

FALL 2021 ★ Vol.22 No.3

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

HALLOWED GROUND

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War GAMES

PASTIMES THAT HAVE SUSTAINED
AMERICAN SOLDIERS FOR CENTURIES

HALLOWED GROUND
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THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST preserves our nation's hallowed battlegrounds and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters today. We permanently protect these battlefields as a lasting and tangible memorial to the brave soldiers who fought in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Thanks to the contributions of more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide, we have preserved more than 53,000 acres, 143 sites in 24 states. For more information, call 800-298-7878 or visit our website at www.battlefields.org. *Hallowed Ground* is the membership magazine of the American Battlefield Trust. It is produced solely for nonprofit educational purposes and every reasonable attempt is made to provide accurate and appropriate attribution for all elements, including those in the public domain. Contemporary images are reproduced only with permission and appropriate attribution; uncredited images are courtesy the American Battlefield Trust. Feature articles reflect the research and opinion of the bylined author. ©2021 American Battlefield Trust. CORRECTION: The Manassas photo on the cover of the four-page "wrap" in the Summer 2021 issue was improperly captioned. It was actually photographed by Matt Brant.



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RECENTLY I had the opportunity to take an early-morning walk on the Gettysburg Battlefield, specifically, the tracts of priceless hallowed ground associated with the First Day of that battle that have been preserved and largely restored by the Trust at Robert E. Lee's Headquarters and Seminary Ridge. If you have not been there recently, at both sites you will now encounter markers we have installed recognizing by name the thousands of generous donors who made gifts to help acquire, preserve and restore these irreplaceable acres. Without them, this part of the battlefield might now be compromised by a multi-floor hotel or academic buildings or a townhouse development.



As I read through the list of donors — many of whom I know personally from 20-plus years of annual conferences, Color Bearer events or other gatherings — the question formed in my mind: *What motivates some people to willingly donate significant sums of their hard-earned money, truly, part of their life's success, to help save these parts of our nation's history?* I then recalled that I had a large box of documents in my office, which were generated by a questionnaire we sent in one of our mailed battlefield-preservation appeals. In it, we asked supporters like you to write your answer to a similar question: *Why are you proud to be a supporter of the American Battlefield Trust?*

Mrs. D. Belanger of Tinley Park, Ill., says that to her, "It's important to teach U.S. History to future generations. I'm so grateful that I can be a part of telling the stories of the sacrifices made, and to honor those who sacrificed their lives." Mr. Albert

Wiggin of Myrtle Beach, S.C., captures something perhaps you have also experienced: "It gives me chills to walk a battlefield early in the morning or as the sun is setting. You can almost feel the soldiers marching past to that last muster." Sherry and Francis Holinat, from my neck of the woods in northern Virginia, remind us that "Our country was not founded in a day, a week, or even a year. Every day we struggle to make it a better nation. Saving our history is how we preserve our country for our children and grandchildren." Finally, Louise Sullivan from Woburn, Mass., says, "I want to encourage younger generations to visit the battlefields and learn the price our forefathers paid to give us a nation like no other."

Preserve... Educate... Inspire. These aren't just random words we pulled out of a hat. They are the foundation of everything we do here at the Trust, driven by a passion to preserve our country's amazing history, not just for our own benefit today, but mostly for the benefit of future generations, and for the survival of our nation. With this call to action in mind, and as you make your year-end charitable giving plans, I respectfully ask you to continue to generously support the unique and irreplaceable mission of the American Battlefield Trust. Because today, with threats multiplying at an alarming rate, our country needs the work we do more than ever, which means I need you more than ever. Thank you, and I wish you and yours every joy of the upcoming holiday season.

DAVID N. DUNCAN
President, American Battlefield Trust

President Portrait by BUDDY SECOR

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Take a behind-the-scenes look at a Civil War-era "base ball" tournament and see how America's pastime has evolved — and remained the same — over the past 150 years.
www.battlefields.org/base-ball

STRIKE UP THE BAND

From lyrics to playlists, check out our resources devoted to Civil War music. www.battlefields.org/civil-war-music
Or go straight to the tunes at www.soundcloud.com/americanbattlefieldtrust

TASTES OF THE CIVIL WAR

During the Civil War, cooking was more necessity than hobby. To approximate the flavors that a soldier or civilian of the era would have experienced, sample the relevant installment of our Perceiving the Civil War series. www.battlefields.org/civil-war-taste

WAR GAMES

Our latest outing with Little Wars TV pits professional historians against experienced gamers to recreate the Battle of Brandywine in miniature.
www.youtube.com/AmericanBattlefieldTrust

- FACEBOOK.COM/AMERICANBATTLEFIELDTRUST
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Photo by MATT BRANT

MEET THE 2021–2022 YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM

*History-loving teens plan
ambitious projects in their
local communities*

AFTER RECEIVING applications from eager students across the nation, the Trust has identified and trained a talented group of teens to serve as the organization's 2021–2022 Youth Leadership Team (YLT). The 14 participants of this latest cohort are ready to engage classmates, neighbors and local decisionmakers by taking on custom-designed projects that pursue preservation and interpretation goals and make a tangible impact in their corner of the country.

Participants are selected through a competitive application process, and successful candidates undergo training in many aspects of the organization's mission — from the mechanics of land transactions to the philosophies of place-based education — and in advocacy skills, like interacting with the media and petitioning support from public officials. Trust staff will work with and mentor each student as they craft a project to be undertaken in their local community, tailored to fit their passions and interests.

YLT participant, Stephanie Wang, 17, of Katy, Texas, was drawn to the Trust because she saw “an opportunity to work alongside the nation's leading battlefield preservation organization” and share her love of history with not only other young people but also those on Capitol Hill. “I'm looking forward to traveling to Washington to lobby our legislators to help us further protect the nation's hallowed landscapes.”

The program has been wildly successful, attracting the attention of the Pipkin Charitable Foundation. The group issued



Rachael Walters



Justin Chung



Stephanie Wang

a generous grant, investing in the advocacy work that each YLT member will bring to their community. The support also enabled the program to grow its membership and issue a base stipend for each member to put toward their capstone project.

“The passion of these young people is not just inspiring, but tangible,” said Connor Townsend, the Trust's manager of audience development and the YLT project lead. “They have a vast dedication to the study of history, but through this program, they'll have the necessary tools to demonstrate its continued relevance and resonance in our modern lives.”

Planned projects for the coming academic year include a children's book discussing women as Civil War soldiers, an advocacy campaign for a Revolutionary War site in New Jersey, a video series featuring Revolutionary and Civil War reenactors, expanded on-site and online interpretation for a Civil War-era raid on Richmond, and the promotion of under-told historical narratives, like those of women and Black soldiers.

“To me, historic preservation is a way to teach history in a far more engaging manner than a lecture in a classroom or a passage in a textbook,” said YLT participant Hank Thompson, 17, of Richmond, Va. “Whether it's a child who has little knowledge, or a historian with decades of knowledge, there always seems to be something a person can gain from visiting the very site where the event transpired, and history was created.”

The full roster of the 2021–2022 Youth Leadership Team follows: Olivia Bucs, 16, of Columbus, N.J.; Joseph Candelas, 17, of Harker Heights, Texas; Justin Chung, 16, of Anaheim, Calif.; Alexis Ellis, 16, of Saint Rose, La.; Abbie Hasty, 16, of Alton, Ill.; Sydney Kirages, 15, of Lake Forest, Ill.; Joseph Martin, 17, of Richmond, Mo.; Rory Moran, 17, of Davidson, N.C.; Sean Myers, 17, of Church Point, La.; Catherine Slavich, 16, of Lanett, Ala.; Hank Thompson, 17, of Richmond, Va.; Rachael Walters, 17, of Brunswick, Ga.; Stephanie Wang, 17, of Katy, Texas; and William Whitworth, 15, of Ashburn, Va.★

VETERAN ARCHAEOLOGY TEAM RETURNS TO SARATOGA

*Trust sponsorship helps modern warriors unearth legacy
of their predecessors in uniform*

IN THE SUMMER of 2019, a first-of-its-kind partnership brought modern warriors with American Veterans Archaeological Recovery (AVAR) to Saratoga National Historical Park to assist professionals from the National Park Service (NPS) in conducting archaeological research on the battlefield that represents the turning point of the American Revolution. The partnership, which marked the first time AVAR participants were able to engage on a battlefield where American troops fought, was facilitated by the American Battlefield Trust, which also financially supported the work.

As explored in depth in the Winter 2019 issue of *Hallowed Ground*, the work done at Saratoga was groundbreaking—literally and figuratively. Important artifacts that helped solidify and verify existing interpretations of the action on October 7, 1777, were unearthed, and the professional archaeologists gained appreciation for the distinct skillset represented by military veterans. AVAR participants experienced the unique benefits of rehabilitation archaeology, demonstrating that the skills gained in military service can be transferred to other mission-driven teams. So successful was the joint effort that it was awarded the National Park Service's 2020 Appleman-Judd-Lewis Cultural Resource Award in recognition of its impressive interdisciplinary stewardship team. Perhaps even more exciting, a second phase of the project was swiftly approved!

Just after Labor Day 2021, the joint

AVAR-NPS team returned to Saratoga, with the Trust again serving as a financial sponsor, thanks to the support of our members. Over four weeks, dozens of veterans put their combat-honed skills to use, examining an American battlefield nearly 250 years removed from their own era of service. But regardless of the passage of time, these warriors felt a legacy and brotherhood unique to America's military and were eager to better understand what their predecessors experienced during this battle.

Although the excavation tools are now packed away, NPS archaeologists are just beginning to analyze the objects discovered and observations made in the field. We look forward to sharing this most robust vision of the fighting around the Barber Wheatfield once they complete this important work.

Meanwhile, AVAR has already identified its next project on U.S. soil — joining the Finding Medina team on a quest to positively identify the location of the 1813 Battle of Medina near San Antonio, Texas. The battle took place on August 18, 1813, between 1,830 Spanish Royalists and 1,400 irregulars of the Republican Army of the North as part of the Mexican War of Independence and featured an array of ethnic groups that came together to form the modern state of Texas: Tejanos, Native Americans, Anglos and former Spanish Royalists. The Trust is excited to continue championing the important work done by AVAR on battlefields across the country and around the world as the veteran group partners with the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency to assist in the recovery and repatriation of missing American military personnel remains.★

**WARRIOR
LEGACY**
★★★★★



Photography by GLENN RIEGEL





CONSIDERING "WHAT IF?" *at the Battle of Brandywine*

SPECULATING ALTERNATIVE scenarios and outcomes for historical events is an almost limitless endeavor. Historians — both professional and amateur — engage in this type of thought exercise for academic purposes and entertainment. According to our friends at Little Wars TV, a popular YouTube channel about historical miniature war-gaming, the hobby of playing games of military strategy stretches back to 2000 B.C.!

This September, as we celebrated the engagement's 244th anniversary, Little Wars TV invited the Trust to join them in re-creating the largest fight of the American Revolution — the Battle of Brandywine — with a preservation spin. The four custom tabletops with thousands of miniatures were all erected on the battlefield itself, a place where the Trust has saved 116 acres to date.

In a video posted before the wargame, participants set the stage and debated many aspects of this pivotal moment in the war. Only 30 miles from the American seat of government at Philadelphia, Washington was forced to make a stand despite misgivings about the merits of the terrain, a lack of quality maps and a numerical disadvantage. Perhaps unsurprising given these odds, the Americans were defeated — but they were far from routed, proving they could hold their own against the British

in a stand-up fight and retreat in good order to fight another day. Still, the loss of Philadelphia rankled, and there were calls for Washington to step down.

And then, six players squared off in an epic wargame to re-fight the events of September 11, 1777. The Trust-sponsored team wore Continental blue, with Chief Historian Garry Adelman taking on the mantle of George Washington, alongside trusted lieutenants John Sullivan/the Marquis de Lafayette and Nathanael Green (alternately known as Eric Gimbee and Dave Raymond of Bobblehead George, a YouTube channel that creates exciting, history-focused virtual field trips for students). British figures were embodied by a trio of seasoned gamers from Little Wars TV, and both sides played with the rules of the game "Live Free or Die."

