

FALL 2022 • Vol. 23 No. 3

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

# HALLOWED GROUND

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## GETTYSBURG

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A quarterly publication  
of the American  
Battlefield Trust  
Fall 2022  
Vol. 23, No.3  
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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 55,000 acres, more than 150 sites in 24 states. For more information, call 800-298-7878 or visit our website at [www.battlefields.org](http://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. ©2022 American Battlefield Trust.

CORRECTION: In the Summer 2022 edition, the name of the DAR chapter in Yorktown, Va., was incorrectly identified. The Comte De Grasse Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution graciously hosted guests for the planting of the ceremonial first tree on the DAR Pathway of the Patriots.



**AMERICAN  
BATTLEFIELD  
TRUST**  
PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.

**G**ETTYSBURG. Whether or not it is your favorite battlefield — and based on multiple surveys of Trust members, odds are about even that it is — few lovers of American history could argue against it being among the most moving and iconic places in our nation. Those fields and hills — which, to me, still resonate with a compelling power even after scores of visits and decades of study — are worthy of pilgrimage for all who seek to understand how we came to be the nation we are today.

But what makes Gettysburg so uniquely special? I'd argue it's a combination of many things that, taken together, demonstrate the pressing need for an organization like the American Battlefield Trust.

The landscape is not just beautiful; it tells a story. Seeing the topography, the undulating and rocky terrain, deepens a visitor's understanding of how the battle unfolded. The presence of meaningful place-based markers and monuments alongside interpretive panels ensures that even the most casual visitor can absorb the magnitude of what transpired there. The words hand-engraved in granite, listing by name those from a particular unit who fell on that very ground, offer inescapable testament to the cost of war.

To be at Gettysburg is also to be part of a community. I have stood at the Copse of Trees on scorching July days (after walking Pickett's Charge in the footsteps of my ancestor) and on East Cavalry Field at chilly twilight, and in both cases I have been in good company. It's difficult to have that battlefield to yourself because so very many of us are, as Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain predicted on the battle's 25th anniversary, "heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them."

Gettysburg also tells an instructive preservation story. We owe local residents a debt of gratitude for swiftly realizing that the battlefield's blood-soaked ground was worthy of protection and safekeeping — crucial initial preservation actions commenced within months of the armies' departure. But it was also a laboratory where commemorative concepts and traditions took shape and evolved with each additional acre preserved. Where and what kinds of markers should be placed upon the landscape? What types of recreation are appropriate alongside such profound memories?

Gettysburg was the proving ground for these concepts and more as we refined the concept of hallowed ground.

In more modern times, Gettysburg has become synonymous with heritage tourism, showing other communities the tremendously positive economic impact that can be created by embracing the famous past events forever tied to its name. Careful balance is



required, as the town is not frozen in time and has the same modern infrastructure needs as everywhere else, but it can be achieved through thoughtful planning. As we have seen time and again, beneficial options abound beyond either wholesale destruction of our history or economic stagnation. At Gettysburg, and elsewhere, the Trust will continue to advocate enthusiastically for this "Middle Way" (a philosophy of leadership from Gettysburg resident Dwight Eisenhower), striking a sensible compromise between respect for our history and necessary growth.

In that same vein, preservationists must make careful choices in land acquisition. As surely as we recognize that there are historically significant areas still without any level of protection, we acknowledge that we ought not — and cannot — set aside every square foot over which a soldier may have trodden. We are very strategic in the projects we pursue — and always with the support of a willing seller who understands the importance of the land they have stewarded for years, decades or even generations.

At Gettysburg, especially, little that the Trust does is a solo endeavor. I hope that these pages convey how profoundly grateful the Trust is for our exceptional partners in preservation. They are essential to so many aspects of our work — the mechanical and logistical business of preservation, research and interpretive assistance, site stewardship and maintenance — and we celebrate their milestones and achievements as our own.

So whether you've been a dozen times, or are looking for suggestions to plan your very first trip, enjoy this virtual visit to Gettysburg. It's a remarkable place with extraordinary stories to tell — now and for generations to come.

*David N. Duncan*

DAVID N. DUNCAN  
President, American Battlefield Trust

President Portrait by BUDDY SECOR

# battlefields.org

ON THE TRUST WEBSITE

## RIDE SHOTGUN AROUND GETTYSBURG WITH GARRY

While there is no substitute for exploring Gettysburg in person, modern technology can help bridge the gap for those located too far afield to visit. With GoPro cameras affixed to his car and a wealth of stories stashed in his mind, the American Battlefield Trust's Chief Historian Garry Adelman — a long-time Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg — escorts us through the historic town and national military park in a two-hour online video tour. The video approximates what it is like to drive past and walk around iconic landmarks like Little Round Top and the Bloody Angle. The free tour, created with the consent of the National Park Service, is available at [www.battlefields.org/GuidedTourGettysburg](http://www.battlefields.org/GuidedTourGettysburg)

## A DIGITAL LINCOLN AWAITS!

While tens of millions of visitors to the Gettysburg Battlefield have sought to imagine the struggle that unfolded there in 1863, the task has not always been easy. But with the Trust's free augmented reality app, the *Gettysburg AR Experience*, you can watch a digital Lincoln deliver his Gettysburg Address or behold one of the most famous infantry attacks of the Civil War — Pickett's Charge! You can even interact with soldiers and civilians at Lee's Headquarters. Or, if you're looking for a convenient digital tour guide to explore the battlefield, the *Gettysburg Battle App*® is a GPS-enabled tour application that allows you to discover and learn about all of the sites associated with the battle. Find these apps and more at [www.battlefields.org/mobile-apps](http://www.battlefields.org/mobile-apps)

## RELIVE GETTYSBURG 159

To mark the 159th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, American Battlefield Trust staff ventured into the field with special guests on July 1-3, for the sixth rendition of "Gettysburg Live" — a series of videos that explore and give context to the battle from a variety of angles. To relive the experience, watch the videos at [www.youtube.com/americanbattlefieldtrust](http://www.youtube.com/americanbattlefieldtrust)

## SO MUCH TO DO, SO MUCH TO SEE

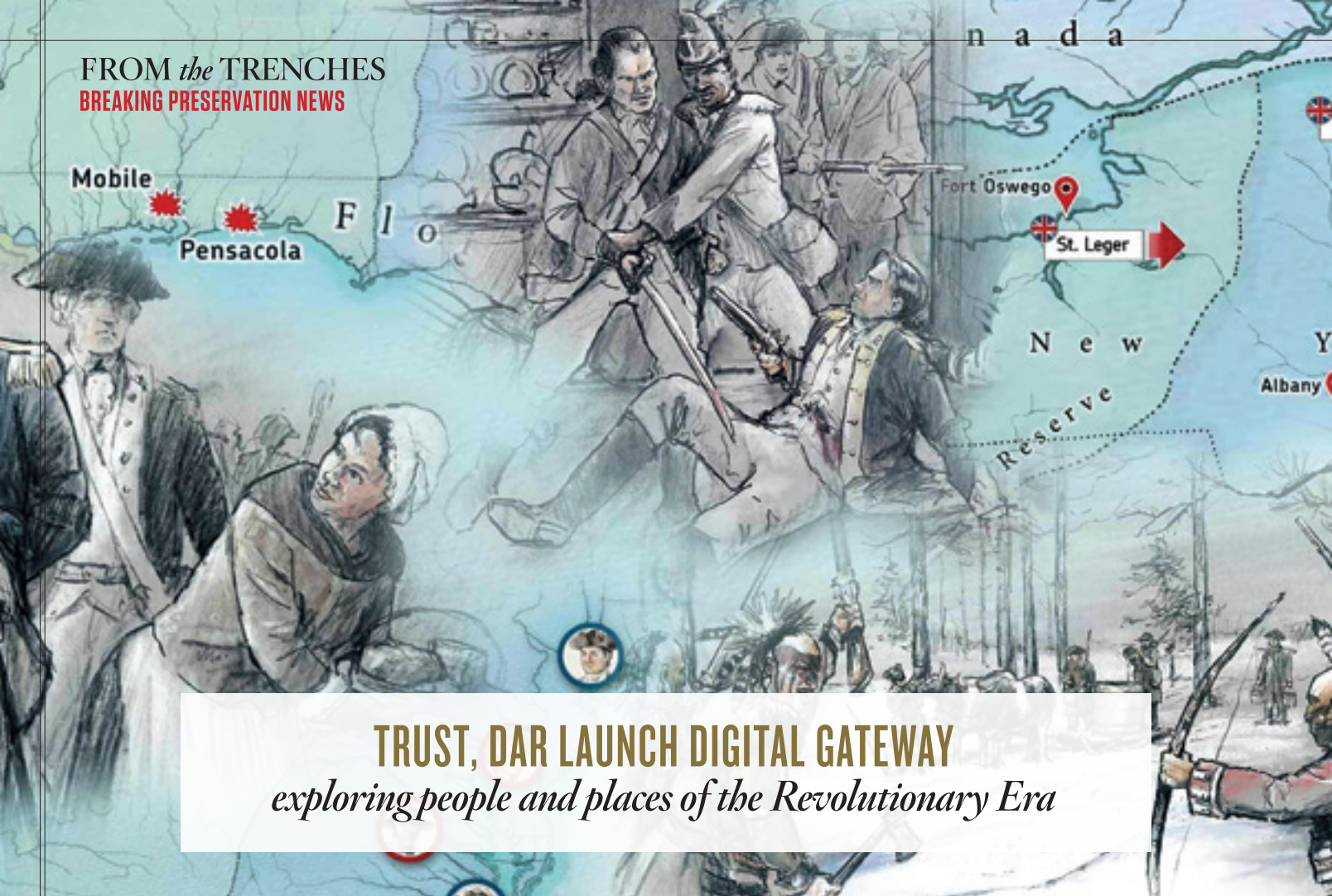
The 25-square-mile Gettysburg Battlefield literally surrounds the town, so it's easy to enjoy a hike or see the legendary Cyclorama at the Gettysburg Museum & Visitor Center before Sunday brunch — or hit the outlet mall before an evening stroll. To add some history to your next holiday, start with the Trust's itinerary recommendations at [www.battlefields.org/visit/itineraries](http://www.battlefields.org/visit/itineraries)

### EXPLORE THIS ISSUE



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Union Brig. Gen. George Stannard atop the State of Vermont Monument, which was dedicated in October 1889. The statue shows Stannard without his right arm, which he lost in the Battle of Fort Harrison, near Petersburg, Va. Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pa., JENNIFER GOELLNITZ



## TRUST, DAR LAUNCH DIGITAL GATEWAY

*exploring people and places of the Revolutionary Era*

**A**S TENSIONS MOUNTED in the 13 American colonies during the 1770s, an entire generation was faced with a momentous choice: Would these ordinary citizens risk rising against a great colonial power in pursuit of liberty? Or would they remain loyal subjects of the British crown, coming into conflict with neighbors and family?

The newly launched online exhibit *American Revolution Experience*, a collaborative endeavor between the American Battlefield Trust and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), explores the repercussions of that choice for individuals from all walks of life. Utilizing the Trust's industry-leading battlefield content, it also makes use of incredible documents and artifacts in DAR collections and features meticulously researched custom illustrations by South Carolina-based artist Dale Watson. Launched to mark Independence Day with the first 13 stories in place, future narrative additions and biographies are planned. Thanks to a \$200,000 interpretation grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, we will also pursue creation of a corresponding physical exhibit that can travel the nation during the upcoming 250th anniversary period.

Born from a shared understanding that tangible links to the

past — whether they are battlefields, artifacts, or a family's oral history — bind us across the centuries to our nation's story, the *American Revolution Experience* is grounded in the people and places of that era. It brings to life tales of Patriots and Loyalists, men and women, Black and Native populations and international allies. Rather than focusing only on generals and famous statesmen, it introduces audiences to drummer boys, military mapmakers and other ordinary people impacted by global events. Those visiting the site are invited to watch the physical journeys of the Revolution's participants unfold across the map, discover thematic connections between the lives of subjects and explore modern connections via namesakes, descendants and other mechanisms.

This is not the Trust's and DAR's first shared endeavor. Earlier in June, they came together for a symbolic planting to initiate the DAR Pathway of the Patriots, a 250-tree commemorative grove honoring individual Revolutionary War participants on one of the battlefields where they fought. And in April, when the Trust announced its goal to protect 2,500 acres of Revolutionary War battlefield land during the 250th anniversary period, DAR enthusiastically embraced this vision. ★

Explore the  
American Revolution  
Experience!



## THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM'S 2022–2023 COHORT *prepares for a busy year*

**A**FTER 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 2022–2023 Youth Leadership Team (YLT). The 10 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, including 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.

Since its inception, the program has been wildly successful, attracting the financial support of the Pipkin Charitable Foundation and the acclaim of members who had the opportunity to engage with the 2021–2022 cohort at our Annual Conference in May.

The full roster of the 2022–2023 Youth Leadership Team includes: Addison Anderson of Loveland, Ohio; Jacob L.T. Bates of Stonington, Conn.; Ella Dieterlen of Dillsboro, Ind.; Ana Kangsumrith of Fairhope, Ala.; David Mackowski of Georgetown, Texas; Ahmya Rivera of Elizabeth City, N.C.; Grace Schroeder of West Linn, Ore.; Colter Sienkiewicz of Livingston, Mont.; Sriya Tallapragada of New Providence, N.J.; and Colin Y. Shen of Houston, Texas. Learn more about the exciting plans for their capstone projects at [www.battlefields.org/ylt](http://www.battlefields.org/ylt) ★

Celebrating the new  
Rocky Face Ridge Park, Ga.  
ROBERT CARTER



## NORTH GEORGIA CELEBRATES *new park at Rocky Face Ridge*

**W**HETHER THEY PREFER Civil War entrenchments, mountain bike trails, spectacular views or recreational facilities, visitors to the new Rocky Face Ridge Park in Whitfield County, Ga., are sure to leave satisfied. The 1,000-acre park, formally opened with a July 25 ceremony featuring Georgia-based

Trust Board member Christopher Welton, is the result of tremendous public-private partnerships to secure the land and create a multipurpose destination for the community's benefit.

