

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION DINNER-MEETING

On July 18, 1987, there will be a meeting of individuals interested in organizing an association to preserve Virginia's Civil War battlefields. Information about the meeting is as follows:

Date: Saturday, July 18, 1987

Time: 6:30 -- Social hour
7:00 -- Dinner
8:00 -- Meeting
10:00 -- Adjournment

Place: Arbuckles Restaurant
Fredericksburg, Virginia (see map below)

Menu: Stuffed chicken Beverages
Rice pilov Rolls
Salad Dessert

Price: \$10.00/person to be paid that evening
Price includes tax and tip.

Those wishing a menu different from that shown above may make individual arrangements with the restaurant upon arrival. If you intend to make such arrangements, please note this on the form below.

If you plan to attend, fill out the information at the bottom of the page and send it to:

Donald C. Pfanz
Battlefield Preservation Dinner
B1-208
310 Woodbine Street
Hopewell, Virginia 23860

Please reply no later than July 4, 1987.

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Yes, I plan to attend the Battlefield Preservation Meeting to be held on July 18, 1987, in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Name:

Number in party:

Bob our address will be P.O. Box 23
Arbington, VA. 22210
(They cannot allow anyone to choose a box # but we did get
a "law #").

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Minutes of a Meeting to Establish a
Civil War Battlefield Preservation
Organization

On Saturday, July 18, 1987 a meeting of concerned Civil War scholars was held at Arbuckle's Restaurant in Fredericksburg, Virginia in order to establish an organization dedicated to saving our remaining Civil War battlefields from destruction. There were 27 individuals in attendance.

After dinner the meeting was called to order. Brian Pohanka of the Chantilly Battlefield Association described the plight of Civil War battlefields in the face of expanding urban development, and noted the loss of fields like Salem Church and Chantilly. He emphasized the importance of saving those sites which remain, and the importance of establishing a non-profit organization that would actively pursue this goal through fund-raising and land acquisition.

Donald Pfanz described the origins of the meeting. He noted that a smaller group had met earlier at the home of Will Greene to set the direction for the meeting, and this group, with Dr. Gary Gallagher as chairman, was functioning as a "steering committee" prior to incorporation. John P. Ackerly III of the Richmond Civil War Round Table will file the necessary articles of incorporation.

Bob Krick spoke on the nature of the organization and stressed the necessity of excluding employees of the National Park Service from holding senior positions or being key officers within the organization; that this organization was in no way to be misconstrued as an organ of the National Park Service. He also emphasized that we were not intended to supplant or compete with any existing preservation organization such as those as Antietam and Gettysburg, or with the Civil War Round Table Association and the Friends of Virginia Civil War Parks. Bob also outlined a suggested structure for the organization, and the need for sub-committees to evaluate the threats to Civil War sites on a regional level.

Dr. Gary Gallagher was introduced as the Chairman of the Steering Committee, and briefly noted the purposes of our organization: To protect Civil War sites in the Eastern theater through fee acquisitions or other strategies, with the ultimate intention of ensuring their perpetual preservation. Gary then chaired a general discussion of the issues at hand.

After a good deal of discussion the name of the organization was unanimously approved as The Association For the Preservation of Civil War Sites (Inc.)

The cost of membership dues was discussed, with a general feeling being that dues in the \$10 to \$15 range were preferable to a rate of \$25 or more. Student and possibly Contributor or Patron status was also discussed.

Among other issues covered in the general discussion were the decision to initially confine our preservation efforts to the Eastern Theater of the Civil War. We did not rule out the eventual expansion of our efforts. The importance of educating and informing Civil War buffs and the Public as to the nature of impending threats was noted, as was the possible need for a paid staff.

Edward Wenzel of the Chantilly Battlefield Association described the activities of The Nature Conservancy, an established and successful organization that has raised a great deal of money through corporate as well as individual contributions. He suggested that a delegation from our Association meet with officials of the Nature Conservancy to seek constructive suggestions and ideas.

Dennis Frye of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation discussed the potential uses of the American Farm Land Trust in preserving battlefield properties, and Kenneth Bako noted the existence of a Washington-based Preservation Action organization and our need to secure proper easements on property we may eventually acquire.

John Ackerly noted that the Governor of Virginia had recently appointed a Virginia Historic Preservation Commission and suggested that members of our organization attend the various regional hearings that will be held throughout the state.

Following the conclusion of the dinner meeting, the Steering Committee met to assess the results of the meeting and to set our course for the next several months.

For purposes of incorporation and application for tax exempt status, the initial directors of the association will be the members of the Steering Committee : John P. Ackerly III, Dennis E. Frye, Gary W. Gallagher, A. Wilson Greene, Robert K. Krick, Donald C. Pfanz, Brian C. Pohanka, and Edward T. Wenzel.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee was set for September 6, 1987.


Brian C. Pohanka
Acting Secretary