

**SHILOH NATIONAL MILITARY
PARK COMMISSION. THE
BATTLE OF SHILOH AND THE
ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED.
1902**

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Shiloh National Military Park Commission. The Battle of Shiloh and the Organizations Engaged.
1902 by D. W. Reed

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D. W. REED

**SHILOH NATIONAL MILITARY
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ENGAGED. 1902**

SHILOH NATIONAL MILITARY PARK COMMISSION.

THE BATTLE OF SHILOH

AND THE

ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED.

COMPILED FROM THE OFFICIAL RECORDS BY
MAJOR D. W. REED,
HISTORIAN AND SECRETARY,
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION.

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AN ACT To establish a national military park at the battlefield of Shiloh.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order that the armies of the southwest which served in the civil war, like their comrades of the eastern armies at Gettysburg and those of the central west at Chickamauga, may have the history of one of their memorable battles preserved on the ground where they fought, the battlefield of Shiloh, in the State of Tennessee, is hereby declared to be a national military park, whenever title to the same shall have been acquired by the United States and the usual jurisdiction over the lands and roads of the same shall have been granted to the United States by the State of Tennessee; that is to say, the area inclosed by the following lines, or so much thereof as the commissioners of the park may deem necessary, to wit: Beginning at low-water mark on the north bank of Snake Creek where it empties into the Tennessee River; thence westwardly in a straight line to the point where the river road to Crumps Landing, Tennessee, crosses Snake Creek; thence along the channel of Snake Creek to Owl Creek; thence along the channel of Owl Creek to the crossing of the road to Purdy, Tennessee; thence southwardly in a straight line to the intersection of an east and west line drawn from the point where the road to Hamburg, Tennessee, crosses Lick Creek, near the mouth of the latter; thence eastward along the said east and west line to the point where the Hamburg Road crosses Lick Creek; thence along the channel of Lick Creek to the Tennessee River; thence along low-water mark of the Tennessee River to the point of beginning, containing three thousand acres, more or less, and the area thus inclosed shall be known as the Shiloh National Military Park: *Provided*, That the boundaries of the land authorized to be acquired may be changed by the said commissioners.

SEC. 2. That the establishment of the Shiloh National Military Park shall be carried forward under the control and direction of the Secretary of War, who, upon the passage of this Act, shall proceed to acquire title to the same either under the Act approved August first, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, entitled "An Act to authorize the condemnation of land for sites of public buildings, and for other purposes," or under the Act approved February twenty-seventh, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, entitled "An Act to establish and protect national cemeteries," as he may select, and as title is procured to any portion of the lands and roads within the legal boundaries of the park he may proceed with the establishment of the park upon such portions as may thus be acquired.

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to enter into agreements whereby he may lease, upon such terms as he may prescribe, with such present owners or tenants of the lands as may desire to remain upon it, 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 only will 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 other artificial works as may from time to time be erected by proper authority.

SEC. 4. That the affairs of the Shiloh National Military Park shall, subject to the supervision and direction of the Secretary of War, be in charge of three commissioners, to be appointed by the Secretary of War, each of whom shall have served at the time of the battle in one of the armies engaged therein, one of whom shall have served in the Army of the Tennessee, commanded by General U. S. Grant, who shall be chairman of the commission; one in the Army of the Ohio, commanded by General D. C. Buell; and one in the Army of the Mississippi, commanded by General A. S. Johnston. The said commissioners shall have an office in the War Department building, and while on actual duty shall be paid such compensation out of the appropriations provided by this Act as the Secretary of War shall deem reasonable and just; and for the purpose of assisting them in their duties and in ascertaining the lines of battle of all troops engaged and the history of their movements in the battle, the Secretary of War shall have authority to employ, at such compensation as he may deem reasonable, to be paid out of the appropriations made by this Act, some

person recognized as well informed concerning the history of the several armies engaged at Shiloh, and who shall also act as secretary of the commission.

