On The KIVIIISM Line The Newsletter of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust

Victory at the Talley Farm

he Talley Farm is a significant part of the Chancellorsville battlefield. This ground was held by elements of the Union Eleventh Corps on May 2, 1863 and was the scene of intense action when Stonewall Jackson's infantry charged into the Federal position in the late afternoon. Today, 25 acres of this terrain is owned by the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, free and clear!

This purchase began in September 1999, when we were finally able to close a deal on a 25-acre parcel for \$190,000. We were able to make a downpayment of \$90,000, but still needed to come up with \$100,000 over the five year amortization period. Our members responded as they always have and we were quickly able to buy down our principal at various times during the ensuing year. We made periodic payments in the amount of \$20,000, \$25,000, and \$10,000. By September 2000, a year after closing on this property, we were within \$45,000 of being able to retire the debt entirely.

The impetus for accelerating payments is to avoid paying the full interest costs, if possible. Interest is a necessary part of the land acquisition business, but these costs are reduced if payments can be made aggressively. As a consequence, we sought to bring this project to a close as swiftly as possible and launched our first direct mail campaign. Our CVBT membership responded with gratifying enthusiasm.

By the publication of this newsletter, we had raised enough money to pay off the remaining \$45,000. Member contributions gave us the ability to pay off a five-year note within 15 months! Well done and thanks. No time to rest, though. We will keep moving on.

Donors for Talley Farm A Special Thank You

We have acknowledged your individual contributions for tax purposes, but there is something dramatic about showing the collective effort that makes battlefield success a reality. The following persons and organizations contributed to the fund drive that payed off the Talley Farm note:

5th Regiment, N.H. Volunteers; Mr. Kenneth H. Adams Jr.; Mr. Barton C. Allen; Mr. Edward A. Altemos; American Civil War Round Table, U.K.; Mr. Ronald W. Ammons; Mr. David L. Anderson; Ms. Nancy S. Anwyll; Mr. David W. Armstrong; Ms. Karen M. Arnsdorf; Ms. Meg Aylmer; Dr. G. Russell Aylor Jr.

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continued on page five

On The Kirmish Line

From the President: CVBT Preservation Efforts in 2000

Membership Categories

Annual Member \$35

Active Member \$135

Sustaining Member \$250

> Patron \$500

Benefactor \$1,000

Life Member \$5.000

Life Patron \$10,000

Corporate Member \$500

Corporate Patron \$1,000

his year, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust's activities have ranged across a broad spectrum, some of them successful and others less so. As Y2K dawned, the CVBT was actively involved in preserving yet another portion of the Chancellorsville battlefield. Because this 1863 battleground sites astride the busy State Route 3 corridor (the old Plank Road) the threats to hallowed ground are relentless and immediate. Our interest is in all of the Fredericksburg area battlefields, though, and during the year we were able to extend our efforts to other sites as well.

Our most successful effort this past year was the purchase of 25 acres on the historic Talley Farm. We closed on this property in September 1999 and made our final payment in December 2000. Paying off a five-year note in 15 months has saved the Trust enormous sums in interest and we are glad to be able to direct member donations to purchasing more dirt and grass instead of continued interest payments. This achievement could only have been accomplished through the overwhelming response of our members to a Fall 2000 direct mail campaign (our first ever).

While this victory on the Chancellorsville battlefield's western edge is gratifying, we are still seeking a way to preserve a large amount of property on this battlefield's eastern boundary. The May 1, 1863 battlefield consists of rolling farmland between Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg. This past year, the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors rezoned a portion of this terrain from agricultural to commercial use. Development will begin shortly. The CVBT is interested in acquiring and preserving this

hallowed ground, but the property owner has not been willing to negotiate a price. We will continue to watch this development and be ready to step in if an opportunity presents itself.

