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**Expanding on Minimal Data for a Feasibility Study: Fort Pillow National Battlefield  
Park or National Monument**

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## **Introduction**

The United States exists today because brave United States Soldiers (Multi-racial and multi-ethnic soldiers) fought, bled, and died for the United States and for Freedom of the People. The History of the United States is the History of the Multi-racial and Multi-ethnic People – The People. This is fact. In the fratricide called the United States Civil War, a Massacre occurred on April 12, 1864, and the Fort Pillow Massacre’s horrible legacy persists. No justice was given to the 300 United States Soldiers murdered at Fort Pillow, and no monument, park, and or memorial was ever established by the United States Government to Respect these Union Men. The RESPECT for American Soldiers killed in action for any war is nonpartisan. Thus, the RESPECT for American Soldiers (Union Soldiers) murdered on April 12, 1864 would be nonpartisan, and the establishment of Fort Pillow National Battlefield Park or Monument would be nonpartisan.

This Preliminary study contains 3 completed activities required for establishing Fort Pillow National Battlefield Park or Monument. First, a brief History of the Fort Pillow Massacre is given. This history relies on the primary source which is the 1864 Report to Congress on the Conduct of the War. Second, this study suggests paths for establishment of such a park or monument. Finally, this study contains preliminary data that is necessary to provide a rough business case for or initial economic analysis of Fort Pillow National Battlefield Park or Monument.

## **History: The U. S. Civil War from an African American Perspective.**

Tennessee, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, and South Carolina rebelled against the United States and formed the Confederate States of America (“CSA”). The objective of the CSA was to destroy the United States and permanently establish Black Chattel Slavery as an institution in the Confederate States of America. The CSA Constitution contains the following text:

### **“ARTICLE 1**

#### **SECTION 2.**

3. Representatives and Direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Confederacy, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all slaves. ...

#### **SECTION 9.**

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1. The importation of negroes of the African race, from any foreign country, other than the slaveholding States or Territories of the United States of America, is hereby forbidden; and Congress is required to pass such laws as shall effectually prevent the same.
  2. Congress shall also have power to prohibit the introduction of slaves from any State not a member of, or Territory not belonging to, this Confederacy.
  3. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it.
  4. *No bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law denying or impairing the right of property in negro slaves, shall be passed.*<sup>1</sup>

Commented [1]: Italicize and indent large quotes if that is the convention for this type of writing

On April 12, 1861, the CSA initiated its rebellion against the United States of America by attacking and bombarding Fort Sumter, South Carolina. After approximately 17 months of Civil War, with the Union Armies not demonstrating the ability to terminate the rebellion, President Lincoln issued the Executive Order(s) of the Emancipation Proclamation. Economist C. A. Bush, Ph.D. writes

“The Emancipation Proclamation consisted of two Executive Orders. After the Battle of Antietam which was considered a Union victory, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation excluding the naming of States in rebellion. In the second executive order on January 1, 1863, the names of the specific States and parts of States in which the Emancipation Proclamation specifically applied were given. There was an interval between September 22, 1862 and January 1, 1863. During an interval of 100 days, Confederate States could abandon their rebellion and return to the Union with their slave economies and institutions intact.<sup>2</sup> The Emancipation Proclamation was designed as a weapon to capitalize on Southern fear of a servile insurrection. It was also designed to forestall the recognition of the Confederacy by both Britain and France. After the 100 days had elapsed and the Confederacy remained in rebellion, President Lincoln specified the Confederate States where the proclamation applied. President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 did not apply to the Border States of Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri which bred slaves. It also exempted small portions of the Confederacy that had come under Union control. The Emancipation Proclamation had no effect on African Slaves in the Confederacy, where rebel armies had continually beaten Northern Armed Forces.<sup>3</sup> Thus, on January 1, 1863, President Lincoln effectively announced to the world that his primary goal was not to eliminate slavery in the United States but that the Civil War could not be won without the support and alliance of the Africans Slaves in States that were rebelling.