Rather than simply playing through, the action was presented with an interactive twist: Teams played the scenario not once, but twice! At a critical moment in the battle, we hit "pause" and ask you to make a command decision as George Washington, creating a "choose your own adventure" sure to spark dinner-time debate.

This effort marked the Trust's second foray into the field with Little Wars TV, following a successful spring 2019 effort at Gettysburg, and we're eager to be invited back so we can again play along with members online and in social media! Check out our best efforts at Brandywine on the Trust's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/AmericanBattlefieldTrust.★

THE TRUST is thrilled that our partners at the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) have completed installation of a boat launch on a Trust-protected property on the Rappahannock Station Battlefield, giving residents a new public access point to the state-designated scenic river.

"The Rappahannock River has been central to this community for generations," said Trust Chief Land Preservation Officer Tom Gilmore. "By using this historic landscape in a meaningful way for today's citizens, we are creating a profound connection between our past and our future."

The kayak/canoe launch is a timber-framed concrete staircase, with a wooden slide for hand-launch of non-motorized vessels. It was built in July by representatives of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, Fauquier County Parks and Recreation, The Piedmont Environmental Council and resident volunteers.

"One of the identified priorities for addressing the need to connect more communities to nature and open space is creating public access to clean rivers and streams. The Piedmont region is blessed with numerous rivers and tributary streams, but there are few places where it is easy to get on the water. Creating public access on the Rappahannock, especially in Remington, is an opportunity we have been steadily working on for years with partners in Remington, Fauquier County, Friends of the Rappahannock, the American Battlefield Trust and state agencies and funders," said PEC President Chris Miller.

The Rappahannock River runs for approximately 55 miles, serving as a boundary between Fauquier County and Rappahannock and Culpeper Counties.



Rappahannock Station Battlefield Park
Fauquier County, Va.
MATTHEW MINION

CELEBRATING NEW RECREATIONAL ACCESS *to the historic Rappahannock River*

Until now, the only water access point with a boat launch along that entire distance was at Kelly's Ford in Culpeper County; the nearest take-out location was 32 miles downstream in Spotsylvania County. The new boat launch is part of a broader goal to create an upper Rappahannock River water trail system.

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources will maintain the launch, with assistance from Fauquier County Parks & Recreation staff, who served as project lead and provided technical assistance, labor and volunteer coordination. Fund-

ing for construction was provided by the Virginia Environmental Endowment, an independent nonprofit grant-making foundation, and PEC, alongside an in-kind donation by Vulcan Materials Company. The PATH Foundation and Friends of the Rappahannock donated toward archaeological study of the historical site and the erection of signage. Volunteers from Fauquier County Parks & Recreation, PEC, Virginia Department of Forestry and John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District planted native trees and shrubs to help with erosion control and add beauty to the park.★

PRESIDENT EMERITUS HONORED *by major national history organization*

IN LEADING the American Battlefield Trust for 21 years, Jim Lighthizer made quite an impression on the history community. The more than 53,000 acres saved with Lighthizer at the organization's helm speak to his unyielding determination to ensure that American history can be taught upon the fields where it unfolded and shared for generations to come. For his efforts and impact, he was selected as a 2021 recipient of the American Association for State and Local History's (AASLH) Award of Excellence. The award was presented

during the AASLH Annual Meeting held in Little Rock, Ark., in late September. "For more than 80 years, AASLH has connected all those who are dedicated to protecting and interpreting the American story through its advocacy work and conferences, and a slew of growth-oriented programs, research and publications," said Lighthizer. "It is an honor to be recognized by an organization that strives to highlight the resonance of the past in practical and thoughtful ways."

The Trust draws upon many AASLH values, especially regarding its concern for community impact. Preserved land often translates into sought-after, open green spaces; outdoor classrooms for students who travel near and far to learn about the places where our nation's formative conflicts unfolded; or identity builders for American towns seeking to showcase their unique history and profound past. History creates bonds that unite cities, towns, states and regions. The Trust's members demonstrate the unifying power that history holds as they give generously to see it preserved.★

VETERANS IN PARKS ACT

will provide America's heroes with permanent, free access to America's treasures

LEGISLATION now moving through Congress would provide America's heroes with unfettered access to the nation's most special places. The Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act was introduced by U.S. Reps. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) and Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa)—plus 133 original bipartisan cosponsors—in mid-July and was passed in that chamber in August. A Senate version has been introduced but not yet acted on.

The act would allow for free annual America the Beautiful passes to be made available to current military service members and free lifetime access to veterans and members of Gold Star families so they can freely enter all our national parks and public lands. The America the Beautiful Pass provides access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including our national parks, national forests and wildlife refuges. Although the pass was made free to veterans and Gold Star families for 2020, the VIP Act codifies and perpetuates that move.

“By answering the call to service, our active-duty military and veterans have proven a willingness to sacrifice on behalf of this nation, demonstrating their commitment to its highest ideals,” said Trust President David Duncan. “Welcoming them eagerly to Amer-



Wounded Warriors and their families at Monocacy National Battlefield, Frederick, Md. MATT BRANT

ica's most meaningful landscapes, places of enduring significance to the fabric of our nation, is a fitting gesture of gratitude. The American Battlefield Trust, a stalwart supporter of both the National Park Service and our modern military, unreservedly supports the Veterans in Parks Act, and stands ready to help welcome modern warriors as they walk in the footsteps of their forbearers at the nation's battlefield parks.”

The American Battlefield Trust is proud to support this meaningful legislation, along with scores of other like-minded organizations, including: Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Cultural Resources Association, VoteVets, The Mission Continues, American Trails, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, American Hiking Society, ConservAmerica, Southeast Tourism Society, REI Co-op, Audubon, Sierra Club, U.S. Travel Association, National Wildlife Federation, American Conservation Coalition, America Outdoors, Student Conservation Association and Wildlife Management Institute.★

DELUCA AND HUDSPETH RETIRE AFTER DECADES SPENT ON TRUST STAFF

Longtime fixtures of the organization remembered fondly

WITHIN the past year, the American Battlefield Trust witnessed the retirement of two longtime employees, Frank DeLuca and Ruth Hudspeth. Combined, the duo accumulated more than 36 years at the organization and played pivotal roles in the preservation of more than 53,000 acres of historic battlefield land.

Frank joined the Trust in March of 2007 and quickly jumped into the role of philanthropic adviser, building relationships with those devoted to saving American history. Through his efforts,

significant gifts bolstered countless preservation campaigns, facilitating matching donations to bring opportunities across the finish line. While his presence is missed at the Trust, he's now enjoying time with his wife, kids, grandchildren and beloved Baltimore Orioles!

Meanwhile, Ruth's connection to the organization predates even that of President Emeritus Jim Lighthizer. She started in 1998 with one of the groups that later merged in 1999 to become the Trust we now know. As chief financial officer, Ruth helmed the management of the funds that drive our preservation and education work. Not only

that, but she also oversaw the operations of our former Hagerstown, Md., office. This Pittsburgh native will now be taking time to relish in some well-deserved R&R in her Hagerstown home.

As both these Trust staples step away from the organization, President David Duncan fondly remembers their contributions. “The years I spent working alongside Frank and Ruth were an honor,” said Trust President David Duncan. “Their commitment to our cause was exceptional and their camaraderie was valued by the entire staff. They indelibly shaped the organization we have become.”★

RALLY FOR FORT NEGLEY

Nashville icon faces threat

FORT NEGLEY, constructed atop St. Cloud Hill south of Nashville in 1862, is all that remains of the Union defenses that once encircled the city. Much of the work on these fortifications was performed by African Americans pressed into service by the Union army — either those still enslaved or self-emancipated Blacks who had fled bondage for contraband camps near Federal lines. Conditions for these laborers were harsh; 90 percent went uncompensated and perhaps one-quarter died in the process, with not all exhumed and reinterred in permanent cemeteries. In recognition of this important narrative, Fort Negley is one of the first American sites selected for the UNESCO Slave Route Project, an important international designation.

In the early 20th century, efforts to create a national park unit at Nashville — that would have included Fort Negley — failed, and the city took over the site for recreational purposes. Museums and a minor league baseball stadium flourished over the decades, but the fort itself was off-limits to the public until 2004. A large mixed-use development proposed for the area was defeated in early 2018, but now another destructive force is at work.

The Adventure Science Center (ASC) — which leases land near the edge of Fort Negley, adjacent to one of Nashville's first emancipated African American neighborhoods with ties to the soldiers, conscripts and refugees who built the largest inland fort of the Civil War — planted trees for an arboretum under the cover of night. Not only this, but it was done without consultation to any concerned parties, and ahead of an already scheduled archaeological study of this exact ground, which potentially holds significance in the form of foundations, military trenches and possibly graves. And while arboretums are wonderful amenities with environmental, educational and recreational benefits, Metro Parks already operates one featuring several award-winning trees adjacent to Fort Negley in the Nashville Cemetery — and Vanderbilt University operates another with more than 6,000 trees elsewhere in the city.

It is time for interested parties to come together and discuss the impact of adding another inappropriate (and clearly duplicative) intrusion onto the cultural landscape. History should not be marginalized to satisfy the trendy fund-raising plan of planting trees in honor of generous donors and calling it an arboretum.★



Fort Negley
Nashville, Tenn.
MIKE TALPLACIDO

PIVOTAL PIECE OF HARPERS FERRY BATTLEFIELD

now part of national park



Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
Harpers Ferry, W. Va.
NICHOLAS IVERSON



ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST SCENIC and historically significant national parks grew this August, thanks to a land donation by the Trust. This 0.61-acre parcel is the final portion of a four-part preservation campaign undertaken between 2013 and 2014 to be transferred to the National Park Service, which means the Trust is now responsible for the protection of 342 acres within Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

“Over the course of 29 years, the Trust has faithfully stood beside the hallowed ground of Harpers Ferry, diligently pursuing preservation opportunities large and small,” said Trust President David Duncan. “This donation is the latest chapter in a long story of augmenting a landscape steeped in some of the most dramatic chapters of American history — from the Civil War to civil rights.”

This particular site was once proposed for a new gas station and mini-mart, but the Trust and its devoted partners stymied historically destructive development in its tracks. In 2013, the Trust acquired this and an adjacent 3.28 acres in partnership with the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), the National Park Service and the Bank of Charles Town, all of which recognized its unforgettable role in the American story. With this land now incorporated into its borders, the park's gateway is more secure and new opportunities for interpretation can be sought.

“This landscape is rich in stories of our Civil War and civil rights history, and it's an honor to have helped preserve it from inappropriate development,” said Joy M. Oakes, NPCA's senior Mid-Atlantic regional director. “The National Park Service is America's greatest storyteller, and it's vital that we help them protect places like Harpers Ferry for future generations.”

The transfer marked the end of an impactful chapter of Trust efforts at Harpers Ferry. In 2013–2014, we worked alongside various partners to save 17 acres on the battlefield. Some of that land was quickly moved into the park's possession, and the transfer of the 13-acre Allstadt's Corner property was celebrated in August 2019.★

FIELD REPORTS
LOCAL PARTNERS AND ALLIES



THE CENTRAL Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT) celebrated its 25th anniversary with an annual meeting announcement in October that demonstrated it was business as usual for this regional preservation organization during its benchmark year.

The CVBT announced the completion of three new battlefield land acquisitions—one at the Wilderness, another at Chancellorsville and the third at Spotsylvania. For an organization whose motto is “Preserving dirt and grass,” it was a fitting way to honor a quarter century of work.

The three acquisitions brought the CVBT’s 25-year catalog of acquisitions to a total of 1,557 acres in 38 different purchases at the three battlefields, as well as at Fredericksburg and Brandy Station.

The organization was created by a group of preservation-minded history devotees in the Fredericksburg area. “It was a congregation of concerned citizens who were kind of just talking about it, and they ended up getting together and creating it on September 4, 1996,” said President Tom Van Winkle. “CVBT has been extremely successful in a very difficult area to save Civil War battlefield land” because of the high price of real estate, he said. “And we’re constantly working on new projects and purchases. We have three spreadsheets with targeted properties, so I would say we have lots of new projects on the horizon.”

