

Vicksburg Campaign Preservation  
Working Conference Attendees

14-15 Feb 1995

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NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
Dennis	Frye	PO Box 1862, Fredericksburg Va 22402 (703-371-1860)
Bob	Mabry	PO Box 1850, Jackson Ms 39125 (601-944-9316)
Amy	Kissane	119 Washington St., Gainesville, Ga 30501 (404-534-0506)
Ken	P'Pool	PO Box 571, Jackson, Ms 39205 (601-359-6940)
Lt. Col. Parker	Hills	Attn: NGMS-CSP PO Box 5027, Jackson Ms 39296 (601-973-6271)
Kenneth D.	Williams	PO Box 1235, Clarksdale, Ms 38614
Elbert R.	Hilliard	PO Box 571, Jackson Ms 39295
Al and Libby	Hollingsworth	1001 Church St., Port Gibson Ms 39150 (601-457-5330)
Steve	Guyton	PO Box 629, Jackson Ms. 39205 (601-352-1355)
Rosemary	Williams	808 Fillmore St., Corinth Ms 38834 (601-287-1328)
Chick	Warner	PO Box 849, Jackson, Ms 39205
Gayle	Brown	PO Box 709, Lake Providence, La 71254
Vincent	DiMattina	7700 Griffin Pond Ct, Springfield Va 22153
Bill	Riedel	416 Beck St, Norfolk Va 23503, (804-587-2655)
Len	Riedel	Box 129, Danville Va 24543 (804-797-4535)
Sarah Amy	Leech	RR1, NT-143, Tupelo Ms 38801 (601-680-4025)
Michael F.	Beard	PO Box 571, Jackson, Ms 39205 (601-359-6947)
Stone D.	Barefield	Box 1894, Hattisburg, Ms 39403
Clifford	Worsham	1117 Washington St, Corinth, Ms 38834 (601-287-0174)
Kenneth R.	Adams	150 Greenoak Dr, Ridgeland Ms. 39157 (601-977-5425)
Bill	Van Cleve	5478 Kaywood Drive, Jackson Ms 39211 (601-982-5501)
Jim	Monk	PO Box 1850, Jackson Ms 39215 (601-359-7685)
Robert D.	Vernon	302 College of Design, LSU, Baton Rouge, La 70803 (504-388-1446)
Constance	Alford	1208 Church St., Port Gibson Ms 39150 (601-877-6271)
Wayne	Mansfield	PO Box 150, Vicksburg, Ms 39181 (601-631-2988)
Rebecca	Shrimpton	PO Box 37127, Ste 250, Washington DC 20013 (202-343-9523)
Leslie	Blythe	RR 1, NT-143, Tupelo Ms 38801 (601-680-4025)
Jeff	Driscoll	Box 1862, Fredericksburg, Va 22402 (703-371-1860)
Bob	Edmiston	Box 1862, Fredericksburg, Va 22402 (703-371-1860)
Nancy	Bell	PO Box 254, Vicksburg, Ms 39181 (601-638-6514)
Bill	Nichols	3201 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Ms 39180 (601-636-0583)
Terry	Winschel	3201 Clay Street, Vicksburg Ms 39180 (601-636-0583)
Elliot	Gruber	1225 Eye St., NW Ste 401 Washington, DC 20005
Tommy	Preston	Rt 2, Box 389, Port Gibson, Ms 39150 (601-437-5911)

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# ***VICKSBURG CAMPAIGN PRESERVATION CONFERENCE***

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***JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 14-15 FEB 1995***

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***CO-SPONSORED BY APCWS AND MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY***

***CONDUCTED BY BLUE AND GRAY EDUCATION  
SOCIETY (BGES)***

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The American Civil War is commemorated on a number of hallowed fields which present a cross section of the significant fields of strife. However, many other sites are located in the footprint of American industrial expansion and are endangered. The national controversy over the construction of a shopping mall on a portion of the Manassas battlefield highlighted an ethical and practical dilemma which is being addressed by several national groups today. The state of the federal budget and its impact on agencies such as the **National Park Service** require an honest reappraisal of how the public and private sectors can work together to address battlefield preservation and interpretation.

