Consider using some of the items made from the Zollie Tree in the exhibit.

Exhibit 19: Untitled Exhibit (Zollicoffer Memorial Bridge)—Develop text that uses the items in the case to highlight ongoing commemoration of the battle and General Zollicoffer.
**Driving Tour**

There has been a driving tour for the Mill Springs Battlefield since the early 1990s. It began as a simple nine-stop numbered-post tour interpreted with a black-and-white tri-fold brochure. The tour has evolved and grown—it now has ten stops, most of which have wayside interpretation; and the tour guide is an eight-page booklet. The driving tour is the best way to see the battlefield and is very popular with visitors.

**Driving Tour Brochure**

The eight-page *Driving Tour for Mill Springs Battlefield National Historic Landmark* brochure consists of several parts. Page one of the 8 ½ by 11-inch brochure contains a welcome statement and description of the battle. Page two has driving tour tips and instructions and descriptions of the first two tour stops. The tour stop descriptions continue through page five, which also has information on joining the MSBA. The description of the battle continues on page six; page seven is a map of the driving tour. The back page describes visitor services at the Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor Center and Museum and tells visitors that the Brown-Lanier House is available for tours, special events and overnight accommodations (Appendix 6). The driving tour brochure is available at both visitor centers and may be printed from the MSBA web site.

**Issues and Recommendations**

It is evident to those taking the driving tour that the brochure is badly outdated and needs revision. The current eight-page brochure is in black-and-white and printed on tan 11-inch by 17-inch paper. It should be upgraded to a more conveniently sized four-color tri-fold brochure or booklet that visitors will want to keep as a memento of their visit to the Mill Springs Battlefield.

Note: If the MSBA implements the *Proposed Driving Tour* described below, a new driving tour brochure will be necessary.

Omissions, factual errors and formatting problems:

- The brochure should tell the user approximately how long it will take to complete the tour.
- The visitor center is not described in the Tour Stop 1 text; it is described in the section above, *Driving Tour Tips and Instructions*.
- The brochure text for a number of tour stops repeats information on the wayside.
- The text mentions that there are waysides at some stops but not others.
- The directions for Tour Stop 3: Last Stand Hill, direct the visitor to “drive past the tour stop sign and park in the pull-off area at the top of the hill in front of the
Fairview Cemetery.” The parking area is now directly opposite the tour stop sign.

- The brochure states that there are interpretive signs at Tour Stops 6 and 10, but all stops except Last Stand Hill now have interpretive signs.
- The walking trail at Tour Stop 9 is not mentioned.
- The photo of the West-Metcalf House, Tour Stop 10, is outdated.
- Those continuing the driving tour in Wayne County are not directed to take the new, shorter route via SR 914, Veterans Memorial Highway.
- The historic image on the cover is distorted and digitized.

Tour Stop 1: Mill Springs National Cemetery—It might be helpful to state that there is no place to park near the interpretive signs or the graves of the Nancy and William Logan; visitors must pull over on the cemetery road and leave their vehicles to read the waysides.

Tour Stop 2: Confederate Cemetery—The brochure text repeats information already on the waysides. The text refers to Dorotha Burton as Dorthea.

Tour Stop 3: Last Stand Hill—The brochure text refers to Dorotha Burton as Dorthea. The brochure does not tell visitors to cross the street. Given the volume and speed of the traffic on this road, that is probably best. However, the sign across the street, which is defined by a post-and-rail fence, invites people to walk over. Adding a note of caution in the driving tour brochure urging people to be careful if they cross the road, and to be equally careful when they exit the tour stop, seems warranted.

Tour Stop 5: Timmy’s Branch—The brochure text was written before MSBA owned land at Timmy’s Branch; this “stop” was then a drive-by with no place to pull off of the road. The brochure should let visitors know that there is now a parking area on the east side of the road.

Tour Stop 7: Confederate Fortified Camp at Beech Grove—The text in the driving tour brochure does not mention the pedestrian trail at this stop. Those visitors who do find the walking trail have no idea of the length of the trail, where it leads, its difficulty, or what it interprets.

Tour Stop 8: Ferry Landing—The brochure instructs the reader to park and walk down to the old ferry road. There is no defined parking area and it is not clear where one should park.
The last paragraph for Tour Stop 8, the Ferry Landing, reads: “This concludes the Battlefield Tour north of the Cumberland. [SIC] River (Lake Cumberland) [SIC] There are other sites important to the Mill Springs Campaign at Tour Stop 9 and Tour Stop 10 across the lake at Mill Springs [SIC] See the Driving Tour Directions and information on the next page.” Directions for reaching Mill Springs follow. Tour Stop 9 is Mill Springs; Tour Stop 10 is the West-Metcalfe House.

The driving tour instructions were written before the new bypass, SR 914, was completed, and should be updated. It now takes about 30 minutes to reach Mill Springs rather than 45 to 60 minutes. Note: There is also no signage on SR 90 alerting the visitor of the turn onto CR 1275. Signage such as that on the SR 235, reading simply *Battlefield Tour* with an arrow, would be helpful at this intersection.

**Tour Stop 9: Mill Springs**—The Mill Springs Information Center and Bookstore is not mentioned in the driving tour text. This should be addressed, identifying the facility as “Mill Springs Battlefield-South Visitor Center.”

**Tour Stop 10: West Metcalfe House**—The image in the brochure is old and should be updated. The Old Mill Springs Road referred to in the brochure is marked by road signs as Gap in the Ridge Road; which might confuse drivers relying on GPS. The MSBA should determine which name most electronic mapping programs use and refer to the by that name.

**The Driving Tour**

The ten-stop driving tour begins at the Mill Springs National Cemetery in Nancy, although the section *Driving Tour Tips and Instructions* recommends that the visitor stop first at the Battlefield Visitor Center and Museum adjacent to the cemetery for orientation. The tour proceeds south with stops at the Confederate Cemetery, Last Stand Hill, the Confederate Field Hospital, Timmy’s Branch, Moulden’s Hill and the Confederate Encampment at Beech Grove. The last stop north of Lake Cumberland is Stop 8: Ferry Landing. The Driving Tour resumes south of Lake Cumberland in Mill Springs, which is Tour Stop 9; Tour Stop 10 is the West-Metcalfe House.

**Tour Stop 1: Battlefield Visitors Center and Mill Springs National Cemetery**

There are two interpretive waysides in the national cemetery, “A Hard March” and “Mill Springs National Cemetery.” Both were installed in 1997 and the panels are worn and dirty.
Tour Stop 2: Confederate Cemetery

Tour Stop 2 is also referred to as Zollicoffer Park. The stop has a number of points of interest: a large notice board, a historical marker, the Zollicoffer Monument, the earth print of the “Zollie Tree,” the “Zollie Tree” sapling, the Confederate mass grave, Confederate Memorial Cemetery and the Battlefield Loop Trail (Figure 57).

The road side of the original cemetery is defined with a stone fence. Split-rail fence continues south of the original park boundaries on both sides, defining Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery and the end of the Battlefield Loop Trial. The paved parking area is located between the road and the stone fence.

The entrance is defined by low stone pillars. Plaques on the right-hand pillar state that the Mill Springs Battlefield was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1993 and as a National Historic Landmark in 1994. A plaque dated 1934 on the left-hand pillar honors Highway Commissioner Ed. M. Gatliiff. A second plaque honors O’Leary M. Meece (1911-1998), a Pulaski County educator and historian who worked to preserve the Mill Springs Battlefield.

Inside the wall, near the entrance on the left side of the sidewalk, are two interpretive markers, *Mistaken Identity—A Deadly Error* and “The Zollie Tree.” A white oak sapling germinated from an acorn of the original Zollie Tree stands in front of the latter. Also in this area is Historical Marker 1920: “Felix K. Zollicoffer/The Zollie Tree” and a large notice board. The entrance to the Battlefield Loop Trail in the northwest corner of the park is marked with an orientation sign. The ¼ mile trail features 12 waysides. It is discussed in detail in the section Pedestrian Trails.

To the right of the sidewalk is a gazebo erected by the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association. The gazebo houses a three-panel triangular kiosk describing the Cumberland Cultural Heritage State Scenic Byway and its attractions in Pulaski County, which include the Mill Springs Battlefield.

The sidewalk leads from the entrance to the monument honoring General Felix K. Zollicoffer erected in 1910, and ends at the Confederate mass grave. The Confederate memorial cemetery, which is defined with split-rail fencing, is south of the mass grave.
Two interpretive waysides flank the memorial cemetery entrance: *Dawn of Battle* and *Confederate Mass Grave*.

**Tour Stop 3: Last Stand Hill**

The driving tour sign at this stop is defined by a split-rail fence. The parking area is on the opposite side of the road, at the entrance to Fairview Cemetery. There is no interpretation at this site. The brochure mentions the final engagement in the battlefield area and Dorotha Burton who is buried at Fairview Cemetery (Figure 58).

**Tour Stop 4: Confederate Field Hospital**

Split-rail fence along the road frontage effectively identifies this stop as part of the battlefield and driving tour. There is one wayside, *Poor Charlie*, installed in 1997. This wayside is worn. The foundation stones of the cabin once used as a hospital are near the wayside (Figure 59).

**Tour Stop 5: Timmy’s Branch**

Timmy’s Branch is where the battle began. This tour stop has a graveled parking area and one wayside, *Timmy’s Branch*, installed in or around August 2006 (Figure 60). Defining the stop with post-and-rail fencing would help identify it as part of the battlefield and guide visitors to parking.

**Tour Stop 6: Moulden’s Hill**

This tour stop has a graveled parking area and one wayside, “*Moulden’s Hill,*” installed in May 1997. The panel is worn and should be replaced. Defining the stop with post-and-rail fencing would help the visitor know where to park. Note: The MSBA has recently acquired the area thought to be Moulden’s Hill, which is on the opposite side of KY 235 north of the current tour stop.
Tour Stop 7: Confederate Fortified Camp at Beech Grove
This stop has a parking area defined with split-rail fencing, a bench, and a wayside, Zollie’s Den. A mulched trail leads to an artillery piece and another bench (Figure 61). There is no mention of a walking trail in the driving tour brochure or in the parking area. Curious visitors who decide to see where the path defined by log edging leads will find the waysides, Winter Quarters and Fortifications at Beech Grove.

The entire length of the walking trail is defined with log edging, making it easy to follow for most of its length. At one point the trail crosses an old road and it is not immediately evident that the trail continues or where the visitor should go.

Tour Stop 8: Ferry Landing
This stop has one wayside, “Noble Ellis—Sternwheeler that Saved an Army,” which was erected in May 1997. The wayside was installed 13 years ago and is worn. When the site was visited the panel was almost illegible. There are no furnishings or visitor amenities. Parking has traditionally been just off the road on the grass as near the sign as one could get. The tour stop area is rutted and uninviting, but the view across Lake Cumberland is worth the walk to the lake shore (Figure 62).

Tour Stop 9: Mill Springs
The Brown-Lanier House, the Mill Springs Mill, the road to the ferry landing, and the Confederate artillery position are featured at this tour stop. A split-rail fence borders the road in front of the Brown-Lanier House. The Tour Stop 9 sign, which is topped with a sign reading Brown-Lanier House, is near the road in front of the house (Figure 63). There is an artillery piece in front of the Battlefield Information Center.
and Bookstore, which is adjacent to the Brown-Lanier House. The parking area of the information center is defined by a low stone wall. A sign with the Battle of Mill Springs logo reads Visitor Parking. There is a large notice board next to the information center.

