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A HISTORY OF
FORT DONELSON NATIONAL MILITARY PARK
TENNESSEE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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HISTORY OF FORT DONELSON NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

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HISTORY OF FORT DONELSON NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING

Fort Donelson National Military Park is located in Stewart County in the northwestern corner of Middle Tennessee. The park is located on the western bank of the Cumberland River, one mile from the town of Dover, the county seat of Stewart County, which is the mid-point between Clarksville and Paris, Tennessee and Murray Kentucky. At the nearest point the park is 1 1/2 miles from the Kentucky State line. It is 13 miles from the Tennessee River, which forms Kentucky Lake.

Physiographically, Stewart County is entirely within the Highland Rim section of the Interior Low Plateau which lies west of the Appalachian Highlands and extends from the Western Cumberland escarpment to the Tennessee River and from Northern Alabama to the Ohio River. 1/

Much of the county is an old upland plain which has been dissected by the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers and their tributaries into narrow steep sloped ridges alternated with "U" shaped valleys. The Highland Rim ranges in elevation from 1,100 feet above sea level to less than 700 feet in the western part. 2/

Tennessee is not a simple region geographically. It extends from the Appalachians to the flood plains of

the Mississippi River. This expanse of territory includes eight distinct regions and is clearly divided into three general parts. East Tennessee includes the East Tennessee Valley and the flanking mountains on East and West. Middle Tennessee comprises a great basin with its surrounding highlands terminating in the Mississippi River lowlands. 3/

Stewart County, like all counties on the Highland Rim, has a high elevation above the sea and is drained by numerous rapid streams. The Cumberland River enters the south-eastern corner of the county and runs approximately in a northwesterly direction until it reaches a point beyond Dover, where it turns and runs nearly north, paralleling the Tennessee River which bounds the western side of the county. Between the Tennessee and Cumberland River is an elevation called Tennessee Ridge. 4/

This is the water shed between the two streams. Numerous subordinate ridges extend from this main one, more or less parallel with each other, between which numerous streams descend on the west to the Tennessee, and on the east to the Cumberland. The region between the river is much broken and, aside from the valleys bordering the streams, is of but small agricultural importance. On the northeast side of the Cumberland the country is more level, and some rich areas are found remote from

the streams. The surface of the county grows more level as one travels back from the rivers, until in the northeastern part of the county, it is highly fertile, and unsurpassed by any portion of the Highland Rim in its attraction for the farmer and in the advantages it offers the industrious. 5/

The river valley has an average width of about one mile and deviates from this width only slightly in the entire length of its course through the county. The general level of the valley is 360 to 380 feet. 6/

Most of the valley is nearly level, but short deep steep slopes mark the boundary line between the first bottom lands and the low terrace lands. The Cumberland River valley proper includes about 17,000 acres, and the adjoining high terrace includes about 1500 acres. 7/

Climate of the region is a temperate, continental type. Summers are long and warm and winters are short and open. Extreme weather conditions are rare, and temperatures and moisture conditions are generally favorable for the growth of a wide variety of crops and pasture land. 8/

Fort Donelson is located on the western bluffs of the Cumberland River, between Hickman Creek on the south and Lick Creek on the north, with Indian Creek cutting through the center of the area. All of these streams are

tributerics of the Cumberland.

These geographical conditions have contributed to the rural pattern of life that has been followed by the residents of the county for many years. Dark fired tobacco is the principal money crop, with wheat, hay and corn as subordinate crops.

There has been no industrial development over the years and many of the features of the fort area have remained undisturbed since the battle of Fort Donelson. The rugged terrain surrounding the park, has not encouraged agricultural development. Thus the rifle pits and earth-works in and around the fort have remained unchanged and are in a remarkable state of preservation.

PREHISTORIC MAN IN THE FORT DONELSON AREA

The first inhabitants of Middle Tennessee, belong~~ed~~ to a race of people called Mound Builders, because of the mounds or monuments they erected and left behind. No one knows their place of origin, how long they remained, or where they went. That they were quite numerous is evident from the fact that around many of the lasting springs, and in various localities along the water courses early immigrants found acres of graves containing their remains. These burial places gave evidence of having been made long before the advent of the whites, possibly several hundred years before the beginning of the 17th century. 9/

The discoveries made by antiquarians tend to the belief that the vanished race which immediately preceded the Indians was a gentle, happy race living mostly in the beautiful valley and attractive plains of Tennessee. The zenith of their civilization must have been reached several hundred years before the Spaniards came to America. Having reached this pinnacle they perhaps excited the envy of a more virile, if less enlightened race or tribe, and they were either extinguished or absorbed. 10/

The Shawnees were the first identifiable tribe of Indians to settle in Middle Tennessee. They journeyed from a region surrounding the Great Lakes about 1650 and built their villages along the banks of the Cumberland. The boundaries of these settlements extended north to what is now the Kentucky line, and as far west as the Tennessee River. Until the time of their coming the country now comprising Kentucky and Middle Tennessee had been held as neutral territory by the Indians, and was used as a common hunting ground by the Iroquois on the north and by the tribes comprising the Mobilian race on the south. Chief among the latter were the Creeks, Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaw and Seminoles. 11/

The Shawnees were of the Algonquin tribal family, a part of the powerful Iroquois Confederacy, and are called by historians the "Gypsies of the Forest". There was among

them a tradition that their ancestors were of foreign birth, and had come to America from over the seas. Until a short time before their advent into the region of the Cumberland, they had made yearly sacrifices in thanksgiving for their safe arrival after a long and dangerous voyage. They had been once wealthy and powerful, but following a natural inclination to roam, were now weakened by division into bands, some one of which at various times resided in almost every portion of the United States. The Indians with whom they came in contact, having no written language and no definite rules of pronunciation, called them by various names, such as Shawnees, Sewancees, Suwances, Savannahs, Satanas and many others of like sound. These names the Shawnees generously gave to the villages, rivers and mountains of the land through which they traveled. While living along the Cumberland they explored the whole of Middle Tennessee and gave their name to Sewanee Mountain, on which is now located the University of the South.

12/

Another tradition, if true, explains their location on the Cumberland. According to this legend a large party of them were moving south in search of new fields of adventure. Arriving at Cumberland Gap in East Tennessee they halted to rest and to council as to their future course. After much discussion; it was found they could not agree, whereupon a part of the band pursued the well

known trace through the mountains of East Tennessee south into Georgia, and Florida, while the other portion directed its journey toward the west, there founding the Cumberland settlements. 13/

However the Shawnees stay in the valley of the Cumberland was of comparatively short duration. Angered by the Shawnees continued occupancy of the common hunting ground, their nearest neighbors the Cherokees, Creeks and Chickasaws, laid plans for their expulsion. After a short but bloody war the Shawnees were driven north and again became a wandering tribe among the Iroquois. 14/

The Shawnees were the last permanent Indian residents of Middle Tennessee, but the area continued to be held as common property by neighboring tribes until the white settler came upon the scene a century later.

15/

Finally the Cherokees, Chickasaws, and Creeks ceded all their lands to the whites, and, together with all the Southern tribes, were removed to the Indian Territory across the Mississippi River, where they have made remarkable progress in civilization, and have become the wealthiest nation of the world in proportion to population.

16/

The blue flint mines found near Fort Donelson furnished another valuable product used by the Indians.

Several of these mines are still in evidence today as they were when the Indians last mined flint. These mines are of two types; one that required excavation and the other produced rock on the surface. The flint was mined in large blocks called "blanks". These blanks were then later transformed into arrow heads or other implements the Indians used. 17/

COMING OF THE WHITE MAN

Charles V commissioned Hernando DeSoto as the Governor of Florida and he landed on the coast of Florida in the summer of 1539. DeSoto's exploration of the surrounding country led him into Middle Tennessee.

In the spring of 1541, DeSoto crossed the Mississippi near the Indian village of Chisca, which was situated on the Chickasaw Bluffs, where Memphis now stands. 18/

From the expulsion of the Shawnee to the coming of the permanent settlement by the white man in 1779, the region now embraced in Middle Tennessee was indeed a hunters paradise. Through its valleys and over its hills roamed countless herds of buffalo, deer, and elk. Within its forest and canebreaks bear, wolves, panthers, bobcats, foxes and other wild animals in great numbers found a home. 19/

The French were the earliest tradesmen in Middle

Tennessee. The first to appear was Charles Charleville who, in 1714, built his fort on a mound near the present site of Nashville. 20/

However, Charleville did not remain long and in 1740 Middle Tennessee was again without a single white resident. 21/

In the years following the departure of Charleville and his band no white adventures came to disturb the peaceful serenity of the hunting ground until 1748 when, in the latter part of the year, Doctor Thomas Walker led a party of hunters across the mountains from Virginia. Walker was a surveyor and explorer of renown, and is described as a man of mark among the pioneers..... Finding a beautiful mountain stream flowing across their course they called it Cumberland River in honor of the Duke of Cumberland who was then Prime Minister of England. 22/

Late in the summer of 1760 a strange craft appeared on the Cumberland just below French Lick----- on deck stood a tall, athletic, man with broad shoulders, long arms and an eagle eye.----The craft proved to be a French trading boat heavily laden with merchandise. The strangely attired individual in command was Timothy DeMonbreun, a French soldier who had come to establish a fort in the wilderness.----After the first season his family came to live with him in a cave, and here was born

his son, William DeMonbreun long an honored citizen of Williamson County, where many years ago he died, leaving a large family and a fine estate. William DeMonbreun was probably the first white child born in Middle Tennessee.

