Raymond Military Park was selected as the Adventure Trail of the Year for 2013 by the Civil War Trust.

The CWT held its annual conference in Jackson, MS, on May 29—June 2, 2013, in Jackson, MS. The theme for the conference was Unvexed to the Sea: The Vicksburg Campaign. Conference attendees toured Raymond Military Park on Thursday, May 30, with our own Gen. Parker Hills acting as tour guide. Other tours included the Vicksburg National Military Park, Jackson, Vicksburg, Port Gibson, Grand Gulf, Dillon’s Plantation, Rocky Springs, Willow Springs, Clinton, Champion Hill, and other battle significant sites.

Friends of Raymond is proud to participate each spring in the national Park Day event sponsored by the Civil War Trust and the History Channel.
The Battle of Raymond was fought on May 12, 1863. Confederate General John Gregg defended the Confederate position at Raymond with about 3,000 troops against Union General James McPherson and about 12,000 Union troops. After a day of fighting, the Confederates were forced to withdraw and the Union troops marched into Raymond.

On April 27, the City of Raymond and Friends of Raymond sponsored the Raymond Spring Pilgrimage and Tour of Homes. The pilgrimage included seven antebellum homes currently privately owned and resided in by residents of Raymond. In addition, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church was open for touring.

On Saturday, May 11, the Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Raymond took place. The commemoration ceremony began with a color guard presented by the Boy Scouts, followed by music provided by Bill Ellison and Friends. Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Justice William L. Waller, Jr., spoke on his thoughts about the Civil War and the significance of this event in American history. Following his remarks and more music, the Boy Scouts presented a flag retirement ceremony and participants enjoyed a light lunch in the garden.

Following the commemoration ceremony and lunch, cannon sponsors for the Raymond Military Park were honored in a ceremony at the park along Fourteen Mile Creek where actual fighting took place. Cannon sponsors were presented with certificates of appreciation for their financial support of the cannon restoration.

The day ended with a plaque dedication at Dillon’s Plantation on Old Port Gibson Rd. south of Raymond. This is the site where General U.S. Grant changed his battle plan for the capture of Vicksburg, turning toward Jackson before heading west to the river. The plaque was placed as part of the Grand Gulf-Raymond Scenic Byway.
Parker Hills - Evenings at St. Mark’s Lecture Series

Cannon Dedication Ceremony

Boy Scouts Flag Retirement Ceremony

Spring Pilgrimage Home Tours—Dupree-Ratliff House

Dillon’s Plantation Marker Dedication
Friends of Raymond:
Mission & Membership

The mission of the Friends of Raymond is to preserve, interpret, manage, and promote significant historic sites in Raymond, Mississippi, and the surrounding area and to receive contributions or grants from any and all sources to be used for one or more of these purposes.

Friends of Raymond was founded in 1998 as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation, and all memberships and donations are tax deductible. Membership dues are:

- **FRIEND** Under $100
- **VOTING MEMBER** $100 and above
- **GENERAL** $5,000

Membership dues and donations for 2012 can be mailed to Friends of Raymond at the address above, or can be paid on-line through the FOR web site (www.friendsofraymond.org) using a credit card or PayPal.

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS! We are trying to save postage for the newsletter by emailing it to those FOR members and interested persons for whom we have email addresses. You can help—send us your email address at friends@friendsofraymond.org.