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AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

HALLOWED GROUND

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All-American IRREGULARS

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HALLOWED GROUND
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THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST preserves our nation's hallowed battlefields and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters today. We permanently protect these battlefields as a lasting and tangible memorial to the brave soldiers who fought in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Thanks to the contributions of more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide, we have preserved more than 53,000 acres, 143 sites in 24 states. For more information, call 1-888-606-1400 or visit our website at www.battlefields.org. *Hallowed Ground* is the membership magazine of the American Battlefield Trust. It is produced solely for nonprofit educational purposes and every reasonable attempt is made to provide accurate and appropriate attribution for all elements, including those in the public domain. Contemporary images are reproduced only with permission and appropriate attributions; uncredited images are courtesy the American Battlefield Trust. Feature articles reflect the research and opinion of the bylined author. ©2021 American Battlefield Trust.



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E

VEN THOUGH I have a personal goal of reading 10,000 pages annually, I seldom re-read books. As so many good histories and biographies are being written every year, re-reading a work only puts me further behind on my ever-expanding “to read” list; I suspect many of you have the same prob-

lem. But this year I made an exception, picking up Jay Winik’s *April 1865*, which was first published 20 years ago. When I read his book in 2001, I recall being powerfully moved by Winik’s thesis that it was the spirit of reconciliation, as expressed by the far-reaching leadership decisions made by key people in the North and South, that prevented America’s descent into generations of guerilla warfare, bloody sectionalism and ethnic hatreds that have marked so many of the world’s previous civil wars. I’m pleased to report that the intervening two decades have not dimmed the power of that book’s message.

Historian Carol Berkin wrote in her book, *A Brilliant Solution: Inventing the American Constitution*, that she begins “every struggle to understand the present with a search of the past.” That is why I set aside the time to revisit *April 1865*. If those combatants, after generations of political discord that culminated in a four-year struggle and the deaths of 620,000 soldiers (plus additional civilians) could summon up the courage, good will, compassion, humility, and yes, forgiveness to reach out hands in reconciliation, shouldn’t we, as a society, be able to do the same today? Our shared history teaches us that, although far from perfect, our nation — created and defined on the battlefields from the Revolutionary War up through the Civil War — is unique and exceptional, precious yet fragile and still worthy of being championed.

In his annual message to Congress on December 1, 1862, one month before he issued the Emancipation Proclamation,

Abraham Lincoln told lawmakers, “We cannot escape history. We will be remembered in spite of ourselves.” To me, that is why you and I struggle and sacrifice to save every acre of hallowed ground we can (22 years running of saving more than 1,000 acres). Why we work so hard to post authoritative and unbiased new educational videos and articles online (300+ added to our website in 2020). Why we are pioneering the use of new technology to reach educators through our Virtual Teacher Institute (2,000 educators estimated to attend this year).



Knowing that we will be remembered for our actions and our leadership, just as we remember those who came before us, we champion the preservation and knowledge of history — not just for its own sake, significant as that is. Far more important, we work to preserve our nation’s irreplaceable history and teach people why it matters today so that we, in

our own time, can meaningfully contribute to the continuance of a nation that remains the last, best hope on Earth.

The impulse to search the past for answers to today’s challenges is not a uniquely American endeavor, of course. This issue of *Hallowed Ground* is about how some of the most elite units in today’s military have echoes stretching back well into America’s past. And as I was preparing to write this letter, the British military announced that it was reinstating a Ranger Regiment within its Special Operations Brigade, noting the origins of such units on the forested frontier of the North American colonies during the French and Indian War.

This is just one more example of why history is timely and timeless, interesting and important, but most of all, absolutely relevant to our lives today.

David N. Duncan

DAVID N. DUNCAN
President, American Battlefield Trust

Learn about the French and Indian War

The Seven Years’ War was a global struggle between the French and British Empires. In the North American Theater, those colonial powers each allied themselves with Native populations on the expanding frontier. In many ways, the fighting that took place between 1754 and 1763 set the stage for the Revolutionary War, as the British Empire levied taxes to offset the costs incurred by the conflict. Learn about the people and places that laid the groundwork for a new American nation at www.battlefields.org/French-Indian-War.