There are five interpretive waysides associated with Tour Stop 9, four near the Battlefield Information Center and Bookstore and one on the path leading to the artillery position. Mill Springs and the Civil War is adjacent to the artillery piece in front of the information center. West of the visitor center and facing the river are two waysides, The Cumberland River and The Battle of Mill Springs—The First Battle for Kentucky. East of the information center, facing the Brown-Lanier House, is The Brown-Lanier House wayside. The last wayside, “Noble Ellis—Sternwheeler that Saved an Army,” is on the paved walking path leading to the Confederate artillery emplacement. This wayside, a duplicate of that at Tour Stop 8, is on the Mill Springs Mill property, which is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Tour Stop 10: West Metcalfe House
At this stop visitors may look at the exterior of the West-Metcalfe House from behind the plank fence that separates the yard from the drive and parking area. The road frontage is defined with split-rail fence (Figure 64). There is one wayside, The West-Metcalfe House. This stop is well marked parking is sufficient. Visitors are told to view the house from the fence. At this point that is probably a good idea. Until more interpretation is installed there is no reason to approach the house.

Evaluation
The Driving Tour, established in 1993, was the MSBA’s first interpretive program. When the tour was initiated, the Mill Springs National Cemetery and Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery were the only areas open to the public. All other stops on the tour were “drive-bys,” sites on privately owned land that were marked with Driving Tour signs. As the MSBA acquired property, formal tour stops were established, interpretive waysides installed at most stops, and two walking trails established. The driving tour has not been updated in the last few years, though MSBA has acquired parcels of significant battlefield land. It is recommended that the driving tour by updated and expanded as described in the section Proposed Driving Tour.
Recommendations
There are several steps the MSBA can take to improve the current driving tour stops. Enhancements to existing stops and new tour stops are described below, in Proposed Driving Tour.

- Begin a program to replace all worn wayside panels.
- Improve wayside panels as they are replaced—shorten the text, use active voice, use personal pronouns; incorporate universal concepts.
- Clean all waysides at least twice a year as recommended by the manufacturer (Appendix 7).

Proposed Driving Tour
The driving tour was the first effort to comprehensively interpret the Battle of Mill Springs and is still the best way to see the battlefield. MSBA’s purchase of several hundred additional acres of battlefield land presents the opportunity to make the driving tour more comprehensive and to broaden the scope of the interpretation.

It is recommended that the new driving tour should be confined to MSBA property north of Lake Cumberland. The physical distance and driving time between Tour Stop 8, Ferry Landing, on the north side of Lake Cumberland and the last two stops of the current tour, Mill Springs and the West Metcalfe House, on the south side of Lake Cumberland destroy the continuity of the tour. Many visitors, seeing that there are only two tour stops on the other side of the lake, will opt to truncate their tour.

The sites in the Mill Springs area are too significant to be ignored or seen as not worth the time it takes to drive to them. This plan proposes that Mill Springs be interpreted by means of a combination walking/driving tour as the Confederate Base of Operations. Proposed interpretation in Mill Springs is discussed in the section, Interpretation South of Lake Cumberland.

The proposed driving tour adds three new stops to the current tour and suggests enhancements for several existing stops to make the tour more comprehensive and meaningful.

There is no way to follow the action of the battle as it happened without backtracking on the tour. After much consideration, it was decided to keep the north-to-south tour route. An alternate route, allowing serious Civil War enthusiasts to visit the stops in a way that follows the action of January 19, 1862, could be included in the driving tour brochure.
Those who wish to do so could drive the alternate route, backtracking as necessary to experience the battle as it happened.

**Proposed Driving Tour**

The new tour will add three new stops—*The Union Army Gathers at Logan’s Crossroad, The Bayonet Charge of the 9th Ohio*, and a new *Moulden’s Hill* stop, allowing the old tour stop to be reassigned as *The Midnight March* (Map 9). All tour stops should be identified with a destination sign and defined with post-and rail-fencing. Each tour stop will have at least one wayside interpreting the battle action at that stop.

**Tour Stop 1: Mill Springs Visitor Center and Museum**

It should be recommended that visitors see the video to get a feel for the battle before taking the driving tour. After viewing the film the visitors could go through the exhibit gallery; or they might return at the end of the tour to warm up or cool off depending upon the season, and to make use of the visitor center facilities and visit the gift shop.

**Tour Stop 2: The Union Army Gathers at Logan’s Crossroads**

This tour stop will be just up the road from the visitor center on MSBA property (Figure 65). Interpretation will introduce the Union army and General George H. Thomas, and describe how the Union forces that participated at the Battle of Mill Springs arrived at Logan’s Crossroads. The visitor will be instructed to look across the field in front of them. They will be told which troops were encamped nearby. If possible, flags could be placed in the general areas where the troops were bivouacked to help the visitor visualize the encampments. On the morning of January 19, 1862, those soldiers were asleep in the tents—the first battle for Kentucky was about to begin.

- Define the stop with a post-and-rail or split-rail fence.
- Create a gravel parking area.
- Install kiosk or waysides described below.

Tour Stop 2 will feature a three-panel kiosk or three waysides. One will replace the wayside *“A Hard March”* which is now at the national cemetery; a second will replace
Map 9: Route of the proposed driving tour.
the George H. Thomas biographical sign, “The general commanding congratulates the troops on the splendid victory” which is on the Battlefield Loop Trail.

- Wayside 1. George H. Thomas, Union Commander—This wayside will discuss the personal challenges General George H. Thomas faced—he was a Virginian, and Union high command still questioned his loyalty. Thomas proved himself at the Battle of Mill Springs.

- Wayside 2. A Hard March—This wayside will describe how Thomas and his command arrived at what was then Logan’s Crossroads. It could be a revised version of the sign in place at the Mill Springs National Cemetery or could be a new design with a map.

- Wayside 3. Crossing Fishing Creek—This wayside will introduce Albin Schoepf and his men; the all-important crossing of Fishing Creek will be highlighted.

Tour Stop 3: The Bayonet Charge of the 9th Ohio

One of the most significant actions in the Battle of Mill Springs took place on the west side of the Mill Springs Road (now SR 235). It was here that the 9th Ohio executed one of the few successful bayonet charges of the Civil War. This charge crushed the Confederate left, forcing it back across the road, disrupting the battle on that side and turning the tide of the battle in the favor of the Federals.

This tour stop will be located on the north side of SR 761 just west of the Memorial Flame (Figure 66). A graveled entry onto the property, which is owned by MSBA, will allow easy access; there is ample room for parking. A panel exhibit depicting a life-size Union soldier charging with a bayonet will greet visitors as they enter this area, reinforcing the fact that the bayonet charge was significant, and helping to identify the area as part of the battlefield.

- Define the tour stop with a post-and-rail or split-rail fence.
- Create a gravel parking area on the east side of the designated area.
- Create a short loop trail on the west end of the site.
• Install introductory wayside: *The Bayonet Charge of the 9th Ohio.*
• Install a full-size panel exhibit depicting a Union soldier charging with a bayonet.

The text in the driving tour brochure should give the visitor directions to this stop and caution them about crossing the street. The stop is on the north side of the road; it will not be necessary for visitors to cross either SR 761 or SR 235 on foot. The site will feature a loop trail, which is discussed in the section **Pedestrian Trails.**

*A note of caution:* This portion of the battlefield is within the Mill Springs Battlefield NHL. An archaeologist should monitor any work that will disturb the ground.

**Tour Stop 4: Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery—The Fight at the Fence**

This tour stop will be renumbered from Tour Stop 2 to Tour Stop 4. Currently, no one wayside interprets this area of the battlefield and why it is so significant—it is described only in the driving tour brochure. That will be addressed in a new wayside, *The Ravine,* proposed below.

The area right inside the entrance is cluttered. It would help the overall appearance of the site if the TourSEKY gazebo could be moved to Tour Stop 2. This would open up the area creating a more inviting entrance.

• Replace the worn panels of the waysides *Dawn of Battle* and *Confederate Mass Grave.*
• The area immediately inside the entrance is cluttered. Ask TourSEKY if the gazebo can be moved to the Visitor Center and the Museum grounds or proposed Tour Stop 2. Move the benches to the north and east, away from the front of the grounds, and remove the notice board.
• Construct a sidewalk from the Confederate mass grave to the waysides at the entrance to the memorial cemetery.
• Construct a sidewalk to take visitors to the west side of Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery, where the ravine can be seen. This will allow visitors with limited mobility to see this important battlefield feature. Install a wayside that interprets the ravine: *The Ravine.*
• Erect a small wayside with the memorial text next to the stone plaque at the mass grave, which is worn, lichen spotted, and difficult to read.

Recommendations for the Battlefield Loop Trail, which is at this location, are described in the section **Pedestrian Trails.**
A note of caution: This portion of the battlefield is within the Mill Springs Battlefield NHL. An archaeologist should monitor any work that disturbs the ground.

Tour Stop 5: Last Stand Hill
Until recently, the property encompassing Last Stand Hill was privately owned. MSBA acquired a 142-acre parcel that includes this site and now has the opportunity to create a driving tour stop and walking trail interpreting the Confederate regiments that held back the advance of the Union army long enough to allow the rest of the Confederates to escape. A loop trail will connect this stop with the Battlefield Loop Trail at Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery. These trails will allow visitors walking the Battlefield Loop Trail to walk up to Last Stand Hill and then to rejoin the Battlefield Loop Trail.

It is recommended that MSBA create the new driving tour stop just south of Fairview Cemetery, on the east side of SR 235 just south of the current Last Stand Hill Tour Stop sign (Figure 67). A gravel parking area could be created near the gate that accesses this site. This location is just below the crest of the hill, which will help screen the parking from the battlefield to the north. The tour stop interpretation will be located on crest of the hill a few yards north of the parking area, where visitors will have an excellent view of the battlefield to the north.

The walking trail will come off of the Battlefield Loop Trail near Wayside 10—The Confederate Retreat—just before the trail bends back to the west. This portion of the trail, the Confederate Retreat Trail, will have three waysides interpreting the actions of the Confederates as they retreated toward this hill. On the eastern side of the interpretive area a second trail will connect to the Battlefield Loop Trail near Wayside 11—Confederate Artillery. This trail, the Union Pursuit Trail, will have three waysides interpreting the actions of the Union troops as they pursued the retreating Confederates and the action against the Confederate rear guard on Last Stand Hill. The trails are described in detail in the section Pedestrian Trails.

- Define the tour stop with a post-and-rail or split-rail fence.
- Create a gravel parking area.
• Install waysides described below.
• Create trails to connect tour stop to Battlefield Loop Trail.

Four waysides on the rise just south of the driveway will interpret Last Stand Hill. Markers on the ground will indicate the location of the 16th Alabama: one near the center of the line and two smaller markers at each end of the line. This will give visitors an idea of the size of a regiment in line of battle. Other regiments or detachments of regiments known to have participated in the engagement will be named on a wayside. If the historical record supports it, an artillery piece could be placed on the hill.

° Wayside 1. *Preserving Our Nation’s Past*—This sign will highlight the view that the reader can see from this hill. It will emphasize the importance of historic preservation and how this view could have been lost if the land had been inappropriately developed. It will emphasize that the Battle of Mill Springs is a National Historic Landmark and what that designation means.