At Rocky Face Ridge, the Trust is honored to have had a hand in two major acquisitions totaling some 926 acres, both of which are now integrated into county park land. As the Trust is a chief architect of and advocate for the federal American Battlefield Protection Program's (ABPP) Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant program, which is designed to bring together nonprofits, government entities and community partners, it is incredibly gratifying to see the scale of this successful project.

For the acquisition of the 301-acre site in 2016, which completed the puzzle of parcels necessary for the new park, the Trust worked closely with Whitfield County to structure and plan the transaction, later presenting then Chair of the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners Mike Babb a national award for his leadership and vision. The Trust secured an ABPP grant in partnership with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Georgia Piedmont Land Trust and contributed funds from its members, which were matched by generous gifts from Whitfield County, the Lyndhurst and Riverview Foundations, Dalton Utilities, the Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia and Save the Dalton Battlefields.

The hallowed ground protected at Rocky Face Ridge contains sufficient historical resources to be worthy of protection and operation as a historical park in any community. It boasts a wealth of trenches and fortifications found on the sides of the ridge, made by some 150,000 Civil War troops during two 1864 engagements and a Confederate encampment following the Battle of Chattanooga. But local officials set out to create something even more significant: a resource that would be enjoyed and used by many groups within the community. The new park boasts more than 10 miles of hiking and biking trails, a pond with recreational opportunities, picnicking pavilions and spectacular scenic views stretching, on a clear day, from Kennesaw Mountain to Lookout Mountain — while also protecting a critical watershed. ★

## ADVOCACY EFFORTS ARISE AT GETTYSBURG

*Thousands speak out against threats to the first day's field*

**T**HIS SUMMER, the Trust joined forces with other preservation groups to successfully advocate against a proposed amendment to Cumberland Township zoning ordinances that could have had widespread and ongoing impacts on the viewshed of the Gettysburg Battlefield. On July 26, the Board of Supervisors followed the recommendations of the Planning Committee, the preservation community and thousands of concerned Americans to unanimously reject the proposal.

The situation grew out of a plan by the Gettysburg Municipal Authority to build a 175-foot water tower on historic Herr's Ridge. Such a structure in and of itself would create a massive visual intrusion on the First Day portion of the battlefield, and even dominate the landscape at other, more distant iconic locations critical to the scenic integrity of the park, such as Little Round Top and the Pennsylvania Monument, Eternal Peace Light Memorial and Eisenhower Farm.

Rather than seek an individual variance for this case, which could have been debated on its individual merits, a blanket amendment was sought that would have changed the by-right

allowable height for essential service structures, including water and cellular towers, from 35 feet to 175 feet across vast swaths of park-adjacent land. Alarmed, the Trust joined forces with the National Parks Conservation Association, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Pennsylvania and The Journey Through Hallowed Ground to convey our concerns about this shortsighted approach to local officials. By speaking clearly and with one voice, the preservation community was able to articulate actionable priorities for local officials to weigh in their deliberations.

Sadly, other threats remain at Gettysburg. As this issue of *Hallowed Ground* went to press, Cumberland Township officials weighed approval of a multi-story, multi-building apartment complex off of Country Club Lane, adjacent to national park land preserved with Trust involvement in 2011. Please check the Trust's website for updates to this evolving situation and any time-sensitive advocacy opportunities that may exist.

Learn about the Trust's advocacy efforts at Gettysburg

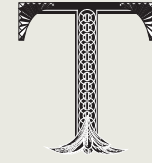


While we recognize the importance of balancing preservation with development, and the need for the Gettysburg region to develop 21st-century infrastructure, such decisions should weigh both immediate and long-term impacts to the battlefield. The Trust is deeply

thankful to our preservation partner organizations and the thousands of individuals who heeded our calls to action issued by email and social media and lent their voices to these efforts.

Unfortunately, Gettysburg is not the only battlefield in need of advocates, and many other sites are threatened by development and those who do not appreciate their historic and economic value. As someone who cares about America's battlefields and the meaning they carry as living memorials to those who struggled there, please regularly return to our website for additional opportunities to take action on behalf of hallowed ground. Bookmark [www.battlefields.org/preserve/speak-out](http://www.battlefields.org/preserve/speak-out) today.

## A DUAL-TRACK TEACHER INSTITUTE *provides unprecedented access to educators near and far*



**T**EACHING IN 2022 comes with a host of challenges, but the American Battlefield Trust has educators covered when it comes to discussing the complexity of America's past. This summer, our free, dual-track Teacher Institute programs provided outstanding continuing education opportunities to more than

860 individuals from four countries and 42 states, either online or in-person in Mobile, Alabama. While the on-site National Teacher Institute is a long-time Trust tradition, the pandemic necessitated a pivot to virtual offerings; this year marked the first time both were offered.

The events played host to K-12 teachers and administrators, museum professionals, librarians and college-level educators, all eagerly absorbing wisdom from speakers covering conflicts ranging from the Revolution to the Vietnam War. Popular virtual sessions, held in mid-July, included "Reel History: How Movies Influence American History, and What They Can Teach Students"; "Thenceforward and Forever Free: African American Freedom Seekers and the Complexities of Emancipation"; and "The Boston Tea Party, 1773-2023: 250 Years of Significance."

Attendees in Mobile fell "Into the Depths of History," via breakout sessions, workshops, lectures and tours to Forts Blakeley and Gaines, Historic Mobile, Historic Pensacola Village and the USS *Alabama*. Educators also heard from Medal of Honor recipient

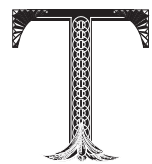


Attendees from this year's Teacher Institute in Mobile, Ala.

Melvin Morris, who spoke about his military service, the concept of valor and what educators can do in their classrooms to recognize acts of valor on and off the battlefield.

Two decades of the Teacher Institute have left an indelible impression on educators and their students, and the new dual format has made an even bigger difference. In its virtual format alone, the event has reached more than 2,500 educators, potentially connecting 75,000 students with the American Battlefield Trust's educational resources. In the coming years, the organization will continue to offer a dual-track program with in-person and online options; both will remain free and provide an opportunity to procure Continuing Education Units. Next year's in-person Teacher Institute will bring participants to historic Baltimore, Md. For additional educator resources, please visit [www.battlefields.org/learn/educators](http://www.battlefields.org/learn/educators) ★

## DIGITALLY EXPLORE SITE of latest Cold Harbor victory



**T**HE "Old Cold Harbor Tavern" was a local landmark before the Revolution, offering lodging (harbor) but no hot meals. After witnessing the Battle of Gaines' Mill in 1862, it lent its name to the bloody 1864 engagement fought over much of the same ground. The original tavern burned in the early 20th century, but using 21st-century technology, it has been reconstructed using a digital interface incorporating newly preserved land.

Victory on the 29-acre project — adjacent to 50 acres previously protected by the Trust — was announced in July, thanks to support from the HTR Foundation, the National Park Service and the Commonwealth of Virginia. But acquisition was just one part of the announcement: the Trust had also removed a dilapidated modern structure from the landscape.

After archaeological reconnaissance and other due diligence were performed to ensure no historical resources would be compromised, Trust President David Duncan was on hand to assist a professional demolition crew for the razing. Moving forward, the Trust will steward the property as it develops an interpretive plan so visitors can walk in the footsteps of the many soldiers

and civilians who twice endured battle sweeping over the intersection.

In the meantime, virtual audiences can connect with the historic Old Cold Harbor Tavern via computer animation and augmented reality

created using historic accounts and illustrations. YouTube viewers can watch a video recreation that shows the digital structure from several angles as an expert historian explores visible details, while individuals can use their mobile phones to place a digital replica of the Cold Harbor Tavern directly in their environment through Instagram and Snapchat filters.

In total, the Trust has protected 626 acres across the Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor Battlefields. ★



Explore the digital recreation.

Scan to see Cold Harbor Tavern come to life!



Looking toward the McPherson Barn and Herr's Ridge from Oak Ridge. Gettysburg, Pa. LYNN LIGHT HELLER

## NEW YORK STATE PARK GROWS

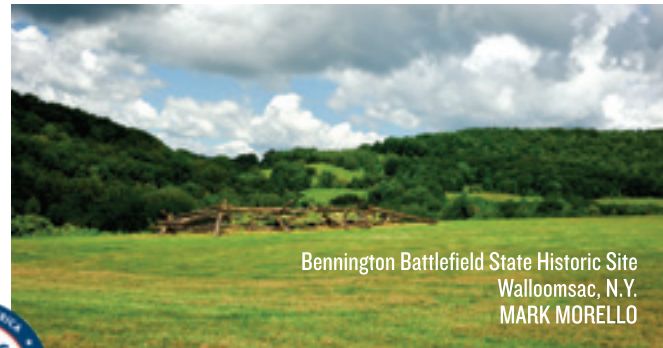
### Trust efforts yield expansion of Bennington State Historic Site

**T**HE TERM “NETWORKING” may sound dry and bureaucratic, but on-the-ground relationships are often central to the Trust’s work. That’s how we were able to grow New York’s Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site by 23 acres this summer, just in time for the battle’s 245th anniversary.

While on a family location, Kathy Robertson, the Trust’s director of project management in our land preservation department, stopped in at the state park and met key members of the staff there. That initial contact came in handy when a key property adjacent to the park was subject to a tax sale — the team at the state park knew exactly who to call as they sought to find a way to acquire it.

Despite undeniable historic value, the opportunity came with challenges, and the new owner was initially reluctant to sell. But a deal was struck in late 2019 — with the condition that the owner must remove the single-family structure on the property. The following summer, the Trust officially acquired the historic acreage. Additional cleanup, restoration and administrative steps were still necessary, but this summer, the process was completed with the 23-acre tract’s transfer to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

“We are pleased to incorporate this property into Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site. It will allow us to



Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site  
Walloomsac, N.Y.  
MARK MORELLO



protect both the archaeological record of the battle and the historic landscape for future generations,” said Historic Site Assistant David Pitlyk. “It has strong historical importance, which we look forward to interpreting. Its significance is matched by its beauty — the tract expands our property along the scenic Walloomsac River.”

To date, the Trust’s preservation activities in New York total just over 300 acres of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields, including properties at Saratoga and Sackets Harbor. This number is set to expand as we seek to preserve 2,500 acres of Revolutionary War battlefield land for the 250th anniversary of America’s founding conflict.★

**EMERGING CIVIL WAR**  
*recognizes public history feats*

Emerging Civil War’s Editor-in-Chief Chris Mackowski (left) presents the 2022 Emerging Civil War Award for Service in Civil War Public History to the Trust’s own Chief Historian Garry Adelman. Mackowski noted, “Histories are literally grounded in the landscapes where the events unfolded. That’s why the work of the Trust to preserve those landscapes has been of such vital importance.”

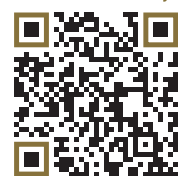


NOEL KLINE  
Inset BUDDY SECOR

## CELEBRATING THE LEGENDARY ED BEARSS

**ON JUNE 26, 2022**, crowds gathered to celebrate the life of the late, legendary historian Edwin C. Bearss at Gettysburg. Working in tandem with the Bearss family, Trust President David Duncan was joined by an array of speakers to reflect on the many aspects of Bearss’s fascinating experiences as a guiding force in the National Park Service, a maestro of Civil War history, a passionate preservationist, a Marine, a friend and a father.

Watch the Ceremony!



## IN MEMORIAM: Hershel “Woody” Williams



**ON JUNE 29**, the United States lost a remarkable hero, the ultimate ambassador for selfless service and an advocate for the memory of those who have sacrificed for this grateful nation. When he passed away in the West Virginia VA hospital named in his honor, Hershel Woodrow “Woody” Williams closed an era, the final Medal of Honor recipient from World War II going to his final rest. The Trust mourned alongside the history and military communities as he fittingly lay in honor in both Wheeling and the U.S. Capitol.

Williams was widely revered, not just for his valiant actions on Iwo Jima in January 1945, but also for the exemplary life of service he embodied across the decades since. Retiring after 20 years in the Marine Corps, he went on to a 33-year career as a Veterans Services Representative for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Whether as commandant of a nursing home for veterans or a member of the Governor’s Military Advisory Board, he was tireless in working on behalf of his brothers and sisters in arms in matters large and small.

Wearing the Medal of Honor for more than 75 years, Williams was a mentor to generations of fellow recipients, helping them navigate how they might use their roles and platforms to honor the fallen and improve conditions for fellow veterans. He perfectly embodied his personal motto: *The Cause Is Greater than I*.

Williams had a special passion for recognizing Gold Star Families, those who have lost a loved one in the line of service. His first exposure to this community predated his own military career, helping deliver Western Union telegrams in rural West Virginia before he was old enough to enlist and fight in WWII, an experience that shaped him for life. The Woody Williams Foundation carries out this passion with outreach programs, scholarships for Gold Star Children and community monuments.

The Trust is lucky to have known Woody Williams, a man who understood how meaningful it is to honor those who have served and sacrificed, no matter how long ago. The nation is richer for his life, and we will strive to continue manifesting his legacy.★



Woody Williams participating in a video shoot for the American Battlefield Trust’s “Brothers In Valor” series in 2018. Gettysburg, Pa. WILLIAM HEREFORD

## ADAMS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY *works to tell Gettysburg's full story*

**A** LONGTIME STAPLE of the Gettysburg community and keeper of some of Adams County's most important records, the Adams County Historical Society is set to make a big move and expand knowledge of Gettysburg "beyond the battle." Long housed in a residential building and without adequate specialized infrastructure to care for its vast collections, the group is transitioning to a 29,000-square-foot, custom-built complex, currently under construction with an eye toward 2023 occupancy.

The facility will include 5,000 square feet of artifact-packed exhibits, a sizable event center, a research room and climate-controlled storage space for more than one million historical records, images and artifacts. But the core element of the new building will be a museum called *Gettysburg Beyond the Battle*.

The full story of Gettysburg has never been told, and the museum aims to remedy that! Whether a first-time visitor or lifelong history buff, *Beyond the Battle* will open eyes to the civilian story — an exhilarating perspective on one of America's most famous small towns and its battlefield. As Gettysburg's newest attraction, the museum will use a combination of rare artifacts and the latest media and special effects technology to explore more than three centuries of remarkable history. Travel back in time to walk in the footsteps of

ordinary Americans who witnessed the Battle of Gettysburg, heard Lincoln's famous words, played a round of golf with Dwight D. Eisenhower and so much more.