23/

In 1764 Daniel Boone the renowned hunter and explorer, who is popularly accredited with having led the vanguard of civilization into the western wilderness came on a short expedition into the eastern portion of Middle Tennessee. 24/

The year 1769 witnessed the coming of the largest party of white men in Middle Tennessee. They were organized in June for the purpose of hunting game and exploring in the country west of the mountains and were afterwards called "Long Hunters" because of the length of time they were away from home. They continued in the region until the spring of 1770, when some of them returned home. Others, led by James Knox went farther north into the Kentucky Country. 25/

In the fall of 1771 Kasper Manker led another party of adventurers into the wilds of Middle Tennessee. Arriving at what is now Sumner County, Manker's party pitched its station or camp close to a creek. 26/

Among the most noted of these early pioneers was Thomas Sharp Spencer. He came in 1776, and remained

until the arrival of permanent settlers in 1779. 27/

Other noted pioneers of the period 1770-1795 who came to hunt, explore, survey and look for homes were; John Holliday, James Robertson, John Rains, Abraham Bledsoe, Erish Stone and Richard Hogan. Captain John Donelson made a voyage down the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers which began February 22, 1780 arriving near Nashville two months later.

Settlements were not started in Stewart County until 1795 although many of the early pioneers passed through the area as they traveled along the Cumberland.

Stewart County was settled principally by North Carolinians, the first of whom came some time about 1795, that State having issued military grants to survivors of the Revolutionary War giving them large tracts of land lying in this county. 28/

Among the first settlers of the county were George Petty, Samuel A. Smith, Brittain Sexton, James Andrews, Samuel Boyt and Elisha Dawson, all of whom came from North Carolina about 1795. 29/

George Petty entered business along the banks of the Cumberland River near the present town of Dover while the others settled in various parts of the county and became farmers. These names became prominent in the early history of Stewart County and many of their ancestors still reside in the place of original settlement.

PRINCIPAL EVENTS OF THE COLONIAL PERIOD

The territory now called Tennessee was claimed by France, England, and Spain, however, none of these made a sustained effort to take possession. The territory was left to the many bitter intertribal conflicts of the Indians who claimed it for a hunting ground.

Andrew Lewis was dispatched by the Governor of South Carolina to build a fort at the head of navigation on the Little Tennessee River in 1756, about 30 miles from the present site of Knoxville. It was called Fort Loudon and was the first structure erected in Tennessee by Anglo Americans. 30/

The French succeeded in inciting the Indians against the English until the close of the French and Indian War. The close of the French and Indian War was followed by the treaty of Paris, by which France surrendered to England her claim to all territory east of the Mississippi River. Thus England emerged victorious over France, her arch rival for a colonial empire, and by the same treaty obtained the Florida territory from Spain. This removed all of England's rival claimants to Tennessee from the scene except the Indians.

Following the treaty of 1763 between Britain and France, Great Britain became interested in perfecting the organization of her empire. Political leaders desired

to strengthen the bonds of the empire and in so doing planned in a series of acts, to curtail the growing tendency toward self government in the colonies and end the conflicts between white and red men. One of these acts, under England's Prime Minister Greenville, was the Proclamation of 1763 which forbade further settlement of the western lands. This particular act, although unsuccessful in halting the western migration, had more effect on Tennessee than any of the other anti-colonial legislation.

The colonist did not obey the Proclamation of 1763 any better than they observed the Navigation Acts. Settlers began to edge toward the West and in time crossed the mountains into the Ohio country. Farther south, hardy frontiersmen reached the main ranges of the Appalachians near the junction of North Carolina and Virginia in the 1760's. Soon other settlers were crossing the mountains along the "Wilderness Road" that had been blazed by Daniel Boone. Outstanding was John Sevier, of French Huguenot descent, who was to become one of the great names in Tennessee history. 31/

The Revolutionary War had little effect on this section of Tennessee, as it was after 1783 that the white man began to exert his influence in the area. As the eastern seaboard became settled, adventuresome people

began to look for new land, new homes, and new riches west of the mountains, thus the western migration began. Settlers passed through Cumberland Gap down the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers into Stewart County and then the Indian and white man faced each other as each fought for his right to make his home here. Thus, the close of the Colonial period brought a new movement in American History, as the white man searched for new lands to conquer on the vast unknown North American continent.

AMERICAN PERIOD

The one conspicuous success of the Continental Congress was the establishment of the public land system of the United States. Originally all the land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River was claimed by Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Virginia, Georgia, North and South Carolina. In 1790 North Carolina ceded to the Federal Government all the claim to western lands that included present boundaries of Tennessee.

On June 1, 1796 the State of Tennessee, comprising approximately the present boundaries, was admitted to the Union. By a bill approved by President Washington... Tennessee became a member of the Federal Union---the first member erected out of a territory of the United States, and included 15 counties, one of which was Montgomery.

The act creating Stewart County bears the date of November 1, 1803 and was passed while the Legislature

was sitting at Knoxville. The act provided that Montgomery County be divided by a line which should commence in the Kentucky Line 13 miles west of the meridian of Clarksville, Tennessee, and run south to the southern boundary of the State. All the territory west of the line was "constituted a separate and distinct county, called and distinguished by the name of Stewart". It was named in honor of Duncan Stewart, an energetic and prosperous farmer. The county at that time embraced a vast domain, running westward as far as the Tennessee River and south to the Alabama line. It embraced the present counties of Houston, Humphreys, Perry, Wayne and a part of Hardin and Lewis. 32/

On November 1, 1803, the legislature passed an act in which a commission was appointed to select the County seat. In 1805 thirty acres were purchased from Robert Nelson and a county seat laid out. Although the act creating the county specified that the name of this county seat should be Monroe it was nevertheless called Dover.* The court house was completed by June 1806, and was a long double-log building one story in height, and cost about \$600.00. The jail was also a log building, and cost about half the sum expended on the court house. 33/

*General belief of many of the students of early history of Stewart County is that the trade name of the iron produced in this area, "Dover Iron", was adopted.

In 1818 upon the cession of the Chickasaw title to the "Western District", as West Tennessee was then called, the jurisdiction of the county extended to the Mississippi River, and covered over 1,200 square miles, or more than a fourth of the state. Deeds made for property in the Western District were recorded in Stewart, until the district was surveyed and formally organized into counties on November 7, 1821. Thirteen more counties were authorized by the Legislature to be established in the Chickasaw territory and that period Stewart County was shorn of much of its glory. 34/

In 1856 a plot was discovered among the slaves of Stewart County for a general uprising of the race and the striking of a blow for freedom. A feeling of unrest and apprehension had prevailed among the white people throughout 1854 and 1855, it being evident to a careful observer that mischief was brewing among the slaves. They would hold meetings on Sundays and at night in secret places, and were instigated by several white men who claimed to be preachers. The plot was disclosed to the white citizens in December, 1856, and a vigilance committee was at once organized at Dover, slaves from all parts of the county were arrested and carried before the committee, and under threats of severe punishment or death were made to confess. The plot was that on a given day the slaves would arise, overpower their masters, arm themselves,

push across the county to Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and then march into Ohio where they would be free. Six of the ringleaders were captured and hung by the vigilantes at Dover a few days before Christmas, 1856, and a large number were severely whipped. To make the execution of the negroes a more impressive object lesson a citizen of Dover cut off the heads of the dead slaves, and, holding them on poles, paraded the streets during the day of the hanging displaying the gory objects to the terrified negro population. 35/

CIVIL WAR PERIOD

After the first shots of the War Between the States had been fired at Fort Sumter Governor Isham Harris issued a call for volunteers. This found the people of Stewart County in a fever of excitement, and ready for almost any emergency. Three companies were formed during the spring of 1861 and reported to Camp Quarles, Montgomery County, where they joined the Fourteenth Tennessee Regiment, then undergoing instruction and making preparations for going to the front in the pending Virginia Campaigns. 36/

In an early search for a location of defensive forts on the Cumberland River, a survey party led by Mr. Adna Anderson, one of the South's ablest engineers, went into Kentucky several miles down river from the present



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Rifle pits.