As the Ancient Romans had fought enemies by incorporating and controlling friendly barbarian armed forces, President Lincoln sought to incorporate an African Servile Insurrection

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.libs.uga.edu/hargrett/selections/confed/trans.html>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured\\_documents/emancipation\\_proclamation/](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/emancipation_proclamation/)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.coloradocollege.edu/Dept/HY/Hy243Ruiz/Research/civilwar.html>

into the Union Armed Forces. The Union would control African Warriors – Freedmen – through primarily White Union Officers.”<sup>4</sup>

Thus, the Emancipation Proclamation was fundamentally a recruiting instrument for African American participation in the United States War effort. There were 209,145 United States Colored Troops. Approximately 18,000 to 20,000 men of African descent were in the U.S. Navy, or 16% to 20% of the United States Navy were men of African descent.<sup>5</sup> “Negroes built most of the fortifications and earth-works for General Grant in Front of Vicksburg. In fact, miles of earth-works, fortifications, and corduroy-roads were made by Negroes. Blacks did fatigue duty in every department of the United States Army. There were at least 200,000 African Americans in the camps and employ of the Union Armies, as servants, teamsters, cooks, and laborers.”<sup>6</sup>

What was the response of the Confederacy to the recruitment of Negro Soldiers? The rebel’s public policies were: 1) treat United States Soldiers, who were Negro, as slaves engaged in servile insurrection and 2) promptly execute all captured White officers who led United States soldiers of African Descent.<sup>7</sup> Such policies violated any concept of civilized warfare!

In the face of a nearly certain death if captured by the Confederacy and potential betrayal by the North, each African Slave had his interests, hopes, and potential to consider in the War. Each slave had to decide for himself whether to give his life to fight - to be free. Once the North made its clear declaration, the African Slave made his decision. He freed himself by running away to fight with Union forces and/or abandoning his Southern master.” By freeing himself, the Black soldier fought to preserve the United States.<sup>8</sup>

Abolitionist Wendell Phillips stated to an audience at Faneuil Hall:

“Gentlemen, you know very well that this nation called 4,000,000 of Negroes into citizenship to save itself. [The United States] never called them for their own sakes. It called them to save self.”<sup>9</sup>

President Lincoln Stated:

“Without the military help of the Black freedman, the war against the South could not have been won.”<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Clarence Anthony Bush, *Battle Hymn of a Freedman*. (2012)

<sup>5</sup> nps.gov The National Park Service’s Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System.

<sup>6</sup> W. E. B. DuBois, *Black Reconstruction in America*, (New York: The Free Press, 1935, 1992), 106.

<sup>7</sup> Jefferson Davis, *Proclamation by the Confederate President Richmond, VA, December 24, 1862, GENERAL ORDERS, No. 111*. See: <https://freedom.umd.edu>

<sup>8</sup> Clarence Anthony Bush, *Battle Hymn of a Freedman* (2012)

<sup>9</sup> Dubois, p. 162

<sup>10</sup> Post-Civil War, Fall of 1865

### Why the Massacre at Fort Pillow Matters in 2026.

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The Fort Pillow Battle and the massacre that immediately followed completely represents why African Americans fought and the desperate conditions under which they fought. Black men fought for their freedom, and after Fort Pillow, they fought to absolutely prevail at all costs. In fact, the Fort Pillow Massacre April 12, 1864 is the largest massacre of United States Soldiers in our Nation's History. This massacre occurred because African American Soldiers and White Soldiers of the United States were fighting together to preserve the United States of America from destruction by rebel armies and to terminate Black Chattel Slavery in the United States. Three Hundred United States Soldiers (300) were murdered by rebel forces under the command of Confederate States of America General Nathan Bedford Forrest who was also the first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan ("KKK").

Again, the policies of the Confederate States of America were: 1) treat United States Soldiers, who were Negro, as slaves engaged in servile insurrection and 2) promptly execute all captured White officers who led United States soldiers of African Descent.<sup>11</sup> *At Fort Pillow General Nathan Bedford Forrest brutally and violently implemented these policies by killing between 300 to 400 United States Soldiers, including the murder of 300 United States Soldiers who had surrendered and were without arms.*<sup>12</sup> Simply, General Forrest and his "country" of the Confederate States of America sought to terrorize African Americans (soldiers and Civilian African Americans) into not fighting for their Freedom and for the preservation of the United States of America.

African Americans were not merely victims in the Civil War. There were 209,145 United States Colored Troops who fought for freedom of family, freedom of friends, and for their own freedom. The United States Colored Troops fought in numerous battles and served as Union assault troops. These 209,145 men had a 33% mortality rate or approximately 66,000 United States Colored Troops Dead. In fact, the United States Colored Troops (elements of the 25 Army Corp, U.S.C.T.) were the first United States Armed Forces to enter and secure Richmond Virginia on April 3, 1865. At New Market Heights, Virginia, fourteen African Americans were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, and their battle cry was REMEMBER FORT PILLOW.<sup>13</sup> Yes, the Battle Cry of the U.S.C.T. and other United States forces was REMEMBER FORT PILLOW! It was and is the Black cry to fight for freedom, equality before the law, justice, and life with hope, dignity, and opportunity!