The museum's signature exhibit, a 360-degree immersive room called *Caught in the Crossfire*, will allow visitors to step into one family's home and experience the horrors of being trapped between Union and Confederate lines. But as the museum's name suggests, topics will allow visitors to explore the famous location beyond the scope of the Civil War.

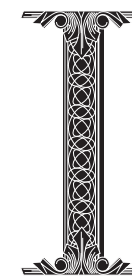
The museum will transport visitors back as far as 200 million years, with dinosaur footprints on display from Adams County. Other themes involve the county's Native American past, the establishment of Gettysburg and the community's early tourist experiences and local preservation efforts following the Civil War, as well as features on prominent figures and unsung heroes whose legacies reside in Adams County.

Author and longtime supporter Jeff Shaara has noted, "In my years as an author, I've learned that some of the best stories are tucked away in community libraries, archives, and historical societies. Right here in Gettysburg, so many of these stories are held by the Adams County Historical Society." ★



Envisioned exhibit at the Beyond the Battle Museum

## LAND CONSERVANCY OF ADAMS COUNTY *Protects regions farmland, orchards — and history*

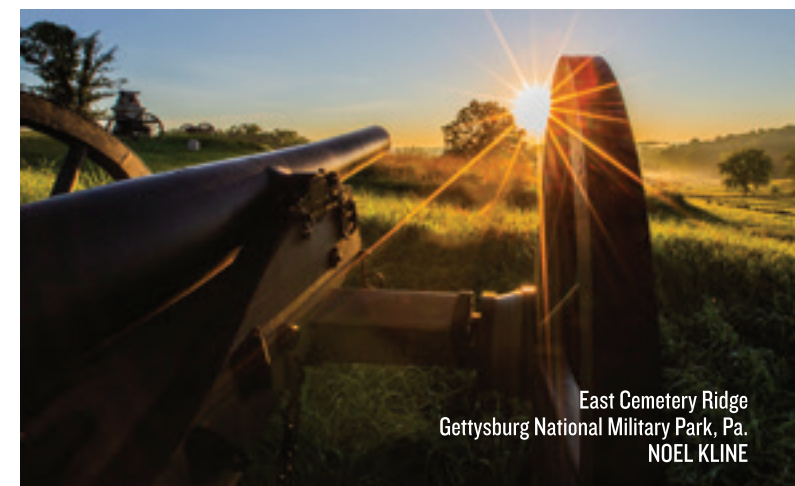


**I**T IS UNSURPRISING that various entities with either "Gettysburg" or "battlefield" in their name are frequent partners in the Trust's work to protect hallowed ground associated with the Civil War's bloodiest engagement. But one of our most critical local partners might fly under the radar of a casual observer. The Land Conservancy of Adams County (LCAC) has been an invaluable ally and collaborator in some of the Trust's most notable south-central Pennsylvania projects.

LCAC was founded in 1995 in response to the explosion of development the region was beginning to experience. Today, the accredited nonprofit land trust is responsible for the protection of 12,200 acres across the county. It augments a successful governmental program focused solely on agricultural landscapes by safeguarding orchards, woodlands, meadows, streams, ponds and other types of rural open space — including battlefield land.

A keystone of LCAC's model is the effective use of conservation easements, which allow pristine landscapes to remain in private hands for productive uses, while ensuring that they never fall prey to ill-considered development plans should a future property owner be less-preservation minded than the current owner. In fact, the Trust often places voluntary conservation easements on protected land, although such protections may also be stipulations of matching grant programs. To date, LCAC has been involved in conservation easements on a dozen Trust-protected parcels of battlefield land, from East Cavalry Field to East Cemetery Hill.

This work has taken place steadily since 2003 and prompted the Trust to recognize LCAC with its Brian C. Pohanka Preservation Organization of the Year Award in 2016, at our most recent membership event in Gettysburg. The LCAC board and staff across the years have been among the finest encountered in our nationwide work. Cofounder Dean Shultz, famed guardian and bard of Lost Avenue, has provided many historical significance assessments for potential acquisitions. The organization has originated transactions in which we have participated, alerting us to landowners in search of ways to create a lasting legacy with their landscapes. And indeed, no discussion of modern work to protect the Gettysburg Battlefield is complete without recognition of the organization's contributions. ★



East Cemetery Ridge  
Gettysburg National Military Park, Pa.  
NOEL KLINE

## THE GETTYSBURG FOUNDATION *delivers new perspectives to a wide range of visitors*

**T**HE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG can be viewed from multiple angles and through numerous lenses. It takes a great deal of effort to properly tell the story of what happened on and beyond the battlefield. The Gettysburg Foundation, a longtime friend and ally of the Trust, is a nonprofit organization that is not afraid to tackle these complexities and help educate the public about one of America's most famous battles.

As the official nonprofit partner of Gettysburg National

Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, the Foundation owns and operates the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor Center, home to the iconic Gettysburg Cyclorama. The group has recently opened two off-site installations, making use of the latest museum trends to deliver innovative and cutting-edge experiences. In doing so, people of all ages and backgrounds are given a window to dive into the world of the 19th century.

The latest effort employs virtual reality (VR). Based out of the Gettysburg Lincoln Railroad Station™, *Ticket to the Past — Unforgettable Journeys* allows visitors to travel back to a Gettysburg railroad station in July and November of 1863 — to the battle's aftermath and to the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery. In the former, VR travelers hear stories from such historical figures as volunteer nurse Cornelia Hancock, infantryman Eli Blanchard and Basil Biggs, an African American veterinarian involved

with the Underground Railroad. In the latter, they experience the arrival of Abraham Lincoln the evening before he gave his iconic Gettysburg Address.

For the next generation, the Foundation's newest youth museum, the Children of Gettysburg 1863, offers a chance



Visitors of all ages are seeing Gettysburg in a new way, through *Ticket to the Past—Unforgettable Journeys*.

for young historians to interact with Gettysburg through hands-on experiences in wonderfully designed galleries and exhibits, and through interactive activities. Children are given the chance to explore the lives of other children living in the past, soldiers on and off the battlefield and some familiar famous figures. Best of all, the Foundation offers free admission to children 12 and under. This exciting option for families is housed in the newly renovated Rupp House, first protected by the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg, one of the current Foundation's predecessor organizations.

The *Ticket to the Past* experience and Children of Gettysburg 1863 museum are only two of the Foundation's diverse and expansive offerings. They present history by creating a bridge for patrons that links the past with the present.

Learn more at [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org), and be sure to visit the next time you are in Gettysburg. ★

## LITTLE ROUND TOP FACELIFT UNDERWAY

*Major NPS rehabilitation project will extend through 2023*

**A**S ONE OF THE MOST ICONIC spots on perhaps the most iconic battlefield, Gettysburg's Little Round Top has become a victim of its own popularity, with high visitor traffic and natural erosion combining for a devastating impact. Responding to this situation with intervention and rehabilitation strategies, the National Park Service closed this area of the park in late July for a planned 18-month project to establish improved protections for historical resources and enhance the visitor experience with new interpretation, improved access and increased parking.

Each unit in the National Park System undergoes regular evaluation and cultural resource studies to ensure that its landscape is preserved and protected. At Gettysburg, both Devil's Den and Little Round Top have long been flagged as areas where visitation and erosion patterns threaten to permanently damage the landscape. In March 2022, the park launched a six-month rehabilitation project to repair significant erosion and to replant protective vegetation at Devil's Den. As the plants take root, the area will be reopened to visitors.

Studies of Little Round Top have shown overwhelmed parking areas, poor accessibility that particularly impacts those with mobility challenges, safety hazards due to crumbling pavement and significant erosion and degraded vegetation that, if not rehabilitated, will result in irreparable damage to the landscape.

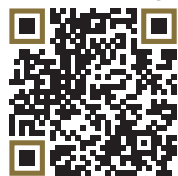
The \$13 million (\$11 million for construction and \$2 million

for re-vegetation) estimated to be necessary for project completion comes from public and private sources — including a recent \$2-million gift from the American Battlefield Trust and the National Park Foundation facilitated through philanthropist John L. Nau III, who serves on the boards of both organizations. Key anticipated outcomes include fresh interpretive signage, accessible trail alignments and a two-fold increase in linear feet of ADA accessible trails, new gathering areas and improved parking.

For safety concerns, the entire Little Round Top area will be closed for the project's duration. Although walking trails in adjacent areas will remain open, traffic patterns will be heavily impacted for the duration of the project. Visitors must obey all posted signage regarding closures and detours, which will be strictly enforced. To read the latest rehabilitation updates, download closure maps and find other details, visit the Gettysburg National Military Park website: <https://www.nps.gov/gett>

For many, a visit to Gettysburg might feel incomplete without standing on the "little rocky hill." But this temporary closure is vital to ensuring that the historical resources we love will remain for the next 159 years. And if you need a Little Round Top fix in the interim, the Trust filmed a special 45-minute tour with chief historian Garry Adelman to tide you over.★

Take a tour of  
Little Round Top!



As visitation and erosion issues are addressed at Little Round Top, the area is temporarily closed to the public.  
NOEL KLINE

## WANDERING THE WHEATFIELD

*The legacy left by Gettysburg veteran,  
G.W. Thompson*



**WITH ANCESTOR VETERANS** dating back to America's Revolutionary beginnings, Jim Sheaffer often looks at battlefield preservation through a personal lens, imagining what his family members of years' past felt as they walked upon the blood-soaked soil of battle. His interest in family history is only natural, as Sheaffer's parents took him on several visits to Gettysburg. There, the family would finish their trips at the Pennsylvania State Memorial, to see the name "G W Thompson" listed under the 53rd Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, Company F.

"G W Thompson" stood for George Washington Thompson — Sheaffer's maternal great-great grandfather and one of the approximately 85,000 Union soldiers engaged at Gettysburg.

Luckily for Sheaffer, his family history is well-documented, including writings from George himself. But, with the help of the Trust's friends at Ancestry, we were able to find even more details from the life of the Gettysburg veteran from various sources on Newspapers.com, an Ancestry affiliate. Ultimately, George W. Thompson carved out a life that demonstrated strength, perseverance and a patriotic legacy.

On March 3, 1841, George Washington Thompson was born and provided with a name that predicted his military destiny. One may also presume that he drew inspiration from his maternal grandfather, Jacob Scouten, who served in both the Revolutionary War and War of 1812. On October 16, 1861, 20-year-old George enlisted with Company F of the 53rd Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment. The enlistment even notes that the young private stood at 5' 6", with blue eyes and light hair.

George first saw action the following spring in the Battle of Fair Oaks, during the Seven Days Battles of the Peninsula Campaign. His obituary in *The Times Leader* — out of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. — from November 11, 1925, particularly outlines George's Civil War service:

*Fair Oaks, June 1, 1862; Gaines' Mill, June 27, 1862; Peach Orchard, June 28, 1862; 2nd Bull Run, August 30, 1862; South Mt., September 14, 1862; Antietam, September 17, 1862; Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862; Chancellorsville, May 1-4, 1863; Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863, where he was wounded, by gunshot in right thigh, also below knee. He was sent to*



Colorized photo of George Thompson (left) at the time of enlistment in 1861



*Summit Hill Hospital for three months. He rejoined regiment at Brandy Station. Re-enlisted December 27, 1863, as a veteran, engaged at Wilderness, May 5-7, 1864; Spotsylvania, May 8, 1864, where he was again wounded, confined to hospital for four months. Rejoined regiment at Petersburg, Boydton Rd., March 31, 1865;*

*Five Forks, April 1, 1865; Appomattox, April 9, 1865. Promoted to Sergeant, April 17, 1865, and second lieutenant, June 1, 1865, for meritorious conduct. He was honorably discharged June 30, 1865, near Washington, D.C.*

As for his service at Gettysburg, on July 2, 1863, Private Thompson followed the orders of then Col. John R. Brooke to advance — charging through the Wheatfield, into the Rose Woods and to the crest of the wooded hill where the 53rd Pennsylvania's monument stands today. Exposed and without further ammunition, the 53rd retraced its path back through the Wheatfield. But at some point, the young private was hit.

George's writings note that he crawled off the field after being twice wounded in the leg. The 53rd Pennsylvania lost 81 out of the 135 men who entered the fight that day. But George would live on, first being treated at a hospital outside of Philadelphia and later transported to Camp Convalescent in Alexandria, Virginia. Sheaffer's family narrative also makes note of George's eventual return to the regiment at Brandy Station in November 1863, and his reenlistment as a "veteran volunteer" in December 1863 — for which he received a \$100 bounty.

When he was discharged on June 30, 1865, George returned home. In addition to becoming a husband, father and owner of a lumberyard and machine shop, he became a dedicated veteran.

*The Wilkes-Barre Semi-Weekly Record* noted his participation in the 30th reunion of Company F at the Dallas (Pa.) fairgrounds in September 1891. On August 30, 1912, the same paper recorded him as a surviving member of Company F when announcing the 51st reunion in Fernbrook (Pa.). While newspapers don't confirm his presence at Company's F's 51st reunion in 1912, the family narrative and an accompanying photo — taken in the Wheatfield — places George at the Gettysburg 50th anniversary reunion in July 1913.

Over the years, Sheaffer has continued to visit the renowned Pennsylvania battlefield and pass on George's story to his children, nieces and nephews. He even enlisted the help of a Gettysburg licensed battlefield guide to provide an in-depth tour of the Wheatfield, where George himself fought and later revisited. Getting this close to an ancestor's military past is rare, and Sheaffer certainly doesn't take it for granted.★



Surviving members of Company F at the Gettysburg 50th Reunion, taken at the Wheatfield. Thompson is in the front row, on right end. Crosses were added by hand upon each veteran's passing.



Ribbons that Thompson wore at the Gettysburg 50th Reunion.