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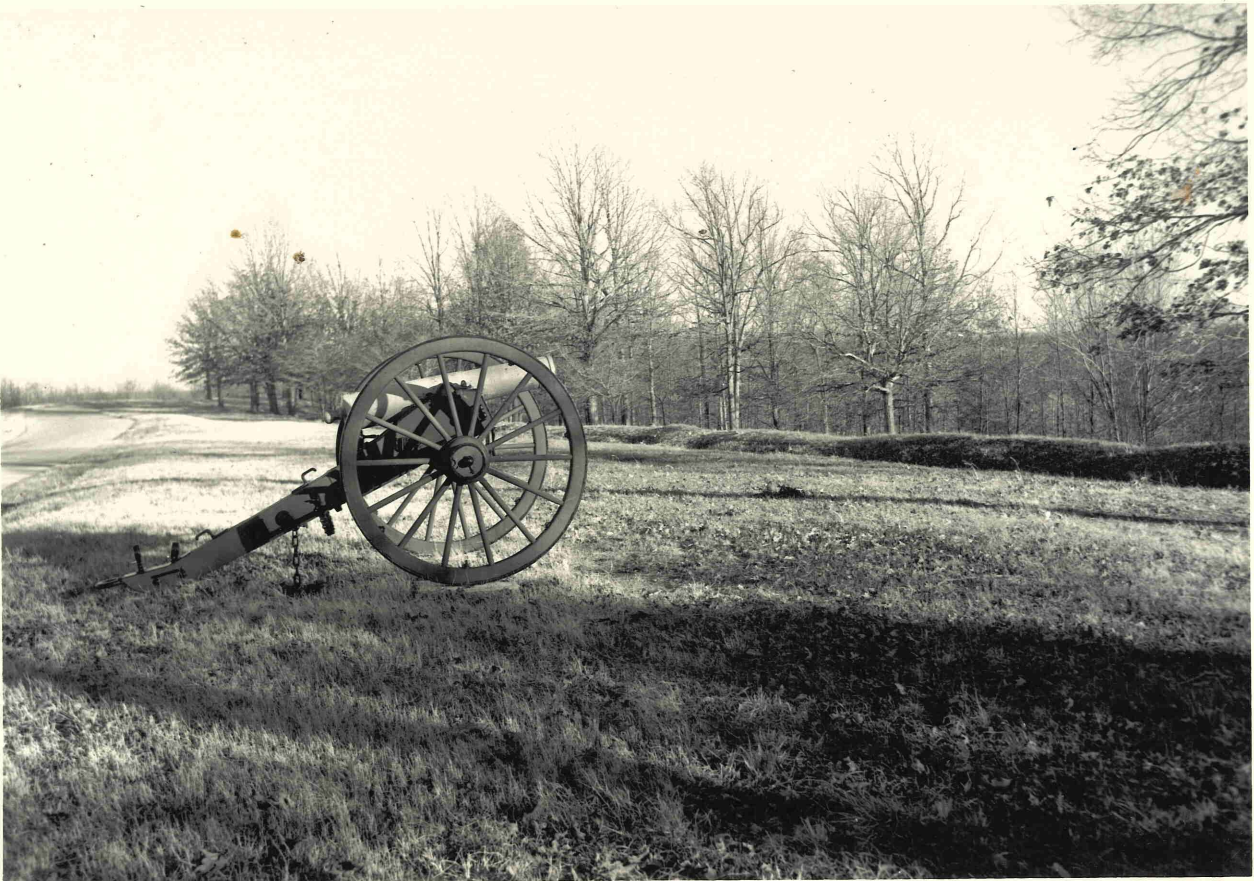


The Moat at entrance to Fort Donelson.



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Rifle Pits, (outer works), Confederate left

Photo - 1959

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location of Fort Donelson. However, as each state chose sides it became evident that Kentucky was reluctant to secede from the Union. Although strategically there were more desirable sites inside the Kentucky border, it proved more feasible politically to locate the fort in Tennessee, for fear of forcing Kentucky into the Federal ranks.

The life of Dover and the surrounding community was interrupted when the survey crew of Major Jermy Gilmer appeared on the morning of May 10, 1861, and soon afterwards actual construction of the fort was begun. General Daniel Donelson (a nephew of Andrew Jackson) was sent to inspect the site and as a result the name Donelson was acquired by the fort.

The Fiftieth Tennessee Regiment was organized at Dover in the fall of 1861, five companies being made up from Stewart County citizens. The regiment was ordered to garrison the fort, and at once took up their quarters inside the walls, erecting log huts in which to live. 37/

The parallel courses of the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers is probably one of the greatest geographical curiosities in the United States. While their headwaters are close together they pursue widely separate courses for a distance of several hundred miles. But when they enter Stewart County traveling toward the Ohio River they

again run a parallel course for more than 100 miles and at one point are separated by only six miles. This geographical accident caused Fort Henry on the Tennessee River to be a sister fort to Donelson and serve as a prelude to the battle of Fort Donelson.

Fort Donelson and Fort Henry, part of a chain of earthen forts which were constructed to prevent an invasion of the South by the Federals, also protected the great iron industry of the Dover area. The works at Fort Donelson consists of a series of rifle pits, protected by an abatis extending in a huge semi-circle with its northern and southern flanks anchored in the Cumberland, and the town of Dover in the center. The semi-circular defenses enclosed the fort proper and the water batteries on the river front. The water batteries were placed to prevent the gunboats from passing up the river to Nashville.

On February 6, 1862, the silence was shattered by the booming of the guns at Fort Henry indicating a battle was in progress. Before nightfall of the same day the garrison from Fort Henry began to arrive at Donelson, as General Tilghman, the commander of Fort Henry, realized he could not hold the fort ordered the garrison to leave for Donelson and with approximately one hundred men held

the fort to allow their escape. After a two hour battle Fort Henry capitulated to the Union gunboats.

After the fall of Fort Henry, General Ulysses S. Grant moved overland and on February 12 and 13, 1862, invested Fort Donelson on the west and south, with a force of 27,000 men. In the meantime Commodore Andrew H. Foote, transferred his fleet from the Tennessee to the Cumberland River, and on February 14, 1862, attacked the water batteries. The flotilla consisted of 4 iron clads and 2 wooden gunboats. After a two hour battle, in which all four iron clads were seriously damaged and the two wooden gunboats were ineffective, Foote was compelled to retire.

Grant knowing that further assistance from the fleet could not be expected, decided to encamp his army around the fort and prepare for a lengthy siege. Within the Fort, however, General John Floyd, the Commander; General Gideon Pillow, and General Simon Buckner with approximately 21,000 troops believing they were trapped behind their own fortifications, determined to break through the Union line and escape to Nashville. On the morning of the 15th when the first call of the Union bugle was ringing on the cold winter air, the Union soldiers were awakened by the crash of gunfire on their right flank as the Confederate gray line came charging from the earthworks to the attack. By mid-afternoon the Union right flank had been swept from the field and the route to

Nashville lay open for the taking. But, due to improper planning and indeciveness, General Floyd permitted General Pillow to order the victorious troops back into the trenches.

During the night the Confederate leaders, in council, agreed to surrender to prevent further loss of life. Command of the army was passed to General Buckner who, upon accepting Grant's^{IN} famous ultimatum of "Unconditional Surrender", turned the garrison of between 12,000 and 15,000 troops over to the Union Command on Sunday morning, the 16th day of February 1862.

After the fall of Fort Donelson, the gunboats preceeded up the Cumberland River toward Nashville and destroyed the rolling mill and the original iron furnace at Bear Spring. The fall of Fort Donelson stopped nearly all iron production in Middle Tennessee for the duration of the war.

The Federals decided to hold Dover, and erected and garrisoned a new fort up river and nearer the town. 38/

On two occasions during 1863, Confederate cavalry, first under General Woodard and then under General Wheeler and Forrest, attempted to drive the Federals from Dover. They were unsuccessful in each attack. During these two skirmishes the entire town of Dover, with the exception of four houses, was destroyed. Buildings left standing were the Robertson and Hobing hotels, and two buildings,



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One of the three original buildings left after the Confederate Cavalry raided Dover in 1863.



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Robertson Hotel, one of the original Civil War buildings.

one frame and one brick, near the public square. Three of the four buildings are still standing today. The Hobing House was the building in which the surrender was signed. Throughout the war the county was overrun with guerillas and jayhawkers who caused much loss of life and property. During 1863 James Gray an aged and well-to-do farmer, was visited by jayhawkers, who believed he had money secreted about his house, after refusing to give them money, he was tortured by placing his feet in the fire, but the old farmer had no money on hand. 39/

In 1870 the present jail and courthouse was constructed. The courthouse cost about \$14,000.00. 40/

Dover had been incorporated by an act of the General Assembly of Tennessee, passed in 1836. The act was allowed to elapse and has been revived several times. A new act was passed in 1953 and the town of Dover is governed by that act today.

STEWART COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

The first newspaper established in Stewart County was the Dover Record, the first number of which was issued February 2, 1870, Mr. James P. Flood was editor and propreitor. The Record was a five column folio of Democratic proclivities. On July 1, 1870, the Record was enlarged to a six-column folio, and on the 30th of the following September another column was added. The Record

was suspended in June, 1877, and on September 14, of the same year, the Dover Courier was established by C. W. Crockett. The Courier was also a seven-column folio, and like its predecessor it was Democratic. 41/

The Stewart County Times was the successor to the Dover Courier from 1921 to 1949 when the Clarksville Leaf Chronicle of Clarksville, Tennessee became the owner of the paper and the name was changed to the Stewart-Houston County Times.