Commented [3]: Perhaps change to "African Americans were not merely victims in the civil war"

Presently, Fort Pillow and some of the surrounding battlefield is the Fort Pillow Historic State Park of Tennessee. This park is dedicated to Nathan Bedford Forrest and the Confederacy's battlefield victory. Until most recently, the murder of 300 United States Soldiers was not

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<sup>11</sup> Jefferson Davis, *Proclamation by the Confederate President Richmond, VA, December 24, 1862, GENERAL ORDERS, No. 111*. See: <https://freedom.umd.edu>

<sup>12</sup> B. F. Wade and D. F. Gooch, *Reports of the Committee on the Conduct of the War Fort Pillow Massacre. Returned Prisoners*, (Washington, D. C.: United States Senate, 1864), 6.

<sup>13</sup> Joseph T. Wilson, *The Black Phalanx* (New York: DA CAPO PRESS, 1887), 463.

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mentioned! Moreover, Fort Pillow is the spiritually evil birthplace of post-Civil War terror and suppression of African American's rights and freedom, through profane and racist violence. While analyzing the Reconstruction Period of 1860 – 1880, W.E.B. Du Bois writes “The Ku Klux Klan was rampant in Alabama. In one district, six churches were burned by incendiaries before the election of 1870. Many schoolhouses were burned. Between 1868 and 1871, there were 371 cases of violence, including 35 murders.”<sup>14</sup> In fact, every State of the post-war and destroyed Confederate States of America had an active KKK terrorizing and murdering Africans into a new regime of White Supremacy. This is the legacy of Fort Pillow and Nathan Bedford Forest. In summary, Fort Pillow is ground zero for Post-Civil War symbols of racism, violence, terror, injustice toward African Americans.

Because of Post- Civil War racism and violently imposed White Supremacy, the historical event of the Fort Pillow Massacre was minimized or even hidden through distorted propaganda that glorifies and honors traitors to the United States. In fact, the denial of the Fort Pillow Massacre is simultaneously the denial of the contribution African Americans made to their own liberation from Black Chattel Slavery and contribution African Americans made rescuing the United States from destruction. In addition, justice for the 300 United States Soldiers murdered at Fort Pillow by General Forrest and the Confederate States of America does not exist in any form. Civil War crimes went unpunished. In the present representation of Fort Pillow by Tennessee, murder is rewarded, and the crime is glorified and celebrated.

#### **Path(s) to the Establishment of Fort Pillow National Battlefield Monument: A National Battlefield Park by Another Name**

Given the undisputed historical significance of the Fort Pillow Massacre in the survival of the United States of American and the fierce, existential fighting of United States Colored Troops for freedom of family, friends, and themselves, Fort Pillow State Park of Tennessee should become a National Battlefield Park so that truth will be brought to the hearts and minds of Americans and reconciliation on the Fort Pillow Massacre may begin. Moreover, the Massacre at Fort Pillow was a war crime, and the site of the massacre should not be a battlefield park celebrating racists, murders, and traitors as is Fort Pillow State Park of Tennessee. In fact, the Fort Pillow Massacre is the largest massacre of United States Soldiers in our Nation's History. But for racism, the site of the Fort Pillow would have long ago become a national battlefield park.

#### Proposals: For Current and Future Presidents & Current and Future Congresses

In some just time horizon, we respectfully request that the President and Congress consider two proposals for establishing Fort Pillow National Battlefield Monument/ Park.

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<sup>14</sup> Du Bois, .494.