The Wilderness Battlefield  
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park  
Fredericksburg, Va.  
MATTHEW HARTWIG

## LAND SAVED & PRESERVED

*Projects completed between January and June 2022*

### 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.

*Aided by the American Battlefield Protection Program and the State of North Carolina, the American Battlefield Trust acquired 15 acres at the Bentonville Battlefield. The Trust and the State will steward this property until its transfer to the State of North Carolina for incorporation into the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site. The Trust has now saved **1,924 acres** at Bentonville.*

### CEDAR CREEK, Va.

In the fall of 1864, Union Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan marched up the fertile Shenandoah Valley, stripping the country bare to starve out the Confederate

forces in Virginia. By mid-October, the exhausted Confederates were outnumbered two to one, but after an audacious night march, they surprised Union troops near Cedar Creek. Ultimately, a crushing Union rally extinguished Southern hopes in the valley.

*The Trust acquired nearly three acres at Cedar Creek, Va., which included eight lots on a local thoroughfare that could've been lost to development. The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation is assisting with maintenance of the property until its acquisition by the National Park Service in the fall of 2022. The Trust has now saved **730 acres** at Cedar Creek.*

### FRANKLIN, Tenn.

On November 30, 1864, determined not to let the Federals reach the safety of Nashville, Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood unleashed a massive frontal assault against their entrenched lines. Despite nearly breaking through the Union center, he was driven back with heavy losses — more than 6,000 casualties, including six dead generals.

*In partnership with the Friends of Frank-*

*lin Park, the Battle of Franklin Trust, Franklin's Charge and Save the Franklin Battlefield, the Trust assisted with the acquisition of two acres at Franklin, Tenn. The property was acquired by the Friends of Franklin Park. The Trust has now saved **181 acres** at Franklin.*

### GLOBE TAVERN, Va.

On August 18, 1864, the Union army once again attempted to capture the Weldon Railroad, following its failed effort in June. General Grant sent his V Corps westward with orders to destroy a portion of the track. A Confederate counterattack resulted in a tactical defeat for the Federals and more than 4,000 Union casualties. Despite their loss, enough railroad tracks had been destroyed to force the Confederates to transport their supplies by wagon.

*In early May, the Trust acquired two tracts at Globe Tavern totaling approximately **98 acres**. This preservation success — the Trust's first on the battlefield — will be funded through the American Battlefield Protection Program, the National Park Service and the Petersburg Battlefields Foundation. The Trust*

*will transfer one of the tracts to the National Park Service for incorporation into the Petersburg National Battlefield. This is the Trust's first preservation success at Globe Tavern.*

### HOBKIRK HILL, S.C.

In April 1781, Continental Army Major General Nathanael Greene began a campaign in the hopes of driving the British from South Carolina, with his first objective being British Lieutenant Colonel Francis Rawdon's garrison in Camden. Due to strong British defenses, Greene assumed position atop Hobkirk Hill. Rawdon launched an attack on the Continentals, and Greene subsequently disengaged and conducted a withdrawal. Despite the victory, Rawdon abandoned Camden soon after, making the garrison the first to fall to Greene's army.

*Funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the South Carolina Conservation Bank aided the acquisition of almost **two acres** at Hobkirk Hill. Marking the American Battlefield Trust's first preservation success at this site, the property is held by the South Carolina Battlefield Trust.*

### SECOND DEEP BOTTOM, Va.

During the night of August 13–14, 1864, the Union II Corps and X Corps, and Brig. Gen. David M. Gregg's cavalry division, all under command of Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, crossed the James River at Deep Bottom to threaten Richmond, coordinating with a movement against the Weldon Railroad at Petersburg. On August 16, Union assaults near Fussell's Mill were initially successful, but Confederate counterattacks drove the Federals out of a line of captured works. Heavy fighting continued throughout the remainder of the day. Confederate Gen. John Chambliss was killed during cavalry fighting on Charles City Road. After continued skirmishing, the Federals returned to the south side of the James, maintaining their bridgehead at Deep Bottom.

*Funding to be provided by the American Battlefield Protection Program, the*

*Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund and the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation enabled the Trust to acquire three parcels totaling just over 50 acres at Second Deep Bottom, Va., near the location of the historic Fussell's Mill. The Trust will hold the properties for the foreseeable future, then possibly transfer them to a partner organization. The Trust has now saved **223 acres** at Second Deep Bottom.*

### UPPERVILLE, Va.

The Battle of Upperville was one of a trio of cavalry engagements fought in Virginia's Loudoun County during the early phases of the Gettysburg Campaign. Confederate cavalier J.E.B. Stuart's skilled delaying tactics produced hard-fought battles at Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville, but ultimately, he successfully prevented Union troopers from gaining any fruitful intelligence on the second invasion of the North.

*Working alongside Kirkby Farms, LLC, and the Old Dominion Land Conservancy, the Trust provided funding for the placement of a conservation easement, conveyed by Kirkby Farms, LLC, on 190 acres at Upperville to the Old Dominion Land Conservancy. The Trust has now saved **1,004 acres** at Upperville.*

### WILDERNESS, Va.

On May 5, 1864, the Union V Corps attacked Lt. Gen. Richard Ewell's Confederate Corps on the Orange Turnpike, while Maj. Gen. Winfield Hancock's Second Corps, together with elements of the VI Corps, was engaged against A.P. Hill's Confederates along the Plank Road. Fighting in the dense woods was fierce but inconclusive. The following day, Hancock attacked along the Plank Road, driving Hill back, but reinforcements under Lt. Gen. James Longstreet arrived in time to prevent the collapse of Hill's right flank. At noon, a devastating Confederate flank attack in Hamilton's Thicket faltered when Longstreet was wounded by friendly fire. The Ninth Corps then moved against the Confederate center but was repulsed. Although the battle was a tactical draw, Grant did not retreat, and the

Federals advanced toward Spotsylvania Court House.

*The Trust acquired 36 acres at the Wilderness Battlefield, with funding coming from the American Battlefield Protection Program, Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund and Virginia Land Conservation Foundation. The Trust has now saved **295 acres** at the Wilderness.★*

Curious about our many preservation feats at Gettysburg? Get the details by scanning this code.



Upperville Battlefield  
Fauquier County, Va.  
GARY PERLOW

BARLOW'S KNOLL

The Peach Orchard  
Gettysburg National Military Park  
Gettysburg, Pa.  
MATT BRANT

DEVIL'S DEN

PEACH ORCHARD

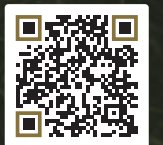
CHARGE OF  
THE 1ST MINNESOTA

EAST CAVALRY FIELD

# FIVE FURIOUS FIGHTS AT GETTYSBURG

**T**HERE ARE INSTANCES when boldness takes over and transforms a moment in time into something that will forever define a person or place. While it's easy to get swept away in the thousands of acres and countless stories that encompass the Battle of Gettysburg, we've identified five bold actions that guided the course of the legendary battle. The locations at which these actions unfolded, some well-known and some less traveled, forever carry the memory of heart-wrenching fighting that was felt deeply across a divided nation.

Written by five Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guides, the following collection of articles will transport you to those three days in July 1863. As you're reading, note that you can scan the QR code to the right for larger versions of maps, as well as further information.





# FLANK ATTACK AT BARLOW'S KNOLL

BY TIMOTHY H. SMITH

**T**HE ADAMS COUNTY Almshouse, or poorhouse, was established in 1818 along the Harrisburg Road, just northeast of Gettysburg. By the time of the Civil War, it had grown into a complex of buildings, and the "Poorhouse Farm" included several hundred acres. Around noon on July 1, 1863, the Union XI Army Corps, under Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard, began to arrive on the field,

extending to the north the line already established by Gens. John F. Reynolds and Abner Doubleday west of town. Without knowledge of the close proximity of advancing Southern forces, Howard's orders to his subordinates were unclear. Instead of forming his men in a tight arc across the critical road network at the edge of the town, Brig. Gen. Francis C. Barlow chose to advance his division through the Almshouse complex to a rise of ground on the Blocher Farm near the Harrisburg Road.

PHOTOGRAPH BY NOEL KLINE



The sun rises on Barlow's Knoll — named for Brig. Gen. Francis C. Barlow, who chose to advance his division on the site on July 1, 1863.

This questionable movement opened the Union right flank to a massive attack by elements of Maj. Gen. Jubal Early's Confederate division.

"They were harder to drive than we had ever known them before," said George Washington Nichols of the 61st Georgia. "Men were being mown down in great numbers on both sides.... We advanced and drove them into and out of a deep road cut and on to the Almshouse, where the Yankees stopped and made a desperate stand."

Despite that stiff resistance and final foothold around the Almshouse buildings, Union forces were overwhelmed and driven back through the streets of Gettysburg, leaving the fields strewn with dead and wounded. During the afternoon, the XI Corps suffered approximately 3,000 casualties, while inflicting about 800 on the enemy. It was a devastating loss for a corps marred by similar defeat at the Battle of Chancellorsville only two months earlier.

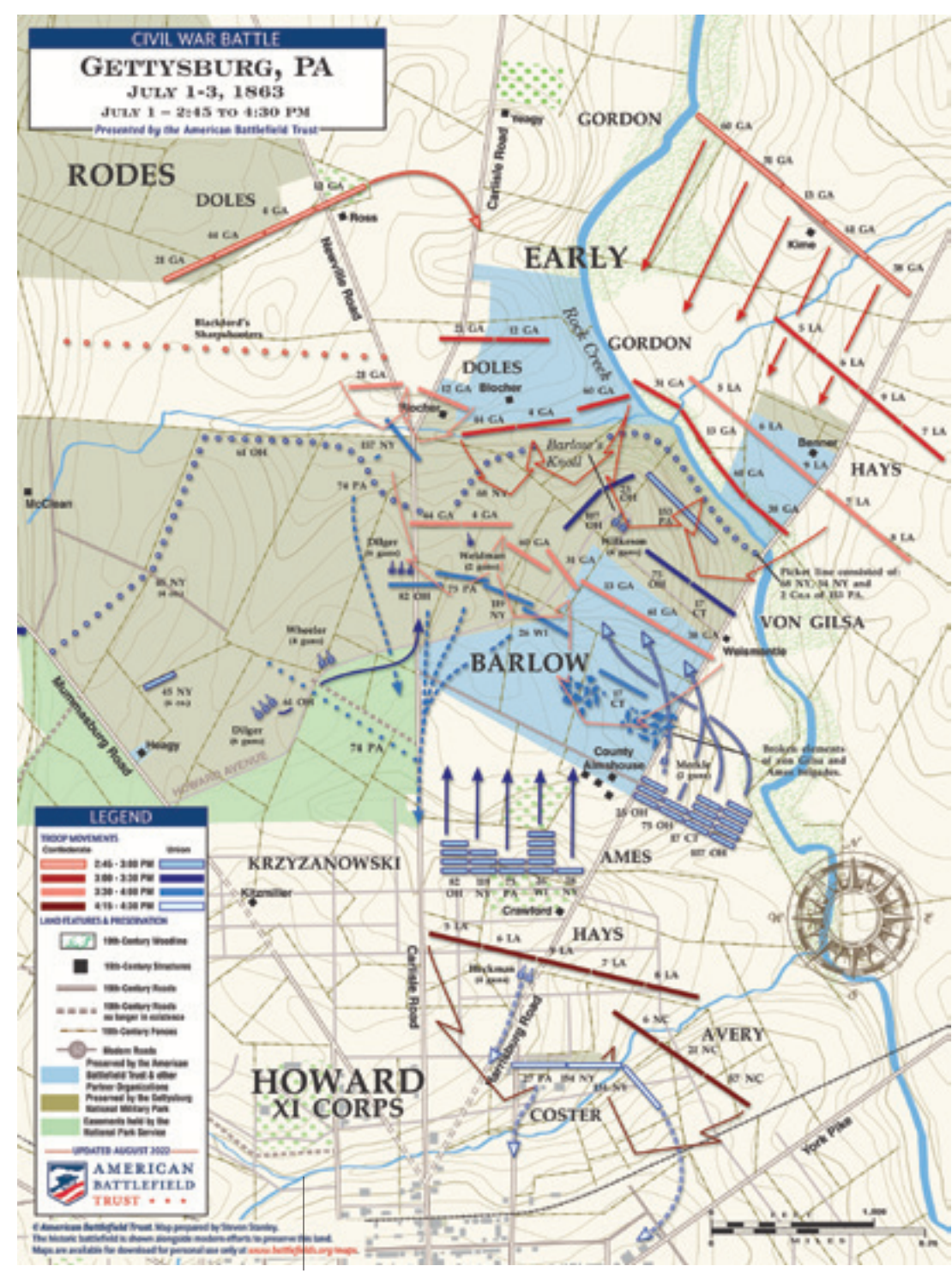
After the Civil War, the Almshouse complex remained in possession of Adams County, and the site was further developed. In 1949, the Adams County Prison was relocated from East High Street in Gettysburg (where it had been in operation since 1804) to part of the Almshouse property along the Biglerville Road. Additionally, a new facility for the elderly (eventually renamed Green Acres) was built just south of the prison. The original buildings of the Almshouse were later removed, and an agricultural center now occupies the site.

When a new and improved county prison was built east of Gettysburg in 2003, the Adams County Historical Society (ACHS) acquired the property from the county. As part of the agreement, ACHS was asked to remove the old prison and replace the dilapidated structure with a more historically appropriate building. At long last, these plans are coming to fruition, and a new museum

UNION FORCES WERE OVERWHELMED AND DRIVEN BACK THROUGH THE STREETS OF GETTYSBURG, LEAVING THE FIELDS STREWN WITH DEAD AND WOUNDED.

and history center will soon open at this site. The museum will focus on the story of the people who lived in Gettysburg and Adams County at the time of the Civil War and how they were affected by the battle, as well as the history of the community before and after 1863.★

Timothy H. Smith is a Licensed Battlefield Guide of 30 years. He is the director of education at the Adams County Historical Society.