We were more successful with a modest project in partnership with the City of Fredericksburg and the National Park Service. We combined our respective resources to develop a small wayside park in Fredericksburg. The site is on the Federal approach to Marye's Heights, along what used to be a canal ditch. The CVBT provided professional design services to plan the park's layout, the National Park Service provided three wayside exhibits, and the City of Fredericksburg undertook the actual park construction (the property is owned by Fredericksburg).

An important part of this wayside park is a bricked plaza and sidewalks. Persons who wish to memorialize a Civil War soldier can do so by purchasing an engraved brick through the Trust. For a donation of \$100, we will acquire the brick with the desired name and other requested information. We will also set the brick in place, in the wayside park, to coincide with Memorial Day. More information on how to buy a brick is contained elsewhere in this newsletter.

Some of the projects we attempted to undertake fell through, but overall the year 2000 was productive. We will continue to carefully track developments, including areas where we have not been successful, but where opportunities still exist. We look forward to giving you the chance to preserve more land in 2001.

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On The Kirmish Line is published for the CVBT membership at 604-A William Street, Suite 1, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. Telephone numbers are 540-374-0900 (local), 888-374-0900 (toll free). The CVBT is

chartered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible. A financial statement is available, upon request, from the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs.

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Fredericksburg Battlefield

Plans to Restore Sunken Road

he National Park Service has announced plans to restore a portion of the Sunken Road on the Fredericksburg battlefield. The section of road between Hanover Street and Lafayette Boulevard is owned by the National Park Service, but the City of Fredericksburg retains a deeded right of passage. If the City will relinguish its access rights, the Park Service will be able to close the road to vehicle traffic and proceed with this major restoration. Park superintendent Sandy Rives has noted: "The Sunken Road is a most profound and hallowed place. This will be one of the most important battlefield restoration

projects ever undertaken in Virginia. Even people who visited before will come back again to see the battlefield in a new light."

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust strongly supports restoration of Sunken Road. Since the completion of a significant new road, only about 275 vehicles a day use this section of road and most of these are park related. Consequently, there is no compelling transportation need for these few blocks. On the other hand, the Sunken Road Unit of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park is the mostvisited historic site in the Fredericksburg area, attracting more than 100,000 visitors each year. Sunken Road and its associated stone wall are among the most famous military landmarks in the world.

Members, and others, who wish to voice an opinion on whether Sunken Road should remain open to vehicle traffic or closed to accommodate historic restoration should contact the City of Fredericksburg. The address is as follows:

Mayor William Beck PO Box 7447 Fredericksburg, VA 22404 e-mail: www.e-fredericksburg.com



The Park Service plan to use historic photos like this May 4, 1863 photo of the Sunken Road (above) to help guide its restoration efforts. (National Park Service Photo)

Honor an Ancestor Buy a Wayside Brick

A wayside park on the Fredericks. Persons who field has been paved in bricks. Persons who wayside park on the Fredericksburg battlewould like to memorialize a Civil War soldier can purchase a brick with the soldier's name and other information, through the CVBT. The cost per individual brick is \$100 and each one can accomodate three lines, with 18 characters per line. Please note, however, that commas, periods, numbers, spaces, and apostrophes count as one character each. In addition, information must necessarily be limited to a soldier's name, rank, unit, and information on the soldier's fate. We reserve the right to abbreviate or move words, to maintain balance and to provide the clearest, most legible, etched brick. To order a brick or for more information, call (540) 374-0900.

Renewal Note

Please check
your mailing
label to see if
your membership is due for
renewal. The
date appears
in the upper
right hand
corner of the
label. Clip out
the renewal form
and send it back.