*Proposal 1 (Cut through the Gordian Knot of Racism and Hate at Fort Pillow)*

The President issues an Executive Order (“Ft. Pillow Executive Order”) to establish “Fort Pillow National Battlefield Memorial Monument – A Wildlife Refuge” from the entire Federal Lands of the Lower Hache National Wildlife Refuge. ***Without altering the function or purpose of the Lower Hache National Wildlife Refuge, the executive order would simply rename this wildlife refuge and make it a national monument and memorial which honors United States Soldier and Civilians killed and murdered at Fort Pillow.*** Portions of the Lower Hache National Wildlife Refuge are immediately tangential to Fort Pillow Battlefield State Park of Tennessee and the town of Fulton, Tennessee.<sup>15</sup> In the Ft. Pillow Executive Order, the United States would acquire at a minimum Fort Pillow itself - stones, timbers, buildings, cannons, access, egress, etc. or, alternatively, acquire, without limitation, Fort Pillow State Park of Tennessee. The United States sovereign right of eminent domain would be used to acquire properties from the State of Tennessee for necessary expansion of Fort Pillow Battlefield Memorial Monument – A Wildlife Refuge. Consistent with the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Tennessee would be compensated at market value or other negotiated property value. Since the Battle of Fort Pillow was fought over an area that included lands now a part of the Lower Hache National Wildlife Refuge, the establishment of “Fort Pillow Battlefield Memorial Monument – A Wildlife Refuge,” with the fort, would be historically consistent<sup>16</sup> and leave Fort Pillow Historic State Park of Tennessee virtually unaffected. Thus, a “Fort Pillow National Battlefield Memorial Monument – A Wildlife Refuge” would be established on TRUTH. The 300 United States Soldiers, who were murdered by Nathan Bedford Forrest and the Confederate States of America, deserve JUSTICE. Under this proposal, Fort Pillow National Battlefield Memorial Monument would appear as the only measure of significant justice these United States Soldiers and Civilians are given.

The Ft. Pillow Executive Order would rest on both law and history for creating National Monuments. With respect to law, the Antiquities Act of 1906 gave the United States President enormous powers for “... the protection of objects of historic and scientific interest.” Presidents have the right to declare by proclamation any land owned or controlled by the federal government a National Monument. Thus, through executive orders, Presidents created 161 National Monuments, and Congress created 40.<sup>17</sup> Over time some of these national monuments have been converted to national parks. Transformations or redesignations have left 128 National Monuments.<sup>18</sup> In addition, “the Refuge Recreation Act of 1962 (16 U.S.C. 460(k)(1)) declared the refuge to be “suitable for (1) incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational

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<sup>15</sup> Once Fort Pillow was occupied by United States Military Forces “slaves forsook their owners in droves, walking, riding, driving their masters’ wagons and teams up from Fulton and westward from Ripley and greeting one another in a camp they slapped together where roads met, within the fort and a half mile back from the river.” See Andrew Ward, *River Run Red: The Fort Pillow Massacre in the American Civil War* (New York: Penguin Books, 2005), 45.

<sup>16</sup> After the Battle of Fort Pillow Major Bradford of the United States Army was captured. A day or so later “...Bradford was shot and hung near Covington, in Hache River bottom.” Wade and Gooch, 121.

<sup>17</sup> <https://nationalparkobsessed.com/list-of-national-monuments/>

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

development...”<sup>19</sup> Using this provision, we believe that a “Fort Pillow National Battlefield Memorial Monument – A Wildlife Refuge,” with the fort, is by definition environmentally consistent with the refuge’s purpose and, therefore consistent with Refuge Recreation Act. Some additional historical facts are: 1) The United States used eminent domain to acquire land for the creation of Gettysburg National Park from the Gettysburg Electric Railway Company.<sup>20</sup> This fact demonstrates the use of eminent domain. 2) Demonstrating the use of Federal lands, on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1877, President Ulysses S. Grant signed a bill designating Fort Wood/Bedloe's Islands the site for the Statue of Liberty.<sup>21</sup> 3) In 1908 President Theodore Roosevelt established the Grand Canyon National Monument by executive order.<sup>22</sup> 4) Including the Petrified Forrest (Arizona) and Mount Olympus (Washington) National Monuments, President Theodore Roosevelt established 18 National Monuments by Executive Order. 5) “Proclamation 9558 of December 28, 2016, and exercising his authority under section 320301 of title 54, United States Code (the “Antiquities Act”), President Barack Obama established the Bears Ears National Monument in the State of Utah, reserving approximately 1.35 million acres of Federal lands for the care and management of objects of historic and scientific interest identified therein.”<sup>23</sup> 6) On October 26, 2018 President Donald Trump designated Camp Nelson (training camp for U.S.C.T. in Kentucky) as a National Monument.<sup>24</sup> The lands for Camp Nelson were Federal Lands. Clearly and objectively, the President would have the authority and could issue the Ft. Pillow Executive Order of Proposal 1.