° Wayside 2. *The Confederate Army Collapses*—The Confederate army ceased to be, as whole regiments simply gave up and ran for the rear. The 16th Alabama, which had been held in reserve, was all that stood between the fleeing Confederates and the pursuing Union soldiers. Their holding action at Last Stand Hill slowed the Union pursuit and allowed the demoralized Confederates to reach Beech Grove.

° Wayside 3. *The 16th Alabama*—The only regiment between Thomas’ victorious Union army and disaster was the 16th Alabama. This regiment of men from north Alabama was one of two Confederate regiments in the battle armed with percussion cap rifles, which worked even though it was raining; making it possible for them to hold the Union line back at a critical juncture in the battle.

° Wayside 4. *Last Stand*—The stand by the Alabamians and a scratch force held Thomas long enough for most of the Confederates to escape, though several hundred were captured. The retreat to Mill Springs was accomplished in much less time than the march to the field that morning.

*A note of caution*: This portion of the battlefield is within the Mill Springs Battlefield NHL. An archaeologist should monitor any work that disturbs the ground.
Point of Interest: Dorotha Burton
This area need not be signed. A notation in the driving tour could point visitors to Fairview Cemetery (Figure 68) where a wayside will interpret Dorotha Burton Hudson and her family’s role in the preserving the Mill Springs Battlefield.

Tour Stop 6: Confederate Field Hospital
MSBA owns just over 10 acres in this location. There is the opportunity to install interpretation that will help visitors understand events at this site, and will help create an emotional connection between visitors and the individuals caught in those events. Future development could include two major elements—a reproduction log dwelling and a memorial garden centered on a small obelisk.

A one or two-room log dwelling representative of those in the area at the time of the battle could be constructed near, but not on, the site of the cabin that originally stood on the site. Visitors looking through the windows from the outside would see a room furnished as it might have looked as a hospital, and how the residents may have found it when they returned after the battle. Small waysides would interpret what visitors see. Raymond Price Associates recommended constructing a cabin in Mill Springs Battlefield: Interpretive Plan in 1994 and the ABPP approved that recommendation.

- Replace worn wayside panel.
- Install waysides described below.
- Erect a small obelisk in memory of Charlie Clemenson and the others who died at this site.
- Use landscaping to create a mood conducive to contemplation.

- Wayside 1. War on the Home Front—This wayside will discuss the impact the battle had on civilians by focusing on the family that lived in the cabin. They probably fled when the armies approached. What might they have found when they returned—a disheveled blood-stained cabin marked with bullet holes, evidence that their kitchen table had been pressed into service as a makeshift operating table, fresh graves in the family cemetery, and their livestock gone?

- Wayside 2. Poor Charlie was Dying—Rework the text of the existing wayside,
Poor Charlie. The title new title will evoke more feeling. Make the quote more prominent by pulling it out of the text, using a larger font, in color. Stop the text before saying that Charlie and others died. Keep the black-and-white illustration, but also use a photo of the diorama or details from the diorama in the exhibit gallery with photos of medical instruments.

Wayside 3. The Cost of War—Begin the text with Charlie’s death and the deaths of others at this site and their burial near the cabin. Remind visitors of those who died in the battle, the sacrifice they made for their beliefs or from a sense of duty, and the effect of those deaths on their loved ones far away.

The trail would end at a comfortable bench close to the memorial garden, giving visitors the opportunity for a few moments of contemplation. Create a low maintenance four-season landscape with appropriate period plants such as a cypress (sadness and mourning), yellow roses (remembrance), peony, vinca/periwinkle and daffodils. See Ann Leighton, American Gardens of the Nineteenth Century and Rudy and Joy Putman Favretti, Landscapes and Garden for Historic Buildings: A handbook for reproducing and creating authentic landscape settings, second edition revised.

A note of caution: This portion of the battlefield is within the Battle of Mill Springs Historic Areas National Register District. An archaeologist should monitor any work that disturbs the ground.

Tour Stop 7: Timmy’s Branch – The Battle Begins
This stop could be improved by the addition of post-and-rail fencing or split-rail fencing, which defines other MSBA property in the battlefield area. A second wayside could interpret the retreat from the battlefield back to Beech Grove.

- Define tour stop with post-and-rail or split-rail fencing.
- Define edge of graveled parking area to give stop a more formal appearance.
- Install wayside below.

Wayside: The Long Road to Beech Grove—This wayside might include details of the pursuit by Union soldiers and what they found on the road.

Tour Stop 8: Moulden’s Hill—The Final Engagement
The current Moulden’s Hill tour stop is south of the proposed location. The MSBA now
owns 50 acres at the proposed tour stop, which research proved to be the actual site of Moulden’s Hill.

The road into the site is a rutted, grassy two-track adjacent to a farmstead. For visitors’ and the neighboring landowner’s comfort, the road should be defined with gravel and a post-and-rail fence. A gravel parking area should be built at the top of the hill.

A Civil War-era U.S. flag placed on this site would identify Moulden’s Hill for visitors as they approach the site on the Old Mill Springs Road, and would help visitors realize how high Moulden’s Hill is compared to the surrounding landscape.

- Move the Moulden’s Hill Tour Stop sign from its current location and place it at the entrance to this site.
- Move the wayside Moulden’s Hill interpretive sign to the top of the hill.
- Improve access to site with graveled drive (Figure 69).
- Create gravel parking area.
- Define access road and parking area with post-and-rail fence.
- Erect Civil War-era flag near parking area.

When fully interpreted, this site will feature a short loop trail with four waysides. The loop trail, which will lead from the parking area through the woods to an overlook, which will interpret events at Moulden’s Hill on the evening of January 19 and the morning of January 20, 1862. For details, see the section Pedestrian Trails.

**Tour Stop 9: The Midnight March**

This new stop would use the site that is now Tour Stop 6, Moulden’s Hill. A new panel installed in the existing frame will interpret the Confederate council of war and the subsequent march from Beech Grove to fight the battle. Installing post-and-rail fencing will identify the site as part of the Mill Springs Battlefield.

- Install new wayside panel: Crittenden Decides to Attack.
- Define site with post-and-rail fencing.
Tour Stop 10: Confederate Fortified Camp at Beech Grove

Recommendations for this stop include improvements to make the site accessible to visitors with physical disabilities.

- Replace the mulched trail leading from the parking area to the artillery piece with a hard-surface accessible trail. Place a handrail on at least one side to aid those who have difficulty walking and individuals with impaired sight.

- Install an orientation sign at the trailhead.

- Reconstruct a small section of earthwork near the cannon at the trailhead to help visitors visualize the line of earthworks present in 1862 and to give them a point of comparison when they look at the historic earthworks. A reconstruction will also let individuals who do not or cannot walk the trail see what an earthwork looks like. The reconstruction might be accompanied by a wayside explaining how earthworks were constructed and small signs identifying the parts of an earthwork. The reconstruction of an earthwork was proposed by Raymond Price Associates in the 1994 Mill Springs Battlefield Interpretive Plan, which was approved by the ABPP.

There is an interpreted walking trail associated with this driving tour stop. Recommendations are discussed in the section Pedestrian Trails.

Point of Interest: Zollicoffer’s Headquarters

Opposite and somewhat south of Tour Stop 10 is a MSBA sign reading Zollicoffer’s Headquarters. The sign closely resembles the driving tour signs but does not say “TOUR” under the MSBA logo and there is no tour stop number. There is no parking area and the point of interest is not mentioned in the driving tour brochure. The sign is visible from Tour Stop 10 and it is likely that many visitors are intrigued and walk to the Zollicoffer’s Headquarters sign to investigate.

Although there is no directional arrow indicating where the headquarters was located, visitors who look to the east will have little trouble seeing an old chimney when there are no leaves on the trees and vines on the chimney. That is not the case when the leaves are out. Then it is difficult or impossible to distinguish the chimney from the surrounding vine-covered trees, even if the visitor knows what to look for (Figure 70).
• Interpret the headquarters from Tour Stop 10. Place a wayside so that a visitor reading it is looking toward the location of the headquarters. Direct them to look for the chimney as they drive by the location. Alert them that the headquarters location is private property.

• Keep the chimney free of vegetation so that it is visible.

**Tour Stop 11: Ferry Landing**

Visitors leaving the pavement to park next to the wayside will experience a sharp drop and rutted road. Because there is no defined parking area, visitors might be confused as to where they should leave the paved road and where they should park. This tour stop creates an opportunity to partner with the Beech Grove Homeowners Association. The Homeowners Association has worked very hard to develop the area and now has a volunteer fire station and a community center. With a few changes, this tour stop could become a small pocket park that invites visitors to stop.

- Define the tour stop and parking area with post-and-rail or split-rail fence.
- Place a bench on the lakeside where visitors have a view of the artillery position on the Mill Springs Mill Trail if U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulations permit.
- Replace the worn wayside panel.

**Tour Stop 12: The Mill Springs National Cemetery**

Upon reaching the last stop in Beech Grove, most visitors will drive back to Nancy. Mill Springs National Cemetery, the final resting place of the Union soldiers killed in the battle and the site of Logan’s Crossroads, is a logical choice for the final stop on the Driving Tour. The national cemetery is a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice that soldiers make in times of war. It is a quiet and contemplative place where visitors can reflect on the past.

It was recommended earlier that the MSBA move the *Hard March* panel to new Tour Stop 1. A new panel interpreting the creation of the Mill Springs National Cemetery could be installed in the existing frame. Recent information uncovered at the National Archives indicates that local citizens worked to keep the cemetery in Nancy, rather than having the soldiers’ remains moved to a cemetery in another part of the state. As a result, Mill Springs was one of the fourteen original national cemeteries established in 1867.

- Replace the worn *Mill Springs National Cemetery* panel.
- Create a new panel: *The History of the Mill Springs National Cemetery*. 
PEDESTRIAN TRAILS
There are two trails associated with the Mill Springs Battlefield north of Lake Cumberland, the Battlefield Loop Trail, which begins at Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery, and the trail associated with Tour Stop 7: Confederate Fortified Camp at Beech Grove.

MSBA and participants at the community meetings expressed the desire for more trails on the battlefield and this plan recommends three: The Fight West of the Road Trail, Last Stand Hill Loop Trail and Mouden’s Hill Loop Trail. All are either within the National Historic Landmark boundary or within the expanded National Register district boundary; ground disturbance of any kind should be preceded by a survey conducted by an archaeologist deemed qualified by the Kentucky Heritage Council.

BATTLEFIELD LOOP TRAIL
The trail begins on the north side Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery. An orientation sign illustrates the loop trail and the location of each of the twelve interpretive waysides (Figure 71). The trail begins to go up hill as it leaves Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery. Most of the trail is defined by split-rail or post-and-rail fencing on one or both sides.

- Wayside 1. *A Scene of Battle*— This wayside interprets an engraving, The Death of Zollicoffer drawn by A.E. Mathews. The wayside is placed in this area because it was determined that this was probably near where the artist made the sketch. The panel is weathered and should be replaced.

- Wayside 2. “the general commanding. . .”— This wayside is a biography of George H. Thomas. The panel is badly weathered and should be replaced.

