

GLORIETA BATTLEFIELD COALITION

*Protecting the Santa Fe Trail and Civil War battlefield
within Pecos National Historical Park through preservation and public education*

Learn more about our coalition on the web at www.glorietapass.org

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President's Report: January 2008

Significance of the Glorieta Battlefield: The Battle of Glorieta Pass actually covers three significant phases that took place March 26-28, 1862. Called by some historians the "Gettysburg of the West," it was here Federal forces checked Confederate dreams of territorial expansion. After enjoying early successes and setting up the Confederate Territory of Arizona, the vanguard of the Texan invasion marched out of Santa Fe determined to seize Fort Union – the major supply base in the Southwest. At Glorieta Pass they met a mixed force of U.S. Regular troops, local militia, and Colorado volunteers equally determined to stop the Confederate advance.

After an inconclusive skirmish on March 26 in Apache Canyon, on March 28, 1862, the Texans marched into the Glorieta Pass on the Santa Fe Trail. The opposing forces clashed near Pigeon's Ranch. The Confederates drove the Federals back and held the field at the end of the day, only to learn a Federal flanking force had fallen on their rear and destroyed the Confederate wagons and supplies. Thereafter, the Confederates began a long and arduous retreat back to Texas. The Confederate hopes for a Southwest territory that would stretch to the Pacific Ocean, and gaining control of the gold fields in Colorado, came to an end.

Threat: Currently, two units covering portions of the battlefield are under NPS control. Potential development threatens unprotected areas. Efforts are being made to acquire additional land within the units to better preserve the battlefield and make it more accessible to visitors.

The battlefield is further threatened by a state highway that runs through the battlefield within feet of historical structures that were part of Pigeon's Ranch at the time of the battle. The Glorieta Battlefield Coalition, together with support from the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), support studies and efforts to relocate the highway away from the battlefield or implement other mitigation measures. Such is necessary to restore the battlefield site and allow visitors to tour the battlefield safely.

CWSAC classified Glorieta Pass as a Priority I, Class A Battlefield – its highest designation.

The Civil War Preservation Trust has designated Glorieta Pass as one of the ten most endangered battlefield sites in the country.

Current Goals of the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition:

Continue efforts to relocate New Mexico Highway 50 away from battlefield or implementation of other mitigation measures

Support and assist in the acquisition of further lands critical to the battlefield.

Encourage, advocate and otherwise support the design and construction of trails and parking areas with interpretive markers to allow visitors to gain a greater understanding and visual experience of the battlefield, with emphasis on the significance of the battle, the events leading up to the battle, and the long term results to both sides and the surrounding territory. Support efforts for separate Visitor's Center for Pigeon's Ranch area.

Educate the public on the significance of the battle and importance of preservation efforts pertaining thereto.

Support Senate Bill S.216 – land swap of excess U.S. Forest Service land for private land within the Cañoncito (Johnson's Ranch) unit of the Glorieta Battlefield Park, substantially increasing public ownership within that unit. Key acquisition. Contact Jim Houghton for further information.

See attached memo with respect to specific 2008 GBC objectives

Reach out and engage various groups and organizations to participate in planning, design, and construction of trails, visitor's center, and other improvements to the battlefield. (Friends of Pecos and other interested groups or organizations.)

Other significant information:

A study performed by Dr. Frank Ward of New Mexico State University determined economic benefits under the scenario that Glorieta Battlefield were fully restored and made safe for public visitation. The study demonstrated that opening Glorieta Battlefield to public visitation had numerous positive economic benefits, including providing a sustainable, stabilizing force in the rural economy of both the Pecos area and the broader tourism economy of New Mexico. In short, Dr. Ward's data demonstrated that tourism associated with a restored battlefield would generate over \$3.1 million in annual income in San Miguel and Santa Fe counties and 182 new jobs within ten years of the battlefield being restored and open to the public. Copies of the study are available from the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition.

The Glorieta Battlefield has been recognized by the Civil War Preservation Trust as one of the 10 most endangered battlefield sites. The Civil War Preservation Trust is dedicated to the preservation of battlefield sites and has recognized both the importance and significance of the Battle of Glorieta Pass. In listing the site, the Trust has expressed concern over neglect and public indifference that is allowing perhaps irreparable damages to structures of historical significance within the Pigeon's Ranch Unit of the Battlefield.

Progress Report for 2007. Below are listed the significant events for us in 2007 as tied into our 2007 Objectives

Improve Public Awareness/Public Support for Glorieta Battlefield.

