

BATTLE OF BLUE LICKS 2007

BATTLE

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 the same land as that which occurred so many years ago. "We're hoping for a crowd of 4,000 to view this year's Battle of Blue Licks reenactment," said Park Manager Stefania Guitler.

Park Naturalist Paul Tierney, the coordinator for the battle reenactment, has been diligently overseeing the renovation to the park's museum, which will once again be open for the celebration.

Tierney says the renovated museum will showcase many of the past artifacts, which have been displayed in the museum, but other artifacts and displays will also be showcased.

Displays will also be frequently rotated and revised. Tierney says the renovation process will result in the museum telling a better story and providing a better understanding of the park's history for visitors. He's excited about the new look of the museum and the upcoming battle reenactment.

"We're going to have more participants at this year's reenactment, plus we're going to have more demonstrations," Tierney said. "We're going to provide the public with more of a quality event than they've seen before. We have reenactment groups coming from as far away as Michigan. They are doing this because of the significance of this year's event."

"We have the 225th anniversary of the battle with the reenactment to take place on some of the very ground where the battle occurred. There will be a huge response among our reenactors. More so than we've seen before."

The battle was the culmination of British military movements against Kentuckians, which began Aug. 10, 1782 when a group of

raiding Wyandotte warriors attacked Hoy's Station near present-day Richmond and kidnapped two young stepbrothers, James Hoy and Richard Calloway.

The warriors fled through Nicholas County before being engaged by a small group of militia soldiers led by Captain John Holder and Capt. John Fleming. The Kentuckians were ambushed in extreme southern Fleming County near the present-day community of Battle Run on Aug. 12, with the Kentuckians losing five men killed and Capt. Fleming being severely wounded. The engagement has since been called the Battle of Upper Blue Licks or Holder's Defeat.

Native American and British-led Canadian Rangers besieged the fort called Bryant's (Bryan's) Station on Aug. 15, and during hostile activity killed three men, wounded dozens and nearly burnt the fort down. When the enemy force, led by white renegade Simon Girty and British commander Capt. William Caldwell, retreated northward, a force of 182 Kentuckians pursued them.

Colonel John Todd, Lt. Col. Stephen Frigg and Lt. Col. Daniel Boone, led the Kentuckians.

The two armies clashed just north of the Licking River on land now consisting of the Blue Lick Battlefield State Resort Park.

The battle turned into a rout for the Kentuckians, who were ambushed in similar fashion to those who were defeated at Battle Run a week earlier.

The exact number of Kentuckians slain in the Battle of Lower Blue Licks is still disputed among historians, but most concur at least 14 officers, including Todd and Frigg, were eventually killed, and 47 enlisted men, including Israel Boone, the

eldest living son of Daniel Boone, also perished.

Many wounded and captured Kentuckians were tortured to death immediately after the battle and a second Kentucky Army, led by Gen. Benjamin Logan, marched to the scene and buried the remains seven days after the battle.

"We are led to believe that none were captured, from the number found at the friver0 crossing, tied and butchered," Private Andrew Steele, a survivor of the battle, wrote in a letter to the Gov. of Virginia.

Col. Levi Todd, a brother to Col. John Todd also accompanied Logan and his words about what Logan discovered matches Steele's. "They were all stripped naked and mangled in such a manner that it was hard to tell one from the other."

The dead were buried in a single grave and a monument inside the park marks their final resting place.

A memorial at the grave and the annual reenactment of the battle are two of several highlights guests will enjoy during the Aug. 17-19 activities at the park.

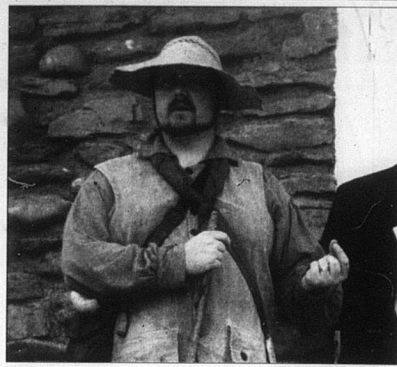
For more information on how to be a part of this historic event, call Paul Tierney at the park at 859-289-5507 or 1-800-443-7008.

Non-profit organizations that work 10 hours or more can qualify for a certificate good for a one-night stay at a scenic park resort park.

Groups must receive prior approval from the park committee for work to qualify.

Blue Lick Battlefield State Resort Park is one of the few Revolutionary War battlefields left in the country.

The park is equipped with a restaurant, a lodge, cottages, swimming pool, miles of hiking trails, a campground and many other fine features.



TEEN

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let him put his hands on my shoulder so he could lift his head above water, but I got out of breath too and then the current got hold of him and he went under and never came back up."

Treadway and Nicholas County Sheriff Dick Garrett, the first officer on the scene, said Watkins-Treadway, Julie Bretz and Lacey Brock were swimming close to one another when the accident occurred.

Treadway said he and Watkins had been swinging off of a cable tied to a tree and diving into the river and swimming for several hours prior to the accident.

"He said 'help me Josh' right before he went under the first time," Treadway said from the river bank near the cable, as his eyes focused on four boatloads of

fire and rescue workers who continued to search for what would be Watkins' body late into Tuesday afternoon.

"He was like a brother to me. We've been friends a long time."

Treadway had struggled to keep his strength and continued to search for Watkins after he sank beneath the surface the last time, but could not find him in the deep and murky water.

He, Bretz and Brock, then ran for help, and friends, family members, neighbors and emergency responders from three counties converged on the scene.

Harrison County Fire and Rescue members under the guidance of emergency management director Mike Palmer, joined forces with Nicholas County Emergency Management personnel under the direction of EMD Calvin Denton, and Fleming County Fire and Rescue

workers under the guidance of EMD Dwayne Price.

As John Simms Jr., of Fleming County, donned a wetsuit and continually dove beneath the river's surface, other emergency responders continued to probe the river's depths from boats.

Watkins' body was recovered at approximately 6:55 p.m., and he was pronounced dead by Nicholas County Coroner Billy Clark at 7 p.m.

Watkins was the son of Becky Leach of Nicholas County and Gary Watkins of Paris.

Chris Watkins was scheduled to be a member of the freshman class at Nicholas County High School when school opens next week.

NCHS Principal Joe Oranin said this type of thing has a large impact effect on the faculty, staff and students at the school.

AUGUST 9 2007

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