COME TO FREDERICKSBURG FOR

A Gathering on the Rappahannock: The CVBT 2001 Annual Meeting

he annual meeting of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust on May 5 and 6, 2001, will focus on Civil War sites in and around Fredericksburg—especially the several places at which the Trust has played a major preservation role. As has become traditional, the CVBT Annual Meeting will offer a mixture of education and good fellowship. Saturday afternoon features a trip down the historic Rappahannock on the paddlewheeler City of Fredericksburg, with narration of Civil War highlights en route by historian Erik Nelson. The annual meeting that evening will be hosted in a tent near the historic city dock on the riverside and in the back yard of the "Sentry Box" house. Fredericksburg's Mayor William M. Beck will give the welcome address. Throughout the Saturday evening event, the Trust will be sponsoring a silent auction of Civil War items, including a limited edition print, signed books, and other unique material. On Sunday's tour, Gary Gallagher and Bob Krick will lead a tour by bus and afoot to sites many people never get to visit, including: the Yerby House site, "Belvoir," an important CVBT project (where General Maxcy Gregg died and where Stonewall Jackson sat for his last photograph) and other outstanding Fredericksburg sites. For more information call Carroll Hayden at (540) 898-6626.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELDS TRUST ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MAY 5TH	/ 经有效 医皮肤 医皮肤 医甲基甲基甲基甲基甲基甲基甲基甲基甲基甲基甲基甲基甲基甲基甲基甲基甲基甲基甲基
Noon -2:00 p.m.	River cruise on the City of Fredericksburg with lunch
2:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Walking tour of Fredericksburg with historian Frank A. O'Reilly
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Silent auction at the riverside tent
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Cocktails
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Barbecue-Style Dinner, catered in the tent
8:00 - 8:30 p.m.	CVBT Annual Meeting (election of officers)
SUNDAY, MAY 6TH	
9:00 a.m 3:00 p.m.	Tour of hidden Civil War sites around Fredericksburg
	Bus and walking tour led by Gary Gallagher and Bob Krick
PRICE	
Full weekend package	\$115 members/\$150 nonmembers (includes cruise, tours, Saturday dinner & Sunday
One day package	\$60.00 members/\$80 nonmembers

Saturday night dinner \$20.00 adults/\$36.00 couples/\$10.00 children (under 17)

REGISTRATION DUE BY APRIL 27, 2001

(lunch)

Name			
Address			
CITY, STATE, ZIP			
SIGN ME UP FOR:	□ Weekend Package - \$115 (Mem □ Saturday Package - \$60 (Member □ Sunday Package - \$60 (Member □ Dinner - \$20 (adults) x	BERS) X	Weekend Package - \$150 (non members) x Saturday Package - \$80 (non members) x Sunday Package - \$80 (non members) x (children) x
METHOD OF PAYMENT: CHECK CREDIT CARD NUMBER		☐ VISA	MASTER CARD EXP. DATE

Mail completed form to: Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, c/o Carroll Hayden, 4911 Guinea Station Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

Talley Farm Contributions

continued from page one

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www.cvbt.org

Our web page continues to expand, through the generosity of member Gary Embry. The CVBT web site is well worth a visit and includes an inordinate number of links to other Civil War web sites. Pay us a visit. You will not be disappointed.



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Name		ek & Ms. Prodenck H. M. Springer Starlene : John A. Macres	
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Corporate Member - \$500	Corporate Patron - \$1,000		
METHOD OF PAYMENT:	□ Снеск	☐ VISA	☐ MASTER CARD
CREDIT CARD NUMBER	PA (n. 8. dal), agret 2010, depend la al Armo	Exp. Date	
Signature (required)	dear E. Price: Mr. James 15, Page	A all (man)	

Please return completed renewal form with credit card information or a check payable to: Central Virginia Battlefields Trust.

Mail completed form to: Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, 604A William Street, Suite 1, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

In a constant endeavor to keep our costs down, the CVBT publishes a renewal form in all issues of "On The Skirmish Line". Please check your mailing label to see if your membership is due for renewal and clip out the form above and send it back to our office. If your membership is current, but you know of someone who would like to join, please pass this membership form on to them. The CVBT would be glad to include them in our ever growing list of members.



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