In 1994, the **Civil War Sites Advisory Commission** presented its report to Congress. The *Commission* evaluated the significance of the various Civil War battle sites around the country, the threat facing them, and possible solutions to assist in their preservation/interpretation. A key element of this report was a recommendation to expand thematic issues which to date have not received formal recognition in the existing historic presentation. Purposefully absent from the report was any effort to catalogue or address structures of historical significance. It is the purpose of this conference to work from this baseline report and apply it to the Vicksburg Campaign sites, with an eye toward expansion to some sites in Louisiana.

## **ASSUMPTIONS**

1. Preservation of historic properties and structures in conjunction with the development of heritage tourism for this campaign is a legitimate state objective.
2. Preservation of these historically significant sites aids in the development of our military's current and future leaders by permitting them to study pristine sites which are the scenes of some of our military's greatest campaigns.

3. Local property holders are willing to allow access to and limited interpretation of battlefield sites to which they hold title.
4. The responsible government offices at the local, state, and federal level are willing to work in concert to enact appropriate legislation to encourage and facilitate the development of a Vicksburg campaign trail.
5. National preservation groups, representative of the private sector, will be willing to work with the state officials, local officials, and affected property holders to assist in interpreting and funding these resources.
6. The federal government, through the **American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP)** and local NPS employees, will be willing to provide planning support and partnership funding for core programs.

#### SPONSORSHIP

This conference is co-sponsored by the **Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS)** and **Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH)** based on a grant from the **ABPP**. The event is organized and conducted by the **Blue and Gray Education Society (BGES)**.

**APCWS** is America's oldest land trust devoted exclusively to acquisition of deeded interest in real estate possessing significance to the Civil War. **APCWS'** 8700 plus members have participated in the preservation of over 3200 acres at 28 sites in 7 states. The cash value of these lands exceed \$3 million.

**MDAH** is the state's executive office for management of the various historic resources.

**ABPP** is the liaison arm of the **Department of Interior and National Park Service**. Founded by the Secretary of the Interior in 1990, **ABPP** seeks to facilitate preservation and interpretation through partnerships with credible public and private organizations. A limited planning budget is used to assist communities and other related groups in basic planning and interpretation.

**BGES** is a non profit, tax exempt group dedicated to battlefield interpretation, public education, and Civil War scholarship. It works in partnership with established groups to seek funding for interpretation of unsponsored sites which have been acquired for preservation.

#### RELATED GROUPS

There are a number of dedicated and significant groups making dramatic contributions to this campaign. **The Conservation Fund** through the **Mellon Foundation** has acquired significant portions of the Champion Hill battlefield and is working on other sites. **The Jackson Civil War Roundtable** has acquired the Coker house at Champion Hill and is prepared to donate it to the state if funds for restoration can be found. **The Civil War Trust** is a private sector fund raising organization authorized by Congress to catalyze private corporate support for Civil War site preservation and interpretation. It has been charged with the distribution of the proceeds of the 1995 Civil War Commemorative Coins sale conducted by the US Mint. **The National Trust for**

**Historic Preservation** continues to be a formidable force in the acquisition, restoration, and management of historic sites around the country.

## WHY VICKSBURG? WHY NOW?

Last year over 1 million visitors passed through the turnstiles at Vicksburg National Military Battlefield Park. No where else, except perhaps at Manassas and Gettysburg, are more people drawn to the national shrines of our Civil War. Vicksburg and Gettysburg remain inseparable in the minds of many scholars since results of these two titanic events were made known within a day of each other. They represented milestones in the fabled myth of "The High Tide of the Confederacy."

The irony of the Vicksburg site is that it was the terminal point of a much more involved and interesting piece of military maneuver and strategy. It involved combined operations between the army and navy, maneuvers which tested the mettle of those involved, and ultimately culminated in the manipulation of the Confederate forces into a corner from which there was no escape.

An opportunity exists in Mississippi to revisit those sites and tell the story in even more detail. The sites are still relatively pristine, and no serious threat from economic development exists. An opportunity exists to prove heritage tourism is a healthy, vibrant component of a state tourism package.

## OBJECTIVES

This conference should work to identify issues which must be resolved to take advantage of the opportunity:

1. Determine the status of past, ongoing, and projected land preservation efforts,
2. Identify the sites required/desired to start a trail,
3. Determine what vehicles exist to assure the historic integrity of the site is preserved while overcoming obstacles to the development of a heritage trail,
4. Determine possible resources for the development of a heritage trail,
5. Identify key players/agencies for the development of a heritage trail,
6. Devise a target timetable and structure for completion of a heritage trail.