SCHOOLS

A subscription school was opened in Dover by John Ferrell in 1806. In 1820 a brick building was erected but destroyed during the Civil War by the Federals. In 1830 a school in which all the lower branches were taught was established, and in 1840 a male and female academy in which all the higher branches were taught was established by Professor McDougal. This was a brick building which cost about \$2,500.00. 42/

In 1918 a two story frame building was constructed and was known as Dover High School. It was used for all 12 grades until 1949 when a modern brick high school was built at the cost of \$400,000.00 and is known as Stewart County High School. In 1956 a modern brick elementary school was constructed near the present high school at the cost of \$194,000.00

EARLY TRANSPORTATION

Prior to the building of the railroads, Dover, on the basis of population, was the most important town in Tennessee, and was, the most flourishing iron manufacturing district south of the Ohio River. It also had the best transportation facilities of any place in the state. There were fourteen blast furnaces, two forges, and an immense rolling mill. Steamboats of the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers carried the products to market, and Dover was the clearing house for this traffic. 43/

There was an important stage line running from Clarksville through Dover to Paris. Dover was the convention town for this part of the state, due to its accessibility by means of the steamboats of two rivers and the stage line. 44/

PATTERNS OF POPULATION

Many of the first settlers were of Scotch-Irish descent and most of the present population is descended from these early settlers. Immediately following the Civil War, however, several Swiss Immigrants families settled in the northeastern part of the county and a few Germans and Sweds made their homes near Cumberland City. A few families of Indian descent are in the vicinity of Indian Mound. The Negro population has always been relatively small. 45/

The early growth of the population was slow.

The population increased from 4,262 in 1810 to 12,019 in 1870 and reaches a maximum of 15,224 in 1900. Since that time population has declined slightly, the natural increase being offset mainly by migrations to northern industrial cities. The recent removal of approximately 600 families from the Fort Campbell area in the northeastern part of the county and from the Kentucky Reservoir area on the west has further decreased the population. 46/

In 1940, the population was 13,278, all classified as rural. At that time the average population density was 29.6 to the square mile. Population centered in the river and creek valleys and on the level plain in the northeastern part of the county. Consequently the density probably ran as high as 50 to 60 persons to the square mile in some places. The ridge sections of the county were sparsely settled, and large parts of Tennessee Ridge were entirely uninhabited. 47/

The effect of removing families from the Fort Campbell and Kentucky Reservoir areas is not evident in the 1940 figures. As most of these families moved out of the county, the population declined to 9,175 in 1950, and the average population density to 19.0 to the square mile. At the end of 1943 the Tennessee River valley and the level plain were no longer inhabited, but the distribution of the population over the rest of the county had not changed

significantly. 48/

INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE

Industries other than agriculture have been unimportant in the county until the recent construction of the NATCOR plant in Dover which makes aluminum doors, window frames and store fronts. Prior to this new industry the principal industrial employment was sawmilling and a flour mill in Bumpus Mills. This employment was small and mostly part time. Many of the inhabitants of the county commute to Fort Campbell where they are employed as carpenters, bricklayers, laboreres and civil service employees. Early agriculture in the county was largely on a subsistence basis. Corn, wheat, oats, sweet potatoes, cotton, peaches, apples, vegetables for home use were the chief crops. Sheep, hogs, chickens and dairy cows were raised and the pioneer diet consisted mainly of salt pork, potatoes, beans, butter, milk, and fruits in season. Most of the clothing was made from cotton and wool spun and woven at home or from skins of animals. Home and Farm buildings were built of logs, and home furnishings were of crude home-made construction. 49/

Early exports included corn, tobacco, poultry, eggs, livestock, timber products, and iron and steel from the local iron industry. These products were exchanged for sugar, coffee, salt, hardware and dry goods. Because

of the remoteness from markets and large area of unproductive soils, agriculture developed slowly. 50/

Dark fired tobacco has been the principle money crop of the farmer in the area for many years. Prior to modern transportation marketing was a problem and as a result the farmer in many instances failed to receive a fair price for his products. 51/

In the early 1900's the farmers became incensed at the unfair practices of the tobacco buyers who came to the county and bought the tobacco in the barn. Lacking transportation the farmer could not carry his tobacco to other markets and the buyer enjoyed a monopoly. Due to the lack of competition, and knowing the farmer had no choice but to accept this offer, the buyers paid the farmer a very low and often unfair price for his product. 52/

In retaliation of this injustice the farmers of Stewart County and the adjoining Kentucky Counties united and formed an organization known as the "Night Riders". They tarred and feathered several tobacco buyers and would not allow any of the farmers to deal with them. They then marched enmasse to Princeton and Hopkinsville, Kentucky and burned all the tobacco warehouses. 53/

In 1927 on Spring Street in Dover there was constructed a tobacco warehouse by the Cooperative Growers Association. Here Stewart County farmers were able to

sell their tobacco at a fair market price. After the product was purchased it was shipped by river boat to northern markets. This operated approximately 10 years and the building was sold to a private individual. Soon afterwards the warehouse was struck by lightning and burned.

54

Tobacco is now transported to tobacco warehouses in Clarksville, Tennessee by truck over U. S. Highway #79. In Clarksville it is purchased by competitive bids on open market.

DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN TRANSPORTATION

Prior to 1927 there were no State or Federal Highways in Stewart County, and county roads were poorly maintained. The county now has an excellent State and County highway system. Federal Highway No. 79 is a hard surfaced road crossing the county from east to west through Dover. It leads to Paris and other highways offering access to western Tennessee and Kentucky and to Hopkinsville, Kentucky and to Clarksville and Nashville, Tennessee on the east. Bus and freight truck lines operate over this highway on regular schedules. The construction of the S. C. Lewis Bridge over the Cumberland River and the Scott Fitzhugh Bridge over the Tennessee River, 13 miles to the south west, in 1930, opened the area to modern transportation facilities for the first time since the decline of the

river boat as a principal mode of transportation.

State Highway 49, a hard-surfaced road, runs in a north-south direction, passing through Dover and terminating at the State line north of Model, Tennessee. Here it joins a Kentucky State Highway leading to Kentucky State Park on Kentucky Lake.

State Highway No. 120 a hard surfaced road serves the northeastern part of the county passing through Big Rock and Bumpus Mills and connecting with a road leading to Cadiz, Kentucky.

The only railroad in the county is the Memphis to Bowling Green line of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad which crosses the southeastern corner of the county and passes through Cumberland City. However most freight for this area arriving by rail is sent to Clarksville where truck freight line service makes it more accessible.

Stewart County has excellent water transportation with the Cumberland River flowing by her front door. There are a series of low dams and locks on the river to provide a channel for shipping. No freight is shipped directly to Dover by water but petroleum, coal and other heavy products pass through the county enroute to larger cities along the Cumberland.

THE INCEPTION OF THE MOVEMENT

The movement to make Fort Donelson battlefield a National Military Park was not a spontaneous action. There were no concerted efforts by citizens or organizations in the county or surrounding area.

There was general community talk among many of the citizens of the county for a number of years concerning the possibility of the battlefield being made a National Park. However, there was not a Chamber of Commerce or other civic organization in the county to promote a project of this nature.

The Honorable Joseph W. Byrns, Sr. was a member of the U. S. House of Representatives from the congressional district in which Fort Donelson was located, and had been for 19 years. Due to his long tenure in the Congress he was elected to the position of Speaker of the House in January 1935. Congressman Byrns was vitally interested in his district and was always willing to promote projects that would enable him to be of service to the people. 55/

Through the efforts of his very close friends in Dover, particularly the Bruton family, he became interested in the establishment of a park at Fort Donelson. Mr. Charles Bruton was especially influential in first planting the idea in Mr. Byrns mind. After the death of Mr. Charles Bruton in 1922, his son, John Bruton, a druggist

in Dover for 43 years, until his death in 1955, continued to impress upon Mr. Byrns the importance of Fort Donelson being made into a National Park to commemorate this battlefield. 56/

Congressman Byrns and Mr. John Bruton walked over the battlefield a number of times, in the interest of preparing a bill to establish this area as a park. 57/

Through the efforts of these local citizens and the setting in motion of the legislative machinery by the Honorable Joseph W. Byrns; Fort Donelson National Military Park became a reality on March 26, 1928 with the passage of House Bill #5500.

SUPPORT

The history of the attitude of the local citizens prior to and since the establishment of park has been favorable. At no time has any organization or group offered any opposition to the program of the park. Local pride in the park is manifested by the interest taken in this welfare by the citizens of the area.

Indicative of the support the park has received locally is the formation of the Fort Donelson Park Association. This association was formerly organized on the night of April 26, 1939 with the primary purpose of acquiring more land within the park. Mr. John Bruton, who had been the most active individual in the work to establish

the park, was elected President of the new organization. Vice Presidents and directors were chosen from surrounding Kentucky and Tennessee Counties. These counties in Tennessee were Stewart, Montgomery, Henry and Houston; in Kentucky, Calloway, Trigg, and Christain Counties. Other officers included M. R. Sexton of Dover Secretary and Treasurer, Frank Goodlett of Clarksville, Publicity Chairman. The association at its peak had over 10,000 members of its rolls. 58/

Petitions were presented to Hon. K. D. McKeller, U. S. Senator from Tennessee, requesting he introduced a bill in Congress to incorporate more land into Ft. Donelson National Military Park. This bill was delayed in Congress and before action was taken on its passage World War II became imminent and the attentions of the country were concentrated on the war effort. 59/

The association has not been active since the war but there has recently been considerable interest shown in its revival.