# THE CAPTURE OF DEVIL'S DEN

BY GARRY ADELMAN

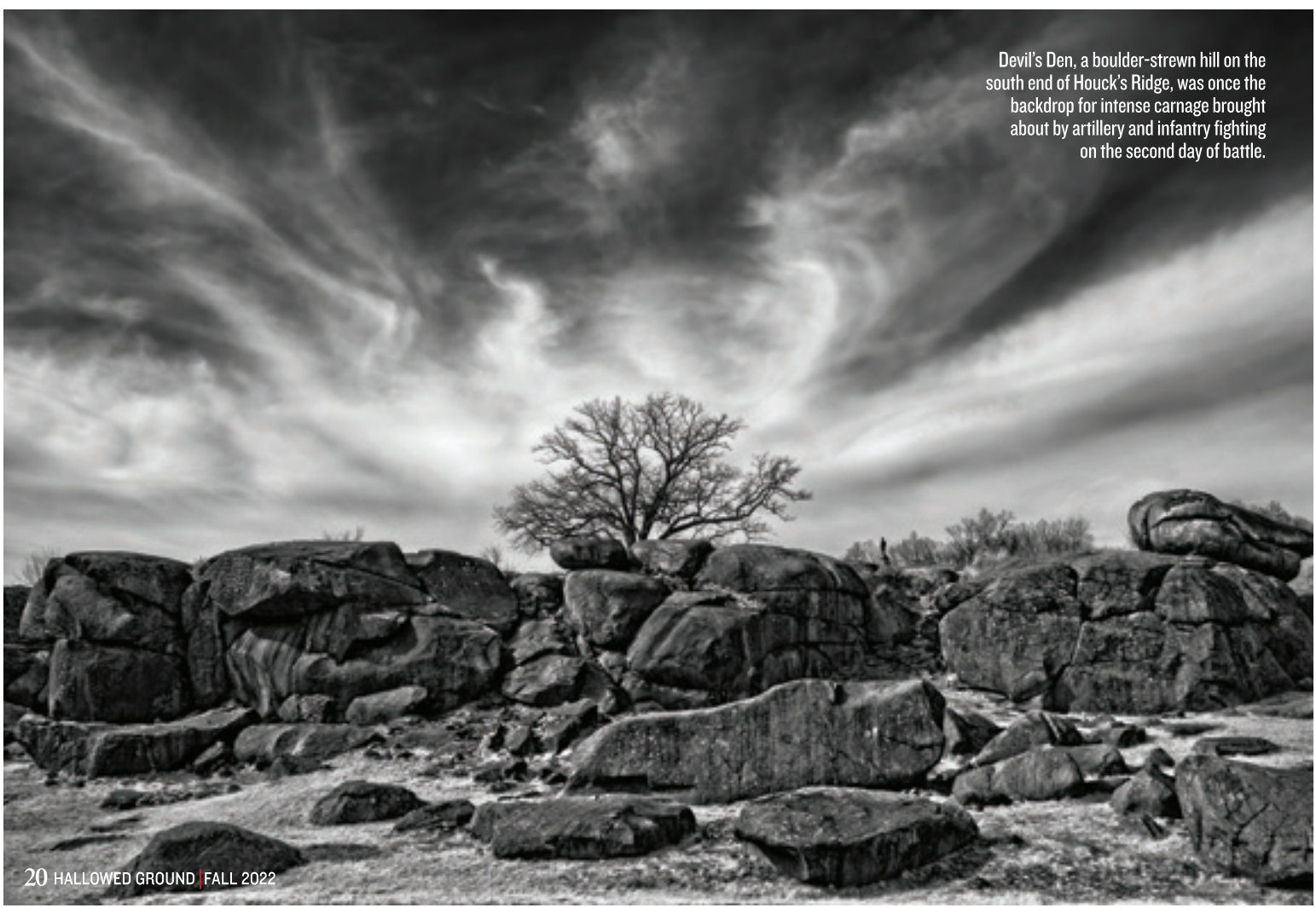
**O**N JULY 2, 1863, more than 5,000 soldiers from nine states fought a bloody battle at, arguably, Gettysburg's strangest place. A place "barren of tree or shrub and almost destitute any green thing." A place at which "nature in some wild freak had forgotten herself and piled great rocks in mad confusion together." This place is known as Devil's Den.

On that day, Union 3rd Corps commander, Maj. Gen. Daniel Sickles, was unsatisfied with the position assigned him and moved

his corps forward as Southern forces were moving into position on Warfield Ridge, directly opposite their enemy. Confederate Maj. Gen. John Bell Hood's troops had just endured an exhausting march to get to their position, on one of the hottest days of the summer.

After a 20-minute bombardment, thousands of Rebels advanced over the terrible terrain of the Gettysburg Sill, a mile-wide swath of igneous boulders that "increased fourfold the difficulty of the advance." Their progress was further hampered by Yankee

PHOTOGRAPH BY SAM GRAY



Devil's Den, a boulder-strewn hill on the south end of Houck's Ridge, was once the backdrop for intense carnage brought about by artillery and infantry fighting on the second day of battle.

sharpshooters, artillery fire and regiments lacking concert of action; Hood's line was jagged and partly broken, even before the true fighting began. More than 3,100 Southerners soon slammed into the 2,400 Northerners around Devil's Den in the first substantial fighting on Gettysburg's second day.

The Union line atop and below the Devil's Den ridge (known then as Houck's Ridge) braced for the onslaught. These were Brig. Gen. John Henry Hobart Ward's men, who, at that time, comprised the extreme left flank of the Union forces. A small regiment of New Yorkers charged oncoming Texans, only to fall back despite initial success after Alabamians arrived on their flank. Alabamians and Texans swarmed amid the cannons atop the crest but found it too dangerous to stay there. Arkansans were held at bay in Rose Woods by multiple Union regiments. Southerners found fewer Federals on their own right flank — the even-worse terrain now known as the Slaughter Pen.

Brig. Gen. Henry Benning's Georgians arrived and bolstered the Southern line. Soldiers from four Northern states arrived or were repositioned, but the Southern attack was too powerful. The Union abandoned Devil's Den, and the Confederates captured the crest, as well as three of the cannons.

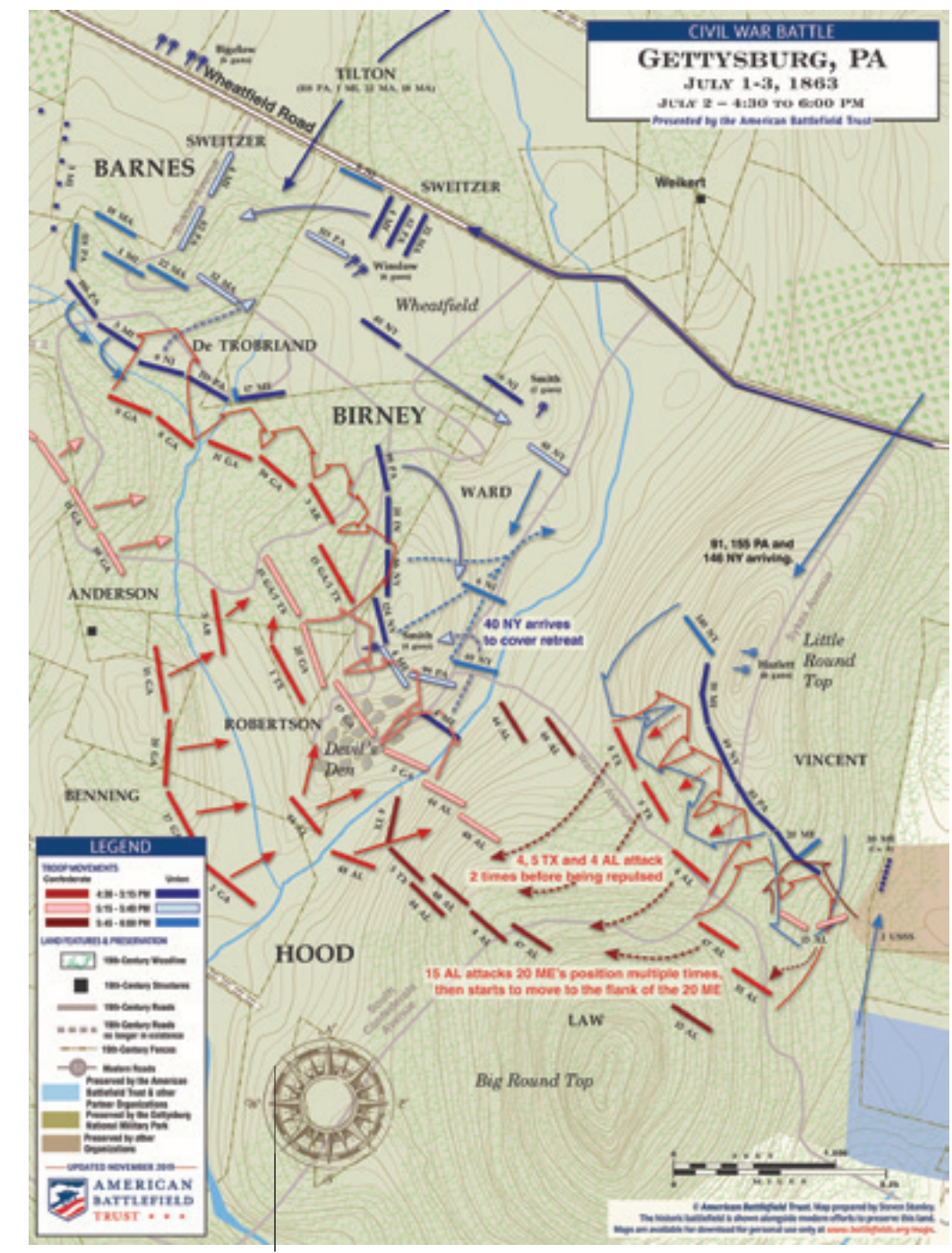
By this time, however, Union forces occupied Little Round Top — the new left flank. The Southerners had gained ground but hadn't broken the main Union line, and the heights looked impregnable to them. "We whipped the Devil in his Den," wrote one Alabamian, "but Round Top ran up too much toward the heavens."

The Confederates occupied Devil's Den for 22 more hours, skirmishing with the enemy and removing their wounded and the captured cannons. Combat in the Den had already made it a place of horrors, but after the armies left it was even worse. Many of the wounded were removed to hospitals, but very few of the dead were buried. They lay everywhere. Photographers and a sketch artist documented some of the human carnage twisted among the wild rock formations.

THE DEN WAS ALREADY A PLACE OF HORRORS AND AFTER THE ARMIES LEFT IT WAS EVEN WORSE. —VERY FEW OF THE DEAD HAD BEEN BURIED. THEY LAY IN EVERY CONFIGURATION.

Although Devil's Den later emerged in popular history as a sharpshooters' bulwark and a nesting place of evil spirits, it was in fact one of Gettysburg's most terrible infantry fights, with more than 1,800 men killed, wounded, captured or missing. One soldier, writhing in a hospital east of Gettysburg, could only rant about those "awful, awful rocks."★

Garry Adelman is a Licensed Battlefield Guide of 28 years. He is the Trust's chief historian.





# HOT LEAD IN THE PEACH ORCHARD

BY RALPH SIEGEL

**THE PEACH ORCHARD** at Gettysburg is critical ground, albeit frequently overlooked.

Visitors to the southern part of the park are drawn to Devil's Den and Little Round Top — the rocky hill is a must-stop for its panoramic views. Kids love the Den's immense boulders. As the park has evolved, these sites have gotten the most emphasis in preservation, interpretation and tourism.

But in the actual battle, the Peach Orchard position was as

important — many would say more important — as these other locations for two reasons.

First: The Peach Orchard sits at the critical intersection of the Emmitsburg and Millerstown Roads.

The Emmitsburg Road, running south to north, was used by a third of the Union army to get to the battlefield. The Millerstown Road (aka Wheatfield Road), running west to east, was the main access route on July 2 for the Army of Northern Virginia to get at the Union army's left flank. The importance of this intersection

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATT BRANT



Once the scene of fierce combat, the Peach Orchard lives on today through efforts in 2008 to replant 72 peach trees.

cannot be overstated. And right at this intersection stands the dense, four-acre Peach Orchard, providing concealment and cover.

Second: The Emmitsburg Road sits on a small ridge running north about a quarter mile toward town. The Peach Orchard sits on the highest point of this ridge. It is the high ground between the opposing forces.

The height of the Peach Orchard means Union forces by the Trostle Farm could not see beyond it. Confederates deploying on Warfield Ridge were out of sight. Likewise, Confederate officers could not look beyond the Peach Orchard to see what might be coming up. At one point, the commander of the attacking force, Lt. Gen. James Longstreet, walked with one of his brigades out to the Emmitsburg Road to see what was happening on the other side.

For these reasons, the Peach Orchard became a center-point of the fighting on July 2 — the largest and bloodiest day of the battle.

It was a site of surprises. For one, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee chose the intersection at the Peach Orchard as the launching point for his attack. Union commanders had expected it elsewhere.

Before Lee's troops arrived, Union Maj. Gen. Dan Sickles moved his III Corps up to the Peach Orchard. This surprised Lee and Longstreet inasmuch as Sickles' move also surprised the Union army commander, Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade.

The first combat at the Peach Orchard was an artillery fight without precedent. As many as 86 guns exchanged close-range fire while the infantry prepared for action. One New Jersey battery fired 1,342 shots, a record for the Civil War. Confederate Col. E. Porter Alexander called it the hottest, sharpest artillery fighting of the war.