The CVBT often partners with the American Battlefield Trust to save

land, but it also has made many acquisitions on its own. When the Trust announced its most expensive battlefield purchase ever in March 2006—the \$12-million Slaughter Pen Farm acquisition at Fredericksburg—the CVBT supercharged the enormous fundraising challenge at the very start with a \$1-million donation. It was a huge donation for such a small organization.

“Our first purchase ever in 1996 involved the Civil War Trust,” Van Winkle said. “It was Willis Hill on Marye’s Heights at Fredericksburg. We donated \$20,000. That was our first save and our first-ever partnership with the Trust.”

The CVBT, like other preservation organizations, taps into the federal grant program administered by the American Battlefield Protection Program, as well as state funding, in this case the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund managed by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. “We make up the rest with public appeals and donations,” Van Winkle said.

CVBT’s approach is to work in cooperation with local governments rather than as an adversary. Per this approach, it has partnered with local governments and developers on several projects. “We’re all in the business of saving history, and it doesn’t matter who gets the credit,” he said.

The Fredericksburg-based nonprofit, which has a paid staff of two, celebrated its 25th anniversary with an all-outdoor annual meeting October 8–10. Battlefield tours included a visit to the organization’s first save—Willis Hill—as well as the “lost battlefield” at Salem Church, where rampant development wiped out the battleground and helped spur the local preservation movement.

To enhance social distancing and lessen the threat of COVID transmission, the CVBT transformed its annual indoor banquet into an under-the-stars celebration at one of its prized properties, the 9.2-acre “Stonewall Brigade tract” on the Chancellorsville Battlefield over which Stonewall Jackson’s men charged during their famous flank attack on the second day of the battle. ★

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District



Buhl property acquired in 2019
New Market Battlefield
New Market, Va.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District was a fitting commemoration of a program that has made tremendous strides in not only saving battlefields, but also linking them into a single entity that preserves and tells the valley’s Civil War history in a cohesive and meaningful way.

The evening featured a dinner with music by the Shenandoah Conservatory Jazz Collection and concert pianist Carter Stevens, a silent auction and a keynote address by the Pulitzer Prize-winning Civil War historian Dr. James M. McPherson. Among the dignitaries who attended were Congressman Ben Cline and 17-term former Congressman Frank Wolf.

Wolf helped spearhead the 1996 federal legislation that created the historic district and the management organization — the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation — that followed five years later.

The foundation has saved or helped save more than 6,000 acres of land worth more than \$50 million at 11 valley battlefields: Second and Third Winchester, Second Kernstown, Cedar Creek, Fisher’s Hill, Tom’s Brook, New Market, Cross Keys, Port Republic, McDowell and Piedmont.

Like the American Battlefield Trust and

other preservation organizations, the foundation taps into the federal grant program administered by the American Battlefield Protection Program. In fact, the foundation is its second most-active user, trailing only the Trust, said Executive Director Keven Walker.

But land preservation is only part of its mission.

When Congress created the historic district, Walker said, “They decided they were going to create something in the Shenandoah Valley that was very much akin to a national park.” But instead of being managed by the National Park Service, it would be “run in perpetuity by a private nonprofit foundation established by a congressional commission,” he said. “We were set up to be a new version of a national park.”

The foundation not only seeks to preserve land, but also retains ownership as it builds its park system around the Civil War sites scattered up and down the valley. This is ideal for the Trust, which prefers to transfer its holdings to federal, state and regional parks or other qualified local entities for long-term stewardship and maintenance. The Trust has already donated land to the historic districts it preserved at McDowell, Port Republic and other battlefields.

“We also work very closely with the Trust on all things political and policy related,” Walker said. “And we assist one another on land acquisition out here in the valley.”

The foundation’s most recent and most expensive acquisition, the \$4-million purchase of the 153-acre McCann property in the heart of the Second Winchester Battlefield, was boosted by an \$80,000 donation from the Trust. “That might seem small, but it was exactly the \$80,000 we needed at the right time to get other people interested in putting in money,” Walker said. “So, it was a huge benefit.”

For most of the foundation’s history, “probably 60 or 70 percent of our activities have been focused on land acquisition,” Walker said. “But right now, we’re quickly becoming 50-50 because we are majorly involved now in developing parks and other features to support people being able to visit these battlefields.”

So far, this includes establishing six visitor orientation centers; a full-service battlefield park at Third Winchester Battlefield with a visitor center, five miles of trails and dozens of interpretive markers; the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum in Winchester; a district-wide system of historical markers; the production of visitor guides, driving tours, original histories and interpretive booklets; and the establishment of education programs for young people and adults. ★

CENTRAL VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELDS TRUST
celebrates 25th anniversary



Chancellorsville Battlefield
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park
Spotsylvania County, Va.
CHRIS LONDON

LATE THIS SUMMER, the ribbon was cut on the Revolutionary War Visitor Center in Camden, S.C. The \$6-million complex is the first of its kind dedicated to the interpretation of the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War, and South Carolina’s significant role in disrupting the momentum of the British.

In 1780, Camden was the oldest and largest city in the Carolina backcountry. It was strategic to both the British Army, which occupied the city, and the Americans

in the Revolutionary War. Following a series of blunders before and during the Battle of Camden, the American army under command of Major General Horatio Gates was soundly defeated.

Although the Battle of Camden was disastrous for the American cause, it ushered in changes in military leadership that altered the war’s course.

After the battle, Major General Nathanael Greene was promoted to command of the Southern Campaign, and his leadership ultimately



led to the evacuation of the British Army from Charleston, S.C. in December 1782.

This story and others will be shared with visitors to the complex, consisting of three buildings: the Public House, Liberty Hall and the Market Building at Big Pine Tree Creek. The Public House resembles Camden’s Old Tavern and features interactive exhibits. The site will serve as one of several gateways to The Liberty Trail, a joint effort of the South Carolina Battleground Preservation

Trust and the American Battlefield Trust, assisted by numerous partners at the local, state and federal levels. This statewide driving tour functions as a one-of-a-kind educational and heritage tourism resource through which key battlefields of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution will be preserved, interpreted and promoted.

For more information on the Revolutionary War Visitor Center, visit www.simplyrevolutionary.com. ★



LAND SAVED & PRESERVED

*Projects completed between
January and June 2021*

East Cemetery Hill
Gettysburg National Military Park, Pa.
JENNIFER GOELLNITZ

AVERASBORO, N.C.

On the afternoon of March 15, 1865, Brig. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick's cavalry came up against Lt. Gen. William Hardee's corps deployed across the Raleigh Road near Smithville. After feeling out the Confederate defenses, Kilpatrick withdrew and called for infantry support. During the night, four divisions of the XX Corps arrived to confront the Confederates. At dawn, March 16, the Federals advanced but were stopped by the main Confederate line and a counterattack. Mid-morning, the Federals renewed their advance with strong reinforcements and drove the Confederates from two lines of works, but were repulsed at a third line. The Union XIV Corps began to arrive on the field in the late afternoon but

was unable to deploy before dark. Hardee retreated during the night after holding up the Union advance for nearly two days.

*Funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the North Carolina Land and Water Fund enabled the Trust to acquire two separate parcels, totaling nearly 49 acres, at the Averasboro Battlefield in late March. In doing so, we've fended off another round of residential and commercial development that continues to threaten the storied site. The Trust donated the property to the Averasboro Battlefield Commission, Inc. The Trust has now saved **569 acres** at Averasboro.*

BENTONVILLE, N.C.

In March 1865, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman divided his force as he marched north into the Carolinas. Confederate Gen. Joseph E.

Johnston confronted an isolated wing on March 19, experiencing success until Union reinforcements arrived late in the day. On March 21, the Confederates attempted a final, desperate counterattack before retreating.

*In March, the Trust acquired a critical acre at Bentonville with aid from the American Battlefield Protection Program. The Trust will donate the property to the State of North Carolina, so that it may become part of the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site. The Trust has now saved **1,868 acres** at Bentonville.*

BRANDYWINE, PA.

Fought on September 11, 1777, the Battle of Brandywine pitted the Americans, led by George Washington and rising stars Nathanael

Greene and the Marquis de Lafayette, against British forces under William Howe and Wilhem von Kynphausen. The battle had already been raging for hours when Howe's men appeared undetected on the Continental right flank, and despite stiff resistance, the Continentals were eventually overrun. A pivotal British victory, Brandywine cleared the way for the Redcoats to capture and occupy Philadelphia, forcing the Continental Congress to flee.

*This spring, the Trust helped the North American Land Trust (NALT) preserve 72 acres at the Brandywine Battlefield. Previously identified as one of the most important unprotected tracts on the battlefield, this land will be protected forever under a conservation easement held by Chadds Ford Township, which — along with the Trust, NALT, Delaware County's Open Space and Recreation Grant Program, Mt. Cuba Center, the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources — provided financial support. The tract will eventually host visitors as part of the Brinton Run Preserve. The Trust has now saved **187 acres** at Brandywine.*

GETTYSBURG, PA.

On July 1, 1863, Confederate forces converged on the town from the west and north, driving Union defenders back through the streets. Union reinforcements arrived during the night, forcing the Confederates to attack strong positions on both flanks the next day. On July 3, the Confederate infantry assault known as Pickett's Charge failed.

*The Trust acquired 0.63 acres at Gettysburg in January and another 6.25 acres in May, with the assistance of the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Gettysburg Foundation, and a landowner donation. The smaller property is situated on the slopes of East Cemetery Hill, abutting the Baltimore Pike; meanwhile, the larger tract will provide a simple way to connect the Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center with National Park Service land around Culp's Hill. The Trust has now saved **1,238 acres** at Gettysburg.*

MANSFIELD, LA.

Intent on wresting control of Louisiana and Texas from the Confederacy, Union Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks began a protracted campaign up the Red River Valley in March 1864. Unfortunately for Banks, his opponent was Confederate Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor, one of the South's most reliable field commanders. On April 8, Taylor drew his small army up astride the Old Stage Road near Mansfield. The result was a decisive victory that marked the end of both Banks' invasion and Federal dreams of taking Louisiana out of the war.

*In February, the Trust saved 14.49 acres at the Mansfield Battlefield by facilitating the donation of a critical property owned by Cleco Power LLC to the State of Louisiana. This is the first ever land saved at the third and last phase of the battle. The tract, which represents the first preservation effort centered on the third phase of the 1864 battle, will be incorporated into the Mansfield State Historic Site. The Trust has now saved **436 acres** at Mansfield.*

PARKER'S FERRY, S.C.

Just 33 miles west of Charleston, Parker's Ferry was a major

SUCCESS STORIES

LAND SAVED FOREVER

thoroughfare crossing the Pon Pon River. As British and Loyalist troops harassed Patriot militia throughout the South Carolina Low Country in the summer of 1781, Major General Nathanael Greene dispatched the “Swamp Fox,” Brigadier General Francis Marion, to assist the pestered militia. Learning that a Loyalist force of 100 troops was at the Pon Pon River to join a larger force of Loyalist, British and German troops, Marion used the natural landscape leading to Parker’s Ferry as a veil to cover his 445 troops. They utilized guerilla warfare tactics as they went up against the more than 600 opposing troops on August 30, 1781 — a strategy that resulted in a thrilling Patriot victory.

In January, the Trust and the South Carolina Conservation Bank provided grants to the SCBPT for the acquisition of **31 acres**

in the Vicksburg Campaign.

The Trust, along with the Friends of Raymond and the American Battlefield Protection Program, provided funding to secure just short of 44 acres at Raymond in March, a substantial addition to the total preserved battlefield land at this crucial site. The site of a major portion of the Union advance, the tract will be transferred to Friends of Raymond after a conservation easement is put into place. The Trust has now saved **107 acres** at Raymond.

SECOND WINCHESTER, VA.

Under orders from Gen. Robert E. Lee, Confederate forces under Gen. Richard Ewell were sent to clear the northern Shenandoah Valley of Union opposition—in June of 1863. Union-held Winchester became a target for the Confederates in the battle that unfolded June 13–15. First taking the high ground at Pritchard’s Hill, Union forces under Maj. Gen. Robert H. Milroy repelled the Confederate attack on June 13. However, the Federals were left in a precarious position and pulled closer to Winchester. The following day, Confederates shocked Milroy with an artillery barrage, followed by an infantry charge — actions that led to the Union decision to abandon the city. In the early morning hours of June 15, the evacuation began, but Confederate forces intercepted. The Confederate victory created an opening for Lee’s northward march.