At the present time the Dover Kiwanis Club and the Dover Chamber of Commerce are two very active organizations taking a great interest in promoting the park and its program of development.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PARK COMMISSION

By the terms of Public Act 167 creating Fort Donelson National Military Park, Secretary of War, Dwight F. Davis, appointed three commissioners, representing each of the armies engaged in the battle and a commissioned officer of the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army.

In accordance with this act the Secretary of War appointed the following commissioners: Mr. E. P. Martin, Big Rock, Tennessee, member from the Confederate army, Mr. Charles G. Matthews, Nashville, Tennessee, member from the Union Army and Major John F. Conklin, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A., U. S. Engineers Officer, Nashville, Tennessee.

On September 14, 1928 the Commission met in the Stewart County Courthouse at Dover, at which time the commission was organized and Mr. E. P. Martin was elected chairman. 60/

The commission then adjourned until October 2, 1928. Following this date they remained in the vicinity of the battlefield for a period of two days and made their final report on November 28, 1928. During this period a careful inspection of the battlefield was made. 61/

PARK BOUNDARY AND LAND ACQUISITION

The bill establishing the park had specified \$50,000 to be spent in rehabilitating the area and making it into a park. The first problem of the commission was

to inspect the site and decide on the best lands to purchase for an adequate presentation of the story. The commission decided on 28 tracts of land. They included the Fort proper the adjacent water batteries, and a strip of land approximately two and three-quarter miles long by 150 feet wide including the Confederate outer line of entrenchments. It was also proposed to acquire eight one-eighth tracts of land for the erection of eight tablets outside of the park proper. 62/

Of the 28 tracts of land proposed by the commission all was purchased by the government with only seven tracts being involved in litigation proceedings. These latter did not present any major problems and were brought to a speedy conclusion to the satisfaction of all parties. The eight one-eighth acre tracts were not purchased. Permits were granted by various property owners outside of the park to erect markers at points where action took place during the battle.

CONSTRUCTION AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE
WAR DEPARTMENT

Actual construction was begun on October 29, 1929 and proceeded until July 1, 1932 when the initial construction ended. Captain H. J. Conner of the Quartermaster Corp was in charge of this phase of the development of the area. He placed Mr. M. C. Folks, a local citizen, in immediate charge of the work.

The first act after the land had been surveyed, plotted, and negotiated for, was to definitely establish the boundaries, by the erection of a 32" steel wire fence and tubular steel posts. 63/

At the time the park property was purchased the only means of reaching the Fort was over the old Eddyville Road, with its almost impassable grades, and at times the road in the vicinity of Indian Creek, was covered for days with backwater from the nearby Cumberland River. Therefore, a right of way was purchased, and an all weather road built along the ridge from State Highway No. 76 to and around the Water Batteries at Fort Donelson. In the entire park, there are 2.77 miles of U. S. roadways 15' wide, .15 miles of county road, and 1.56 miles of gravel walks following the trenches. 64/

The original plans for park construction did not call for any roads to be built. Mr. M. C. Folks along with several other citizens of the county were able

to secure permission for the State to build 2.5 miles of gravel road within the park and the U. S. Government agreed to maintain these roadways. 65/

The entire park was cleared of under brush, trees thinned out, stumps cut level with the ground, and in many instances removed; the entire tract hand-raked, rocks removed, 75 percent of the entire 93 acres ploughed, and the whole park disc-harrowed and planted in grass. Fifteen hundred to two thousand pounds of seed in various kinds of grass were planted. 66/

Approximately five thousand trees, shrubs and flowers were planted, and, together with the native flowering trees and shrubs, make a potential garden spot of a once desolate waste of rock strewn hills. 67/

Five thousand wagon loads of brush were removed, including stumps, rocks and other debris. The trees on the site were mostly of desirable species and of medium size. The stand which were left by the cutting consisted mainly of mixed species of oaks, tulip trees, hickory, gum and red cedar, with a very desirable growth of many flowering dogwood, persimmon, and redbud.

The old battle trenches are in a remarkable state of preservation, considering that they were built in a few hours, of earth and logs, and that ninety-four years have passed. However, it was found necessary to



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Construction and Physical development under War Department 1929.

throw the trenches back up again for long sections, to cut through them and put drains in the low places to prevent further washing. The trench remains were then re-seeded with grass. 68/

The main entrance to the Fort Donelson National Military Park is about one-half mile from Dover, Tennessee, on State Highway 76. This entrance leads up from Highway 76 in an northeasterly direction, flanked on either side by a rubble masonry wall of light Tennessee limestone, to the crest of the hill, some 25 feet above the highway. It then passes between two stone columns five feet square with a pyramid of five shot on each corner, and a planting scheme of ~~sempervirens~~^{indecorous} box. 69/

On each side of the main entrance at Highway 76 is a hill sloping up to the "earthworks" at the top of the rise, and those hills are tastefully landscaped with trees and shrubs and added with a permanent grass. 70/

At the entrance to the "Fort", are two stone columns a trifle smaller than those at the main entrance, but of the same design and marked with bronze plates labeled "Fort" and "Donelson". On the "Forge Road" at the eastern end of the trenches there are also columns of the same type, marked with two bronze tablets "U.S. Fort Donelson National Military Park". 71/

The entrance of the park has not been changed since the day of its construction. The plan was drawn by



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Main entrance to Fort Donelson.

Photo - 1958

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Captain Conners, Mr. Sam Doaks, and Mr. M. C. Folks. The native limestone that makes up the front entrance and the high columns at all three areas of the park was obtained from the farm of Mr. Folks at no cost to the government.

72/

DEDICATION 73/

Fort Donelson National Military Park was formally dedicated on Monday July 4, 1932. Due to inclement weather the morning exercises were held at the Dover High School Auditorium.

The program was opened by the Hopkinsville, Kentucky band. General Rice, a local attorney, introduced the Honorable Morris Brandon, of Atlanta, Georgia, a former resident of Stewart County, who acted as Master of Ceremonies. An address was made by Judge John H. DeWitt, outstanding Tennessee historian, who impressively described the defense against the gunboats at Fort Donelson as one of the bravest acts recorded in warfare.

A letter from Senator Cordell Hull, who was unable to attend was read by Robert S. Henry. Mr. Henry, author of "The Story of the Confederacy", called special attention to the bearing that the small though important battle had of the final outcome of the Civil War.

Additional speakers at the morning services were: Joe Byrns, Jr., Mrs. H. N. Leech, Mrs. B. D. Bell and Mr.

Waldon a Federal veteran.

In the afternoon the ceremonies were continued at the park. The park was opened by Master Kenneth Murray, son of Superintendent and Mr. Walter T. Murray. The address of acceptance was made by Judge J. W. Stout of Clarksville.

NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

By terms of the Executive Reorganization Order of 1933, Fort Donelson National Military Park was transferred from the administration of the War Department to the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. The Fort Donelson National Cemetery was transferred to the Park Service at the same time.

Under this reorganization program Fort Donelson along with other historical areas in West Tennessee and Northern Mississippi was placed under the general administration of the superintendent of Shiloh, and fiscal functions were performed by the Shiloh office.

Mr. Walter T. Murray, acting superintendent under the War Department remained at Fort Donelson in that capacity after the area came into the National Park Service. The coordinating superintendent at Shiloh at this time was Mr. R. A. Livingston.

The area had no uniformed personnel other than the superintendent until the appointment of Carlon Sills as Park Warden in 1951. He was transferred to Shiloh National Military Park in 1953 and Grady Derryberry was transferred from Shiloh to Fort Donelson at the same time.

The only additional personnel has been Seasonal Ranger-Historian Van Riggins, employed in 1955.

Fort Donelson was coordinated under Shiloh

National Military Park until July 1, 1953, at which time superintendent of Fort Donelson accepted full administrative responsibility for the area.

UDC MONUMENT

There is only one monument in the park. It was erected by the Tennessee Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy on June 3, 1933. Especially instrumental in making the memorial possible was the members of the Caroline-Meriwether-Goodlett chapter of Clarksville, Tennessee. Mrs. E. N. Leech a member of that chapter was responsible for initiating the project and worked with untiring zeal and unfaltering courage with Mrs. B. D. Bell, the chairlady of the Fort Donelson Monument Fund.

The Caroline-Meriwether-Goodlett chapter made the largest single contribution in the state to the fund. The price of the monument completed was \$8,500. 74/

The monument and steps are built of Georgia Silver gray marble. It is 32½ feet high, three feet, 10 inches at the base, and two feet two inches, wide at the top. The foundation, upon which it rest has three steps and is 10 feet square. The monument has a total weight of 41 tons. 75/

The impressive ceremonies were opened by General J. W. Rice, senior member of the Dover bar who introduced the Hon. Porter Dunlap, as master of ceremonies. 76/



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U. D. C. Monument, erected June 3, 1933.