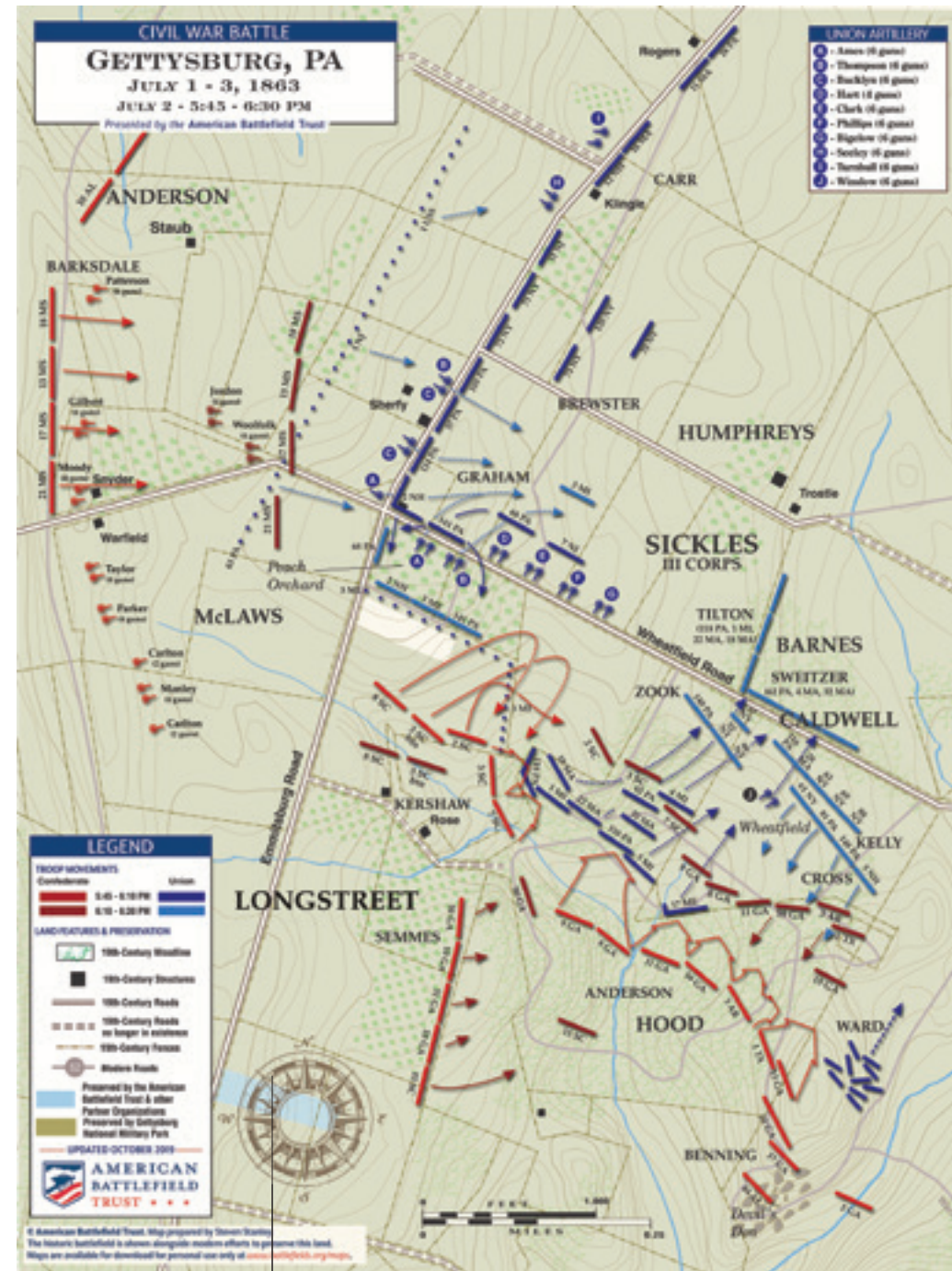
The infantry attack followed. New Hampshire men faced off against South Carolina men, only to change fronts to face a new attack from Mississippi forces. As the Union position caved, the 141st Pennsylvania struggled to hold their line and protect their guns. They numbered just 209 men at the outset and lost 149 of them.

The Confederates did break the

ONE NEW JERSEY BATTERY FIRED 1,342 SHOTS, A RECORD FOR THE CIVIL WAR. CONFEDERATE COL. E. PORTER ALEXANDER CALLED IT THE HOTTEST, SHARPEST ARTILLERY FIGHTING OF THE WAR.

Peach Orchard position. And they held it the next day as an artillery platform to support Pickett's Charge. Lee in his battle report for July 2 claimed that getting "a position from which it was thought that our artillery could be brought to bear with effect" was his objective of the day. It rings false, but it is what he wrote.★

Ralph Siegel has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park since 2004. He is co-author, with the late Mike Vallone, of Peach Orchard: A Gettysburg Battlefield Guided Tour.





# CHARGE OF THE 1ST MINNESOTA

BY CHRIS ARMY

*"I had no alternative but to order the regiment in. We had no force on hand to meet the sudden emergency. Troops had been ordered up and were coming on the run, but I saw that in some way five minutes must be gained or we were lost. It was fortunate that I found there so grand a body of men as the 1st Minnesota. I knew they must lose heavily and it caused me pain to give the order for them to advance, but I would have done it even if I had known every man would be killed. It was a sacrifice that must be made. The superb gallantry of those men saved our line from being broken."*

**THESE WORDS** were written by Union Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock and reveal the desperate situation of the Union line during the latter part of the sledgehammer attack inflicted by the Confederate forces of Gen. James Longstreet on July 2, 1863. Hancock's response to yet another wave of Confederates coming down the Emmitsburg Road ridge heading toward the weakest point of the Union line is one of the best-known stories from the

PHOTOGRAPH BY JENNIFER GOELLNITZ



This monument to the 1st Minnesota sits upon Cemetery Ridge at the location where the regiment began its charge on July 2, 1863. Surrounded by veterans of the regiment, the monument was dedicated on July 2, 1897.

Battle of Gettysburg. The 1st Minnesota regiment formed in 1861, one of the first offered to President Abraham Lincoln for service by Gov. Alexander Ramsey, and had already seen its share of tough scrapes in the war, beginning at the First Battle of Bull Run. Reduced in size to just over 300 men by 1863 and placed in the center of the Union line on July 2, with two of its companies detached, the remaining 262 men ran to the emergency. Forty-seven returned unscathed. "Not a man waived," said one participant.

The story of the 1st Minnesota doesn't stop with their famous charge on July 2 as the 47 men returned to the main Union line, passing by their dead and wounded comrades. It continues at the height of Longstreet's July 3 assault against the center of the Union line.

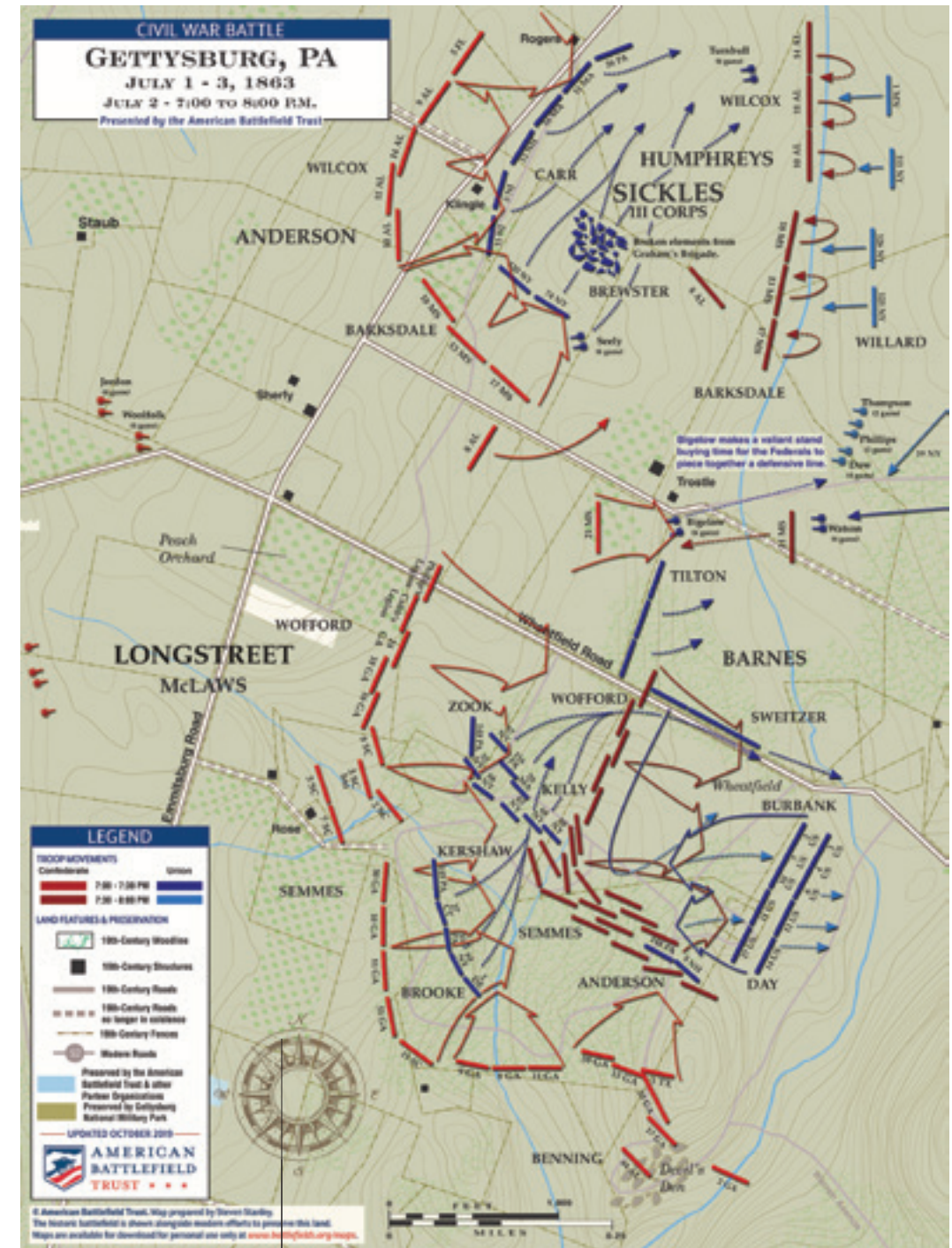
Lt. William Lochren, recounting the experiences of the 1st Minnesota in 1890, described a scene "of shells screaming over our heads and striking and bursting among our artillery, where caissons were exploding every few minutes" and "the satisfaction of detecting the sound of bursting caissons on the enemy's side as well." Some of the men of the 1st Minnesota amazingly took the opportunity during the artillery duel to catch up on some much-needed sleep!

Watching the long lines of Confederate infantry come across the field, Lochren later described the scene as one of "admiration at the steady and resolute manner in which they came on." Once the Confederates reached the Union infantry line, however, the time was over for admiration, and heavy, close combat became the order of the day. In the melee, the men of the 1st Minnesota ran toward the famous copse of trees to help other Federal units. At the height of the fighting, one man, Marshall Sherman of Company C, was able to capture the flag of the 28th Virginia regiment. Capt. Nathan Messick, who had taken over the Minnesota regiment after the heavy casualties of July 2, was killed in this confrontation, along with the captain of Company C. Lochren later would plainly state in a speech, "[T]hus ended the serious fighting of the battle of Gettysburg."

IT WAS A SACRIFICE  
THAT MUST BE MADE.  
THE SUPERB GALLANTRY  
OF THOSE MEN  
SAVED OUR LINE  
FROM BEING BROKEN.

The superb gallantry of the men of the 1st Minnesota did save the Union line from being broken — and not only on July 2, as they assisted with the effort on July 3 as well. For that effort, we can agree with General Hancock: "No soldiers on any field, in this or any other country, ever displayed grander heroism." ★

Chris Army is a Licensed Battlefield Guide of seven years. As one of the founders of Culpeper Battlefield Tours, he is expanding the universe of quality guided experiences.





# CUSTER'S STAND AT EAST CAVALRY FIELD

BY JAMES A. HESSLER

**A** SPIRITED CAVALRY engagement unfolded almost four miles east of Gettysburg on the afternoon of July 3, 1863. The field was strategically significant due to two nearby roads: the York Pike, situated on the northern boundary, and the Hanover Road, located on the southern end of the field. Union cavalry under Brig. Gen. David M. Gregg occupied the Hanover Road and covered approaches to the Army of the Potomac's rear. Gregg realized that Confederate occupation of the Hanover Road and the

intersecting Low Dutch Road could threaten the Union supply line along the Baltimore Pike. The morning of July 3 found Gregg's division scattered across the broad battlefield. Only one of his brigades was located on what is now known as East Cavalry Field. Fortunately, 1,900 Michigan cavalymen, under the flamboyant and recently promoted Brig. Gen. George A. Custer, reinforced Gregg. Along with 10 pieces of artillery, Gregg and Custer established their defensive line along the Hanover Road and Low Dutch Road.

PHOTOGRAPH BY NOEL KLINE



A monument to the Michigan Cavalry Brigade sits off of Gregg Avenue. It was here on East Cavalry Field that the last charge by Stuart's horsemen was defeated on July 3, 1863, with Union Brig. Gen. George A. Custer's Michigan Wolverines playing a large role in fending them off.

Meanwhile, Confederate Maj. Gen. James Ewell Brown "J.E.B." Stuart approached the northern side of the field with perhaps 5,000 of his battle-hardened but exhausted cavalymen. Historians continue to debate Stuart's role and objectives. There is no contemporary evidence that Robert E. Lee and Stuart coordinated this assault with "Pickett's Charge," which occurred at the same time. Stuart's orders were to protect the Army of Northern Virginia's flank, but as he later acknowledged, he had hoped also to strike a surprise attack to the enemy's rear. The stage was set for one of the liveliest cavalry fights of the war.

The two sides exchanged artillery fire and initially pushed forward dismounted skirmishers. After exchanging gunfire near the John Rummel Farm, the Southerners launched the first of two mounted assaults against the Federal position. Gregg ordered a mounted countercharge from the 7th Michigan, in which Custer rode in front of his men and shouted his immortal war cry, "Come on you Wolverines!" Custer's spectacular charge stopped when the regiment crashed into a fence that had not been removed from the field, but they nonetheless halted the enemy's attack.

At about 3:00 p.m., approximately 2,000 Confederate horsemen under Brig. Gen. Wade Hampton emerged for the grand climax. With their sabers glistering in the sun, Hampton's soldiers gathered speed and galloped toward the Yankee position. Gregg sent in only one regiment, the 1st Michigan, to stop them. Once again, the blonde-haired Custer raced in front of his men and led them forward. Witnesses described the sound of the two sides colliding as like thunder. Capt. William Miller led a squadron of the 3rd Pennsylvania into Hampton's left flank, and the Confederates grudgingly returned to their starting point. Gregg's Union forces held their position.