In April, the Trust provided a grant that enabled the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation to save **151.6 acres** at the Second Winchester Battlefield. The effort was also aided by a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program and a land-owner donation. This was the Trust’s first opportunity to protect battleground land at Second Winchester.

VICKSBURG, MISS.

To complete his vision of cutting the Confederacy in two, Union Maj. Gen. Ulysses Grant had to capture the fortress city of Vicksburg, built high on bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River. In the spring of 1863, Grant’s victories over the Confederates at Champion Hill and Big Black River Bridge forced Lt. Gen. John Pemberton’s army to retreat into Vicksburg. After Union assaults on May 19 and 22 were repulsed with significant losses, Grant began a siege of the city that lasted 47 grueling days. Pemberton finally surrendered on the afternoon of July 4, 1863, a day after the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg.

With funding from Trust members and, the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Trust preserved approximately 33 acres at the Vicksburg Battlefield in March — a landmark achievement that completes the crucial Railroad Redoubt section of the battlefield and will transform interpretation at the park. With plans to eventually transfer the land to the National Park Service, the Trust will steward this property with local assistance from the Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign... The Trust has now saved **46 acres** at Vicksburg.★

Vicksburg National Military Park
Vicksburg, Miss.
MIKE TALPLACIDO



at Parker’s Ferry. The Trust’s first preservation success at Parker’s Ferry, this acreage also represents the most significant portions of the battlefield and will serve as a key stop along The Liberty Trail.

RAYMOND, MISS.

On orders from Maj. Gen. Ulysses Grant, a Union corps under the command of Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson marched to Raymond to meet Confederate forces on May 12, 1863, and by 10:00 a.m. his troops were three miles outside the town. As the Confederates approached, an initial Union volley caused heavy casualties, but the Confederate assault buckled the Union line in places. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan rallied a force to hold the line, and heavy fighting continued for six hours before Union forces successfully turned the Confederate flank, forcing the Confederates to withdraw to Jackson through Raymond. The battle triggered a vast shift in Grant’s scheme of maneuver



As is customary, the Lisbon Tunnelmen shout a big cheer in honor of their opponent at the conclusion of every game.
by MATT BRANT

Take Me Out

TO THE

VINTAGE BALL GAME

By COLLEEN CHESLAK

As the Civil War tore the country apart, men were also united by common causes — one of such being the drive for friendly competition to pass time in camp. It wasn't long before soldiers, regardless of rank, embraced the quickly evolving sport. In Gettysburg, an annual festival brings the 1864 version of "base ball" to players and spectators alike to consider the history behind the great American pastime.

Photography by
MATT BRANT &
NOEL KLINE

A striker (or batter) for
Flemington Neshanock
by NOEL KLINE

With the Sun

BEATING DOWN THEIR BACKS.

their brows slicked with sweat and hands devoid of gloves, the Allegheny Iron Sides braced for impact in their defensive positions on a hilly ball field in south-central Pennsylvania. With one out needed, the ball club hungers to get back at bat. And just like that, Allegheny's hurler (aka, the pitcher) sends the ball toward the striker (aka, the batter) from the Keystone Base Ball Club of Harrisburg. A solid off the wooden bat drives the ball into the infield, only to be carefully caught on a single hop — which counts for an out under the vintage rules in use at the Gettysburg National 19th Century Base Ball Festival.

This two-day July festival brings history alive in a way typical reenactments do not, as these 24 teams play 48 games across five ball fields, abiding by a historical set of rules for the sport we now know as baseball. The fields where they gather at the Schroeder Farm were used as a staging area for Pickett's Charge and a post-battle field hospital; more recently, they were a filming location for the 1993 film *Gettysburg* and are routinely used for reenactments.

The 40 rules and regulations that guide these vintage-clad players were set forth by the National Association of Base-Ball Players on December 9, 1863. And, as time often spurs change,

a peculiar few stand out to the modern mind: No gloves. No catching equipment. No pitcher's mound—instead, a designated hurler's area, from which the ball is thrown underhand. One ball—between 3.5 and 3.75 ounces—used the entire game. A striker is retired if the fielder catches the ball on one bounce or in the air, including foul ticks to the catcher.

But some elements are quite familiar: Nine innings. Nine players to a side. Constant comradery.

There was no better place for comradery than on the front lines of the American Civil War, as men from all walks of life united for a common cause. Baseball became a diversionary source of comfort and physical conditioning among the troops, while it simultaneously reinforced the power of teamwork. Other competitive sports like racing, wrestling, boxing, cricket and football all had their presence in wartime camps, but there was nothing quite like the attention baseball received, even amid pending peril. While stationed in Virginia, Frederick Fairfax of the 5th Ohio Infantry wrote in an April 3, 1862 letter:

"It is astonishing how indifferent a person can become to danger. The report of musketry is heard but a very little distance from us ... yet over there on the other side of the road is

most of the company, playing [baseball] and perhaps in less than half an hour they may be called to play a ball game of a more serious nature."

At the recent festival, Justin "Bulldog" Deemer of the Keystone Base Ball Club said it best: "Baseball exploded because of the Civil War," as soldiers from New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania shared their own unique versions of the bat and ball sport. Especially popular in working- and middle-class urban communities — notably with Irish and German immigrants — baseball had arisen as the choice pastime in New York by the 1850s. An older bat and ball game, "town ball," persisted in Philadelphia, while in Boston and surrounding towns, New England Yankees put their own "Massachusetts game" spin on the sport.

But the "New York game" would ultimately take hold, as its players had not only paved a path to formal rules, but were also some of the most fervent supporters of the Union war effort. It was New Yorkers from the 71st New York Regiment who would play against the Washington Nationals amateur club in the first organized baseball game of the war on July 2, 1861, crushing their opponent 41 to 13 in a park neighboring the White House.

Makeshift games were a necessity, boosting the morale of not only the players but also the spectators cheering on the sidelines. They even gained media attention on the home front, sending a signal to loved ones that their boys in blue still had their spirits. One of these games took place on Christmas Day 1862, in Hilton Head, South Carolina. The 165th New York Volunteer Regiment faced off against a mishmash team of soldiers from various Union states, attracting a crowd of nearly 40,000 soldier-spectators. With the New York game favored by most, John G.B. Adams of the 19 Massachusetts Regiment wrote that "base ball fever [had] broke[n] out." Even the New England regiments succumbed to the New York rules during play with soldiers from various states.

In the spirit of democracy, baseball leveled the playing field, bringing officers and their men together in friendly competition. It wasn't social standing or military rank that a man was judged for,



A "hurler" (or pitcher) for the Canton Cornshuckers BBC
by MATT BRANT

Baseball EXPLODED BECAUSE OF THE CIVIL WAR.

but rather his athletic ability.

The current-day festival at Gettysburg allows you to consider this history, just miles from the renowned battlefield. But the event didn't always feature Gettysburg as a backdrop; festival president and lead organizer, Bruce Leith, places its origins to Washington, D.C., in 2006 — where teams played in the shadow of the Washington Monument but roasted in the capital's infamous humidity. Leith noted, "The only air we would ever get was when the president's helicopters moved overhead."

Looking for a change and wanting to accommodate six different Pennsylvania ball clubs, the festival moved to Gettysburg in 2009 and was quickly embraced by the town's Chamber of Commerce. Gettysburg Eddie's, a restaurant named after Gettysburg's own Hall of Fame pitcher Eddie Plank, even jumped on board as one of the annual event's many sponsors — keeping the event free and accessible! There's no denying that the festival's unique characteristics are an attention-grabber for the history-loving crowds that flock to the renowned town.

And the festival gives back to the community that supports it. Gettysburg Little League manages parking for attendees, and in return, the event collects nearly enough donations each year to support the youth baseball program. In 2021, festival organizers also set their sights on aiding battlefield preservation, setting aside \$2 from each pre-ordered t-shirt to benefit a pending American Battlefield Trust acquisition at Gettysburg.

By 2012, the festival had outgrown its original location at Hickory Hollow Farm, as more and more vintage ball clubs sought to be included. Today's Shroeder Farm location allows for 24 clubs to rotate on five ball fields, with ample room for spectators, local vendors, concessions, parking and more. Traveling, often with families in tow, the teams do not take the festival hosts for granted, designating time at the end of every game to thank the Shroeder family, as well as the opposing ball players — by way of a cheerful chorus of "Hip hip hooray!" given from each team to the other.

This year's festival had the tone of a family reunion, with ball players from across the eastern United States — from Gettysburg itself to Nashville, Tennessee — playing two years of catch-up after last year's festival was cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The fields were full of handshakes and spirited smiles, with story-filled nicknames shouted at every turn. When describing what constantly steers him toward the vintage game, Key-



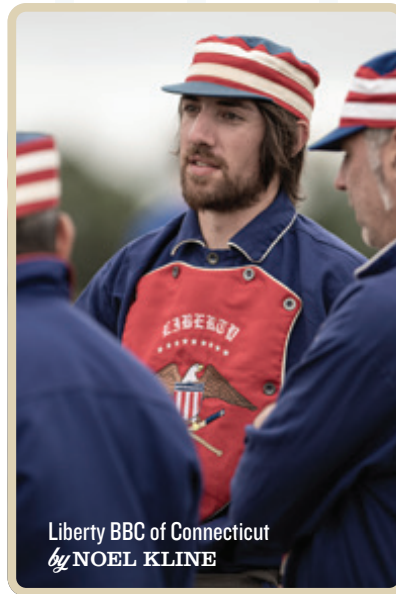
A "striker" (or batter) from the Phoenix BBC of East Nashville scores.
by NOEL KLINE



Liberty BBC of New Brunswick
by NOEL KLINE



Bear Clan of Flat Rock (left)
and Flemington Neshanock
by MATT BRANT



Liberty BBC of Connecticut
by NOEL KLINE

stone's Justin "Bulldog" Deemer emphasized "meeting great people and making lasting friendships."

But there's another element of intrigue for the players: Stepping back in time and looking at the game through a historical lens. Festival President Bruce Leith used to play for the Eclipse Base Ball Club of Elkton before he hung up his uniform for an administrative role, and something that fascinates him is the historical ties his club has to the Civil War. Formed by approximately six former Union surgeons who learned the game

NICKNAMES at EVERY TURN

At the festival, you'll hear that many players have a unique nickname — often with a captivating backstory. Take, for instance, "Early," who's never been early for anything in his life. Other great ones include **Dirt, Wiggles, Whistler, Tiger, Beer Tab, Bulldog, Smiles, Tin Can, Swampy, Dirty Pirate, Dream Bucket, Pine Tar, Shaggy, Schoolboy, Bart, River and Grumpy!** The sentiment feels familiar to those who study the Civil War and come across countless officers affectionately (or not!) given colorful nicknames by their troops.

In 1864, THE SPORT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT BEING A GENTLEMAN.

while serving alongside soldiers from New York and Philadelphia, the Elkton Club — says Leith — is one of several at the festival that can trace its beginnings to the nation's defining conflict. The teams' forebearers and their traditions have not been forgotten, as Justin Deemer reminds us:

"In 1864, the sport was supposed to be about being a gentleman. So, there was not spitting, no swearing; you shook hands, you congratulated an opposing player if they made a great play."

But one element of the old-time game that today's vintage ball players still find to be a vast challenge: "No gloves — that's the hardest part," says Deemer. "You've really got to be careful — I've dislocated fingers, damaged tendons." The Allegheny Iron Sides' Tabitha "Beer Tab" Leech advises you should "catch it like you're catching an egg."

The ball in question looks much different than what you'll find at a modern-day ballpark. Covered in one piece of dark leather, the ball's seams meet in an x configuration — unlike today's ball,

which is typically formed by the stitching together of two peanut-shaped pieces of white leather.