- Wayside 3. *Fix Bayonets, Charge!*—This wayside, which interprets the bayonet charge of the 9th Ohio on the opposite side of CR 235, was recommended in the 1994 *Mill Springs Battlefield Interpretive Plan*. It was the first wayside erected on the battlefield; it was recently replaced.

The first three waysides are spaced along the first section of the trail, a grassed lane bordered by split-rail worm fencing. There is a bench at Wayside 3 (Figure 72), where
the trail swings to the east, passing the next two waysides before it begins to descend into the ravine.

° Wayside 4. *Battle on a Sabbath Morn*—This wayside, which interprets the battle fought in the field immediately to the east, was recommended in the 1994 *Mill Springs Battlefield Interpretive Plan*. The panel is worn and should be replaced.

There is a bench next to Wayside 4 but it is in a location with no shade. It is recommended that the bench be moved closer to Wayside 5, “*The Union Line at the Fence*” sign where there is a tree.

° Wayside 5. *The Union Line at the Fence*—This wayside interprets the fight at the fence on the ridge above (west of) this location.

At this point the trail begins to go down into the ravine. Between Wayside 5 and Wayside 6 is a double gate that allows cattle access to an adjacent pasture without being able to access the trail. After crossing through the gates, the trail enters the woods and the mown grass surface becomes an unimproved dirt trail.

° Wayside 6. *Balie Peyton, Jr. (1833-1862)*—This biographical wayside honors Balie Peyton, a Confederate officer from an influential Gallatin, Tennessee family, who died near here.

After Wayside 6 the trail ascends to the high ground above the ravine. The trail is at a slant, and is broken by numerous roots and rocks, making walking difficult. In wet weather, this portion of the trail is slippery and treacherous (Figure 73).

When the trail reaches the bottom of the hill, it crosses a short footbridge before arriving at the next wayside.
Wayside 7. Archeology and the Mill Springs Battlefield—Stakes showing where artifacts were found help visitors visualize artifact distribution near this wayside that helps visitors understand what archaeology can reveal about a battlefield.

Wayside 8. The Ravine—This wayside adjacent to the ravine interprets the action associated with this natural feature.

Leaving Wayside 8, the shaded trail again ascends a steep hill (Figure 74). At the top of the hill is an unidentified primitive wooden structure. The trail then descends the hill to the next wayside, which is in an open area.

Wayside 9. The Blacksmith Shop—The blacksmith shop appears on the Official Records map of the battlefield. This wayside interprets the use of the building as a hospital. The panel is worn and the exhibit base has been vandalized.

From Wayside 9, the trail continues generally up hill and is quite steep. The trail, perched on the side of a slope, is uncomfortable to walk in dry weather and in wet weather it is hazardous.

Wayside 10. Confederate Retreat—This wayside ties the retreat from the west side of CR 235 to the retreat from the ravine. The sign faces an open field and the reader is looking west toward CR 235. It is at the top of the hill; a nearby bench is shaded.

Leaving Wayside 10, the trail proceeds southwest, in the direction of CR 235. It passes over a short footbridge and through a double cattle gate similar to the one between Wayside 5 and Wayside 6. The surface of the trial is mown grass; it is level and partially shaded.

Wayside 11. Confederate Artillery—This wayside features a short history of
Rutledge’s Battery, with emphasis on the battery’s role in the battle. The sign stands behind a replica 1841 field piece. There is a shaded bench nearby (Figure 75).

Just south of this wayside is a paved road. It could be made accessible by creating a pull-off and turn-around and adding a short paved trail to the cannon and wayside.

From Wayside 11, the trail proceeds up a gentle slope toward the Confederate memorial cemetery. It follows the route of the historic Mill Springs Road, which is flanked with split-rail worm fence. The surface is mown grass; there is no shade. The last wayside is on the east side of the trail between Wayside 11 and the memorial cemetery (Figure 76).

- Wayside 12. The Union Advance—This sign interprets the final portion of the battle from the perspective of the Union side. The sign faces east, the direction Union soldiers would have advanced upon the retreating Confederates. The sign is worn and should be replaced.

Evaluation
When the Battlefield Loop Trail was built, Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery and the area adjacent to it were the only areas of the battlefield accessible to the public. The Battlefield Tail was outlined in the Mill Springs Battlefield Interpretive Plan developed by Raymond Price Associates in 1994. Their plan, which was never fully realized, called for nine waysides to be installed in at least two phases. Four of those waysides, Battle on a Sabbath Morn, Fix-Bayonets—Charge!, Mistaken Identity and Lt. Bailie Peyton were eventually installed. The others were not, but waysides not called for in the 1994 plan were added to the trail. Changing two of the existing waysides and adding three waysides will strengthen the interpretation of events that centered on the ravine.

Issues
- Roots, rock outcrops, and a slanting surface make footing precarious on parts of the trail. It may be necessary to construct boardwalks or to create retaining walls of railroad ties or another material and add soil to create a level surface.

- More benches should be placed along the trail and some of the existing benches
should be moved to shaded areas. Visitor comfort and safety should be of primary concern.

- Housekeeping issues include dirty panels, extremely worn panels, and a vandalized exhibit base on Wayside 9; *The Blacksmith Shop*. These problems should be addressed.

**Recommendations**

Replace Wayside 2, “*the general commanding*” with a wayside summarizing the battle east of the Mill Springs Road, including Zollicoffer’s death, the role of the ravine, the bloody fighting at the fence, and the Confederate retreat following the destruction of the Confederate left. (A new biographical General Thomas wayside will be placed at proposed Driving Tour Stop 1.)

Replace Wayside 3, *Fix Bayonets, Charge!* with a wayside that addresses the role of the weather in the battle unfolded. (The bayonet charge will be interpreted in depth at proposed Driving Tour Stop 3 and the accompanying pedestrian trail.)

Add three new waysides suggested in the *Mill Springs Battlefield Interpretive Plan* (1994) to the trial:

- Col. Speed Fry
- Union soldiers’ experience
- Confederate soldiers’ experience

During the battle, Col. Speed Fry leapt on top of a fence and shook his fist at the Confederates in the ravine, daring them to “come out and fight like men,” perhaps a foolish action but a very human action with which visitors will empathize. A wayside discussing Speed Fry would serve as a Union experience counterpoint to the Bailie Peyton wayside. Compelling stories like these humanize the military action and add depth to the interpretation. This wayside would be placed between waysides three and four.

There is a long section of trail between waysides six and seven with no interpretation. Two to four waysides, half presenting the Union soldiers’ experience and viewpoint and the other half the Confederate soldiers’ experience and viewpoint placed in this area would enliven the trail and introduce more personal stories. These waysides should let the soldiers’ voices predominate and could feature quotes and one large image or a photograph of the soldier speaking, if available, with no additional text.
Improve existing panels as they are replaced. A number of panels were created some years ago. Color printing now costs no more than black-and-white, formatting software is more versatile, and there is a lot more data about what makes interpretive signs effective.

**Fortified Confederate Encampment Trail**

A short pedestrian trail is located at Driving Tour Stop 7 but is not mentioned in the driving tour brochure. The trail begins just beyond the *Zollie’s Den* wayside near the parking area, follows the line of Confederate earthworks, and ends at a redoubt. Visitors retrace their steps back to the parking area.

The trail is mulched between the *Zollie’s Den* wayside and the artillery piece and bench about fifty feet from the beginning of the trail. From there, the mown trail is bordered with pine logs. The trail route is, for the most part, easy to follow. The exception is at the point where the trail is truncated by a two-track access road; it is not readily apparent if the trail follows the road or crosses it.

The trail interprets two features, the Confederate encampment established in late autumn 1861, where hundreds of winter huts stood, and fortifications the Confederates built to defend the encampment from a possible Union attack. These features are interpreted with two waysides, *Winter Quarters* and *Fortifications at Beech Grove*, respectively.

**Evaluation**

The Beech Grove encampment and fortifications have a great deal of interpretive potential. The two waysides, because they are the only waysides on the trail, try to cover too much. The trail could be a significant part of the interpretive program with more interpretation.

**Recommendations**

Information concerning the encampment and the items left behind are documented in letters, diaries and newspaper articles by reporters who saw the encampment firsthand, and by archaeological investigations conducted by the MSBA. Additional waysides and other interpretive elements, and constructing a replica winter hut and section of earthwork as proposed in the *Mill Springs Battlefield Interpretive Plan* approved by the ABPP, would make the trail more attractive to visitors as an activity, and visitors who walk the trail are more likely to absorb the message the MSBA wants to communicate about this site.
A section of the earthwork approximately 25 feet long could be reconstructed near the artillery piece, interpreting the earthworks for individuals unable to walk the trail.

- Wayside 1. *Constructing the Earthworks* — This wayside will address the engineering and mechanics involved in building a line of fortifications. It will be placed near the reconstructed earthwork.

The following waysides will be placed along the existing trail at suitable intervals. The wayside discussing the earthworks will face the earthworks; those discussing the encampment will face the area where the MSBA investigated the winter huts.

- Wayside 2. *A Military Town* — All military encampments were created in a prescribed manner. This wayside will look at how the encampment was laid out, and that its size made it one of the larger cities in the Commonwealth in January 1862.

- Wayside 3. *Civil War Engineers* — This wayside will contrast the methods and equipment military engineers used during the Civil War—alidades and plane tables, manpower and horsepower—with those used today—total stations, GPS, and heavy equipment.

- Wayside 4. *Life at Beech Grove* — What did the soldiers do every day at Beech Grove? What did they eat? This wayside will interpret the day-to-day life of the Confederates who were encamped at Beech Grove.

It is recommended that the trail be made more interesting by adding a route that takes visitors south of the current trail, making the existing trail into a loop trail terminating at the parking area (Map 10). The new section of trail will interpret the Union experience upon entering “Zollie’s Den.” Pairing waysides with three-dimensional elements will help visitors visualize the fortified encampment after the battle.

- Wayside 5. *They Left Everything* — Reports from Union soldiers upon entering the Confederate works describe an amazing array of items left behind by the fleeing Confederate army including artillery, wagons, mules, horses, winter huts and tents and a plethora of personal items. This wayside could be paired with the fiberglass figure of a grazing horse tethered to a reproduction wagon.
A reconstruction of a typical winter hut could be placed somewhere between the existing trail and the new trail described above. The MSBA will have to consult with a professional archaeologist to insure that the reproduction is located in an area that is not archaeologically sensitive. The hut will be accessed by a short spur trail leading from the new section of the trail. Wayside 6, below would be placed near the reproduction.

- **Wayside 6. Suitable Accommodations** — The victorious Union soldiers made themselves comfortable in the huts and tents abandoned by the retreating Confederates. Food, personal items, and bedding were there for the taking. This wayside might feature detail photographs of the interior of the winter hut in the exhibit gallery.

- **Wayside 7. Filling in the works** — Before leaving Beech Grove, General George Thomas ordered the earthworks destroyed so that the Confederates could not reoccupy them. The 12th Kentucky, a regiment made up mostly of local men,
drew the duty of shoveling the earthworks back into the ditches.

Implementing the following recommendations will increase accessibility and visitor comfort at the Beech Grove site.

- Put a sign in parking area announcing that there is a walking trail. Briefly describe the trail—length, level of difficulty and what visitors will see. Use text and images to make the trail look interesting.

- Hard-surface the trail from the parking area to the reproduction earthwork and artillery piece to allow access by the physically challenged.

