CIVIL WAR ITINERARY

Students of the War Between the States can walk the historic grounds of monumental battles.

First, stroll on the walkway of the seawall on the Berwick Bay riverfront in Morgan City. On June 23, 1863, Morgan City was **Brashear City** and across the bay in Berwick, Confederate soldiers entrenched on the riverfront directed cannons and musket fire on the Union encampment at Brashear City. If you turn and look to the rear of the city, you can imagine a Confederate force of 325 men under Major Sherod Hunter mounting a surprise attack from the rear of Brashear City on the Union troops.

Captain Tom Green and his men attacked the Union Camp where Lawrence Park is today, the railroad depot on the edge of the bay, and Fort Brashear near the railroad tracks. Visit Fort Brashear and stand on the breastworks where Union soldiers defended their position to no avail.

Visit the remaining portion of Fort Brashear on the grounds of the Atkinson Memorial Presbyterian Church at 212 Fourth Street in Morgan City. A historical marker is located on the breastworks of the fort.

Leaving Morgan City going west, travel to Patterson. The **Battle of Bisland** took place west of Pattersonville (today's Patterson) on April 12-13, 1863. A Union force of 30,000 under Major General Nathaniel P. Banks marched through the sugarcane fields to reach the Confederate battle line and Fort Bisland on the Bayou Teche. Imagine the deafening roar of cannon fire as a contingent of 5,000 Confederate soldiers defended their homeland against the Union invaders. Visit the historical marker on Hwy. 90 west of Patterson near the Calumet Cut and learn more about the battle.

Traveling further west to the sugarcane fields above Franklin; visit the site of the last Confederate defenses against the Union army in St. Mary Parish.

From Main Street in Franklin turn right onto Sterling Road near the Franklin Cemetery; this road merges into Irish Bend Road. On April 14, 1863, Confederate forces under Major General Richard Taylor attacked General Cuvier Grover's division of the XIX Union Army Corps at **Irish Bend**. You can still view Nelson's Woods, from which the Confederates began their attack on the Yankees in the sugarcane fields. But the Union forces recovered and the Confederates retreated, leaving the battlefield to the Union. This Union victory, along with that of the Battle of Bisland, opened western Louisiana to the Union army. A historical marker is located on Irish Bend Road near Nelson's Woods and the cane fields where the battle occurred. Be sure to stop at **Grevemberg House Museum** and **Shadowlawn** to see Civil War artifacts and **Young Sanders Center**, a repository of Civil War history.