And when this ball is hit, it can truly sail. So much so that it easily sent fielders beyond spectators' sight, as they scurried behind the rolling hills of the outfield to capture the leather-bound projectile and freeze base runners in their tracks. Unlike the level terrain of today's ball fields, 19th-century ball fields were a



A striker from Eclipse BBC of Elkton
facing a pitch from the Lisbon Tunnelmen.
by MATT BRANT

IF YOU'RE A BASEBALL FAN and Civil War enthusiast, chances are you've heard of Abner Doubleday. This Union general was among those who defended Fort Sumter during the 1861 bombardment, rose to fame for his gallantry at Gettysburg and — supposedly — invented baseball. While such a connection is exciting to imagine, the claim is pure fabrication. But how did this myth grow to be the widely known tumbleweed it is today?

In the early days of Major League Baseball, its founders sought to paint the sport as a uniquely American pastime, one that could bring citizens together and steer them toward seats in the nation's ballparks. One of these founders was Albert G. Spalding — Hall of Fame pitcher, sporting goods tycoon and part owner of the Chicago White Stockings. He had even written to Boston sportswriter Tim Murnane, stating, "[O]ur good old American game of baseball must have an American Dad."

Opposite this hope to cement baseball's American roots was Henry Chadwick, editor of *Spalding's Guide*, who had long asserted that baseball's origins lay in the English ball and bat game rounders. To settle the debate, in 1905, Spalding created a commission — consisting of members he handpicked — that reportedly had an "undoubted knowledge of baseball." But instead of doing their own research, this group worked to solicit information to identify baseball's "American Dad."

Enter Abner Doubleday, the focus of 71-year-old Abner Graves's testimony, which he submitted to Akron, Ohio's *Beacon Journal* after having read a "call for people who had knowledge of the beginnings of the game." Graves, a supposed former classmate of Doubleday's, asserted that:



Abner Doubleday: THE MAN, THE BASEBALL MYTH, THE LEGEND

"The 'American game of Base Ball' was invented by Abner Doubleday of Cooperstown, New York, either the spring prior, or following the 'Log Cabin & Hard Cider' campaign of General Harrison for President [approx. 1839], said Abner Doubleday being then a boy pupil of 'Green's Select School' in Cooperstown, and the same, who as General Doubleday won honor at the Battle of Gettysburg in the 'Civil War.'"

This was the patriotic founder Spalding had been crossing his fingers for, and the commission concurred, issuing its final report on December 30, 1907.

What made Doubleday so perfect? He was a West Point graduate and an esteemed veteran of both the Mexican-American War and the American Civil War. He was second in command at Fort Sumter when secessionist militia unleashed fire upon the fort, and he was even said to have called for the first shots made in response. He went into combat at Second Manassas, where his forces temporarily held the Union line near Brawner's Farm. At Antietam, his troops took heavy casualties in the bloody cornfield. At Gettysburg, after Maj. Gen. John Reynolds fell during the first day of the battle, he took command and followed through with the strategy enacted by Reynolds.

One problem: Doubleday was not a pupil of "Green's Select School" in 1839, he was a busy first-year cadet at West Point who never mentioned the sport in his detailed diaries. And myth double-bested: Graves was a mere five-years-old in 1839. But Doubleday, some 14 years in the grave, couldn't dispute the claim, and the commission was sold. Graves's testimony was relayed as fact without attribution or credential. The myth was set in motion and soon became part of the fabric of baseball, inspiring the location of the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.★

day, some 14 years in the grave, couldn't dispute the claim, and the commission was sold. Graves's testimony was relayed as fact without attribution or credential. The myth was set in motion and soon became part of the fabric of baseball, inspiring the location of the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.★

product of convenience — determined by the availability of ample, accessible space, regardless of variations in topography. Mirroring the ball players who came before them, those at the current-day festival took the fields in stride, simply overjoyed to be playing alongside old and new friends.

Vintage baseball doesn't attract one particular age bracket or gender. For Gettysburg native and general manager of the hometown Gettysburg Generals, Rodney Helwig stresses, "All kinds, all forms. There is no age limit... A couple of us are a little older, but most of my team is young. I'm related to a lot of the younger guys, and some of their friends have joined in, too."

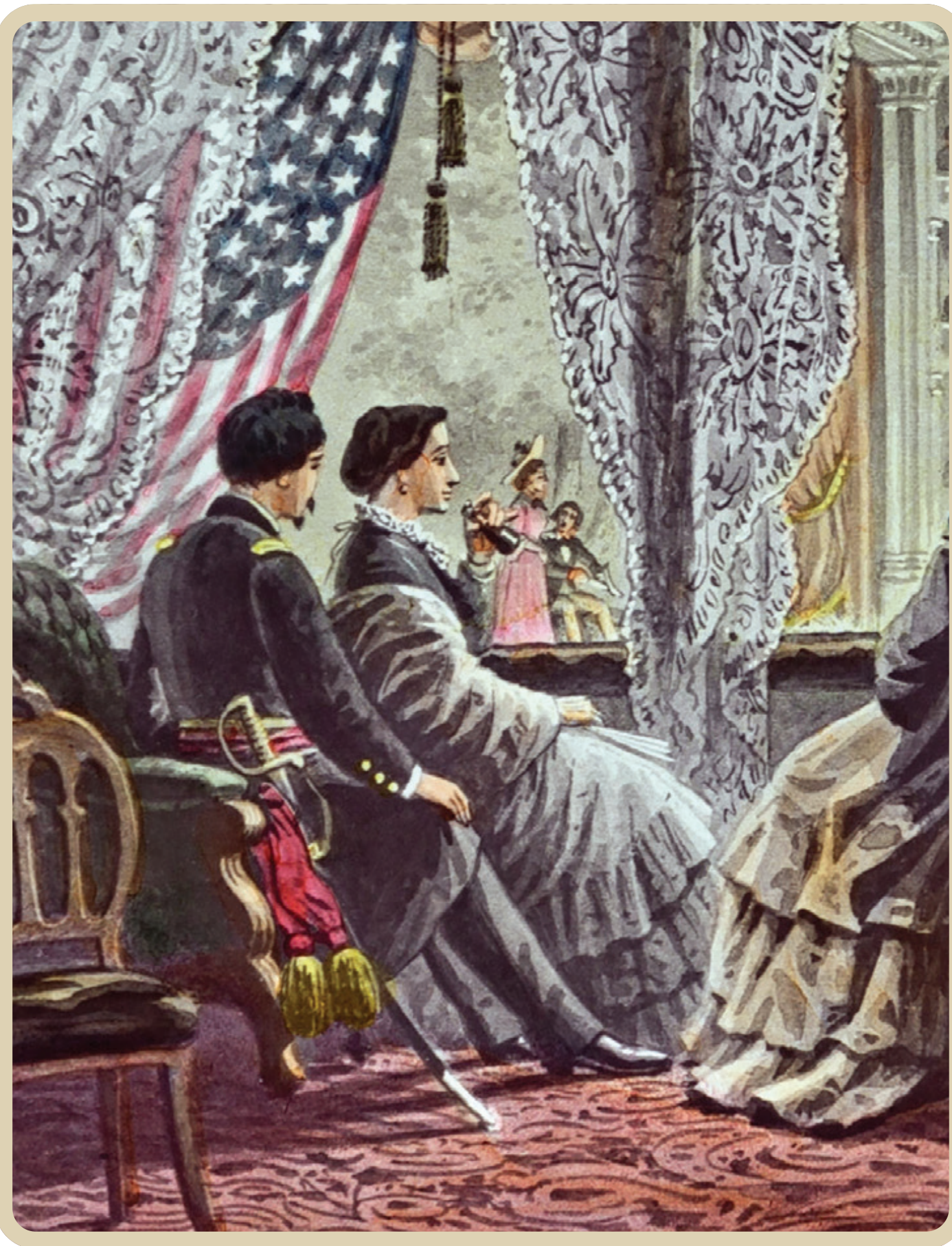
Tabitha "Beer Tab" Leech came to the Allegheny Iron Sides by chance when an open spot called for her talents, after years of playing baseball and softball. "I don't mind being a female wearing this uniform. I respect everything that's come from baseball — it's taught me a lot, on and off the field." It's a matter of what you put out on the field, and the heart you have for the

game. Quite a few teams show that this passion starts early, with slingers in the making serving as pint-size bat boys and girls, at times struggling to hoist the weight of the bat off the ground and back to the team bench.

According to the Vintage Base Ball Association, there are currently some 400 active clubs in a hobby that traces its existence to 1979 demonstrations at Old Bethpage Village Restoration on Long Island.

These players are a living reminder of the past. No matter the July heat, the players and spectators flock to Gettysburg to bask in an experience like no other. While the 1863 soldiers came to these fields with a much different purpose, chances are they would have also found solace in the game we now proudly call "America's pastime."★

Colleen Cheslak is the communications associate at the American Battlefield Trust and a huge baseball fan. She received her BA in history from Stony Brook University and her MA in public history from American University.



TROUPE *Movements*

THE HISTORY OF THE THEATRE DURING WARTIME

Theater has long thrived in the land we know as the United States, as the trials and tribulations presented in different works often have timeless relevance when juxtaposed with American events and society. While numerous playwrights' products came to life on makeshift and professional stages across the American continent, the work of William Shakespeare was — and remains — especially prominent.

IN THE TIME before radio, film, television and the internet, the theater inhabited a larger role in public entertainment than it does today. A 1919 study deemed *The History of Theatre in America* identifies 1752 as the year that professional thespians first took to the stage in the 13 colonies, with the arrival of a troupe from London. They were preceded by some two years by a more amateur production of *Richard III* in New York City.

Despite the passage of laws forbidding the performance of stage productions on moral grounds by several northeastern colonies in the 1750s, American theatrical traditions soon took hold in earnest. In 1767, Thomas Godfrey's *The Prince of Parthia* became the first professionally produced play in Britain's American colonies written by a native-born author. The previous year, Robert Rogers, a colorful figure of the French and Indian War, had published in London

a stage play called *Ponteach [Pontiac]: or the Savages of America*, widely reputed as the first drama to tackle topics from a uniquely North American perspective — notably a sympathetic portrayal of Native Americans.

But no playwright was more widely read or produced for the stage than the “Bard of Avon,” William Shakespeare. During the Revolution, his plays lent the Patriots and the British a common popular language. In Corpus Christi, Texas, during the Mexican-American War, soldiers who would later make a name for themselves in the Civil War were cast in a U.S. Army production of *Othello* in 1846. While the six-foot James Longstreet was originally cast to play Desdemona in the production, it was decided that he was too tall to play the female character, opening the door for the 5' 6", 135-pound Ulysses S. Grant to take his place.

Soldiers in camps and actors on stages both North and South performed Shakespeare's works during the Civil War. As Chicago newspaperman Elias Colbert said in 1864, “It is of the heart that Shakespeare speaks,” and his heart-drawn words were borrowed by not only soldiers and actors, but also cartoonists, writers and President Lincoln himself to emote the chaos of the world around them. And what's more fascinating is how this era of American history was recorded like none other before, through new media like photography and chromolithography. Images of Shakespearean actors in costume and broadsides and posters brought Shakespeare's words to audiences far and wide.

Shakespeare has inspired and confounded for hundreds of years, but his words found an added layer of complexity when mixed with the drear conflict of the Civil War. As many were familiar with his work, Shakespeare became a comfort in

camp, a source through which one could better express love or tragedy, a reminder of reality versus fiction and a path that allowed a handful to live out — or act out — their dreams.