- Install directional signs where the trail crosses the two-track road and at other points as needed.

- Trim the vegetation that blocks the trail or reroute the trail around vegetation, like the large holly, that makes walking the trail difficult.

- Install benches near the Winter Huts wayside, at the earthworks, at the redoubt, and at other locations along the trail as needed.

Proposed Trail—The Bayonet Charge Trail
The Battle of Mill Springs consisted of two simultaneous engagements fought on the east and west side of the Mill Springs Road. The fighting east of the road is interpreted by the Battlefield Loop Trail. The Bayonet Charge Trail will interpret the fighting west of the road and the bayonet charge led by the 9th Ohio that changed the course of the battle.

The proposed Bayonet Charge Trail will be located on the north side of SR 761 and will begin at proposed Driving Tour Stop 3. It will feature seven waysides that put the fighting west Mill Springs Road (SR 235) into context: the Union and Confederate regiments that took part in the battle on this side of the road, the circumstances that led Col. Robert McCook to order a bayonet charge, and the results of that order.

The trail will begin on the high ground near SR 761 and will loop below the military crest, where the 9th Ohio formed in preparation for the bayonet charge. The trail along SR 761 will be behind a post-and-rail fence; the waysides will face the south so that the reader can see the area across SR 761 to the ground held by Confederate infantry prior to the assault (Map 11).
To add depth to the interpretation, six full-size metal silhouettes of Union soldiers could be installed just beyond the trail. The figures would be spread out as if they were marching up the hill. Across the road in the tree line, five full-size silhouettes of Confederate soldiers could be positioned as if firing at the Union position where the visitor is standing.

- Wayside 1. *Mid-morning January 19, 1862*—The Battle of Mill Springs became two separate engagements east and west of the Mill Springs Road. This wayside will summarize the fighting on both sides of the road, taking the action up to the point that the bayonet charge was ordered.

- Wayside 2. *The 9th Ohio*—This wayside will feature a brief regimental history of
the 9th Ohio. The regiment was made up of German immigrants from Cincinnati, Ohio veterans of European wars. These German-speaking soldiers were generally older and better trained than the other Union and Confederate regiments on the field.

° Wayside 3. The Confederate Line—The Confederates on the west side of the road were the 17th and 19th Tennessee. This sign will feature brief regimental histories, quotes and images.

° Wayside 4. Their Weapons Were Useless—The 17th and 19th Tennessee, who took the brunt of the bayonet charge, were armed with flintlocks—surplus from the War of 1812. The rain-dampened powder would not ignite, rendering the Tennessee weapons useless.

° Wayside 5. The Bayonet Charge—The bayonet charge has been credited by many historians as being the turning point of the Battle of Mill Springs. This tactic, which would have been suicidal against rifled muskets, proved effective against the poorly armed Confederates. The German regiment executed the charge flawlessly.

° Wayside 6. The Confederate Left Dissolves—When the Confederates on the west broke, the Union troop pursued them across the road. This action threw the entire Confederate line into confusion; soon afterward the whole army was in headlong retreat back to Beech Grove.

° Wayside 7. The Fighting McCooks—Robert McCook, who ordered the bayonet charge, was a member of one of the most famous of American military families. Fifteen members joined the Union army; six, including Robert, became generals.

Proposed Trail—The Last Stand Hill Loop Trail
The Last Stand Hill Loop Trail will interpret the Confederate retreat, Union pursuit, and subsequent Confederate holding action. This trail will help visitors more fully understand this important part of the battle and this site’s significance.

The Union Pursuit Trail will connect the west side of the interpretation on Last Stand Hill to the Battlefield Loop Trail near Wayside 11: Confederate Artillery. The Union Pursuit Trail will have three waysides interpreting the actions of the Union troops as they pursued the retreating Confederates (Map 12).
Wayside 1. “The enemy ran like turkeys”—After the bayonet charge of the 9th Ohio crushed the Confederate left, there was a race across the Mill Springs Road. The beaten Confederates sought shelter east of the road, the jubilant Union soldiers rushing in headlong pursuit. The Confederate army was teetering on the brink of destruction.

Wayside 2. “Drive him back or die in their tracks”—Within minutes, the Confederate line east of the road also fell apart. Disorganized Union detachments pursued the fleeing Confederate soldiers. On the brow of Last Stand Hill one
Confederate regiment, held in reserve during the battle, stood firm. The onrushing
Federals were slowed, then stopped, by the last line of defense between them and
Beech Grove.

- Wayside 3. *The Union army regroups*—The Union army was disorganized and
low on ammunition when the unexpected Confederate retreat began. Thomas
halted his men, regrouped, and rearmed before the Union army continued on its
way south to “Zollie’s Den” at Beech Grove.

The *Confederate Retreat Trail* will connect the east side of the interpretation on Last
Stand Hill to the Battlefield Loop Trail near Wayside 10: *The Confederate Retreat.*

This portion of the trail will be the *Confederate Retreat Trail*. The *Confederate Retreat Trail* will also have three waysides.

- Wayside 4. *The Confederate Line Breaks*—The Confederate line quickly
disintegrated after the bayonet charge. The Confederate regiments in the ravine
were flanked; their outdated flintlocks proved useless. Many men smashed their
weapons against trees; others had simply had enough and turned for the rear.

- Wayside 5. *Retreat Becomes a Rout*—One Tennessean wrote of the retreat
“Everyone for himself was the motto.” The Confederates who had fought well
all day found themselves in a hopeless situation; panic and survival instincts took
over.

- Wayside 6. *Confederates Taken Prisoner*—Some of the Confederates were
separated from the main body of the army and found themselves surrounded by
Union troops. Their only recourse was to surrender.

**Proposed Trail—Moulden’s Hill Loop Trail**
The proposed Moulden’s Hill Loop Trail will interpret events of the afternoon and
evening of January 19 and the morning of January 20, 1862. The trail will begin at the
parking area of proposed Driving Tour Stop 8, winding through the woods south of the
parking area to the overlook into the valley below at the edge of MSBA property. The
trail will turn back into the woods and follow the historic road bed for a short time before
entering the clearing and returning to the parking area (Map 13).
Trailhead: A sign at the parking area should describe what the visitor will see on the trail, indicate the length of the trail and the approximate time required to walk it. The visitor should be cautioned that the trail is primitive and moderately strenuous.

Wayside 1. *The Last Engagement*—The last engagement of the Battle of Mill Springs took place in the late afternoon of January 19, when lead elements of Thomas’ army arrived at Moulden’s Hill to find a Confederate regiment drawn up in line of battle. Union artillery fired several rounds and the Confederates withdrew toward Beech Grove.

Wayside 2. *Union Artillery*—After scattering the Confederate defenders, the Union army deployed its artillery on the hill and fired upon the Confederate encampment at Beech Grove. The Union held the high ground.

Wayside 3. *The Old Road* —The historic road that crosses the property dates to the Civil War. This road remnant will give visitors an idea of the kind of roads that the soldiers marched on in January 1862.

Wayside 4. *The Bivouac*—The night of January 19, Thomas’s entire army was encamped in the fields below Moulden’s Hill. Visitors will be asked to imagine the scene—4,000 men, hundreds of flickering campfires, the murmur of men as they quietly discuss the battle that day and mourn their lost comrades.

Wayside 5. *The Fight that Never Came*—The morning of January 20, the men encamped around Moulden’s Hill steeled themselves to march into battle once more; to attack the Confederates behind their strong fortifications at Beech Grove. That fight never came. The wayside will invite visitors to drive to Beech Grove to learn the rest of the story.
Proposed trail
Moulden Hill Tour Stop entrance drive
Parking for Driving Stop and Trail
Proposed waysides

Map 13: Moulden’s Hill Driving Tour Stop

- Proposed trail
- Moulden Hill Tour Stop entrance drive
- Parking for Driving Stop and Trail
- Proposed waysides
INTERPRETING MILL SPRINGS AS THE CONFEDERATE BASE OF OPERATIONS

One of the project objectives is to increase visitation to the Wayne County portion of the battlefield—to get people who visit the battlefield in Pulaski County to visit the battlefield on the other side of Lake Cumberland. After careful consideration it seems that the problem is that the north side of Lake Cumberland is identified with the Battle of Mill Springs, while the south side is not.

Mill Springs seems almost like an afterthought on the driving tour. For years, visitors who took the time to drive to Mill Springs were rewarded with a repeat of the last wayside on the other side of the lake. They could see the outside of the Brown-Lanier and West-Metcalfe houses, and could tour the mill if it was open, but got little else for their trouble.

Today, a visitor can tour the Brown-Lanier House, read five waysides near the visitor center and one at the West-Metcalfe House, and browse the gifts at the Mill Springs Information Center and Bookstore. There is more to see, but not enough.

Giving Mill Springs its own identity and promoting it as an interesting destination in its own right could help MSBA achieve its objective of attracting more visitors. It is recommended that the battlefield in Wayne County be named and interpreted as the Confederate Base of Operations. Interpretation will explore four major topics.

- Mill Springs on the eve of the Civil War
- The reasons the Confederates occupied and fortified Mill Springs
- Felix Zollicoffer’s and George Crittenden’s strategy
- The impact of the occupation and battle on residents

Mill Springs is part of the battlefield. The Confederates crossed the river from Beech Grove to Mill Springs, and marched up the ferry road and past the Brown-Lanier and West-Metcalfe houses as they retreated to Tennessee. But there was no real combat in Mill Springs; it was a fortified encampment, army headquarters and the supply base. It was on the road from Tennessee and had a landing on the Cumberland River where supplies from Nashville could be offloaded and distributed to the army encamped north of the river. Mill Springs has its own interesting and compelling story to tell. Interpreting Mill Springs as the Confederate Base of Operations will create a more comprehensive story of the Battle of Mill Springs, providing insight into the Confederate strategy preceding the battle and the impact the Confederate occupation had on the civilian population.
Mill Springs is home to the only two standing structures on the battlefield. Both structures are under-interpreted. The possibility for partnerships to help bring these structures to life exists. The Wayne County Historical Society has expressed an interest in working with the MSBA to interpret the West-Metcalfe House. The Monticello Woman’s Club has also expressed interest in partnering with the MSBA. By reaching out to these organizations and seeking to develop a dedicated corps of volunteers the MSBA could create an interpretive program in Mill Springs that would tell a story that needs to be told. It would also create a second area of interpretation in the Pulaski-Wayne County area that will draw visitors.

Creating a second promotional brochure after more interpretation is in place would identify Mill Springs as a separate destination. The brochure, Mill Springs Battlefield: The Confederate Base of Operations, would let visitors know that there is a visitor center with gift shop, exhibits, pedestrian trails, the Brown-Lanier House and the West-Metcalfe House to explore.

**Mill Springs Battlefield—South Visitor Center**
The Mill Springs visitor center, identified on the building as the Information Center and bookstore, is housed in a small building between the Brown-Lanier House and the entrance to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mill Springs Mill Park. Interpretation is confined to a display of artifacts arranged in a glass-front display case and laminated copies of the interpretive waysides that are outside of the building.

Even of the visitor center interior is modified as described in Chapter 5: Facilites, there will be little space for interpretation in the visitor center. If space is available, a panel illustrating the battlefield and its attractions identical to that proposed for the lobby of the visitor center and museum in Nancy should be installed in the Mill Springs visitor center.