VISIT “AMERICA’S FORT”

In just 20 years, the fort overlooking Lake Champlain was held by French, British and American forces. Whether you call it Carillon or Ticonderoga, learn about the many attractions ready to welcome visitors to this Adirondack paradise.

www.battlefields.org/itineraries

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE “SWAMP FOX”

Modern South Carolina has many more visitor amenities than the Low Country swamps that harbored Francis Marion from his British pursuers! There’s plenty more to see in the Palmetto State than the Battery and Charleston Harbor!

www.battlefields.org/itineraries

VICTORY ROSTER

Have you ever wondered about the status of a past project announced by the Trust? Our gallery of recent victories shows you all the preservation campaigns permanently moved to the “win” column — all anticipated grant and funding sources have been received, and the Trust or a partner organization has taken ownership of a property or placed legally binding conservation easements on the acreage.

www.battlefields.org/preserve/celebrate-our-victories

SHOWN: Fort Niagara, N.Y., established by the French in 1678, traded hands during the French and Indian War, was a Loyalist base during the American Revolution and even played a role in the War of 1812. RBLANCHE2001

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FOLLOW THE "ROAD TO FREEDOM"

to Discover the African American Experience in Civil War-Era Virginia

THOSE LOOKING to explore stories of heroes, historic places and events central to the African American experience in Civil War-era Virginia have a new tool at their fingertips. The Road to Freedom, created through a partnership between the American Battlefield Trust and Civil War Trails, Inc., offers a self-guided means to uncover long-untold stories.

The program features free physical and digital resources — a map guide available in visitor centers and distribution sites across the state and a web app with downloadable versions for Android and iOS devices. The trail highlights 88 spots across Virginia, from Alexandria, just outside Washington, D.C., to Abingdon, near the Tennessee border. It tells the stories of soldiers, slaves, educators, politicians and others, marking the places where they staged rebellions, fought for freedom, educated their children, were born and were buried.

"Contributions and experiences of African Americans during our nation's first century have traditionally gone untold," said Trust President David Duncan. "Through preservation opportunities and outreach initiatives, we have the ability to elevate these stories for this and future generations."

The program is designed to be flexible. Travelers can seek

out a single stop, find a destination along an existing journey or plan an adventure exploring several sites grouped by theme or proximity. The seven in Richmond could all be visited in one day, while finding the six historical cemeteries would cover 434 miles and clock nearly eight hours of drive time.

Virginia Tourism Corporation CEO Rita McClenny agreed, adding, "The Road to Freedom network provides a powerful opportunity for visitors and Virginians alike to explore these poignant and often untold stories of resilience, strength and community. These stories helped shape our history, and allow visitors to connect with the past through a new lens of authentic storytelling."

The Road to Freedom app is GPS-enabled, but images and historical content can be accessed from anywhere on the globe. An ongoing research partnership with the African American Heritage Preservation Foundation will contribute additional context to existing entries by allowing Black voices to delve into the artistic, architectural and cultural significance of included sites. The addition of new sites and curated "collections" will further enhance the experience. There is even a possibility that the Road to Freedom program will expand into other states in the future.

The free app is now available for download via the App Store and Google Play, or online as a web app, available through any browser. Learn more at www.battlefields.org/RoadtoFreedom.★

INVENTORYING THE COMMEMORATIVE LANDSCAPE OF AMERICA'S BATTLEFIELDS

*An unprecedented examination of markers
and monuments*

IN THE PAST YEAR, the subject of historical memory has been in the news like never before, as we confront painful chapters of our past. The American Battlefield Trust believes true learning, healing and growth require more education and interpretation, more discussion and hard conversations and more preservation — never less.

As part of this process, the Trust has undertaken an ambitious inventory of the markers, monuments, plaques and tablets located on America's battlefields, beginning with the wars for which we preserve land. The commemorative objects that populate our nation's battlefields will be compiled into a comprehensive online database, which the Trust will utilize to inform conversations with lawmakers and, ultimately, provide the public with an authoritative resource that helps tell the important and sometimes difficult story of America's hallowed battlegrounds.