- Participation in the Battle Anniversary event at the battlefield site in March 2007. Together with the National Park Service and our partners Friends of Pecos, we launched the Glorieta Battlefield Ridge Trail Campaign. A copy of our news release is enclosed with this report. Snow on the day of the event didn't deter the enthusiasm of participants and guests. The Civil War Preservation Trust sent a representative and reenactors from throughout the State and Colorado joined us to hike the proposed trail. We co-hosted a celebration dinner. I am happy to report that the reenactment community generously responded to my challenge and offer to match any contributions they would make to advance the trail project and we raised over \$2,000. It was a great event.
- Participation at the Las Golondrinas Civil War Weekend (May 2007). We participated in the Las Golondrinas weekend in May 2007. For our members who have never been able to attend, this is our Civil War Reenactment weekend that's held in a 19th Century Spanish village setting that is ideal for the reenactors and visitors to enjoy the battle reenactments and camps of the reenactors. It gave us an additional opportunity to educate visitors and the general public on our projects at Glorieta. Additional pledges of financial support were made within the reenactment community during this weekend. We welcomed some new members to the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition.
- Presentations at the Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. Just down the road from the Glorieta Battlefield is the large Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, which is a large resort-like property that provides families an opportunity to come to New Mexico in a faith-based setting and enjoy some rest and relaxation in the New Mexico mountains. My thanks go to 4th Texas, First Brigade reenactors Ed Whitted, George Bailey, David Levendowski, and Steve Jennings who came up and gave a living history demonstration at the Conference Center this summer. We work closely with the Conference Center to provide educational programs for the visitors on the Battle of Glorieta Pass and this provided an opportunity to renew those friendships. Thanks to Randy Egan and Hal Smith at the Conference Center for their support at this living history event.
- Partner with Friends of Pecos to support Civil War Preservation Trust meeting in Santa Fe in February 2008. As I prepare this President's Report, I am also working to support the Civil War Preservation Trust's Board Meeting to be held in Santa Fe February 7-9, 2008. The Trust has advised us that more of their Board members are coming to this conference than any prior Board Meeting. This will provide us the unique opportunity to show

Trust Board members our projects and accomplishments and thank them for their continued support. The Trust has committed resources to assist in land acquisitions that will help us expand the land under control for the battlefield that will save the land from development risk. We very much appreciate their help and welcome their visit here in February.

Increase Active Membership. In addition to our core membership and supporters in New Mexico, we continue to welcome new members outside of New Mexico. Most recently we helped provide information to a Civil War Preservation Trust member from Washington State who was visiting his parents in Santa Fe. We thank him for his generous contribution on behalf of his parents to sponsor their membership in our Coalition.

In addition to our members, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Order of the Southern Cross for awarding a grant to the Coalition to assist in our projects here. The Order of the Southern Cross is a premier organization who supports projects that support Confederate history and Confederate heritage. Our continued thanks to President Dr. Anthony Hodges and the membership of the Order of the Southern Cross for their support.

As a final note, no membership report would be complete without my expressing my personal thanks for the continued communications and financial support from the G.W. Lee Civil War Roundtable from Howell, Michigan. Thank you for your continued support. We hope to see you out here in 2008.

Specific Projects at the Battlefield:

- Relocation of State Road 50
- Design, fund and construct the Glorieta Battlefield Ridge Trail with related interpretive and parking needs. Design and archeological clearance for commencement of the Trail project was achieved in the first half of the year and construction activities on the trail started this past summer. With the help of a youth "trail" corps, a significant portion of the short loop trail was built. A special thanks goes to GBC members Dennis and Pat Eker who have generously contributed rock and gravel for the Trail that has allowed us to utilize donated funds for other needs such as the roads and parking area. I am pleased to report that with our partners the Friends of Pecos, over \$50,000 in funds and in-kind contributions were raised during 2007 for the Trail project.

The Friends of Pecos recently announced that they have been able to secure a State grant of \$70,000 that should help us to complete most if not all of the planned 2.2 mile trail with footbridges and the parking area this year. Private fundraising is continuing for the interpretive markers plan that is under study with the National Park Service.

I am pleased to report that the Park Service accepted my request to develop special vistas at selected points near the trail in which the major groups who participated in the battle – the Texans, the Colorado Volunteers, U.S. Regulars, the New Mexico Volunteers – will develop special interpretive exhibits from the perspective of each of these four groups. The decision was made to start with the Texas Vista as two organizations (the Texas Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the New Mexico Division of Sons of Confederate Veterans) expressed an interest in the project and a willingness to raise funds for the Texas Vista. Through the leadership of Vicki Knuth with the Texas Division UDC and Jim Red and Ed Whitted with the New Mexico Division of the SCV, we have designed, developed and look forward to dedicating the Texas Vista this summer. Funds have been raised for the New Mexico Volunteers vista and progress is expected this year on both the U.S. Regulars and Colorado vistas. These vistas will help our visitors gain different perspectives of what happened at Glorieta Pass and why this battle was fought.