**Waysides in Mill Springs**
There are currently six waysides in the Mill Springs area, four near the Mill Springs Information Center and Bookstore, one in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mill Springs Mill Park, and one at the West-Metcalfe House.

Four interpretive signs are visible from the Mill Springs Information Center and

*Figure 77: Two of the four waysides at the visitor center in Mill Springs.*
Bookstore parking lot. These waysides, with the Brown-Lanier House, are Driving Tour Stop 9 (Figure 77).

- **Wayside 1. Mill Springs and the Civil War**—This wayside near the low stone wall that edges the parking area and the cannon in front of the Information Center, presents an overview of the Civil War and its effect on Mill Springs.

- **Wayside 2. The Cumberland River**—This sign interprets the history of the Cumberland River and Mill Springs, and is one of two waysides overlooking the lake and the Mill Springs Mill on the west side of the Information Center.

- **Wayside 3. The Battle of Mill Springs The first battle for Kentucky**—This sign, adjacent to Wayside 2, discusses the Battle of Mill Springs and its aftermath. Waysides 1 and 2 are at the end of a mulched trail that begins at the Information Center and ends at stairs leading to the Mill parking below.

- **Wayside 4. Brown–Lanier House: Home, Headquarters, Hospital**—This wayside is the last of the four signs associated with Driving Tour Stop 9. It provides a brief history of the Brown and Lanier families, and the house before, during, and after the Battle of Mill Springs. It also describes the cannon ball hole in the first floor wall. The wayside, on the east side of the Information Center, faces the Brown-Lanier House.

- **Wayside 5. “Noble Ellis—Sternwheeler that Saved an Army”**—This wayside interpreting the retreat of the Confederate army across the Cumberland River on the night of January 19, 1862 is a duplicate of that at Driving Tour Stop 8, the last stop on the north side of the lake. It was placed in Mill Springs Mill Park in 1997 by the Mill Springs Battlefield Association. Visitors can access the sign by walking down the stairs, across the Mill parking lot, and down the trail to the picnic shelters. It is located near the restroom building.

- **Wayside 6. The West-Metcalfe House**—This wayside is at Driving Tour Stop 10: The West-Metcalfe House, approximately one mile south of the Information Center. It includes a brief history of the West and Metcalfe families and the role of the house before and after the Battle of Mill Springs. The wayside is in the yard; the reader faces the house.
Evaluation
The oldest wayside, “Noble Ellis—Sternwheeler that Saved an Army,” is worn and should be replaced. The rest are in good shape but the wayside Mill Springs and the Civil War should be cleaned. See Appendix 7.

The purpose of the waysides now in place is to tie Mill Springs to the battlefield on the north side of Lake Cumberland. For the most part, the interpretation accomplishes that goal. The waysides stress the role of Mill Springs as a Confederate encampment and the role of the river as an important transportation artery. Visitors reading all six waysides will leave understanding that the Confederates used the two houses as a headquarters and a supply depot before the battle; the battle was fought on the north side of Lake Cumberland; the Confederates lost the battle and retreated through Mill Springs; and the houses served as hospitals and Union headquarters after the battle. However, the interpretation is insufficient to interpret Mill Springs as the Confederate Base of Operations.

Recommendations
Six panels providing an overview of Mill Springs in the Civil War could be installed outside of the Mill Springs visitor center. Two panels interpreting Mill Springs in 1860 and the Brown, Lanier and West families could be installed on the east wall of the visitor center. Four panels interpreting the Confederate occupation of Mill Springs could be installed in the space now occupied by the notice board. Alternatively, the Plexiglas could be removed from the notice board and the panels attached directly to the board (Figure 78).

- Panel 1. Mill Springs in 1860—This panel will describe the town of Mill Springs, an industrial and agricultural center with a saw and grist mill, wool carding factory, ferry operation, post office and store. It will discuss why Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer chose to occupy the town and fertile valley between the river and Monticello. The panel will feature a bird’s-eye view of Mill Springs in 1861.

- Panel 2. The Brown, Lanier and West families—The Brown, Lanier, and West
families were the wealthiest in Mill Springs and owned the most land. Thompson Brown and L.A. Lanier owned 1200 acres; A.R. West owned a prosperous farm and twenty slaves. The panel will interpret the families whose houses are the only extant structures associated with the battlefield.

○ Panel 3. Confederate Kentucky: Fall 1861—This panel will interpret the situation in Kentucky in the fall of 1861. The Confederate line stretched east-west across southern Kentucky, and Bowling Green was the Confederate capital of the Commonwealth. The Confederates were determined to extend their control north to the Ohio River.

○ Panel 4. Zollicoffer Fortifies Mill Springs—The Confederates arrived in Mill Springs in November 1861. A month later the West-Metcalfe House was a supply depot, the Brown-Lanier House was General Zollicoffer’s headquarters, and the Confederates had fortified the land and river approaches to Mill Springs. This panel will interpret the changes the Confederate occupation brought to Mill Springs.

○ Panel 5. The Battle of Mill Springs—This panel will present an overview of the Battle of Mill Springs. Two regiments of infantry and a section of artillery left Mill Springs on January 18, 1862, to join their comrades at Beech Grove. The next day, the Confederate army was defeated at the Battle of Mill Springs near present-day Nancy.

○ Panel 6. Retreat and Aftermath—The destroyed Confederate army crossed the Cumberland River and trudged back to Tennessee, leaving everything but their arms in Beech Grove. The West-Metcalfe House became a temporary Hospital. Supplies in Mill Springs were burned or carted off. The Confederate occupation was over and a Union general now made the Brown-Lanier House his headquarters. This panel will interpret the aftermath of the battle and its impact on the people of Mill Springs.

The Brown-Lanier House
The Brown-Lanier House, the core of which is thought to have been built about 1830, was once the residence of the miller associated with the Mill Springs Mill. In the years preceding the Civil War, it was the seat of a 1200-acre farm owned by Thompson C. Brown and Lloyd A. Lanier. In July 1861, Brown sold his interest to Lanier, who was thought to be in residence when the Confederates arrived in November 1861. The Brown-
Lanier house was used as a headquarters by the Confederates before the battle and by the Federals after the Battle of Mill Springs. It is also said to have been a hospital following the Battle of Mill Springs.¹

The Mill Springs Battlefield Association acquired the house after it had been renovated as a bed-and-breakfast inn. The MSBA rents the General’s Suite on the second floor as overnight accommodations and the entire house as a wedding venue (Figure 79).

The MSBA offers guided tours of the house on demand. The forty-five to sixty minute tours, which begin at the Information Center, are led by visitor center staff. The tour emphasizes the house’s architecture and history as a tavern. Its Civil War history is generally confined to the story of the cannon ball piercing the wall of the house, which occurred in 1863 and is not related to the Battle of Mill Springs.

Evaluation
On most days, there is only one staff person at the visitor center. If someone wants a tour of the Brown-Lanier House, the visitor center is locked and left empty. The only person available to greet visitors may be absent for up to an hour—some people will wait, many will not.

The tour is the only interpretation of the house other than the aforementioned wayside. While well presented, it contains some inaccuracies and does not interpret the house’s role in the Civil War in Mill Springs. Interpreting that role and the stories of the Brown and Lanier families would make the interpretation more relevant to the mission of the MSBA.

Recommendations
The MSBA will determine the role of the Brown-Lanier House in the interpretive program. If it continues as a bed-and-breakfast inn and wedding venue, the interpretive options are limited to giving tours when the house is not rented. If that is the case, it is recommended that the tour be rewritten to focus on the use of the house by the

Confederate and Union armies before and after the Battle of Mill Springs, respectively, and to include more information about the people associated with the house. The latter will require research to obtain information on the families. Fortunately, local genealogical information is available at the Wayne County Historical Society. Keep in mind that visitors to a historic site expect the information that they are given to be true and based on solid research.

It is also recommended that the MSBA interpret the house, its Civil War use, and the families associated with the house on a series of waysides or kiosks installed in the yard. These exhibits could convey the same information described in the exhibit descriptions given below, answering many of the questions visitors might have about the house, the family and the house’s Civil War history.

Interpreting the Brown-Lanier House
Optimum use of the Brown-Lanier House, in terms of the interpretive program and furthering the mission of the MSBA, would be to interpret the first floor of the house as a Confederate Headquarters and as the residence of the family that lived there in 1861 and 1862. Doing so, however, would require that a docent be present in the house for security reasons.

The docent could be a costumed interpreter portraying any number of characters—the owner, the miller who has come visiting, a Confederate soldier, General Zollicoffer or General Crittenden, the owner’s wife, a servant, or a daughter—or could be in modern dress. The docent would answer visitors’ questions, could volunteer information and stories not presented in the interpretation, and could occasionally present simple demonstrations.

Part of the front parlor could be furnished to recreate a headquarters office, featuring an officer’s desk piled with paper work, a table and chairs, uniform coats and hats, personal items, and other props. The full-size diorama would suggest that the officers had just stepped out. Rail-mounted panels would discuss the function of an army headquarters, the jobs of the soldiers who worked there and the importance of the work carried out (Figure 80).
The center room would combine panel exhibits and one full-size diorama, which would interpret the landowner’s office (Figure 81). The interpretation on one side of the room would be devoted to the history of the house and the families that lived there, its relationship to the mill and its place in the history of Mill Springs. Interpretation on the other side of the room would discuss the Confederate use of the house. The windows in the room could be covered to create additional wall space for panel exhibits. Visitors standing outside the house would see the backs of the panels, which might depict family members or General Zollicoffer looking out of the window.

The back room (the dining room) could interpret the family that lived in the house during the Civil War. A life-size diorama could depict a portion of that or another room as it looked or might have looked when the family lived there (Figure 82).

**Landscaping**
Regardless of the direction the MSBA chooses for the Brown-Lanier House, the Association might consider planting appropriate heirloom plants around the house. Ornamental shrubs, trees, perennial and annual flowers would add color and authenticity to the setting. An herb or kitchen garden with period plants would also be appropriate. The gardens could be interpreted using a brochure or small signs on the grounds.

**Outbuilding**
The outbuilding nearest the house is filled with farm implements that are not interpreted. A small wayside or two used in conjunction with the implements and tools could be used to tell something about agriculture in Mill Springs. One way to make the farm display more interesting might be to have seasonal displays—plows and planting equipment in the spring, harvesting equipment in the fall. The items in the outbuilding and the historic road that runs in front of it could be incorporated into tours of the house.
The Camp of the 17th Tennessee Trail
A nine-stop pedestrian trail interpreting the camp of the 17th Tennessee is proposed for the property east of the Brown-Lanier House (Map 14). This site has a small family cemetery in addition to the site of the Confederate encampment.

This trail will begin at the Brown-Lanier House and will follow the historic road bed east, to the point where the loop trail begins. As visitors walk down the path toward the trail they will hear the roar of the springs, driving home the reason that the house and the mill were built at this location.

- Wayside 1. The Old Road—The path that the visitor will walk to the loop trail is the old Mill Springs Road. This wayside will discuss when the road was constructed, where it went, and when it was abandoned. The wayside will feature a map showing the route of the road.

- Wayside 2. Camp of the 17th Tennessee—The 17th Tennessee Infantry was camped in this area before crossing the river to join the rest of the Confederate army at Beech Grove. This wayside will give a history of the regiment up to the Battle of Mill Springs.