## LIMITATIONS

*This conference cannot resolve issues of federal, state, and local jurisdiction.* The management of resources outside the NPS currently rests with the state and local officials. The potential return of tourist revenues would be a benefit to the state. In the absence of federal legislation, this initiative and conference must assume that the state and its various government agencies will drive the timetable, and determine the viability of this program.

## AGENDA

This is a working conference, as such emphasis will be on a few general sessions and several work groups. We must assume designated briefers will be empowered to not only present the views of the people for which they speak; but, to discuss emerging issues.

Tuesday, 14 Feb 1995

8:30 AM Administrative remarks by Len Riedel, Executive Director BGES

8:35 AM Welcome, APCWS view by Dennis Frye, President APCWS

8:45 AM Overview by Len Riedel

9:00 AM Information briefing on ABPP charter, goals, funding by Rebecca Shrimpton

9:30 AM Break

9:45 AM APCWS preservation, acquisition, management and public access policies by Dennis Frye, President of APCWS

--Petersburg and Lee's Retreat, A multi-county case study

10:15 AM NPS operations in the Vicksburg campaign area by Bill Nichols, Superintendent of Vicksburg NMBP

10:30 AM Status of The Conservation Fund land acquisition efforts, by Francis Kennedy, President of The Conservation Fund

11:00 AM State of Mississippi Civil War Heritage Planning by Michael Beard, Mississippi Department of Archives and History

11:30 AM Lunch on your own

1:00 PM Civil War Trust, Plans and Programs by Elliot Gruber, Director of Development

1:30 PM The Vicksburg Campaign, A Model for Military Study, by Lt Col Parker Hills, Director of Public Affairs Mississippi National Guard

2:00 PM Break

2:15 PM Discuss ground rules for work groups, Len Riedel

2:30 PM Work group sessions with facilitators

3:30 PM Break

4:45 PM Preliminary reports by facilitators

5:00 PM Adjourn

15 Feb 1995

8:30 AM Reconvene

8:45 AM Structures briefings

Coker house at Champion Hill by JCWRT (10 min)

Port Gibson sites (10 min)

Raymond sites (10 min) by Terry Winschel

Jackson sites (10 min) by Terry Winschel

9:45 AM Break

10:00 AM Reconvene work groups

11:00 AM Overview of recommendations of Civil War Sites Advisory Commission and Q & A by Dr William Cooper, Member of Civil War Sites Advisory Commission

12:00 Noon Lunch on your own

1:30 PM Begin to draft work group summaries

3:00 PM Present work group reports in general session (provide 15 min Q&A initially and then continue as required)

4:00 PM Closing remarks Dennis Frye, President of APCWS

#### WORK GROUPS

INTERPRETIVE to include FACILITIES moderated by Major Len Riedel, USAF retired

SITE ACQUISITION AND ACCESS moderated by Jeff Driscoll, Director of Properties, APCWS

TOURISM moderated by Lt Col Vincent DiMattina, USAF retired

#### FOLLOW ON ACTIONS

The results of this conference will be wasted without follow-up action. The State of Mississippi **Department of Archives and History** should be the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) for actions required by this report. We assume this program will be executed in part and that several national nonprofit, and federal agencies will be partners.

The conference report will be available in draft to **APCWS** by 15 April 1995. A final report will be delivered within 30 days after the receipt of APCWS' comments.

REVISION EFFECTIVE: 6 February 1995

## Objectives of the Interpretive Workgroup

- \*Review the status of existing and currently projected interpretive presentations
- \*Identify the sites desired/required to effectively interpret the Vicksburg Campaign
  - \*\*Determine if the current state of the sites is historically accurate as is
  - \*\*If the sites are not as they were, could they easily be returned to that state?
  - \*\*What easements would be required to preserve the site in historically accurate condition?
- \*Produce a strawman scenario for site interpretations
  - \*\*What should be there? Signs? Cannon? Walking trail? Revised brochure? Audiotape? others
- \*Who can and should be the historical lead? Who else should be involved?
- \*Assuming availability of resources, when could this be done?
  - \*\*What is the NPS' policy concerning historical markers? the state's?
  - \*\*Who does markers locally (within Mississippi) and what do they cost?
  - \*\*Who is the approval authority for erection of historical markers?
  - \*\*Who is responsible for the maintenance of markers after they are erected?