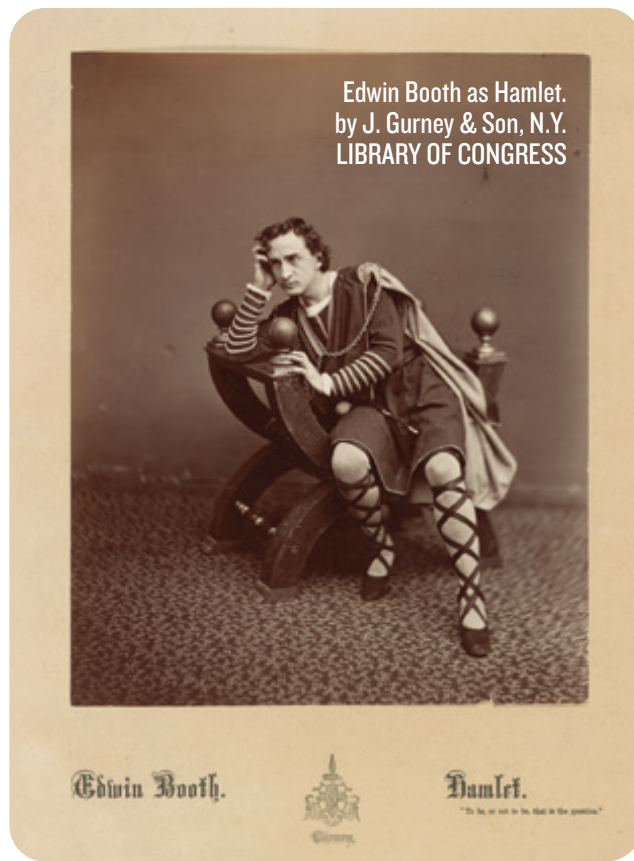
Before he took on the role of president, Abraham Lincoln would look to Shakespeare when he was a young lawyer traveling from town to town. He was even said to have kept a copy of *Macbeth* in his back pocket and quoted from it regularly. In an 1863 letter to actor James Hackett, Lincoln wrote, “Some of Shakespeare’s plays I have never read, while others I have gone over perhaps as frequently as any unprofessional reader. Among the latter are *Lear*, *Richard Third*, *Henry Eighth*, *Hamlet*, and especially *Macbeth*. I think nothing equals *Macbeth* — It is wonderful.”

That makes it especially ironic that Lincoln’s assassin, Shakespearean actor John Wilkes Booth, rose to fame in no small part for playing the Scottish king. In the wake of the assassination, people across the nation ached at the loss of the great leader and searched for ways to express their grief. Yet again, folks turned to Shakespeare to find words fit to describe the tragedy. On broadsides, a sketch of the shooting could be found coupled with a quote from *Macbeth*:

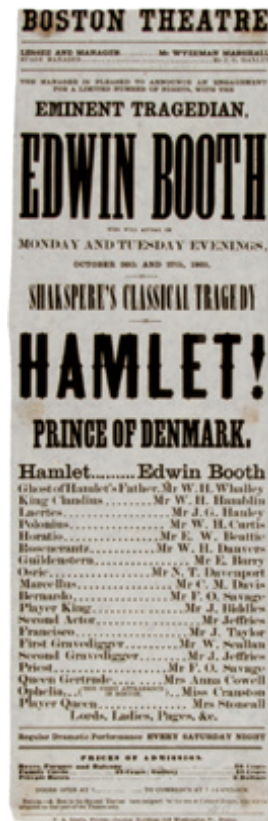
“Hath borne his faculties so meek; has been So clear in his great office; that his virtues Shall plead, trumped-tongued, against The deep damnation of his taking off.” (Act 1, Scene 7)

The lines come as the eponymous character is praising King Duncan for being a virtuous leader whose legacy will not be contained to his time on Earth — all the while plotting to murder said king! Americans looked to King Duncan’s assassination and drew a clear connection to the real atrocity before their eyes.

And it wasn’t only those mourning Lincoln who found comfort in Shakespeare. After assassinating the president, Booth was on the run for nearly two weeks. In an April 22, 1865, diary entry, he contemplates *Julius Caesar*, writing, “I am



here in despair. And why; for doing what Brutus was honored for...” before closing with a line from (again) *Macbeth*: “but I



...no playwright was more widely read or produced for the stage than the “Bard of Avon,” William Shakespeare. During the Revolution, his plays lent the Patriots and the British a common popular language.

must fight the course.’ Tis all that’s left me.”

Although Booth is widely remembered today, in the 19th century, his brother Edwin enjoyed more stardom. The pair, along with brother Junius Brutus, Jr., and father Junius Brutus, were all Shakespearean actors. Edwin played the title characters *Macbeth* and *Hamlet*, the latter being such an adored part that he played it in 100 shows at Broadway’s Winter

Garden Theatre.

In 1864, upon Shakespeare’s 300th birthday, Edwin was part of a group of actors and theatre managers that successfully advocated for a statue of the Bard to be erected in New York’s Central Park. The cornerstone was placed between two elms in the park, but work would need to be done to raise the necessary funds to bring the statue to fruition. And so, later that year, the Booth brothers — in a rare event — joined together in a production of *Julius Caesar* to fundraise toward the statue, which was dedicated in 1872.

In addition to his work to advance social justice, Frederick Douglass was a philanthropic patron of the arts and used his many connections in Washington to grow the careers of Black artists. He was also a fan of William Shakespeare. Shakespeare’s works not only had a place in his library — they would furthermore make appearances in his speeches, and he would frequently attend performances of Shakespeare at local D.C. theaters. He even participated in the Uniontown Shakespeare Club’s readings at least twice. In a letter dated December 1877, Douglass wrote about participating in a reading with the club: “The play was the *Merchant of Venice* and my part Shylock.”★



HILE SHAKESPEARE’S WORK was well-known to 19th-century audiences, it was hardly the only fare to which American theatergoers were treated during the Civil War.

In fact, Shakespeare’s plays were often only part of a typical night at the theater in the mid-1800s.

This may seem odd to modern audiences accustomed to seeing a single performance, perhaps *King Lear* or *Oklahoma!*, and calling it a night. Nineteenth-century patrons, however, would have considered this a swindle — especially at today’s prices! No, the average night at the theater in the 1850s and 1860s typically consisted of two full-length plays, often a drama or tragedy, followed by a farce or some other sort of lighter fare designed to send audiences home happy. Various variety acts (singing, ballet numbers, acrobatics) filled out an evening that one actor of the period called a “motley mixture of amusements.” It was, therefore, quite common to see actors who had made a name for themselves as tragedians in Shakespeare’s works traipsing the boards in broad comic turns—sometimes on the same night. And all for 25 cents!

One popular comedy of the period was *The Toodles*, a “laughable farce.” according to one newspaper. Its principal characters were two men named Timothy Toodles, with the only distinction between the two being that one Timothy was “the less,” while the other was “the fat.” The role of Timothy the Less had been originated in the United States by well-known actor and playwright William E. Burton and was apparently a showpiece for popular comedians of the day. According to various accounts, the play’s most noteworthy moment was a “drunken scene” that provided “the actor who undertakes the part of Timothy Toodles [the Less]” his only “opportunity for the display of ability.”

Of course, farces like *The Toodles* did not always satisfy a more discerning crowd. Commenting on a recently transferred production, one London critic decried its “rambling, incoherent and wholly uninteresting plot of the melodramatic order” and concluded that the whole piece was “beneath contempt.” (Even then theater critics seemed incapable of having a good time.) Such criticism aside, *The Toodles* was performed in theaters throughout the United States before, during and after the Civil War, often as the final attraction of a typical theatrical experience.

It is no surprise then, that *The Toodles* made its way into the 1864 winter camp of the Army of the Potomac at Brandy Station. It was there that the U.S. Engineer Battalion formed the Essayons Dramatic Club, one of many ad hoc theatrical troupes formed in both armies. Unlike those other clubs, the U.S. Engineers had the skill and wherewithal to build their own theatre — a structure sound enough that it was later used as a guard house.

The players were all enlisted men of the battalion and thus represented a cross-section of men from throughout the North. That such a group would form a dramatic club gives us some indication of just how widespread and popular theater was to Americans in the Civil War era. After forming on January 27, 1864, the men pieced together an orchestra and presented a performance of *The Toodles* a month later.

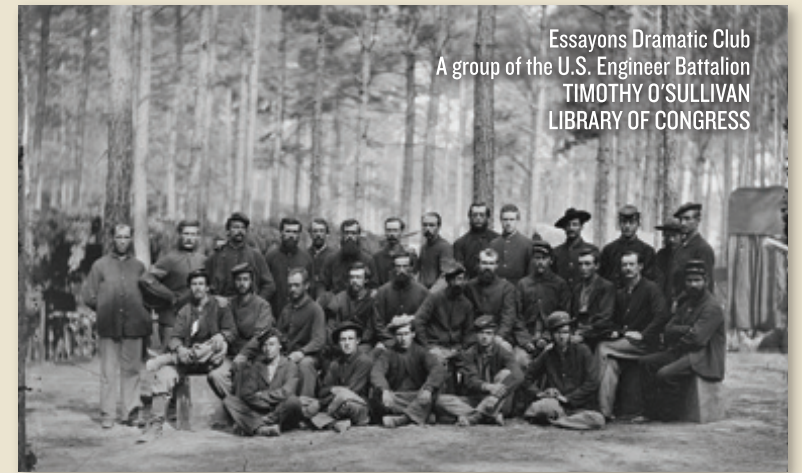
The presence of live music at the Engineers’ performance provides an idea of what a production of the Essayons Dramatic Club might have looked like in 1864. Very few, if any, members of the club were professional actors. We can therefore imagine that any performance would have showcased their individual gifts and talents, all with one singular goal in mind: to entertain an audience that would have expected variety as a key feature

of a theatrical outing. Perhaps a few intrepid amateur tragedians tried their hand at a few speeches from *King Lear* or *Hamlet*. Musically gifted soldiers might have followed up with some popular songs of the period, perhaps with lyrics adapted to poke fun at army life. A popular comedy — in this case, *The Toodles* — might then have rounded out the event. This “motley mixture” might not pass for good theater in 2021, but it would have fit the bill for the Army of the Potomac in 1864. What’s more, it was the kind of theatrical performance 19th-century Americans expected.

While a majority of Civil War soldiers’ drama clubs are difficult to document, the Essayons Dramatic Club has an interesting and well-documented legacy. After closing shop at Brandy Station just before the Overland Campaign, the troupe seems to have been inactive for the remainder of the war. This is not surprising, as the engineers were quite busy with the siege operations outside Petersburg.

After the war, however, the Engineers revived the drama club at the Engineer School at Willets Point, New York. Now branded as the Willets Point Dramatic Club, the group produced plays until the end of the century. The Engineer School moved to the Washington, DC, area at the beginning of the 20th century, first to present-day Fort McNair in Arlington, Va., then again to Camp Humphreys — now known as Fort Belvoir.

The Essayons Dramatic Club officially reconstituted itself in 1923, and apart from a hiatus during World War II, continued to stage theatrical



productions for nearly 45 years. During that time, the troupe’s productions included a variety of plays, some of them relatively obscure works, like *A Taste of Honey*, whereas others were 20th-century classics like George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart’s *You Can’t Take It With You*. Interestingly enough, the Essayons’ 1949 staging of the latter was produced by an engineer officer with his own unique lineage: Lt. Col. George E. Pickett, the grandson of the Confederate general.

When the troupe permanently disbanded in the 1960s, the Essayons Dramatic Club was one of the oldest amateur theatrical organizations in the United States.★

Douglas Ullman, Jr., is a professional actor who has performed throughout the United States and internationally. He is also a long-time supporter of battlefield preservation, a former staff member of the American Battlefield Trust and an independent historian whose work has been seen in Hallowed Ground, at Emerging Civil War, and on numerous videos for the Trust.



Drum Corps of 10th Veteran Reserve Corps
by William Morris Smith
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

BATTLE *of the*

BANDS

From Revolution to Civil War, music has provided an outlet for American soldiers in camp and propelled them forward in battle. Lyrics were often emotionally charged and reflected the sentiments of turbulent times, serving to both unite and motivate men to continue in their causes.

And while political and ideological debates persisted, it was music that provided a universal language that enabled warring people to bridge the divide.

By DAN WELCH

WITH A POPULATION of nearly 1.5 million and growing, the 13 colonies had expanded rapidly by the late 1750s. The Industrial Revolution was dawning, and an influx of immigrants arrived from Ireland, Scotland, Italy and England, even as an ideo-

logical shift away from the motherland and toward independence emerged. Against this backdrop was a rich and diverse musical landscape composed of influences from numerous countries and traditions. And, as the individual colonies moved toward becoming a single country, so too did this uniquely

American soundscape.