We recognize that many of the commemorative markers on battlefields are factual and educational tools, often erected by the U.S. War Department to meet its goal of educating new generations of military officers. Now, a Trust-led network of historians has undertaken the massive task of researching and cataloging monuments on battlefields associated with the American Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and American Civil War, using an infrastructure that could further be expanded to include other conflicts. The Trust has a well-established reputation as a unbiased historical authority and, through this project will bring a comprehensive review and important context to the national conversation on remembering and memorializing our collective history.

The markers and memorials erected on battlefields commemorate the transformation of peaceful farms and fields into hallowed ground. This is why we are working to capture as much context as possible for each monument, not just text and date erected, but also the artist, dedication speeches and any subsequent alterations made to the object, all of which are necessary for gaining a complete understanding of these cultural resources.

There has never been a comprehensive resource of this kind, and the Trust's inventory will fill a void to document thousands of battlefield markers and monuments. It can help lay the groundwork for digital interpretation of monuments and markers, for which further context is needed for full appreciation and understanding.

To complete this massive undertaking, the Trust is calling upon members to contribute images of battlefield monuments in select regions, especially smaller and more remote sites. Full details on our needs and specifications are available at www.battlefields.org/markers-monuments. Members who wish to directly support this work financially may do so at www.battlefields.org/monuments-fund.★

TRUST COMPLETES STUDY

*to identify key battlefields from French &
Indian War, Mexican-American War*

IN MANY WAYS, the 1993 report of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission was a wellspring of the modern battlefield preservation movement. It provided impetus for the creation of the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) within the auspices of the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior, a clear recognition of the importance of battlefield preservation to the historical narrative. This was then accompanied by the creation of a matching grant infrastructure that has facilitated federal investment in the preservation process and encouraged public-private cooperation to maximize efficacy.

That document provided an authoritative inventory of the engagements included in the Civil War, as well as maps showing their locations and extents. This, in turn, enabled coordinated efforts to prioritize and protect remaining elements of these battlefields, long a hallmark of the American Battlefield Trust business model. This proven recipe for success was replicated with a subsequent ABPP study for the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 completed in 2007, which eventually led to the legislative expansion of federal matching grants for their protection.

"These studies are invaluable tools for preservationists," said American Battlefield Trust President David Duncan, "and we believe that similar rigor and structure should be applied to additional conflicts falling within the ABPP purview. That's why we were pleased to receive a 2016 ABPP Planning Grant to support such an inventory for those significant battlefields of the French and Indian War and the Mexican-American War."

To conduct this work, the Trust partnered with RS&GIS, a research and outreach unit within the Department of Geography, Environment and Spatial Sciences at Michigan State University. In a collaborative process, the Trust, ABPP and RS&GIS evaluated and refined criteria to focus on significant battles that occurred on U.S. soil. Ultimately, maps and summaries were created for 17 engagements of the French and Indian War (1754 – 1763) and 12 from the Mexican-American War (1846 – 1848).

Despite the smaller number of sites compared to the Revolutionary War and Civil War reports, the process was a major undertaking. "The lack of existing GIS data for battles occurring during the [French and Indian and Mexican-American] wars required considerably more research," said RS&GIS Project Manager Robert Goodwin, noting that both processes typically required working with numerous local experts rather than centralized state agencies.

With the finished reports now submitted to ABPP and available as public record to preservationists, the Trust has begun thinking strategically about other conflicts that would benefit from such comprehensive review to enhance future opportunities within the preservation community.★



HONORING VALOR at New Market Heights

NEARLY 180,000 BLACK MEN in Army units designated as U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) fought for liberty on scores of major battlefields during the Civil War, but nowhere with more distinction than at New Market Heights, near Richmond, Va. To honor their bravery, the American Battlefield Trust is working to preserve land and create a battlefield park, an effort recently boosted by the acquisition of a 22-acre property that otherwise could have been targeted for development. Thanks to donor contributions and federal and state matching grants, the Trust has now protected five properties totaling 88 acres at New Market Heights.