SEC. 5. That it shall be the duty of the commission named in the preceding section, under the direction of the Secretary of War, to open or repair such roads as may be necessary to the purposes of the park, and to ascertain and mark with historical tablets or otherwise, as the Secretary of War may determine, all lines of battle of the troops engaged in the battle of Shiloh and other historical points of interest pertaining to the battle within the park or its vicinity, and the said commission in establishing this military park shall also have authority, under the direction of the Secretary of War, to employ such labor and services and to obtain such supplies and material as may be necessary to the establishment of the said park under such regulations as he may consider best for the interest of the Government, and the Secretary of War shall make and enforce all needed regulations for the care of the park.

SEC. 6. That it shall be lawful for any State that had troops engaged in the battle of Shiloh to enter upon the lands of the Shiloh National Military Park for the purpose of ascertaining and marking the lines of battle of its 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 and approved by the Secretary of War, and all such lines, designs and inscriptions for the same shall first receive the written approval of the Secretary, which approval shall be based upon formal written reports, which must be made to him in each case by the commissioners of the park: *Provided*, That no discrimination shall be made against any State as to the manner of designating lines, but any grant made to any State by the Secretary of War may be used by any other State.

SEC. 7. That if any person shall, except by permission of the Secretary of War, destroy, mutilate, deface, injure, or remove any monument, column, statues, memorial structures, or work of art that shall be erected or placed upon the grounds of the park by lawful authority, or shall destroy or remove any fence, railing, inclosure, or other work for the protection or ornament of said park, or any portion thereof, or shall 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 said park, or hunt within the limits of the park, or shall remove or destroy any breastworks, earthworks, walls, or other defenses or shelter on any part thereof constructed by the armies formerly engaged in the battles on the lands or approaches to the park, any person so offending and found guilty thereof, before any justice of the peace of the county in which the offense may be committed or any court of competent jurisdiction shall for each and every such offense forfeit and pay a fine, in the discretion of the justice, according to the aggravation of the offense, of not less than five nor more than fifty dollars, one-half for the use of the park and the other half to the informer, to be enforced and recovered before such justice in like manner as debts of like nature are now by law recoverable in the several counties where the offense may be committed.

SEC. 8. That to enable the Secretary of War to begin to carry out the purpose of this Act, including the condemnation or purchase of the necessary land, marking the boundaries of the park, opening or repairing necessary roads, restoring the field to its condition at the time of the battle, maps and surveys, and the pay and expenses of the commissioners and their assistant, the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars, or such portion thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and disbursements under this Act shall require the approval of the Secretary of War, and he shall make annual report of the same to Congress.

Approved, December 27, 1864.

TO SHILOH SOLDIERS.

The Shiloh National Military Park was established by act of Congress in order that, "The armies of the southwest may have the history of one of their memorable battles preserved on the ground where they fought."

It is the desire of the commission having this work in charge that this history shall be complete, impartial, and correct, so that when the monuments of granite and bronze shall have been erected their inscriptions shall publish to the world nothing but the truth.

To secure this accuracy all reports have been carefully studied and compared. The records at Washington have been thoroughly searched and many who participated in the battle have been interviewed. Unfortunately many organizations that served at Shiloh failed to make official reports; others made such meager statements of service that it is difficult to give credit that is doubtless due to gallant organizations. It is, therefore, desired that the statements herein made be earnestly studied by every survivor of Shiloh, particularly in regard to his own organization, and that he report any errors or omissions found in these statements to "Secretary, Shiloh National Military Park Commission, Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee," who will investigate the same and make such corrections as the commission may direct with a view of the publication of a revised edition of this report. It is suggested that survivors examine official and other reports carefully and consult surviving comrades so as to be sure they are right before asking corrections.

CORNELIUS CADLE,
Chairman, Shiloh National Military Park Commission.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION.