## Objectives for the Site Acquisition and Access Workgroup

- \*Review the current ownership of significant sites relating to the campaign
    - \*\*Who manages or owns the sites?
    - \*\*What easements or tax relief might be required to ensure access to the sites?
    - \*\*Are any acquisition or easement efforts in progress to change this matrix?
    - \*\*Are any existing structures significant to the historic presentation of the site?
  - \*Determine the accessibility of the sites
    - \*\*Are the key sites readily accessible from existing public highways?
    - \*\*Do roadside pull offs or exhibits exist to mark the site? If not what would be required to construct them? Could they safely accommodate buses? and cars?
    - \*\*Are existing roads able to accommodate tour traffic? Do any need modification i.e. widening or surface work?
    - \*\*Could tourists conveniently walk to the sites with a trail loop of say 1/2 to 1 mile? Do trails exist? Who has the authority to approve/fund them?
    - \*\*Are the areas safe? Is there a heavy infestation of snakes or other wildlife which could create a liability issue?
  - \*Determine what public and private groups assets may be available to fund these efforts
    - \*\*Is state transportation money available to support improvements?
    - \*\*Is further property acquisition required? Who might be involved in that effort?
    - \*\*Are federal funds available to assist in solving these problems?
    - \*\*By what mechanism can the state assist in funding and ensuring access?
- Budget? tax relief? easements?
- \*Who are the key people in making this happen?
  - \* What is the budgetary and legislative lead times for funding these projects?

## Objectives for the Tourism Workgroup

- \*Catalogue current efforts to market the Vicksburg Campaign
  - \*\*What is currently spent to promote Civil War Tourism in Mississippi? What is the future plan? What media are used ? Is there any feedback on the effectiveness?
  - \*\*What indigenous publications have been produced to assist tourists in transversing the Vicksburg Campaign sites?
  - \*\*What role have local counties and cities taken in promoting their Civil War Heritage? Are there any protective zoning or easements in force?
- \*What visitor facilities are available to support tourist inquiries about the Vicksburg Campaign trail?
  - \*\*Are existing sites available? Easily discovered? and in safe parts of the town?
  - \*\*Is interpretive signage available and in a good state of repair?
  - \*\*Within cities/towns are walking tours available and published?
- \*What visitor amenities are available? Quality hotels, Bed and Breakfast, eateries, bookstores featuring Civil War titles? Antique shops?
- \*Does the actual visitor experience mirror the implied experience presented by advertising? In other words will people easily get the Civil War experience or is the infrastructure not equal to advertisements?
  - \*\*How can this be fixed?
  - \*\*Is county or local government/citizenry prepared to get involved?
  - \*\*What local agencies might be able to measure economic impact?



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**JAMES B. HEIDEL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

February 20, 1995

Mr. Len Riedel  
Blue and Gray Education Society  
Post Office Box 129  
Danville, VA 24543-0129

Dear Len:

I have enclosed a copy of our video tape that deals the most on the civil war. There are a couple of other tapes that deal with history and culture that also touch on the war, but only in passing.

Our Civil war promotion efforts in Fy94 (7/1/93 - 6/30/94) was \$128,545.74 which breaks out as \$30,496.48 for ad placement in America's Civil War, Civil War, and Civil War Times Illustrated. \$73,026.84 for the development, production and printing of our Civil War Guide. Our Contribution to the cost of the Vicksburg Campaign Brochure was \$ 8,000.00. We received the following number of inquiries on our 1-800 WARMEST number from the ads placed. America's Civil War - 956; Civil War - 164; and Civil War Times Illustrated - 1277. The cost of inquiry was  $(\$30,496.48 / 2397) = \$12.72$ .

FY95 media placement cost is \$23,848.00 in the same media. Some of the ads will not be shown until this spring and summer. As of the end of January we have received 1052 inquiries at a cost of  $(\$23,848.00 / 1052) = \$22.66$ .

I hope this is all of the information you need, if not, please let me know what more you need and I'll be happy to see if it is available. If there is anything I can do for you please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, or our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Warner".

Glover C. Warner