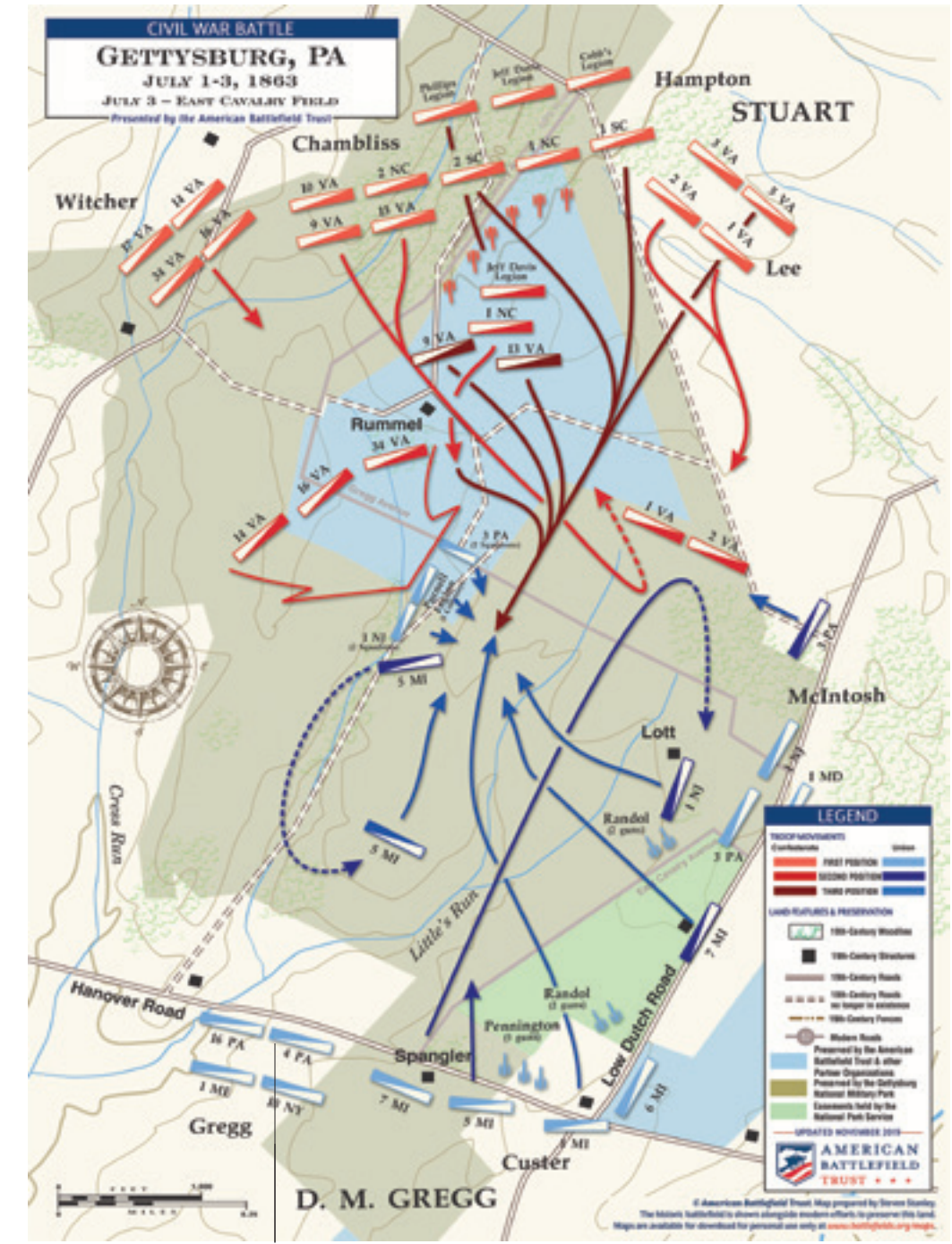
Although not part of the larger Pickett's Charge, this was still a meaningful action. Gregg prevented Stuart from making any attempts to harass the Union's main position. The Union cavalry also continued to "come of age" and showed that it was no longer a joke or a punching bag for its Southern opponent.

Today, East Cavalry Field is one of

ONCE AGAIN, THE BLONDE-HAIRED CUSTER RACED IN FRONT OF HIS MEN AND LED THEM FORWARD. WITNESSES DESCRIBED THE SOUND OF THE TWO SIDES COLLIDING AS LIKE THUNDER.

the least visited treasures of Gettysburg National Military Park. The landscape is among the most pristine on the battlefield. A handful of monuments, cannons and historical structures occupy the ground. It is easy for visitors to recall that afternoon long ago when Gregg, Custer, Stuart, Hampton and others clashed on these fields.★

James A. Hessler is a Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide of 19 years and published author. A lifelong Custer scholar, he is also a member of Little Bighorn Associates and Custer Battlefield Memorial Association.





The Mary Thompson House, Lee's Headquarters, was one of roughly 30 scenes photographed by Mathew Brady a week and a half after the 1863 battle.

1863



Postcard playing up Gen. Robert E. Lee's tie to the Gettysburg structure.

1937



The famous house sits surrounded by a restaurant and motel complex prior to restoration.

2016

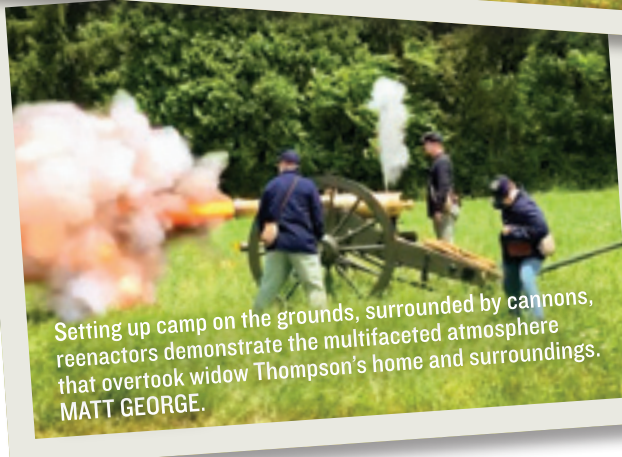


The building and its surroundings as it appears currently, restored to its wartime appearance by the Trust.

2022



Reenactments on the restored landscape give onlookers an idea of the action that unfolded here in 1863.



Setting up camp on the grounds, surrounded by cannons, reenactors demonstrate the multifaceted atmosphere that overtook widow Thompson's home and surroundings.



Sitting along Chambersburg Pike on the first day's battlefield, the restored Lee's Headquarters (Mary Thompson House) offers visitors a perfect start to their tour.

## FORGING A PATH TO PRESERVATION AT LEE'S HEADQUARTERS

*From battle to bulldozers, the Gettysburg landmark has witnessed a whirlwind of change in its 189 years*



**VER THE COURSE** of July 1, 1863, a simple stone house on Seminary Ridge was transformed into an icon of the Gettysburg Battlefield. Fierce fighting swirled around the structure, and when the ridge was taken by the Confederates, Gen. Robert E. Lee, recognizing its superb view in all directions, established his battle headquarters there, at the center of the Confederate lines.

Built by Michael Clarkson in 1833, the home was soon let to Joshua and Mary Thompson and their eight children, who were followed by a cloud of misfortune. Joshua, a drunkard, abandoned his family and subsequently passed away. In 1846, Clarkson ran into financial distress, but his good friend, future Republican Congressman Thaddeus Stevens, purchased the home in trust for Mary, making them co-owners until his death in 1868.

Following the battle, widow Thompson was left with little — her linens used for bandages and her fences for firewood. She moved from Gettysburg for a time but returned and lived out the rest of her years in the home, passing in 1873. When the Gettysburg National Military Park was established in 1895, the house, still privately owned, was not included.

The home came upon tough times. An 1896 fire damaged the interior but left the stone construction intact. Then, in 1907, the home's tenant was arrested for keeping such a filthy house.

The gradual transformation of Gettysburg into a tourism mecca prompted the house's transformation to General Lee's Headquarters Museum in 1921. A nearby campground and cabins followed. Over time, a restaurant and Larson's Motel — complete with swimming pool — surrounded the historic treasure.

But by 2014, with the facility's franchise agreement with Comfort Inn set to expire, its owners approached the Trust about preservation options. With businesses operating at the site, confidentiality was paramount and Trust staff began quietly planning the massive acquisition and restoration campaign they could only call Project X.

The effort was widely announced in time for the battle anniversary, and the Trust closed the \$5.5-million deal on January 7, 2015. The next phase of the most ambitious project in Trust history was set to begin: bringing the home and its surrounding landscape back to its wartime appearance.

"Once we had the vision, I had to put together the plan to implement it," said Matt George, the Trust's land stewardship

manager. "The first thing was getting approvals and permits for all of this, which took about a year."

With nine buildings set to be torn down, requisite inspections were numerous and uncovered something unfortunate: seven buildings contained elements of asbestos — largely the dangerous, airborne kind — so a third of a year was spent on remediation alone. Once demolition began, great care was taken to ensure preservation of the two remaining Civil War structures on the property, the Thompson House and the foundation of the Dustman barn next door.

Archaeology was also critical. Despite two tombstones near the home, no human remains were present. The only Civil War artifact found was a minié ball some distance from the house, near the national park boundary. Other than that, scattered pre- and post-war knickknacks were uncovered.

Discoveries remain George's favorite part of the project. When pulling out museum cases and post-war walls in the house, a second fireplace was exposed. A brick and earth berm around the building was removed, revealing two hidden basement windows. A number of the building's original beams were uncovered — their provenance proved by the visible charring from the 1896 fire — and, once reinforced, were structurally sound.

But what guided the work? George points to Gouverneur K. Warren's post-war topographical map of the entire battlefield. "Despite being post-war, it was so close that it was accurate." In addition, 3-D versions of Mathew B. Brady's mid-July 1863 photographs formed the visual inspiration for the garden, fencing and even a doghouse. Using these pieces in tandem formed a plan for the landscape and outside features surrounding the house.

Copper piping and fixtures were recycled. Asphalt parking lots were ripped up and hauled off. The old sewer and electrical

systems were upgraded. Twenty-four apple trees were planted to recreate a historical orchard. A five-stop interpretive trail was installed. "We also reassessed the building's foundation ... lowered the soil around it, re-pointed it and filled it back in," said George, who remains thankful to this day for the brilliant team of Gettysburg-area companies that made the Trust's biggest restoration project possible. "The only thing I take credit for is assembling a really great team — between the civil engineer, the demolition contractor, the restoration contractor ... they were all top-notch companies."

The fruits of all this labor were put on full display on October 28, 2016, when 700 preservation-minded guests descended on Gettysburg for a rededication and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

As challenging as the process was, George looks back on the project proudly. "There was a point when you could go into the basement of the old restaurant and look straight up. For about 15 feet above you, there was nothing but dirt and debris, and I'm thinking 'What kind of mess did you get yourself into, Matt?' But you'd never know it today!"

With impressive historic value, Lee's Headquarters is often considered the Trust's flagship site at Gettysburg. It's also a great place to start your tour of the legendary battlefield.

If you're hoping for a look inside, the Trust opens Lee's Headquarters to the public one Saturday a month between April and October, plus Remembrance Day in November. A fantastic partner, the Seminary Ridge Museum also augments access, with a docent opening the house every Friday during a 12-week period in the summer.★

Learn more about our work at Lee's Headquarters!





## MEETING AGAIN UNDER BLUE AND GRAY

*How a veritable army of veterans gathered to mark the battle's 50th anniversary*



**UNDETERRED BY THE SAME HEAT** they remembered from 50 years earlier, more than 53,000 veterans, accompanied by vast numbers of support personnel and spectators, descended on Gettysburg in early July 1913. The four-day event — incidentally the largest tent gathering since the Civil War — sparked massive media coverage and drew interest from coast to coast.

Momentum for a massive gathering on the fields of Gettysburg to mark the milestone grew out of smaller reunion events held by the Grand Army of the Republic and the United Confederate Veterans. In 1906, when Union veterans from the Philadelphia Brigade and Confederates from Pickett's division met at Gettysburg in reconciliation, the captured sword of Confederate Brig. Gen. Lewis Armistead was returned as a token of good will.

Leaders from both organizations met with Gov. Edwin Sydney Stuart, the Gettysburg National Park Commission and local officials to draw up a proposal for the Pennsylvania General Assembly. These initial efforts resulted in the formation of the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg Commission; its \$1.2-million budget coming primarily from the States of Pennsylvania and New York and the U.S. War Department. With the U.S. Army, the Gettysburg National Park Commission and the town of Gettysburg tapped to act as cohorts, planning began in earnest in August 1912.

The War Department drew up plans for a Great Camp of more than 5,000 tents spread across 280 acres along Long Lane and the Bliss Farm. Notable features included: a 13,000-person Great Tent designed as a central site for programming; distinct lodging areas for Union and Confederate veterans, with streets organized by state; mess tents, where 2,170 cooks prepared more than 680,000 meals; Pennsylvania Health Department latrines with a "seating capacity" of more than 3,000; temporary outposts for a U.S. Post Office; and, given the age of participants, a medical examiner's morgue.

In addition to the vast tent city, significant support services were required across the battlefield and throughout the community. To boost capacity, the local railroad built a special platform for veterans to disembark from trains directly into the camp. The Pennsylvania Health Department set up a field hospital at the north foot of East Cemetery Hill, while the American Red Cross and Boy Scouts manned 14 first aid stations. Six "comfort stations" were set up throughout the area with a total of 100 bathrooms. Some 400 Boy Scouts were enlisted to act as escorts for aged veterans, and a battery of the Third U.S. Field Artillery and several companies of Regular Infantry were attached to the Great Camp. With such a crowd, security was a concern, so 285 officers and men of the 15th U.S. Cavalry acted as battlefield guards, and four squads of Pennsylvania State Police were brought in for law enforcement.

In anticipation of the reunion, the Pennsylvania Planning Commission completed the Pennsylvania Monument on the battlefield and mailed 40,000 invitations to surviving veterans. Following the announcement that President Woodrow Wilson would speak, the event became a national sensation, prompting creation of a "Newspaper Row" with housing for 155 journalists. The *Newton Enterprise* from North Carolina exclaimed that "This Reunion

will mark an epoch in history, no such thing having ever been heard of before." The *Philadelphia Inquirer* noted on June 11, "It is going to be a noble celebration from many points of view, but the human interest is certain to be the greatest."