This period of immense change in the colonies was also seen in the world of music, which saw an increasing divide between the religious and popular realms. The very composition of ensembles shifted and grew, and the Classical Period of western art music was

born. Although the new era spread across Europe and England, reaching larger audiences of more social classes, these popular musical trends were far less accessible to those living in the American colonies. Despite the small growth of large concert halls in the northern colonies, most performances saw one or several musicians gather in churches or at taverns and personal or community spaces. Colonists often wrote and performed music that spoke to their daily lives, utilizing common household instruments of this period such as harpsichords, violins and flutes, small gatherings allowed for the sharing of music among friends and family. As frustrations grew between the colonies and the Crown, music gave voice to the audience's grievances through songs like "A Taxing We Will Go," which included the lyrics: "The power supreme of Parliament our purpose did assist[sic], and taxing laws abroad were sent, which the rebels do resist..."

As war settled across the colonies, the role of music in the daily lives of soldiers and civilians only increased. Music was a way to provide calls and commands while on the march, in camp or on the battlefield, signaling both marching cadence and tactical orders. Drummers were one of the most important musical positions that could be held within a military band or unit. After enlistment, drummers were required to learn and memorize numerous rudiments, or beats, to utilize throughout each day in camp, while on the march and in battle. One of the most well-known rudiments from the American Revolution is "Reveille." It was to be played each day at daybreak to alert soldiers to "rise and comb his hair and clean his hands and face and be ready for the duties of the day," as well as the cessation of challenging by the guard.

The fife was also a key instrument during the American Revolution. With its loud projecting capabilities, the troops were able to hear this instrument over the sounds of an army on the march or the cacophony of battle. A popular song of the era that prominently featured this instrument was "Yankee Doodle." Still widely known today, it gained its familiarity in the American musical consciousness during the American Revolution. Originally, this tune was sung by British military officers to mock the sad state of the colonists and their army. The colonists embraced this mockery, and the tune provided them with a sense of camaraderie and patriotism. To the surprise of many British officers and enlisted men, Washington's men turned the

derogatory implications of this song around and used it as a song of defiance and pride. Thus, "Yankee Doodle" rose to be a song of not just colonial, but also national acclaim.

By the 1860s, western art music had entered the Romantic Era. Closer to home, musical styles such as sacred music, brass bands and minstrel shows were popular in both the North and South. Although divided by conflict, the universal language of music often stretched across the great chasm the war produced.

Brass bands and community bands had grown into popularity before the Civil War, and once armies were in the field, the music of military fife and drum corps became popular there and on the home front. Music provided a sense of comfort and allowed men on both sides to transcend the great political and ideological divide that separated their country. Popular tunes were accessible and familiar to the common man from both the North and South, as many soldiers did not have the opportunities to immerse themselves in live music found in metropolitan cities. Thus, bandsmen played popular tunes such as "Eatin' Goober Peas" and "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," as well as others, including "Battle Cry of Freedom," that might have alternate lyrics applied depending on which army was singing along. These songs were known for their steady beats and motivational words, which helped the soldiers press on during tough times and long marches.

Singing, playing and hearing music al-

lowed troops to reminisce about peaceful times at home with family and loved ones, to bond and to temporarily escape from the horrors of battle. Author Kenneth Bernard wrote, "In camp and hospital they sang — sentimental songs and ballads, comic songs and patriotic numbers ... The songs were better than rations or medicine." Military bandsmen were not the only ones to provide music, though. Some soldiers brought their own banjos, fiddles and guitars. Out of these instruments came many popular camp tunes of the era, including: "Lorena," "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground," "Vacant Chair" and "The Yellow Rose of Texas," to name a few.

The musical world around soldiers and civilians during the antebellum and war years provided support, guidance, escape and entertainment. Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, agreed, stating, "I don't believe we can have an army without music." In a sense, then, we cannot understand one of the most important moments in our history without understanding its popular musical stylings. ★

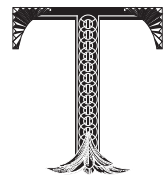
Dan Welch is a primary and secondary educator in northeast Ohio and seasonal national park ranger who previously served as education programs coordinator for the Gettysburg Foundation, the nonprofit partner of Gettysburg National Military Park. He received his BA in instrumental music education from Youngstown State University and a MA in military history with a Civil War era concentration at American Military University.



Band of 114th Pennsylvania Infantry in front of Petersburg, Va., August, 1864
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

BATTLING MONOTONY

The National Civil War Museum highlights how soldiers combated boredom in wartime camps



THE LIFE OF A SOLDIER in camp was one of endless hours of military routine, roll call, drilling, walking a post or picket duty, work details and eating the same food every day. The excitement of battle, for most soldiers, came only after months of sitting in camp, fighting off intense boredom, especially during the winter months. Writing letters home, talking about how much they wished they could be there, discussing family finances or sharing anecdotes from camp staved off the tedium.

But for many, that wasn't sufficient, and more was needed to while away the lonely hours. A wide variety of games emerged to fill the void, as soldiers were very creative in finding ways to compete among each other.

Far from home, in that time between performing military duties and the exhaustion of a soldier in camp, officers and men looked for ways to occupy their time. Gambling fit the bill. Considered a vice and often forbidden by commanders, men were still drawn to gambling for several reasons. The chance to make some money might entice soldiers, but many could ill afford to lose funds desperately needed back home. Others with no such responsibilities gambled to fight the monotony.

Card play was a popular form of gambling, and cards were easily obtained for an impromptu game. Many young soldiers broke their promise not to gamble when temptation and peer pressure set in. Broken promises littered the roads to hundreds of battlefields in the form of many cards dropped along the way. Soldiers feared disappointing their families by having playing cards found among their returned possessions should they die in battle. Other soldiers mocked morality by having their photos taken proudly playing cards, drinking and smoking cigars.

Talented soldiers didn't waste time gambling but would sentimentally carve jewelry from bone for a dis-



tant loved one. These talents were practical, too. Soldiers with real skill would carve rings and other trinkets at a price for fellow soldiers, adding to their meager wages. Carved smoking pipes were very popular and may still be found in museums and on display in the homes of soldiers' descendants.

Most soldiers were singularly focused on surviving and going home. Still, mustering out and peace were met with mixed emotions. Men were elated to be going home, while at the same time, they were sad to say goodbye to their comrades who had become like brothers. As brothers, they shared comradeship and the quiet camp life forged in war. Practical jokes, gambling and tests of strength and daring were numerous. Racing lice across a tin dinner plate and riding at breakneck speed on horseback to win a one-day pass. The days of grown men playing like schoolboys had come to an end. Soon they would have to readjust to civilian life.

The National Civil War Museum has created a temporary exhibit that examines life in camp during the American Civil War. This exhibit shares how the life of a soldier in camp was one of endless hours of military routine and boredom, and how soldiers found the time and the talent to break through that downtime. "War Games: Pastimes of Soldiers in the Civil War," is now on display through June 5, 2022. Entrance to the exhibit is included in the cost of regular admission. ★



WARFARE has always been characterized by long periods of inactivity or maneuver, and only short bursts of combat. Items on display in the War Games exhibit demonstrate some of the pastimes that Civil War soldiers used to while away the tedious hours in camp.

Games of chance and skill, whether or not money changed hands, were ubiquitous.

Playing cards (ABOVE & TOP RIGHT), marbles and dice (MIDDLE) were imminently portable. Games that took up more space like chess sets would be used while in winter quarters and sent home during campaign season, when the army was on the move. Other hobbies left behind tangible evidence of the skill developed and demonstrated by practitioners, including sketch books (BOTTOM) and whittled objects.

The intricacies of the carved wooden chain are a powerful testament to the amount of time soldiers had on their hands.

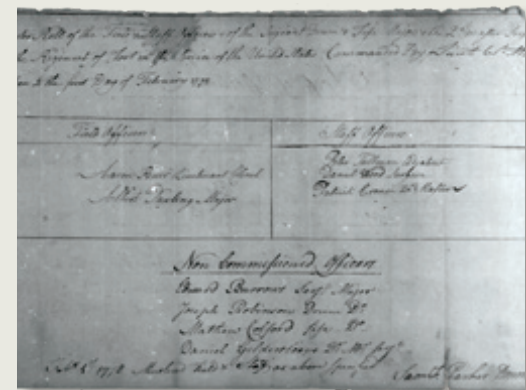
THE GILDERSLEEVES

*From Valley Forge to
Trust Supporter*

DISCOVERING that our ancestors were present at pivotal moments of American history is thrilling. It provides a tangible connection to the past to help spread a newfound or deepened interest in families and acquaintances. Through our collaboration with Ancestry and Fold3, the Trust is helping more of our members find their own personal windows into the past.

Gary Gildersleeve, a longtime American Battlefield Trust member, has always been proud to know that ancestors of his fought in the American Revolution and Civil War. But with additional details sourced through Ancestry, he can confidently put two forebearers at Valley Forge, one of the true crucibles of the War for Independence. Another ancestor also took up arms in the fight for liberty, and others occupied key moments in the American story, including westward expansion, the Civil War and the Industrial Revolution.

Gildersleeve's fourth great grandfather, Daniel Gildersleeve, was a master sergeant in Malcolm's Regiment serving under Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Burr, the future vice president famous for his tempestuous relationship with Alexander Hamilton. Before that harsh winter at Valley Forge, the regiment had fought in the unsuccessful defense of Philadelphia. When it entered winter quarters, the regiment had 231 men assigned and 158 fit for duty; when they



Valley Forge Historical Park
King of Prussia, Pa.
GAREN MEGUERIAN, @lumiere_images

marched away, it was just 175 men assigned and 72 fit for duty. Unfortunately, Daniel was among those who perished at Valley Forge, succumbing to illness on March 15, 1778.

Another of Gildersleeve's ancestors, his fourth great grandfather, John Stephenson, was also right in the thick of America's Revolutionary War. Born in Ireland in 1758, Stephenson moved to the colonies sometime before the Revolutionary War and volunteered to serve in the 1st Virginia Militia under Colonel George Gibson. He first appears on a payroll in November 1777, and his last payroll entry is November 1779, also putting him at Valley Forge. Stephenson may have seen action with his regiment at Germantown and Monmouth Court House.

After the war, John married Nancy Ewing and had several children. They owned a large amount of land in Virginia, as well as enslaved laborers to work it. But as he aged, Stephenson developed a deep aversion to slavery, freed his slaves and moved his family to Jackson County, Ohio. His son James Ira Stephenson, Gary Gildersleeve's third great grandfather, lived out his life there, serving as an associate judge. Through this line descended Gary Gildersleeve's mother Mary Helen North Gildersleeve, who was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution and passed a strong love of history on to her son.

John Edwards, a third Gildersleeve ancestor who fought in the Revolutionary War, enlisted on March 8, 1778, in the 2nd New Jersey Regiment and was paid "6 and 2/3 dollars a month" until he left the service in August of 1782. In 1778, the regiment took part in the Battle of Monmouth and the following year campaigned against British-allied Native American elements in upstate New York. They were stationed and fought across New Jersey in 1780, including the debilitating heat of the Battle of Connecticut Farms. While portions of the regiment were sent

to Virginia along with the Marquis de Lafayette in early 1781, the entire regiment was reunited for the war's final campaign and elements participated in the climactic assaults of October 14. They spent the next year in cantonments near Morristown, N.J., and at Newburgh, N.Y. As this period was after Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown, but before the war officially ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783, the regiment would not have participated in any major battles.

During the Civil War, Gildersleeve's great grandfather, John Cring, enlisted in Company C of the 5th Indiana Cavalry, but was captured and spent years in Confederate prison camps, including Andersonville and Belle Isle, while his comrades went on to fight across Georgia. Another great grandfather, Isaac H. Gildersleeve,



registered for the Union draft but was not called up to serve. His claim to fame was inventing an improvement in base-burning stoves in 1868, which subsequently led him to apply for a patent.★



APPRECIATING THE HUMAN STORIES OF WAR

*Duke R. Ligon's Journey from Vietnam to
American Battlefield Trust Alumni Board*

DUKE R. LIGON was raised in a family of modest means in rural Oklahoma. They took a single vacation during his childhood.