Under the provisions of the act of Congress approved December 27, 1894, the Secretary of War appointed as commissioners: Col. Cornelius Cadle, of Cincinnati, Ohio, for Army of the Tennessee, chairman; Gen. Don Carlos Buell, of Paradise, Ky., for Army of the Ohio; Col. Robert F. Looney, of Memphis, Tenn., for Army of the Mississippi; Maj. D. W. Reed, of Chicago, Ill., secretary and historian, and Capt. James W. Irwin, of Savannah, Tenn., agent for the purchase of land.

The commission met and organized April 2, 1895, at Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., and at once entered upon the discharge of its duties, under the direction of the Secretary of War. Mr. James M. Riddell was appointed clerk of the commission.

Mr. Atwell Thompson, civil engineer, of Chattanooga, Tenn., was employed to take charge of the work. Under his direction surveys were made and parallel lines run across the field, from north to south, every 200 feet, upon which stakes were set 200 feet apart. From this survey levels were taken and a contoured topographical map made of all the land within the limits of the park.

Gen. Don Carlos Buell died on November 19, 1898, and Maj. J. H. Ashcraft, late of the Twenty-sixth Kentucky Volunteers, was appointed in his place.

Col. Robert F. Looney died on November 19, 1899, and Col. Josiah Patterson, late of the First Alabama Cavalry, was appointed in his place.

From official maps and reports, information received from residents, personal recollections of survivors of the battle and other information, roads, fields, and camps were restored; battle lines and positions of troops located and shown on the map and marked by historical tablets on the ground. Four maps have been made which show the field of operations, the approaches to Shiloh, and a map of each day's battle. Copies of these maps accompany this report.

The progress of the work has been fully reported each year by the chairman of the commission and his reports published in the annual report of the Secretary of War.

SHILOH CAMPAIGN AND BATTLE.

FIELD OF OPERATIONS.^a

On the 1st day of January, 1862, Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston was in command of all the Confederate forces of Tennessee and Kentucky. His troops occupied a line of defense extending from Columbus, Ky., through Forts Henry and Donelson to Bowling Green, Ky., where General Johnston had his headquarters.

Gen. H. W. Halleck at that date commanded the Department of the Missouri with headquarters at St. Louis, and Gen. D. C. Buell commanded the Department of the Ohio with headquarters at Louisville, Ky. The Cumberland River formed the boundary separating the Departments of the Missouri and the Ohio.

Various plans had been canvassed by Generals Halleck and Buell, participated in by the general in chief, for an attack upon the Confederate line. General Halleck had asked to have General Buell's army transferred to him, or at least placed under his command, claiming that without such union and an army of at least 60,000 men under one commander, it would be impossible to break the well-established lines of General Johnston.^b

Before such union could be effected, and before General Halleck had received a reply to his request, General Grant asked for and received permission to attack the line at Fort Henry on the Tennessee River.^c Assisted by the gunboat fleet of Commodore Foote, Grant captured Fort Henry on the 6th of February, and then moving upon Fort Donelson captured that place with 15,000 prisoners on the 16th. The loss of these forts broke General Johnston's line at its center and compelled him to evacuate Columbus and Bowling Green, abandon Tennessee and Kentucky to the Union Army and seek a new line of defense on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad.

General Halleck was displeased with Grant because he sent a division of troops into Buell's department at Clarksville.^d This displeasure was increased when he learned that General Grant had gone to Nashville for consultation with General Buell. Halleck directed the withdrawal of Smith's division from Clarksville, suspended General Grant from command, and ordered him to Fort Henry to await orders.^e He then placed Gen. C. F. Smith in command of all the troops with orders

^a See map of field of operations.

^b No. 8 War Records, pp. 508-510. Reference to War Records will be given by serial numbers, 10 War Records being volume 10; 11 War Records being part 2 of volume 10.

^c 1 Grant, p. 287.

^d Halleck's telegram to Cullum, March 1, 1862.

^e 11 War Records, p. 3.