Ultimately, more than 53,000 veterans represented all but two of the 48 states (the exceptions being Nevada and Wyoming). Many couldn't afford the trip and received support from national, state and local donations. The more-robust-than-anticipated atten-

## WARRIOR LEGACY



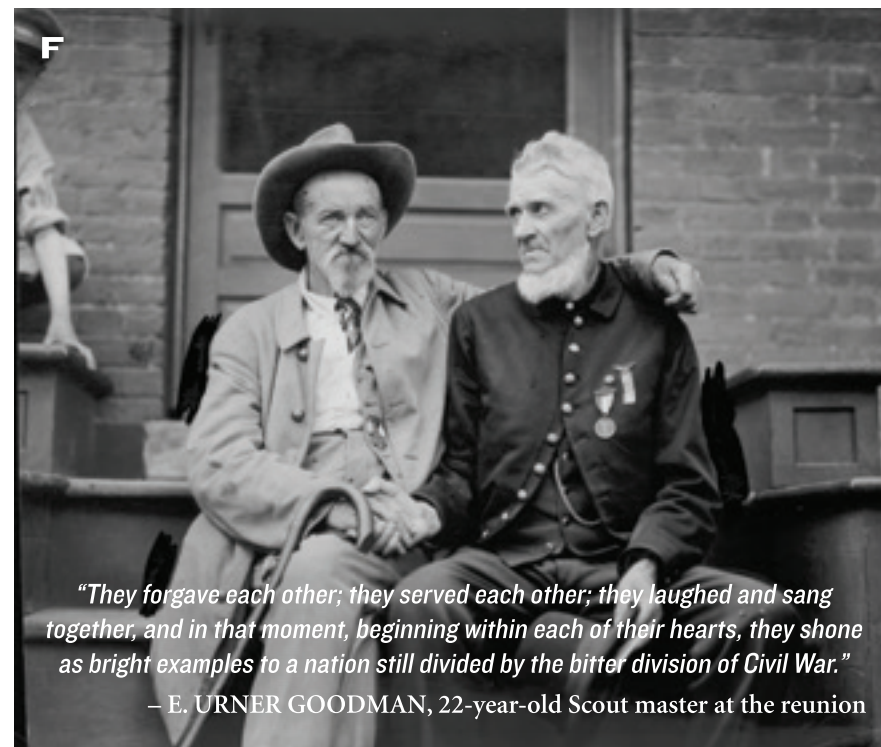
dance overwhelmed available resources, and many veterans noted a shortage of tents and food.

Each of the four days had a theme with official events scheduled. Noted philanthropist John Wanamaker highlighted Veterans' Day on July 1. On July 2, Military Day, an array of speakers recommended a stronger military in this period of increasing ten-

sions in Europe. A reading of the Gettysburg Address and a review of the Virginia division at Seminary Ridge also were noted events. That evening, an impromptu Union raid on the Confederate side of the Great Camp resulted in joint parades and campfires.

July 3, being Civic Day, marked some of the most notable events of the reunion. There were 65 unit-specific reunions, various speeches by dignitaries and a fireworks display that covered the face and crest of Little Round Top. Additionally, in what would later become the signature event of the reunion, George Pickett's and Alexander Webb's divisions met along a stone wall at the Bloody Angle on the hour of Pickett's Charge for a formal flag ceremony.

The last day of the event, being National Day, saw President Wilson share a keynote address in which he summarized the spirit of reconciliation. "We have found one another again as brothers and comrades in arms, enemies no longer, generous friends rather, our battles long past, the quarrel forgotten — except that we shall not forget the splendid valor."★



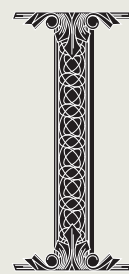
**A:** More than 53,000 veterans traveled from 46 of the 48 states to attend the reunion. Many received travel stipends from local/state commissions and individual donors to attend; **B:** Veterans of the Union and Confederate armies marched together during the four-day event. Units camped together and were organized by state. Each army also camped separately; **C:** Boy Scouts let off a little steam in between their duties as escorts of the aged veterans during the reunion. There were more than 400 local Scouts

and their leaders who served; **D:** Members of Alexander Webb's and George Pickett's divisions meet at the Angle. This event became the shining example of reconciliation after the reunion; **E:** Public events and a Keynote address by President Woodrow Wilson were held at camp under a giant tent equipped with 13,000 chairs; **F:** Confederate veteran in United Confederate Veterans uniform and Union veteran in Grand Army of the Republic uniform with medals, clasping hands.

*"They forgave each other; they served each other; they laughed and sang together, and in that moment, beginning within each of their hearts, they shone as bright examples to a nation still divided by the bitter division of Civil War."*

— E. URNER GOODMAN, 22-year-old Scout master at the reunion

## FROM GETTYSBURG TO THE WESTERN FRONT and back again



**I**N 1918, while the future Allied leaders of World War II like George Patton, Charles de Gaulle, Douglas MacArthur and Winston Churchill engaged in combat on the Western Front, Dwight D. Eisenhower was enduring a trial by fire of his own on the old battleground of Gettysburg.

Ike was at war with a different type of foe: the influenza pandemic ravaging the world. The 27-year-old Eisenhower was in charge of Camp Colt, a training facility for the newly created Tank Corps, making use of the site that played host to the 1913 Gettysburg Reunion. What the camp lacked in actual tanks — it never had more than two — it made up for in the training and leadership displayed by Maj. (later Lt. Col.) Eisenhower.

In a September 1918 troop transfer, soldiers from Camp Devens, Massachusetts, arrived at Camp Colt, carrying the flu virus along with their rucksacks. Although first misdiagnosed as a reaction to a typhoid fever inoculation, the virus soon proved a serious dilemma to Eisenhower. By mid-October, nearly one-third of the troops present were diagnosed with the flu. Eisenhower, in coordination with the U.S. Army and Gettysburg town leaders, quarantined the camp. Ike ordered that all facilities be cleaned with disinfectants daily. At first, he asked local merchants to allow only up to four soldiers at a time into their stores. Later, Ike forbade soldiers from



Major Dwight D. Eisenhower standing beside a Renault light tank. NPS

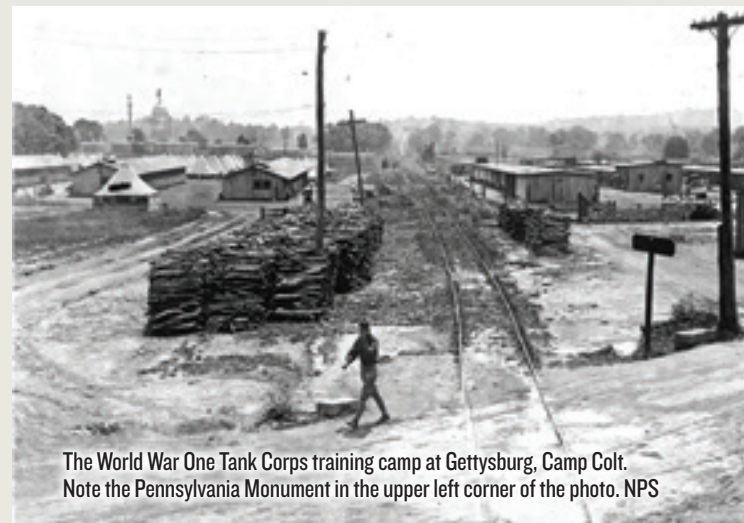
entering the town even for church services, and he also forbade town citizens from entering the camp.

The town acted, too. The population helped maintain the strict quarantine and even went as far as to cancel the annual Halloween parade. Eisenhower had the worst cases transferred off base for further isolation in Xavier Hall, which was offered for use to Eisenhower by the congregation of St. Francis Xavier Church. This church had also housed wounded soldiers from the Battle of Gettysburg 55 years prior.

On October 24, the crisis had nearly passed, with only “one death in the past 24 hours,” and only six new cases in the camp. By the first week of November, around 150 soldiers in Camp Colt had succumbed to the virus, and Eisenhower received his orders to ship out to Europe on November 18, 1918 — orders that were later rescinded when the armistice was signed on November 11, 1918.

Although dejected that he did not see combat in World War I, Ike nonetheless displayed the leadership qualities that would propel him to become the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force (SCAEF) during World War II, and later propel him to the White House. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by the army for the exemplary leadership displayed at Camp Colt, particularly during the virus outbreak.

His skillful handling of the situation is clear when the crisis at



The World War One Tank Corps training camp at Gettysburg, Camp Colt. Note the Pennsylvania Monument in the upper left corner of the photo. NPS

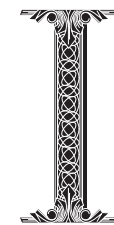
Camp Colt is compared to what occurred at other United States training camps. At Camps Forrest, Oglethorpe, Hancock and Grant, soldiers died by the hundreds.

Camp Grant, located near Rockford, Illinois, and named for Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, was hit particularly hard. The virus spread quickly among the men of the 86th “Blackhawk” Division, and although quarantine procedures were undertaken, it was too late. In a week, twice as many men died as at Camp Colt. Among the virus’s victims was the commanding officer of the post, Col. Charles B. Hagadorn — who, overcome with grief and distraught by the toll the virus was taking on his men — took his own life with his Colt revolver.

Camp Colt closed in November 1919, but Gettysburg, site of Ike’s first command, left an indelible mark on the future president. It was there he chose to retire when his military career came to an end, and there he returned after his presidential administration.★

## WAYNE E. MOTTS

*In only his second year as president and C.E.O.,  
Motts feels “right at home” at the Gettysburg Foundation*



### IT TAKES MERE MOMENTS

to realize that the enthusiasm Wayne Motts has for all things Gettysburg is totally genuine. Three decades after leaving his native Ohio to answer the battlefield’s siren song, he has settled into a singular role leading the Gettysburg Foundation, the nonprofit partner of the National Park Service (NPS) at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site. Not only does the Foundation own, operate and maintain the visitor center at the park, it also focuses on advancing the park’s work and providing a treasure trove of resources to heighten the visitor experience.

Gettysburg has long had a magnetic pull for Civil War aficionados — including Motts, whose fascination with the subject is deep-rooted. “My dad read me Civil War history before I could talk,” he notes. He went on to study military and American history in his post-secondary school years. But his degrees were not a guarantee of instant success.

“You have to have patience,” says Motts. “It’s taken many years of my lifetime to be able to do this through hard work and through people helping me. I would never be here if people hadn’t taken me under their wing.”

Motts started out as a research historian, working under Civil War artist Dale Gallon, who was then working to illustrate the Battle of Gettysburg. His knowledge of the battle was also advanced through his work as a Licensed Battlefield Guide, which he became at the tender age of 21. In fact, Motts was one of the youngest to ever go through the licensing process.

His first museum job was as a curator at the Cumberland County Historical Society, where he worked for roughly two years before he landed at the Adams County Historical Society (ACHS). There, he quickly rose to



*“I was a little kid who ran around with a cap and a flag, and now I get to be here as the president and chief executive officer of the Gettysburg Foundation...”*



The Gettysburg Foundation built, owns and operates the park’s main visitor center and is integral in running other sites, like the Eisenhower National Historic Site.

become executive director.

After eight years at ACHS, he made the leap to president and C.E.O. of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pa. Despite his dedication to that institution, he never relocated for the role — he commuted almost 100 miles every day. Gettysburg has been Motts’ home since 1990 and, it seems, for him home truly is where the heart is.

His transition to the Gettysburg Foundation came in spring 2021, and he’s jumped in full force to bring momentum to philanthropic and educational endeavors at the park and historic site. There’s been much to keep him busy, the restoration projects (Pg. 12) and off-site installations (Pgs. 10-11) featured in this issue, plus the debut of the brand-new exhibit *A Rough Coarse Life: The World of the Civil War Soldier*

alongside the park at the visitor center. But Motts finds energy in the whirlwind of efforts.

What’s driving him? The aim to better align with the NPS’s goals for Gettysburg, so that the nonprofit partner Foundation can help advance progress in those areas. Motts stresses,

“Our sole reason to exist is to be here for them as their partner.”

Among his favorite ways to accomplish his goals is by talking to people and learning what drives them to Gettysburg, sharing his stories and expertise and providing guidance to his 100+ employees during peak tourist season. As a firsthand witness, I can also confirm that he never lets an opportunity pass to thank the people and organizations that uplift Gettysburg, including the American Battlefield Trust and its passionate members.

To learn more about what is keeping Motts busy or how you can prepare for an exciting adventure to Gettysburg, check out [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org) ★



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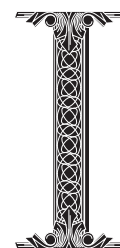


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Founded in 2013, this modern museum boasts both physical artifacts and interactive exhibits. Exhibit themes are diverse and include information on America's bloodiest war and the battle that raged around the building itself. If the heat of conflict is not your cup of tea, the museum also provides visitors with a window into the war's impact on American culture and society.



Patrons can take a guided tour to climb to the building's famous cupola — the same vantage point that Brig. Gen. John Buford used to spot the campfires of thousands of Confederate soldiers and watch for vital, Federal reinforcements.

For an especially interactive experience, visitors can also participate in the museum's escape room. Those who partake in the adventure will have an hour to act as a small Union Signal Corp team whose job is to assist Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard in spotting Confederate movements. Will you be able to retreat in time or be captured by Confederate troops?

Be sure to check out the museum's website for upcoming events, including weekly guided visits of General Lee's Headquarters — a property that was proudly protected and restored, and is currently stewarded, by the American Battlefield Trust.★

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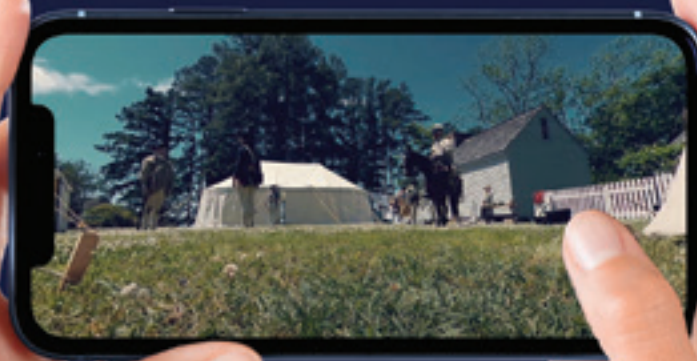


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