But memories of that one vacation are seared into Ligon's memory. He was a 12-year-old enthralled with history and the destinations were Civil War battlefields. "I would just fall in love with the rangers who would give the lectures about the battlefields," he said.

A decade later, after serving in the Vietnam War, Ligon returned to the Civil War battlefields of his youth and saw them through different eyes. He had seen the harsh reality of war with his own eyes. He had shared in the intense camaraderie between soldiers at war and the unique bond it creates.

As a veteran, Ligon now saw Gettysburg and other

battlefields through the eyes of a soldier. "I looked at it in a much deeper, emotional way than I did when I was so fascinated by the battlefield when I was younger and I didn't have this life-sobering experience," he said.

"It was different. I cannot think about it and not think about the people who were there and their lives and the fact that so many died and were wounded there," he said. "That's why I have so much respect for Gettysburg and other battlefields and why I think it's so important to preserve them."

Ligon is a retired attorney who served on the Board of Trustees of the American Battlefield Trust from 2012 to 2018. He was awarded the Bronze Star during his service in the Vietnam War from 1969 to 1971, but not in combat, the usual way soldiers earned such honors. "I had a really different experience in Vietnam," he said.

Ligon was an Army captain and an intelligence briefer for Gen. Creighton Abrams, the top commander of United States forces at the height of the Vietnam War. His Bronze Star was for his intelligence work that proved that China was directly and clearly involved in supporting the North Vietnamese Army. Chinese Army soldiers were moving men and supplies on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and Ligon had the photos to prove it, taken by teams secretly sent into Laos. The proof of Chinese involvement and its implications were a troubling new reality, both in Vietnam and at home.

Although Ligon's family had a rich military history, he was not eager to go to Vietnam. But young men of modest means from rural Oklahoma in the late 1960s were all but guaranteed to get drafted into the Army, and Ligon saw nothing good in dodging the draft. He joined the ROTC in school and, while enrolled, earned his law degree at the University of Texas School of Law to have more service options. He eventually ended up in military intelligence.

Though not a combat infantryman, Ligon saw the waste of war up close. "When I did briefings for Gen. Abrams and his staff, I used to go out to the tarmac at Tan Son Nhut Air Base and look at the caskets, which were stacked up 10 or 20 feet tall, waiting for transport back to Dover [Del.] Air Base in the United States," he recalled. "I mean, it was just a stark reality."

To Ligon, a visit to an American battlefield is a deeply meaningful experience, whether it is from the Civil War, the Revolutionary War or any of our country's other conflicts.

"There are human stories that developed there that in many cases ended there," he said. "And that's very impactful. There was a reason why people died there, whether you like the reason or not. It was history, but it's very different than historical places that are not battlefields. And very sacred. It's this 'hallowed ground' feeling of so many ghosts and so many spirits of the soldiers who were there."★

MEET LORNA HAINESWORTH

Honor Guard Legacy Society Member

MANY PATHS have brought our supporters to their connection to history and battlefield preservation — whether it be researching an ancestor's military service, touring a battlefield for the first time, participating in reenactments or even studying under a passionate grade school history teacher. Lorna Hainesworth of Randallstown, Md., took, quite literally, the road less traveled in discovering the American Battlefield Trust!

"How did someone who failed second semester American history as a college sophomore become such an avid fan of history today?" mused Hainesworth. "My answer is by chance, by continuum and by interconnectedness. I never made a conscious decision to study history, but I was led along the path of history by history itself. History has become my best friend."

Her love of history has evolved over time and began with a love of old roads, an interest that formed during her childhood in rural Wisconsin. Fortunate enough to retire early from the Social Security Administration, Hainesworth began road tripping through the continental United States. Traversing old roads such as Highway 61, AIA, Route 66 and the National Road led her to explore other historical trails, like the Lewis and Clark Trail. Her experiences on the road and documenting her travels morphed into a study of land acquisition and its impact on our nation's history, as well as the methods by which land is measured and mapped. A historian and seasoned lecturer in her own right, Hainesworth's involvement in various War of 1812 battlefield preservation-focused projects and documentaries served as the match to the battlefield preservation fire.

For several years, she considered writing her will and designating an appropriate beneficiary for her retirement accounts. Having no heirs to whom she could leave her estate, she sought an organization whose mission matched her passion for preservation and conservation. Hainesworth found her answer through joining the American Battlefield Trust's Honor Guard legacy giving society. The Trust's demonstrated



impact and success at saving War of 1812 and Revolutionary War sites is especially meaningful to Hainesworth. The organization's passion in its cause, and its commitment to transparency and how it so effectively engages history students across the country made Hainesworth's estate beneficiary decisions simple.

Through her estate plans, Hainesworth has ensured that her life's passion — and the Trust's mission — the preservation and interpretation of American battlefields — will continue for many generations to come. It is Honor Guard legacy society members like Lorna Hainesworth who put their faith and confidence in the Trust to safeguard our collective American history.★



ARE YOU INSPIRED to support the Trust through your will or other estate plans? Join the Legacy Challenge today! If you let us know that you have included the American Battlefield Trust in your will by December 31, 2021, you can unlock an immediate \$1,000 donation toward preservation from a generous donor — in your name. Learn more at www.americanbattlefieldlegacy.org/legacychallenge2021.

HOW DID WE BECOME AMERICA? *Growing series tells the Untold story in dynamic video format*

BECAUSE not everything worth knowing exists inside the covers of history textbooks, the American Battlefield Trust is proud to offer a classroom-ready animated video series that fills in the gaps and brings new stories to life.

The first 15 videos in *How We Became America: The Untold History* debuted during the summer via a partnership with the Driving Force Institute for Public Engagement (DFI) and focused on topics related to civic engagement and civic infrastructure's origins during America's first century. Now, with school back in session, we've launched a second round of 10 videos focused on the Revolutionary War era. Each video is paired with a selection of other resources on our website so that learning won't stop once the credits roll. Topics

covered in this grouping include period objects like "pieces of eight," quill pens, case shot and hospital ships, as well as fascinating figures like Crispus Attucks, "Virginia Giant" Peter Francisco, Alexander Hamilton, Catawba warrior Peter Harris and "It Girl Spy" Peggy Shippen. There already have been more than 100,000 views of these new videos, and the responses have been positive. One viewer wrote, "Please keep these videos coming! I've learned more in two minutes than most try to convey in an hour." A teacher chimed in to say that she saw one and "taught it to my students."

How We Became America: The Untold History is associated with DFI's larger Untold initiative, which is produced and distributed by Makematic and the

University of Southern California's Center for Engagement-Driven Global Education (EDGE). The program received a 2021 Best Digital Tools for Teaching and Learning award from the American Association of School Librarians.

Our goal is to complement our existing content with compelling video, an increasingly important format thanks to its utility in distance or virtual learning. It's an extremely portable format that works at home, in a classroom, on TV and on a mobile phone. *How We Became America* is filled with eye-catching animation based on iconic period images, plus a slightly irreverent attitude designed to show that history is dynamic. Be on the lookout for more "Untold" content in 2022.★



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AT THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST, we work hard to be a responsible steward of your donation dollars, earning coveted four-star ratings from the nonprofit watchdog group Charity Navigator in each of the last 11 years for our efforts.

As 2021 draws to a close and you contemplate year-end giving, remember that there are many ways you can contribute to the American Battlefield Trust and meet your personal philanthropic goals. A tax-deductible gift of cash made by check or credit card — whether to a particular acquisition effort or education programs — is just the beginning! Learn more at www.battlefields.org/give.

CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR

MAKING A GIFT in honor of a friend, relative or colleague can be a touching gesture in recognition of their enduring interest in American military history. Likewise, a gift in memory of a departed loved one can be a powerful tribute to a passion for American history and contribute to a legacy of learning that will last for generations to come. You can choose who will receive notification of your gift and include a personalized message. www.battlefields.org/honorgift.

Twilight Tour
Slaughter Pen Farm
Fredericksburg, Va.



CARES Act Deductions

Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, individuals can deduct up to 100 percent of their 2021 adjusted gross income for cash donations to qualified charities. Filers who take the standard deduction can qualify for a \$300 charitable deduction (\$600 for couples), too.

Gift Memberships

WANT TO INTRODUCE a budding historian to the importance of preservation or to empower an individual to take action on behalf of the places where the American experience unfolded? Consider a gift membership to the American Battlefield Trust! Your recipient will receive all standard membership benefits, including a subscription to *Hallowed Ground*, commensurate with the donation level you select, including Color Bearer status. Membership extensions are also available. www.battlefields.org/giftmembership.



MONTHLY GIVING

RATHER THAN making a single large membership donation each year, many Trust supporters have chosen to make monthly gifts via recurring credit card charges. This option can make seemingly modest gifts have a larger impact by giving the Trust a steady availability of cash to make important purchases. Without worrying about fluctuations in our purchasing power, we can work more proactively.

Choose the level of giving you are comfortable with, starting at \$10 per month — or receive all the benefits of our Color Bearer Society starting with monthly gifts of \$84. www.battlefields.org/givemonthly

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GIVING THROUGH YOUR IRA

IF YOU ARE over 70½, you can donate directly to the Trust through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA retirement account. Required minimum distributions (RMDs) have been waived for 2021 through the CARES Act, but you can still make a QCD gift from your IRA to support battlefield preservation. Gifts may be made from Traditional or Roth IRAs. <https://www.battlefields.org/give/ira-qcd>.

WORKPLACE GIVING

IF YOU ARE a federal employee, you can donate to the Trust directly from your paycheck through the Combined Federal Campaign. Many individual states have similar programs. www.battlefields.org/cfc

Many private companies, especially large ones, have formal programs to match employees' charitable gifts. www.battlefields.org/matchinggifts

Donor Thank You Weekend 2022

★ February 11 – 13, 2022: Columbia, S.C.

Open to all Color Bearer levels, this fun-filled weekend will include tours of sites like Historic Camden and Musgrove Mill Battlefield.

Park Day 2022 ★ April 9, 2022: various locations nationwide

Join sites across the country for the Trust's 26th annual Park Day, and help keep our nation's heritage pristine with preservation projects large and small.

Annual Conference 2022 ★ May 12 – 15, 2022: Chantilly, Va.

As a time for all Trust members to gather and embrace their passion for battlefield preservation, the organization looks forward to providing a diverse round-up of experiences to make this long-awaited event one you won't forget!

For more information, visit www.battlefields.org/events.



THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST'S exceptional commitment to fiscal responsibility means you can give with confidence and pride.

This information is not intended as legal advice and you should consult your attorney or financial planner. References to estate and income tax include federal taxes only; individual state taxes vary and may have further impact on your result.★

National Museum of American History

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NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM



FOUND in Pennsylvania's capital city of Harrisburg, the National Civil War Museum opened its doors in 2001 with the mission to serve as a national center where visitors can learn of the American Civil War by way of preservation and presentation of the multifaceted struggle. The museum houses more than 4,400 artifacts and 21,000 archival pieces, highlighting the agony and bloodshed of the Civil War that took place from 1861 to 1865. Visitors can also learn more about the role of women in war, the causes of the conflict, Abraham Lincoln's legacy, the abolition of slavery and the ghastly cost of war.

Currently, the museum offers an exhibit titled "War Games: Pastimes of Soldiers in the Civil War," that will be on display through June 5, 2022. "War Games" gives visitors an inside look at the day-to-day life of a Civil War soldier. Often, a soldier's life was one of endless military routine, devoid of constant action.

Roll calls, picket duty and drills took up the majority of a soldier's time during the war — typically, the action of battle would come only after months in camp. When they weren't writing letters home discussing finances or offering anecdotes of life in camp, soldiers would play old and new games and relish in healthy competition. Learn more about the different games these soldiers partook in to pass time and elicit joy amidst chaos with this playful exhibit!

No matter your connection to history, the museum aims to make itself a resource for history buffs, young students and families, military personnel and veterans and more! The Lessons in History Speaker Series connects audiences with enlightening Civil War scholars. Teachers will find that the museum and its knowledgeable staff can adapt to their lesson plan needs and bring history to life for their students. Meanwhile, military and civilian impression presentations are available upon request. Be sure to check out the museum's website for resources, events and information about visiting!★

NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM, One Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park,
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