#### Proposal 2

In the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States, Representative Steve Cohen (Tennessee) sponsored Bill H.R. 926 which is the successor of H.R. 1130, ..., of previous Congresses. A Hearing on this bill is scheduled for January 14, 2026. The Republican Majority scheduled the hearing. At the same time a Senator is, however, sought to sponsor a companion bill to “H.R. 926.” This path could take many years, but it is a path.

We note that the National Park Service (“NPS”) has the authority and duty to initiate a study on any site potentially appropriate for national park status or national monument status. We also note that the President as Executive can instruct the NPS to study any site potentially appropriate for national park status or national monument status.

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<sup>19</sup> [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Lower\\_Hatchie/about/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Lower_Hatchie/about/)

<sup>20</sup> <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-supreme-court/160/668.html>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.nps.gov/stli/learn/historyculture/liberty-island-a-chronology.htm>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.nps.gov/thro/learn/historyculture/theodore-roosevelt-and-conservation.htm#:~:text=Roosevelt%20also%20established%20Chalmette%20MonuType%20equation%20here.ment%20and%20Grounds%20in,1900s%2C%20a%20time%20of%20great%20expansion%20and%20development.>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-modifying-bears-ears-national-monument/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/10/31/2018-24027/establishment-of-the-camp-nelson-national-monument>

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### Expanding on Minimal Data and the Economics for a Park

We build our simple economic model based on data contained in *Site Fact Sheet of the Fort Pillow State Historic Park Strategic Management Plan 2023 – 2033* by Tennessee State Parks. Because the United States Government now invests cash/money in private ventures such as Intel under the Chips Act, the Nippon Steel/U.S. Steel deal, MP Materials, ..., etc.<sup>25</sup> We use the Financial Microeconomics of Bush (2019, 2026) to arrive at rough market valuation of Fort Pillow Historic State Park of Tennessee.

Let  $r$  denote the discount rate which we set at the average return from Stocks in the S&P as between 11.3 and 12.9%. We take the low end of this range for this park. Let  $g$  denote the growth rate of cash flow. We assume this value is annual U.S. Corporate Profit growth rate = 7.5%. Let  $VO$  denote the market value of the park's plant and other productive assets plus the value of new plant and other new productive assets planned for 2026. We assign this value \$12,000 per acre - the price per acre of premium agricultural land ("transitional land") with potential future residential development analogous to middle Tennessee. This is, however, an overly optimistic assumption given the condition and location of Fort Pillow Historic State Park. Let  $E\Pi$  denote expected year end 2026 profit. Value =  $VO + \frac{E\Pi}{r-g}$ . (Value of the land without the park activity plus value of the park activity.) The valuation is \$5,795,570.

If the Fort Pillow State Historic Park is not purchased from Tennessee, the cost of renaming the Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge to Fort Pillow National Battlefield Memorial Monument – A Wildlife Refuge plus the cost of perhaps 5 to 10 acres on which the wood fort and cannons, is rest de minimis.

### CONCLUSION

Justice for 300 United States Soldiers plus women and children murdered by Nathan Bedford Forrest on April 12, 1864 must be delivered by the United States of America. The only real justice is the truth about the Fort Pillow Massacre and establishment of "Fort Pillow National Battlefield Memorial Monument – A Wildlife Refuge." This judgement states and memorializes in a Monument/Park that United States' Soldiers lives are eternally valued. The cost of this proposal is de minimis, e.g., cost of replacing signs.

Reconciliation also begins with truth. We suggest the following. At "Fort Pillow National Battlefield Memorial Monument – A Wildlife Refuge" and in the existing administrative areas on the Mississippi River, a brick-mortar-steel monument celebrating the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> the Amendments, which brought Freedom, Citizenship, Civil Rights, and Voting Rights to African Americans and other Americans, be constructed with private participation. These rights were won through bloody armed struggle and other forms of

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<sup>25</sup> Trump Administration is Taking Billions in Stakes in Firms Like Intel – the New York Times  
<https://share.google/k9Bai3izHbQmIXRK2R>

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sacrifice. This would transform Fort Pillow into a place of truth and natural life. High on the bluff at Fort Pillow, itself, a memorial with the names of the United States Soldiers Massacred and some memorial capturing the contribution of the U.S.C.T. could be established in the fort.