

GENERAL NEWS

Battlefield project approved

By Charles Mattox
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We know that Daniel Boone's second born son Isaac Boone was killed, along with approximately 62 other Kentucky frontiersmen during the August 19, 1782 Battle of Blue Licks.

Soon we may know exactly where Israel and his fellow Kentuckians died. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) devices will be used as part of an underground mapping system within the boundaries of the Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park, which encompasses much of the ground where the battle occurred.

Metal detecting surveys and surgical excavation projects that will follow the GPR studies are hoped to bring a better understanding of how the battle unfolded and pinpoint exact locations within the park where it is believed the "last battle of the American Revolutionary War" was fought.

This is the only park operation we have conducted that is specifically geared for students. Tuesday and Wednesday site tours are hoped to bring a better understanding of how the battle unfolded and pinpoint exact locations within the park where it is believed the "last battle of the American Revolutionary War" was fought.

The park manager said Park Naturalist Paul Tierney. "The park will remain all artifacts uncovered during the project."

According to Tierney, the project will involve Park staff, Morehead State University staff and students, area archaeologists and members of BRAVO (Battlefield Restoration Archaeological Volunteer Organization).

"We'll be covering all the ground that is located within the park property," Tierney said. "We'll be starting soon."

Tierney said he was excited about the project and said the members of the Robertson County Tourism Commission literally saved the project before it started.

"We simply couldn't have planned this project and executed it without the help of the fine folks with the Robertson County Tourism Commission," he said.

"We hope that some artifacts from the Revolutionary War will be recovered and we'll be happy that his students get to work with the more experienced BRAVO personnel.

The work the archaeologist will be doing will be open for public viewing and interested persons are invited to visit the park and observe while the surveying and digging is being conducted. Not only will visitors get a chance to see how modern archaeology is performed on an actual battlefield, but you just might be a part of history.

The Battle of Blue Licks was a crushing defeat for the Kentucky militia. Kentucky lost 14 militia officers killed with two captured during the battle. An additional 400 enslaved persons were killed during the battle, with another six being captured.

But since the engagement was such an overwhelming defeat, with wounded and missing from various parts of the state, and the chaotic weeks that followed the battle, we may never know exactly how many Kentuckians died as a result of the battle.

The dead were left on the battlefield for seven days before a 100-man recovery unit led by Colonel Benjamin Logan and Colonel Daniel Boone returned to the site.

There were few remains left to recover, as the Native Americans butchered many of the dead, which were additionally exposed to vermin and the oppressive summer sun.

Since identification of the dead was impossible, the mass remains were buried together in a solemn ceremony on a spot now located within the Park and marked by a single stone located just behind the massive obelisk that marks the park's entrance.

The battle came about due to a British and Native American offensive campaign into Kentucky. A large force of approximately 250 enemy combatants attacked Bryan's Station near Lexington and a smaller force simultaneously attacked Hoy's Station and 977-homestead near Richmond.

Israel had screamed over the roar of gunfire and the sounds of battle "I won't leave your side." A moment later he was struck by a musket ball in the lower throat and died within seconds.

Anyone with any questions regarding the BRAVO project is encouraged to contact Tierney at the park at 289-5007, and Tierney is asking all property owners that own land that joins the park to consider allowing the team of battlefield detectives to search their land.

"We hope the land owners will consider this and we will greatly appreciate it," Tierney said.

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commander of the enemy force was Captain William Caldwell. "We had but fired one Gun till they gave us a Volley and stood to it very well for some time, till we rushed in upon them, when they broke immediately." Caldwell wrote in a letter to his British superiors one week following the battle.

L. Colonel Daniel Bone was leading the "left wing" of the force, which was actually able to advance several hundred yards forward before the retreat commenced. Israel Boone died beside his father who had caught the reins of a horse that ran by and ordered his son to "mount up and ride."

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