- Wayside 3. The Tuttle (?) Family Cemetery—This small family cemetery dates from before the Civil War. The wayside will provide enough information on the family buried here to give the reader an understanding of who the family was and how the cemetery came to be here.

- Wayside 4. Setting up Camp—The camp of the 17th Tennessee would have been laid out according to regulations and as described in the army manual. This sign will describe the typical camp arrangement and will include a diagram of a regulation army camp.

- Wayside 5. Camp Routine—Life in Civil War camps followed a set pattern of activities, which this wayside will describe. Official records indicate that the 17th Tennessee spent at least part of its time in Mill Springs building fortifications. Information regarding how the men of the 17th spent their time in Mill Springs could be gleaned from letters and diaries.

- Wayside 6. Life in Camp—This wayside will explore the human side of the 17th Tennessee Confederate soldier—how old the men were, where they came from, what they ate in camp, what they did for entertainment, and how they spent off-
Map 14: Trails at the Confederate Base of Operations

- Proposed Wayside
- Existing Wayside

1. Camp of the 17th Tennessee Artillery Trail
2. Woman's Club sales shop
3. Woods
4. Picnic shelter
5. Restrooms
7. Old Ferry Road
8. New Ferry Road
9. Mill

Lake Cumberland

DRAFT - Interpretive Plan for the Mill Springs Battlefield - DRAFT
duty hours. Letters and dairies will supply personal details.

° Wayside 7. Crossing the River—The 17th Tennessee abandoned their comfortable camp in Mill Springs the day before the battle. They spent one night in Beech Grove before marching into battle. This sign will explore this action using letters and diaries.

° Wayside 8. The 17th Tennessee in the Battle of Mill Springs—This regiment was in the fight east of the Mill Springs Road and was one of two regiments that took the brunt of the 9th Ohio’s bayonet charge. This sign will examine the role of the 17th in the battle.

° Wayside 9. The Long Walk Home—After the Battle of Mill Springs, the 17th Tennessee, like the rest of the army, crossed the river and began to march for Tennessee. Did they stop at their old camp and gather their things? What became of them after the battle? This sign will provide a brief history of this regiment after the Battle of Mill Springs.

To make walking the trail more pleasant, several benches should be placed along its length, in the shade if possible. Much of this trail is in the sun, and in the summer months it will be hot. A resting place will be welcome.

It is recommended that MSBA fence the small family cemetery to define and protect it. An inexpensive metal fence system, such as Garden Zone Grand Empire Fence Panels, would complement the cemetery. Available at Lowe’s and other home improvement stores, it is easy to install and requires no digging.

The Artillery Trail
Raymond Price Associates suggested a similar Artillery Trail in the 1994 Mill Springs Battlefield Interpretive Plan.

The trail described below will begin at the visitor center with the four existing waysides (Map 14). Visitors will be instructed to follow the trail by taking the stairs down to the Mill parking lot (Figure 83). They will then cross the lot and follow the paved trail in Mill Park to the cannon and earthwork remnant at the end of the trail. Those with

Figure 83: Stair to the parking lot below the visitor center.
mobility issues can drive to the parking lot, where they can access the hard-surfaced trail. The first wayside will be placed near the picnic shelter at the head of the trail, where there is an excellent view of the mill. The second, interpreting the Mill Springs ferry, will replace the wayside, “Noble Ellis—Sternwheeler that Saved an Army” sign. A small sign with an arrow will indicate the old ferry road. The third wayside will be about halfway down the trail; the last two will be near the cannon at the end of the point.

The trail adds five new signs, broadening the interpretation at Mill Springs Mill Park, which is within the Mill Springs Battlefield National Historic Landmark boundary, and continuing a partnership begun in the 1990s between the MSBA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. MSBA has already placed one wayside in the park and has replaced the cannon carriage.

- Wayside 1. **The Mill at Mill Springs**—The current mill, built in 1877, is the fourth mill constructed here. The mill is a physical reminder of the abundance of this valley, the reason the Confederates chose Mill Springs as their base of operations. This wayside will interpret the mill as a symbol of Mill Springs and the agricultural heritage of the area.

- Wayside 2. **The Mill Springs Ferry**—There was a ferry operating here at the time of the Civil War and ferries continued to run into the 20th century. Thousands of men, women and children walked up the hill from the river to the village of Mill Springs. This sign will interpret the ferry and will tell visitors that the road and the ruts worn in the rock by the passage of thousands of wagons can still be seen.

- Wayside 3. **The River in 1862-The Lake Today**—The Cumberland River in 1862 was much different from the Lake Cumberland of today. Because Mill Springs could only be reached by steamboat in the rainy months, commerce was seasonal. The lake of today is much larger, much deeper and largely recreational. This wayside will interpret the changes to the Cumberland River since 1862.

- Wayside 4. **Defending Mill Springs**—Before moving his army to Beech Grove in early December 1861, General Zollicoffer built defenses at Mill Springs. This work continued throughout the Confederate occupation. All that remains of this work is a small remnant at the end of the point. This wayside will interpret the Confederate defenses.

- Wayside 5. **The Noble Ellis**—Zollicoffer spent nearly three weeks working to
get the steam boat *Noble Ellis* to Mill Springs. With his command divided and a Union force in Somerset, he wanted a boat in the vicinity “. . . to contribute to our security.” This sign will interpret the effort to get the *Noble Ellis* to Mill Springs.

**The West-Metcalfe House**

The West-Metcalfe House is perhaps the single most important historic property in Wayne County. The house was the first building surveyed, as part of a comprehensive county-wide survey of historic properties in the early 1970s. The house is designated WN-1. It was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. It is also a contributing element of the Mill Springs Battlefield Historic Areas National Register District. In 2008, the MSBA began a restoration project that was completed early this year. MSBA spent nearly $300,000 bringing the house back from a ruin to the structure that stands today, which has been rehabilitated from the roof down (Figures 84-85).

General Felix Zollicoffer used the West-Metcalfe House, then the home of A.R. West, as his headquarters before moving to the Brown-Lanier House. Subsequently the house served as Confederate army supply depot and, after the battle, as a field hospital. Interpreting the house as a supply depot and furnishing it with boxes, bags and barrels as it might have been during the Confederate occupation would be effective and inexpensive. Interpretive panels could address the history of the house, its use by the Confederates as a supply depot, its use as a field hospital after the battle, and the rehabilitation of the house in 2008.

The West-Metcalfe House, Driving Tour Stop 10, is interpreted with a single wayside that discusses the families that built and lived in the house and the role of the house during the Confederate occupation. This site merits more than this meager interpretation.
Site Improvements
The West-Metcalfe House sits on a knoll east of the Mill Springs or Gap in the Ridge Road. The MSBA owns the house and one acre of land. The drive just north of the structure and part of the road frontage is bordered with split-rail worm fencing. The driving tour stop destination sign is south of the drive road. There is no defined parking area.

Graveling the drive and creating a parking area where the storage pod sits would make the site more inviting and would increase visitor comfort by letting them know that they are welcome to enter the site and park. Visitor comfort would be further enhanced by placing a bench under the tree just south of the parking area and planting additional trees. Old photographs show that the house once was shaded by trees; trees will restore the cultural landscape and make the site more inviting and comfortable in the summer (Figure 86).

The house presents issues for the physically challenged; it is not accessible. A ramp providing access to the porch would solve part of the problem. Access to the inside of the house will be more challenging; the configuration of the front porch makes an accessible entrance very difficult. The best solution might be to construct a ramp leading to the southeastern rear door (Figures 87). The proposed interpretation is limited to the rooms on the first floor. The cellar and the second floor are not easily accessed even by people without mobility issues. The stairs to both are steep and there are no handrails.

Site Interpretation
The installation of two three-panel kiosks in the yard of the house will improve
interpretation. The first kiosk should be placed under the tree in the north portion of the lot. The kiosks would complete the exterior interpretation.

Kiosk 1. The West-Metcalfe House, 1800-1862
- Panel 1. Architectural History—The West-Metcalfe House was built in two phases. The house that remains, the brick house, was constructed about 1800. At the time of the Civil War, the house had two frame wings and was a much larger structure. This panel will include a drawing of the house as it appeared in 1862 and will interpret its architecture (Figure 88).

- Panel 2. Confederate Supply Depot—General Zollicoffer briefly occupied the West-Metcalfe House, but it served mainly as a supply depot during the Confederate occupation. The house was on the main road from Tennessee to Mill Springs. Supplies at the house were taken to Mill Springs and ferried across the river to Beech Grove. This panel will interpret the house as a supply depot.

- Panel 3. Confederate Hospital—After the disaster at the Battle of Mill Springs, the Confederate army marched past the house. Supplies were hastily burned or put in wagons and taken south with the army. At the same time, men too injured or sick to travel were left behind. Tradition holds that several died at the house and were buried by the Wests in the family cemetery on the opposite side of the road. This sign will interpret the last use of this house by the Confederates.

A second kiosk should be placed in the southeastern portion of the property, between the outbuilding and the east gable of the house. Two of the three panels have already been designed and created for a ceremony held in late 2009. Numerous photographs are available to create the final panel.

Kiosk 2. Saving the Old House
- Panel 1. The Damage Done—The first panel will interpret the damage that had befallen the house since it was abandoned in 1958.

- Panel 2. A Job Well Done—The second panel will look at the painstaking work undertaken during restoration. Floor joists were patched or replaced and the
 foundation was rebuilt. The roof was taken down and the boards numbered so that they could be reused. This panel discusses the painstaking restoration.

Panel 3. *The Finishing Touches*—The brick walls were plastered, the wood work repaired or custom made; doors and windows were made based on old photographs and the wood was painted. This last panel will interpret the final steps in the restoration.

Interpretation in the house
The two rooms on the first floor of the West-Metcalfe House are separated by a wall with a central door. Panel exhibits will be placed in the east room; exhibits in the west room will recreate what the house may have looked like when it was a Confederate supply depot. A docent will greet visitors as they come in the door to the east room. The docent, who could be costumed, could give a very brief presentation and then allow visitors to explore the exhibits.

The East Room—The east room will interpret the house and the families that built and lived in it. The best place for the panel exhibits would be the northwest corner of the room. Large colorful images and easy to read titles will draw visitors to the panels. A system will have to be devised to mount the panels without harming the walls, which are plaster over brick. There is no picture rail or crown molding in the house. There are a number of commercial options available, or the system used to hold panels in the visitor center gallery in Nancy might be used.

The West Room—The west room will be furnished as a Civil War-era supply depot. The room will be stocked with barrels, boxes, bags, tack and tools, anything that an army might need. The room will look as if the quartermaster just left, taking the wagon to Mill Springs to deliver supplies to the ferry for transport to Beech Grove.

A desk in one corner might have ledgers, dip pens, requisitions and a few person items on it. One or more of the boxes or barrels might be open, revealing their contents (Figure 89). One of the windows might be covered with a painting or drawing that makes it appear is if one is looking out on the yard as it appeared in the late fall of 1861.
Visitors will step partially into the room. A barrier created by a Museum Rails™ or similar system will keep visitors out of the room and provide interpretation. Additional interpretation could be added by including an audio component.
PERSONAL INTERPRETATION

Personal interpretation is just what it sounds like—one person interpreting to another person or persons. It includes guided tours, formal presentations, talking to school children in the classroom or on a field trip to the battlefield. Speakers and reenactors at the Annual Anniversary Observance, the Memorial Day Celebration, Living History Weekend, and Ghostwalk interpret the battlefield. Tours at the Brown-Lanier House, periodic reenactments, and tours given to individuals and special interest groups are personal interpretation.