Visit our website which will provide updates on the trail project as well as the vista projects.

- Improvements to the UDC/Colorado Monument Site. In 1939, the Texas Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, after years of study and fundraising, acquired a one-acre parcel and dedicated a monument to the Texas Volunteers who fought at Glorieta Pass. In 1995, Colorado groups supported and installed next to the Texas UDC monument a monument to the Colorado Volunteers. For years these two monuments have been virtually

hidden from view of our visitors. With the help of the Texas Division of the UDC and special donations made by Glorieta Battlefield Coalition (GBC) officers, we have designed, and expect by the time of the Civil War Preservation Trust Board Meeting in February, to complete construction of the improvements to the monument site. A special thanks again go to the GBC members Dennis and Pat Eker who provided the gravel to improve the parking area. Fencing has been installed and a message board which will provide visitors with information on the Glorieta Battlefield Park and will include the stories behind the Texas and Colorado monuments. Superintendent Kathy Billings and her staff, particularly Jeff Brown and Christine Beekman, have provided valuable assistance to make this project a reality. Please stop by and see the monument site during your next visit to Glorieta.

- o Passage of Senate Bill S-216 (Land Exchange for Johnson Ranch). After getting "that close" to passage in 2006 under a Republican-controlled Congress, control of Congress shifted to the Democrats. Democratic Senator Jeff Bingaman immediately submitted new legislative (Senate Bill S-216) in early 2007 to try one more time to obtain passage. We appreciate his support. The bill has somewhat stalled in the Senate and efforts are being made through our Democratic delegation to move it forward for possible passage by the end of this year. If any members or recipients of this report would be willing, please contact Senator Bingaman's office or Representative Tom Udall's office in support of Senate Bill S-216.

I hope this newsletter shares with you the pride I have in our accomplishments this year and how excited I am for the opportunities we have to keep moving forward in 2008. I am not able in this report to express all the thanks I have for everyone who has worked with us, assisted us, and helped us in what we are trying to accomplish. No report would be complete without a special thanks to our friends at the Friends of Pecos, and particularly Rich and Jean Higgins and Bill Zunkel, who have taken a leadership role in the trail project and have given generously of their time and funds to make the Ridge Trail Project a reality. To the members and supporters of the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition, please keep visiting our website, please contact me with any questions you have, please help support us and, most of all, if you have occasion to visit Glorieta please let me know so that I can thank you personally for your interest and support. Tours of the battlefield are given in accordance with schedules published on the NPS Pecos website at www.nps.gov/pecos. Best wishes for a wonderful 2008.

Please join the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition. Assist us in our mission and goals in honor of the hundreds of American soldiers who put their lives on the line and made the ultimate sacrifice for what they believed in at the Battle of Glorieta Pass.

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2008 GBC Objectives

Continue Improved Public Awareness/Public Support:

Participation in anniversary event at the Battlefield Site in late March, 2008.
Participation at Las Golondrinas Civil War Weekend (May 2008).
Presentations at the nearby Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.
Partner with Friends of Pecos in support of Civil War Preservation Trust meeting in Santa Fe, February 2008.

Increase Active Membership

Work with Other Interested Groups and Other Related Organizations (Friends of Pecos, reenactor groups, Civil War roundtables, CWPT, UDC, SCV, SUV, OSC, etc.)

Specific Projects at the Battlefield:

Finish design, funding, and construction of the Glorieta Battlefield Ridge Trail with related interpretative and parking needs.
Continued support in the design, funding, and construction of other trails on the battlefield site itself that will open "Sharpshooter's Ridge."
Special focus on continued development of the vista projects, including completion of the Texas Vista and a dedication event. Design, development, and planning for the three other vista projects (New Mexico Volunteers, U.S. Regulars, and Colorado Volunteers).
Complete improvements to the Texas UDC and Colorado monument sites on the Battlefield.
Passage of Senate Bill S-216 (land exchange for Johnson's Ranch unit).
Continued meetings with the National Park Service on the study of State Road 50 and potential mitigation efforts to improve visitor experience.
Investigate and develop costs and plans for construction of a Visitor's Center at the Pigeon's Ranch site with related issues (location, cost of improvement, cost of operation, and other park issues).
Support efforts of the Civil War Preservation Trust and Friends of Pecos for acquisition of additional land to be dedicated to the Glorieta Battlefield.

Fundraising Events