Photo - 1958

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The principle speaker for the occasion was Dr. Gus Dyer, editor of the Southern Agriculturist and Professor of Economics at Vanderbilt University. 77/

The monument was presented in behalf of the Tennessee Division by Mrs. Bennett D. Bell of Nashville, and an ivy wreath was placed upon it by Mrs. H. N. Leech, of Clarksville. A memorial wreath was also placed at the foot of the monument by Mrs. Eva Bruton, president of Fort Donelson Chapter. 78/

The unveiling of the bronze soldier by a bevy of Young Confederates from Dickson, Clarksville and Dover, clad in red and white was in charge of Mrs. Frank Walter, assisted by Mrs. James Brandon and Mrs. G. T. Brandon. 79/

The Confederate flag, raised by Mrs. W. C. Howell, Mrs. R. W. Cherry, and Mrs. S. C. Lewis of the Fort Donelson Chapter, was flown over Fort Donelson for the first time in 71 years and for a few hours waved over the field instead of the "Stars and Stripes". 80/

The address of acceptance of the monument was made by Major Frank Richmond, a soldier of the U.S.A. and a member of the General Forrest Scott Camp. Invocation was pronounced by Rev. J. R. McCord, pastor of South End M.E. Church of Nashville, and benediction by Rev. Grady Spiegel, pastor of Dover Christian Church. 81/

77th ANNIVERSARY 82/

The 77th Anniversary of the battle of Fort Donelson which was sponsored by the National Park Service in cooperation with the Stewart County Chamber of Commerce, the Douglas M. Lyon Post American Legion and Clarksville Chapter of the U.D.C., on Sunday February 12, 1939.

The program began with a Union Church service at 11 o'clock with all the churches in Dover participating. The service was held in Ft. Donelson Memorial Methodist Church, with the Rev. A. L. Allison delivering the sermon. The next phase of the program was a parade beginning at the court square and terminating at the National Cemetery. The parade consisted of a firing squad from the Dickson National Guard followed by American Legion Posts from near-by cities and the Odd Fellows Band. The Firing Squad fired a Military Salute over the cemetery prior to the ceremony at the flag pole followed by taps.

W. W. Lockett, representing the National Park Service and Superintendent of Shiloh National Park, delivered an address followed by addresses by Sam Brewster, Director of State Parks who discussed "Tennessee State Park System", Halbert Harvil, past State Commander of the American Legion, and Lyle Cherry of Trenton, Tennessee and General J. W. Rice, colorful eighty year old Dover attorney.

In connection with the celebration, radio station WSM of Nashville, Tennessee, broadcast a radio program

commemorating the anniversary of the battle on February 16, 1939.

CONSTRUCTION UNDER THE CWA 83/

The Civil Works Administration began its activity at Fort Donelson in the later part of 1933 and by 1934 the working force included 320 men. This group was employed principally in combating erosion in and around the park, furthering conservation within the park, planting shrubs, and native trees to beautify the area, gravelling roads and reworking shoulders.

In 1934 with the termination of the CWA program at Fort Donelson, seven projects, all designed to improve the general appearance of the park had been completed.

RECONSTRUCTION OF FORT DONELSON ROADS 84/

On July 1, 1935, Carey Reed Construction Company entered into a contract with the U. S. Government, being the low bidder, on what was called Project 1A1. This project called for a bituminous mix road surface of 2.8 miles be constructed within the park. The contractor was to lay the necessary culvert pipes and perform the shoulder shaping, slope trimming and placing of sod.

There were five extra work orders issued and accepted by the contractor, during the course of the project. The second of these extra work orders provided for the installation of cut stone steps and platforms at the

UDC monument. Retainer walls made from native lime stone were built at the Lock D Loop and around the UDC monument. Final approval on the completed project was on September 14, 1936.

CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SYSTEM AT NATIONAL CEMETERY

A water supply system was provided for the National Cemetery by the Public Works Administration including all plumbing under the building and the placing of the pneumatic storage tank within the building. Contract was awarded the Virginia Machinery and Well Company, Richmond, Virginia, for the installation of the water supply equipment. Work on this project was completed and accepted September 16, 1935. 85/

This system was abandoned in 1953 and the National Cemetery now receives water from the City of Dover.

PRINCIPLE BOUNDARY CHANGES 86/

Following the establishment of the park there was obvious need to include in the park a portion of the upper water battery which was under the control of the U. S. Corps of Engineers as a part of the Lock D Reservation on the Cumberland River. Several unsuccessful efforts were made to transfer this land from the War Department to the Park.

This boundary change was made in 1937 with the passage of HR 5593 and SR 2026 of the first session of the



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Lower Water Battery.

Photo - 1958

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IN REPLY REFER TO:



Upper Water Battery.

Photo - 1958

Page 45 B

75th Congress. This placed the upper water battery under the jurisdiction of the Department of The Interior, National Park Service. There was 3 tracts of land involved in the transfer containing 21.3 acres of land. That brought the park to its present land area of 102.5 acres.

RESTORATION OF THE LOWER WATER BATTERY POWDER MAGAZINE 87/

The work of excavation was begun on the Lower Water Battery Magazine, July 27, 1937. The supervisor in charge was William Wallace Lockett, Junior Historian, Shiloh National Military Park - his crew consisting of four CCC enrollees. After pictures were made, the men began digging a light trench, following the sunken earth from the battery toward the magazine. This trench had the shape of an "L", the first part being 24 feet long and the second part, 15 feet. In this preliminary digging they found, in the second trench, two badly decayed logs.

On July 28 they entered the magazine. For the first 18 inches in depth a major portion of the material removed was debris. Two feet below the surface burned charcoal appeared. On the south side was embedded a hollow cannon ball, about six inches in diameter. As they continued to remove the loose earth there appeared a few parts of rotten slabs, another cannon ball, and the fragment of what had been a long projectile.

The powder magazine and passageway with timbers was restored as found. The only difference being in the

construction of concrete walls and ceiling which made the restoration permanent.



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Powder Magazine, area of visitor use.

Photo - 1959

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EVOLUTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND USE POLICIES

WAR DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

Fort Donelson National Military Park was established on March 28, 1928 by an act of Congress.

The Secretary of War instructed the Commission to inspect the battlefield of Fort Donelson, Tennessee, and to carefully study the available records and historical data with respect to the location and movement of all troops which engaged in the battle of Fort Donelson, and the important events connected there with, with a view of preserving and marking such field for historical and professional military study.*

The commission met on September 14, 1928, and for a period of two days made a careful inspection of the battlefield. On November 28, 1928, the commission issued its report to the Secretary of War.

There was \$50,000 appropriated to establish the park and with this in mind the Commission recommended the purchase of Fort Donelson and the water batteries containing 28 acres and a strip of land following the outer Confederate line containing 53.24 acres; the remainder of the money to be used for restoring trenches, constructing roads, and walks, shrubs and fencing the area. This general plan was followed by the War Department in rehabilitating the area.

*Appendix F.

There were no other major improvements made while under the administration of the War Department. Visitation was small because of poor access roads to the area and the lack of a good public relation program.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

In 1933, the area was transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service. The Park Service promoted a new program for park development.

In 1935, 2.8 miles of bituminous roads were built, to replace the gravel road, within the park. This was the first major improvement since the park was completed by the War Department.

There has been a residential development along the Lock Road and over 15 requests have been made for driveways across park property. These request have been denied for the best interest of the Service. If the area develops into a residential section its value as historic battlefield would be destroyed and the purpose for which it was purchased by the Government defeated.