Personal interpretation is powerful because the interpreter can continually adapt to each audience, tailoring a presentation, demonstration or tour to the interests of the audience as revealed by questions and comments. Opportunities for emotional and intellectual connections abound. There is no doubt that personal interpretation, skillfully conducted, is very effective. Personal interpretation is also popular, as evidenced by the response battlefield staff have received to the Abraham Lincoln program. The possibilities for personal interpretation are boundless, and programs don’t have to be elaborate.

INTERPRETATION IS A PROFESSION

Interpreters are, to some extent, the storytellers of the 21st century. They teach the skills and tell the stories that put adults and children back in touch with a real resource. People are more likely to believe what interpreters tell them, even more than they believe what they read in books. Interpreters have a responsibility to their audience to present accurate information and to be fair in their depictions of peoples and stories.

Interpreters have a personal responsibility to:

- Research carefully the message they convey
- Represent the organization faithfully
- Handle the facts, artifacts, and stories of culture ethically

The National Association for Interpretation developed the Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) program to train new or seasonal interpreters with the goal of improving the overall quality of personal interpretive services. It would benefit MSBA to hire individuals who have earned Certified Interpretive Guide status and/or to invest in CIG training for persons hired as interpreters and for staff that routinely interact with the public. The National Association for Interpretation website, www.interp.com, has details on CIG training and on how the Mill Springs Battlefield could become a training host site, reducing costs for MSBA staff to participate in a training course. In the meantime, it is strongly recommended that MSBA staff and persons hired as temporary or part-
time interpreters read *Personal Interpretation: Connecting Your Audience to Heritage Resources* by Lisa Brochu and Tim Merriman for a discussion of the basics every member of the interpretive staff needs to know to prepare and present meaningful relevant interpretive programs. For further discussion consult *Interpreting Our Heritage* by Freeman Tilden for a discussion of the principles of interpretation and how to apply them.

**Programs**

Personal interpretation can take many forms: slides and multi-media programs, demonstrations, activities that involve members of the audience, guided tours, and the performing arts—music, poetry, puppets, and dance for example. Just one or two trained volunteers could enrich MSBA’s interpretive program immensely, rotating portrayals of generals, common soldiers and civilians throughout the week at key locations—in the exhibit gallery, at Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery, the Beech Grove encampment, the camp of the 17th Tennessee, the Confederate field hospital, and the Brown-Lanier and West-Metcalf houses. Develop a series of seasonal programs that require only one interpreter—the quartermaster on the porch of the West-Metcalf House, the captain of the *Noble Ellis* on the porch of the Brown-Lanier House, or a soldier who survived the bayonet charge telling his story at Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery. Demonstrations held in the proposed programs area behind the Visitor Center and Museum or in the yard of the Brown-Lanier House might include musket loading, cooking a soldier’s daily rations of salt pork and beans, or the *Manual of Arms*. Other possibilities are described below.

Expand an existing event

The annual Living History Weekend centers on Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery. MSBA might consider expanding the event to encompass several locations on the battlefield on both sides of Lake Cumberland. Two or more reenactors could be stationed at proposed Driving Tour Stop 2: The Union Army Gathers, Driving Tour Stop 3: Bayonet Charge of the 9th Ohio, Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery, the Confederate field hospital, Beech Grove, the camp of the 17th Tennessee, the Brown-Lanier House and the West-Metcalf House. Visitors could move between stations as their interests dictate. A schedule of activities or demonstrations would highlight each stop during the day—an artillery demonstration at Beech Grove, a presentation on Civil War medicine at the field hospital, Confederate General Zollicoffer speaking at the Brown-Lanier House, and so on. Visitors could attend events on both the battlefield and the *Confederate Base of Operations* over the two-day event. MSBA might consider ferrying visitors across the river and back on the pontoon boat throughout the event, making it even more attractive to potential visitors.
Create an immersion tour
Develop an in-depth, guided tour of the battlefield. The tour could follow the events of the battle as they unfolded, backtracking as necessary and taking participants to areas of the battlefield not open to the public. At each stop, the guide would give a short talk that includes interesting “insider” information on events, people, maneuvers, equipment or other topics. Participants could then explore on their own for a short period of time before returning to the fifteen-seat bus and resuming the tour. The tour would encompass both sides of Lake Cumberland and would include lunch and a souvenir, perhaps a Mill Springs Battlefield baseball cap. The full-day tour, for which participants might pay $75, could be offered once a month. It would be marketed to Civil War Roundtables, other special interest groups, and individuals.

Plan a new event
MSBA has tentative plans to host an autumn event in Mill Springs in 2011. Keeping the event focused on Civil War-era life skills, crafts, music and pastimes, and peopling the event with costumed interpreters portraying authentic characters based on research, will insure that the event supports MSBA’s mission.

Hold a living history event in Mill Springs
The 17th Tennessee was encamped near the Brown-Lanier House. Interpreters could portray the 17th Tennessee after it had returned from a day building earthworks around Mill Springs. Infantry drill and musket practice would also be appropriate activities.

Interpret Thompson Brown
Develop a program to present during the summer when the mill is operating called *A Day with Thompson Brown*. Mr. Brown could describe his life as a farmer, selling corn to the Confederate army, and his concerns about taking Confederate money. Brown might talk about his large farm and holdings, and explain that even though he lives near the mill, he does not own it. After his talk Brown might suggest that they all go to the mill to watch the miller work.
ACTION PLAN
There are many actions that MSBA can initiate in the next year that cost little or no money and will lay the foundation for more extensive endeavors.

2011—First six months

- Review all marketing material
- List the Mill Springs Battlefield on the American Heritage AASLH site
- Investigate The National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Gozaic
- Update the Battle of Mill Springs *Teaching with Historic Places* lesson plan
- Create teacher evaluation forms for school visits
- Begin actively recruiting volunteers
- Visit the Somerset-Pulaski CVB
- Visit the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce
- Join the American Association of Museums
- Attend all monthly TourSEKY meetings
- Explore funding opportunities for exhibit gallery improvements
- Explore funding opportunities for exhibits at West-Metcalf House
- Join Kentucky Museum & Heritage Alliance; begin to attend meetings
- Evaluate exhibits at the visitor center and museum; create detailed outline of improvements
- Buy a good quality digital camera and take photographs of the battlefield
- Place a *Visit the Mill Springs Battlefield* sign or exhibit at area resorts

**Second six months**

- Create a resource-based website
- Apply for recreational trails grant funding to implement new trails
- Explore a partnership with the Wayne County Historical Society
- Explore a partnership with the Monticello Woman’s Club
- Research and begin marketing to Civil War Roundtables
- Rename Information Center and Bookstore as Mill Springs Battlefield—South Visitor Center; put MSBA logo on building
- Create one weekend program for summer 2011
- Create a program and/or event for Mill Springs
- Host an MSBA booth at local festivals
- Evaluate space at the Nancy visitor center; make changes as needed
- Attend the AASLH conference—September 14-17, 2011, in Richmond, Virginia
- Create a new promotional brochure to be placed in Kentucky Welcome Centers
- Host a concert at the Brown-Lanier or West-Metcalf House
- Develop an age-specific children’s program

**2012**

By 2012, MSBA has had time to evaluate and implement some of the recommendations in the interpretive plan. The Association should begin to apply for funding for more complex and expensive program upgrades; 2012 is the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Mill Springs is a good time to show the public a more active and involved MSBA.

- Apply for funding from TourSEKY for a large ticket item such as exhibit gallery upgrades or the West-Metcalf House exhibits
- Apply for recreational trails funding for pedestrian trails
- Host an MSBA booth at local festivals
- Hold a living history event in Mill Springs
Submit an article to *Blue & Gray* magazine
- Host a lecture series on the Mill Springs Campaign
- Hold a battlefield-wide event with activities at multiple locations
- Implement the new driving tour; install new waysides and print the new brochure
- Replace or repair old and/or damaged fencing
- Begin implementing exhibit improvements in visitor center and museum
- Initiate a weekly artillery demonstration in Nancy
- Train volunteers and initiate programs with personal interpretation
- Continue to market to Civil War Roundtables
- Install recommended exhibits at visitor center in Mill Springs
- Continue to attend professional conferences
- Send MSBA staff to workshops on interpretation, marketing, grant writing, etc., as appropriate
- Research grant-funding opportunities
- Open the West-Metcalf House to the public

**2013**

The third year of the Civil War Sesquicentennial has arrived. MSBA should look for opportunities to keep the Mill Springs Battlefield before the public and should continue to apply for funds to improve the interpretive program.

- Apply for ABPP funds to expand the National Historic Landmark boundary to match expanded National Register boundary
- Promote the most-qualified volunteer director of the volunteer program
- Apply for funding from TourSEKY for a second big ticket item
- Host an MSBA booth at local festivals
- Install new destination sign at the Mill Springs Visitor Center in Nancy
- Complete all new pedestrian trails
- Host a lecture series at the Visitor Center and Museum: “Confederate Raids and Raiders”
Begin history movie night at the Visitor Center and Museum
Have an interpreter on-site at Zollicoffer Confederate Cemetery, Beech Grove and/or the West-Metcalfe House each weekend during the summer
Host a Kentucky Museum & Heritage Alliance annual meeting
Hold a living history event at the West-Metcalfe House

2014
The Mill Springs Battlefield has continued to grow and community outreach has paid dividends. Local leaders, business people, the tourism community and the MSBA work together on mutually beneficial events and publications. Paying attention to teacher evaluations, creating pre-visit materials, and the updated Teaching with Historic Places lesson plan have helped the battlefield become the choice for school fieldtrips.

Host a lecture series: “George H. Thomas: The Union’s Rock”
Host a Civil War Preservation Trust Teacher’s Institute
Continue to apply for grant funding to implement plan recommendations
Open the exhibit: The Battle of Mill Springs—Contemporary Images
Host an MSBA booth at local festivals
Evaluate and expand the inventory at the gift shops
The West-Metcalfe living history becomes an annual event
Initiate the “Ghosts of Mill Springs” fall event
Create the first summer after-hours program
Complete an audio battlefield tour, available on CD and as a website download
Initiate guided tours of battlefield

2015
The last year of the Civil War sesquicentennial finds the Mill Springs Battlefield in excellent shape. The site gets more than double the number of visitors it did in 2010. The increased visitation has led the MSBA to keep both visitor centers open longer hours in the summer.

Explore ways to fund a full-time interpreter
- Begin a summer intern program for college students
- Host a lecture series: Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War in Kentucky
- Continue to apply for funding for needed projects
- Open the photography exhibit: The Faces of War—Soldiers Who Fought in the Battle of Mill Springs
- Hold the first Bill Neikirk Dinner, an annual event held the Saturday after Labor Day to present awards to volunteers, staff, and individuals or organizations who have assisted the battlefield
- Explore ways to partner with Western Kentucky University’s Center for the Study of the Civil War in the West
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HISTORIC CONTEXT

*Cincinnati Daily Enquirer*, January 24, 1862.