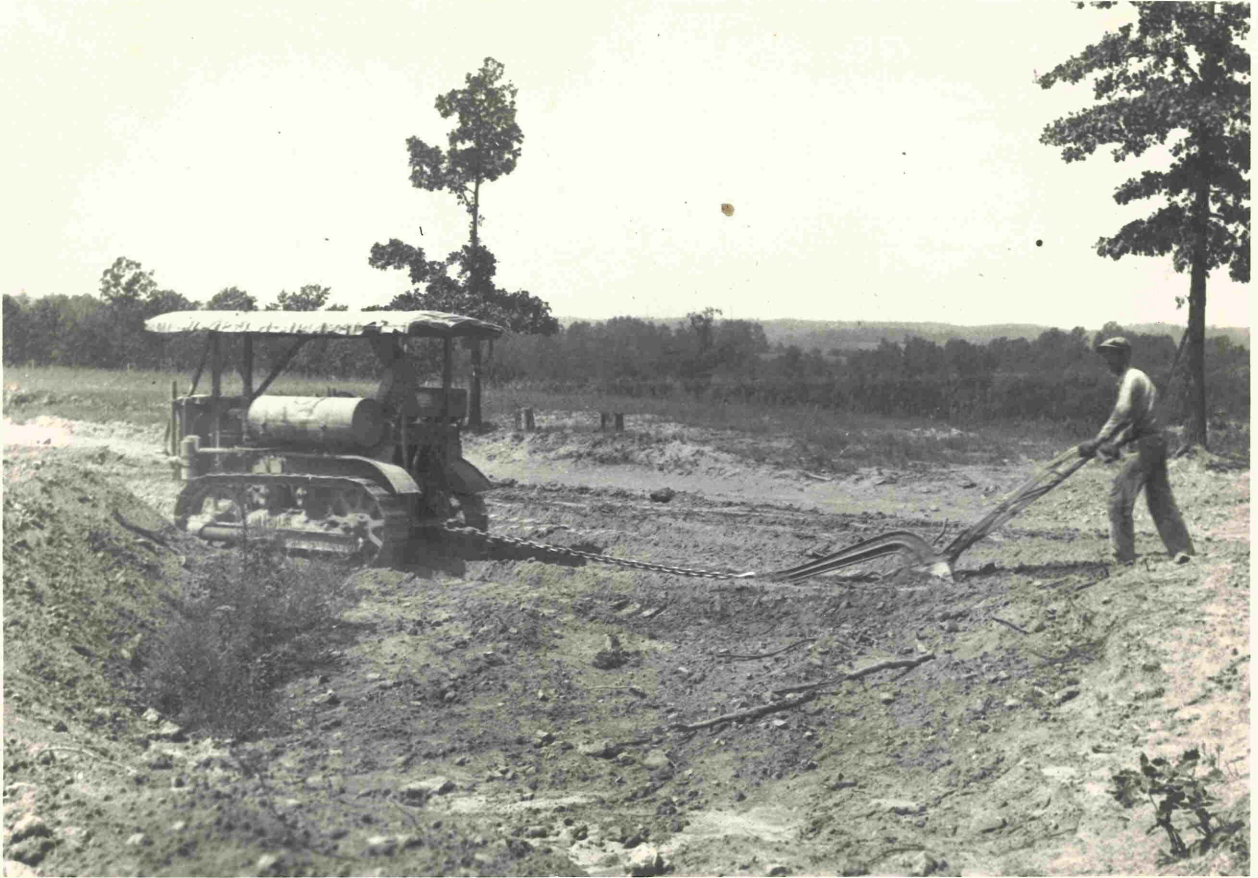
In 1948, Regional Historian Roy E. Appleman visited the park and in his report made the following observations: "The park is in urgent need of planning, development, interpretation facilities and land acquisitions".

In holdings in the park have detracted from its appearance as a battlefield. Between the Confederate monument (the only monument in the park, aside from the cemetery) and the entrance to the fort area on the river bluffs, a string of houses have been built in a manner similar to those that line Missionary Ridge at Chattanooga. Others



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Road construction 1935



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Reconstruction of park roads, 1935.

will be built soon, I do not doubt. This entire area along the park road from the entrance on U. S. Highway No. 79, just west of Dover, to the river bluffs should be under park ownership. Only by this means can the area be made to look like a battlefield park and not a residential area."

The proposed program for Fort Donelson as included in MISSION 66 will solve many of these existing problems and will promote the development and use which will effectively interpret Fort Donelson Park for the greater enjoyment of all the people.

EVOLUTION OF POLICIES AFFECTING THE INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

The War Department erected markers within the park for interpretive purposes. Permits were granted by local property owners to erect markers at important points outside the park. Interpretive policies were slow in developing. Under the War Department all interpretive development was related to the rehabilitation of physical features of the battlefield.

During the administration of the National Park Service a 2-fold park folder was developed for visitor use. During the time of the Civil Works Administration a research project was carried on and material pertaining to Fort Donelson was collected from the Official Records and other sources. This material was typed and placed on file in the Superintendent's office. With the exception of a short time during the CWA work all interpretive duties were carried out by the Superintendent. Since 1955 a seasonal Ranger-Historian has been on duty during the summer months.

MISSION 66 will improve the interpretive program. Plans for construction of a visitor center and museum have been approved. There will be a self guiding tour system set up for the benefit of the visitor who prefers that method of seeing the area. There will be a permanent Historian and tour leader to carry on interpretive work

and during the summer season they will be augmented by two seasonal Ranger-Historians and three seasonal tour leaders.

Fort Donelson is only now assuming its rightful role in history as one of the most vital conflicts of the Civil War. With the completion of the MISSION 66 interpretive development it will be possible to give the visitor an effective treatment of the Fort Donelson story.



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Conducted tour.

Photo - 1958

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APPENDIX A

FORT DONELSON NATIONAL CEMETERY

In March 1867, five years after the Battle of Fort Donelson, Federal dead who were killed during the battle, were removed from their hastily dug graves on the battlefield and reinterred on a bluff overlooking the Cumberland River, one mile from the town of Dover. Many of the Federals who had died of wounds or disease were removed from local cemeteries and reinterred in the National Cemetery. Jurisdiction over this area, 15.4 acres, was conveyed by a deed from James F. Flood and Nathan Brandon, dated April 23, 1867 and ceded by act of the State Legislature, approved March 9, 1867.

Administration of the National Cemetery was under the office of the Quartermaster General. In 1928 Fort Donelson National Military Park was established and the Superintendent of the Cemetery served as Acting Superintendent of the Park. In 1933, administrative jurisdiction over the National Cemetery and National Park was assumed by the National Park Service, under the Reorganization Order of that year.

Interments in the National Cemetery total 765. of these 670 are Federal dead, 512 of whom are unknown. There are Spanish-American and World War I dead buried here, and after World War II the National Cemetery was



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Fort Donelson National Cemetery, established March, 1867.

a participating unit in the program where-by war dead were removed from cemeteries overseas and reinterred in National Cemeteries in the United States. The first reburial under this program took place on November 10, 1947 and the program was completed on October 18, 1949.

This cemetery also participated in the reburial program for Korean war dead who were returned from cemeteries overseas to be reinterred in National Cemeteries in the United States. The first reburial under this program took place on September 27, 1951 and the program was completed April 20, 1954.

Veterans and their immediate survivors, as prescribed by regulations, may still request burials in Fort Donelson National Cemetery. As of July 16, 1956, 1312 grave sites were available for interments.

APPENDIX B

SURRENDER HOUSE

The Surrender House was constructed in 1828. It was a hotel, for there was in Dover at that time a young ladies seminary. Dover was a station of a stage coach line and there was much traffic by river. 88/

It was in the basement dinning room of the building, now the main museum room, that the decission to surrender was made. Here also General Buckner sat at his breakfast of corn bread and black coffee when General Lew Wallace came to discuss the terms of surrender. It was in the main floor room that the surrender papers were signed; it was on the front porch that Buckner tendered his sword to General Grant, while the surrendered arms were stacked on the hillside below. 89/

On February 13, 1928, steps were taken by the Fort Donelson Historical House Association, made up of interested citizens of Stewart and Montgomery Counties to initiate plans for rehabilitation of the area. Stewart and Montgomery Counties raised \$2000 by public contribution, and the State of Tennessee matched these funds with a like amount. One thousand dollars was paid Mrs. E. B. Hobing for the house and the remainder of the money was used to rehabilitate the building.

At the close of the ceremonies dedicating the S. C. Lewis Bridge on September 1, 1930, the program was



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The "Surrender House" constructed in 1828, was the site of the
surrender of General Buckner to General Grant.

placed in charge of N. A. Link, County Chairman, Fort Donelson Memorial Association. Mr. Link proceeded to officially open the building. A brief address was given by Governor Henry Horton in the course of the ceremony.

The building has been operated as a museum since that time. MISSION 66 plans to include the Surrender House in the program of expansion for Fort Donelson National Military Park.

APPENDIX C

IRON FURNACES OF STEWART COUNTY

= For half a century Stewart County was the center of the great iron industry of Middle Tennessee. Samuel and John Stecker, by their knowledge, skill and industry, reaped princely fortunes from the manufacture of iron in this county and gave a character of Tennessee charcoal iron which has made it famous every where. This added greatly to the value of Stewart County as a mineral region, and before the war there were fourteen furnaces in operation in the county, making nearly 20,000 tons of pig-iron annually. A large part of this pig-iron was made into sugar kettles and bar and boiler plate. The Stewart County metal produced kettles superior to those made in Scotland, and were pronounced by sugar planters to be the best in the world. Many of these lands were stripped of timber, but sprouts shot up very rapidly and would speedily supply a second growth suitable for coaling purposes. 90/

The lands may be divided into mineral and agricultural. The mineral or iron lands are found on both sides of the Cumberland, extending to the Tennessee, on the west, and covers fully one-third of the county. 91/

The species of ore here met with is the limonite or brown hematite. It occurs in various forms, such as pipe, honey comb, bog, compact, pot, etc. On Long Creek,

one and a half miles from the Cumberland River, a rich pipe ore was found that yields from the furnace about 49 per cent of pig metal. The ore was dug and delivered at \$2.00 per ton. The banks at Bear Spring Furnace, on Bear Spring Creek, are very rich and apparently inexhaustible. At LaGrange Furnace an ore bank with a face 100 feet wide and 30 feet deep was opened on Leatherwood Creek, a few miles from the Tennessee River.

The fourteen iron furnaces were located in various parts of the county. Many of the old stacks are still standing today mute testimony to the period in which Stewart County flourished as a leader in iron production.

In 1820 Dover Furnace, the first erected in the county, went in blast, and continued in operation until the outbreak of the Civil War. It was subsequently started again and ran until 1874. Dover Furnace was situated on South Cross Creek in District No. 6. Bear Spring Furnace was built in 1830, and stood near the Cumberland River, five miles east of the town of Dover in the Sixth District. The stack was destroyed during the war, but rebuilt in 1873 and continued in blast until 1884. Randolph Furnace stood in District No. 7, two miles south of Dover, and was built in 1837, and went out of blast in 1840, and on the site of the stack two forges were erected and operated until the war. Petonia Furnace was built in



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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Remains of Bear Spring Furnace built in 1830.

Photo - 1959

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1846, on Bear Creek, in the Ninth District, and was operated until the Civil War. Rough and Ready Furnace was built in 1846 or 1847, and stood in District No. 1. During the war it was out of blast, but was started up at the close of the war and continued until 1874. Bellwood Furnace was erected in 1850, on the north side of the Cumberland River, in District No. 5, and was in blast up to the time of the war. Clark Furnace was built in 1855 in the Eleventh District, and went out of blast at the beginning of the war. Iron Mountain Furnace was built in 1853 on Barrett Creek, in the Ninth District, and was in blast until the war. Saline Furnace was erected on Saline Creek, in the fourth District, in 1853, and run until the war. Great Western Furnace was built in 1856 on Prior's Creek, in District No. 8, and continued until the war. Byron Forge was erected in 1840, and continued in operation until the war. 92/

The Cumberland Rolling-Mills were established in 1828, and were in operation until their destruction by the Federals as they passed up the river after the fall of Fort Donelson. The mills stood on the south side of the Cumberland River about 6 miles above Dover.

These furnaces were manufacturing war materials for the Confederate Army and this added to the importance of Fort Donelson because it served as a protection for the

iron furnaces.

There are still evidences of great deposits of natural ore in the great syncline that runs east from Carlisle toward the southeastern corner of the county. With the advent of a cheap source of power this ore still may prove profitable to mine in the future.

APPENDIX D

LIST OF SUPERINTENDENTS, WITH DATES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>UNDER THE WAR DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>PERIOD OF SERVICE</u>
Walter T. Murray	Acting Superintendent	2-24-31 to 8-9-33

Under the Department of Interior

Walter T. Murray	Acting Superintendent	8-10-33 to 8-4-38
J. Gordon Bennett	Acting Superintendent	8-31-38 to 5-11-39
Frank W. Baker	Acting Superintendent	5-12-39 to 8-31-50
E. J. Pratt	Superintendent	9-3-50 to 02-29-80

APPENDIX E

IMPORTANT PARK FRIENDS NOW LIVING

Mr. Ira Atkins, Representative to Tennessee General Assembly,
Dover, Tennessee
Honorable Ross Bass, United States House of Representatives,
Washington 25, D.C.
Mr. James E. Charlet, General Manager of Springfield Publishing
Company, Clarksville, Tennessee
Mrs. Alfred Cherry, Editor, Stewart-Houston County Times, Dover,
Tennessee
Judge Charles Cherry, Dover, Tennessee
Honorable Albert Gore, United States Senate, Washington 25, D.C.
Mr. Stanley F. Horn, Director of State Historical Society,
Nashville, Tennessee
Mr. W.D. Howell, State Senator, Dover, Tennessee
Honorable Estes Kefauver, United States Senate, Washington 25, D.C.
Mr. S.C. Lewis, Jr., Dover, Tennessee
Mr. N.A. Link, Director of Fort Donelson Historical Society and
former Judge of Stewart County, Dover, Tennessee
Mr. Frazier Riggins, former State Senator, Dover, Tennessee
Mrs. Bryce Runyon, Secretary and Treasurer of Fort Donelson
Historical Society, 1400 Madison, Clarksville, Tennessee
Mr. M.R. Sexton, former Secretary of Fort Donelson Historical
Society, Dover, Tennessee
Mr. Weeks Sexton, Postmaster, Dover, Tennessee
Mayor Leon Stone, Erin, Tennessee
Honorable Pat Sutton, former United States Representative,
Lawrenceburg, Tennessee
Mayor Herman Tippitt, Dover, Tennessee
Mr. Gordon Turner, Director of State Parks, Nashville, Tennessee
Mr. Ed Walter, Director of Fort Donelson Historical Society,
Dover, Tennessee.

APPENDIX F

I. INTRODUCTION.

1. Law Authorizing Investigation.--This report is made pursuant to the provisions of the following act of Congress:

(Public, No. 187 - 70th Congress, H. R. 5500)

AN ACT To establish a national military park at the battle field of Fort Donelson, Tennessee.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a commission is hereby created, to be composed of the following members, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of War:

- (1) A commissioned officer of the Corps of Engineers, United States Army;
- (2) A veteran of the Civil War who served honorably in the military forces of the United States; and
- (3) A veteran of the Civil War who served honorably in the military forces of the Confederate States of America.

Sec. 2. In appointing the members of the commission created by section 1 of this Act the Secretary of War shall, as far as practicable, select persons familiar with the terrain of the battle field of Fort Donelson, Tennessee, and the historical events associated therewith.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the commission, acting under the direction of the Secretary of War, to inspect the battlefield of Fort Donelson, Tennessee, and to

carefully study the available records and historical data with respect to the location and movement of all troops which engaged in the Battle of Fort Donelson, and the important events connected therewith, with a view of preserving and marking such field for historical and professional military study. The commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Secretary of War not later than December 1, 1928. Such report shall describe the portion or portions of land within the area of the battlefield which the commission thinks should be acquired and embraced in a national park and the price at which such land can be purchased and its reasonable market value; the report of the commission shall also embrace a map or maps showing the lines of battle and the locations of all troops engaged in the Battle of Fort Donelson and the location of the land which it recommends be acquired for the national park; the report of the commission shall contain recommendations for the location of historical tablets at such points on the battlefield, both within and without the land to be acquired for the park, as they may deem fitting and necessary to clearly designate positions and movements of troops and important events connected with the Battle of Fort Donelson, Tennessee.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of War is authorized to assign any officials of the War Department to the assistance

of the commission if he deems it advisable. He is authorized to pay the reasonable expenses of the commission and their assistants incurred in the actual performance of the duties herein imposed upon them.

Sec. 5. That, upon receipt of the report of said commission, the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to acquire, by purchase, when purchasable at prices deemed by him reasonable, otherwise by condemnation, such tract or tracts of lands as are recommended by the commission as necessary and desirable for a national park; to establish and substantially mark the boundaries of the said park; to definitely mark all lines of battle and locations of troops within the boundaries of the park and erect substantial historical tablets at such points within the park and in the vicinity of the park and its approaches as are recommended by the commission, together with such other points as the Secretary of War may deem appropriate: Provided, That the entire cost of acquiring said land, including cost of condemnation proceedings, if any, ascertainment of title, surveys, and compensation for the land, the cost of marking the battlefield, and the expenses of the commission, shall not exceed the sum of \$50,000.

Sec. 6. That, upon the ceding of jurisdiction by the Legislature of the State of Tennessee, and the report of the Attorney General of the United States that a

perfect title has been acquired, the lands acquired under the provisions of this Act, together with the area already inclosed within the national cemetery at the battlefield of Fort Donelson, are hereby declared to be a national park, to be known as the Fort Donelson National Park.

Sec. 7. That the said Fort Donelson National Park shall be under the control of the Secretary of War, and he is hereby authorized to make all needed regulations for the care of the park. The superintendent of the Fort Donelson National Cemetery shall likewise be the superintendent of and have the custody and care of the Fort Donelson National Park, under the direction of the Secretary of War.

Sec. 8. That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with such present owners of the land as may desire to remain upon it, upon such nominal terms as he may prescribe, to occupy and cultivate their present holdings, upon condition that they will preserve the present buildings and roads, and the present outlines of field and forest, and that they will only cut trees or underbrush under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, and that they will assist in caring for and protecting all tablets, monuments, or such other artificial works as may from time to time be erected by proper authority.

Sec. 9. That it shall be lawful for the authorities of any State having troops engaged in the Battle of Fort Donelson to enter upon the lands and approaches of the Fort Donelson National Park for the purpose of ascertaining and marking the lines of battle of troops engaged therein: Provided, That before any such lines are permanently designated, the position of the lines and the proposed methods of marking them by monuments, tablets, or otherwise shall be submitted to the Secretary of War and shall first receive the written approval of the Secretary.

Sec. 10. That if any person shall willfully destroy, mutilate, deface, or remove any monument, column, statue, memorial structure, or work of art that shall be erected or placed upon the grounds of the park by lawful authority, or shall willfully destroy or remove any fence, railing, inclosure, or other work for the protection or ornament of said park, or any portion thereof, or shall willfully destroy, cut, hack, bark, break down, or otherwise injure any tree, bush, or shrubbery that may be growing upon said park, or shall cut down or fell or remove any timber, battle relic, tree, or trees growing or being upon such park, except by permission of the Secretary of War, or shall willfully remove or destroy any breastworks, earthworks, walls, or other defenses or shelter, or any part thereof, constructed by the armies formerly engaged

in the battle on the lands or approaches to the park, any person so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof before any court of competent jurisdiction shall for each and every such offense be fined not less than \$5 nor more than \$100.

Sec. 11. That the sum of \$50,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended for the purposes of the Act.

Approved, March 26, 1928.

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