“The incredible bravery and sacrifice at New Market Heights should be common knowledge for all Americans, but sadly, this is not the case,” said Battlefield Trust President David Duncan. “Preservation can help correct this historical oversight. By saving this land, we honor the memory of these warriors and tell their story for new generations.”

During the battle on September 29, 1864, 14 USCT soldiers earned the Medal of Honor — more than half of all such honors presented to Black men for valor during the entire Civil War. Two white officers of USCT units were also awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions that day.

Completion of the latest Trust project was made possible by donations made by Trust members and private donors, as well as a matching grant awarded by the Commonwealth’s Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, which is administered by the Department of Historic Resources. These competitive grants have helped protect 9,598 acres that tell a diverse scope of military history across the Commonwealth. A current Trust project supported by the fund will protect a portion of the Battle of Great Bridge, the first recorded instance of Black soldiers fighting on both sides of a Revolutionary War engagement. ★

A PRESERVATION “MIRACLE” at Stones River



NCE CONSIDERED lost to the forces of development, a 42-acre property at the heart of the Stones River Battlefield has been preserved forever, thanks to the efforts of the American Battlefield Trust and federal and state agencies, and the vision of a generous corporate entity. The site along Interstate 41 was previously owned by General Electric, but when its manufacturing plant was badly damaged in a storm, GE relocated its operations, tore down the structure and put the property up for sale. GE declined the Trust’s offer to buy the property, and after languishing on the market, the site was purchased by O’Reilly Auto Parts in 2016.

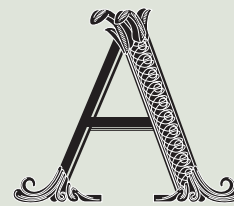
This time, when the Trust approached the new corporate owner, the significance of the plot’s history resonated. The Battle of Stones River was one of the most important struggles of the entire American Civil War, witnessing more than 23,500 casualties over three days of fighting. Not only did the O’Reilly parcel connect two sections of Stones River National Battlefield, but the land also witnessed fierce fighting on December 31, 1862, as the final Confederate assault against the Union left spilled out of the famous Hell’s Half Acre. Chaplain John Whitehead of the 15th Indiana received the Medal of Honor for his actions in this area, providing spiritual and physical aid to the dead and dying.

“Having it within our power to see that such a piece of truly hallowed ground was protected forever, we decided to work with the Trust to find a win-win solution,” said O’Reilly Senior Vice President of Real Estate & Expansion Scott Kraus. “As a proud American company, it is our honor and our duty to be a good corporate citizen and work for the betterment of our communities.”

But a willing and generous seller did not negate that industrial land in a highly developed area carries a high price tag, and the Trust faced a daunting challenge to meet the \$4-million negotiated purchase price. The Trust prepared successful matching grant application packages for the American Battlefield Protection Program, administered by the National Park Service, and the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund, administered by the Tennessee Wars Commission under the auspices of the Tennessee Historical Commission. The successful outcome opened other preservation opportunities at Stones River, and the Trust successfully secured an adjacent six-acre parcel — another project supported by a Tennessee grant. ★



WILLIAMSBURG’S “BLOODY RAVINE” protected for posterity



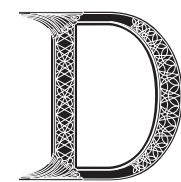
ALTHOUGH THE CITY is synonymous with the colonial era, Williamsburg, Va.’s significance to American history extends well beyond the 18th century. Thanks to a partnership between the American Battlefield Trust and The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, supported by the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program and the Commonwealth of Virginia, 29 acres that played a critical role in the Civil War will be protected forever.

“Zoned for commercial uses and in a sought-after location, the fair-market value of this land was eye-popping,” said American Battlefield Trust President David Duncan. “But The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is a partner that shares our vision for creating places where American history is alive and tangible.”

Acknowledging the Foundation’s important role, Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO Cliff Fleet said, “The story of America is dynamic, and Greater Williamsburg is rich with places that figure prominently in that story. It was our honor to ensure that this historic landscape is safeguarded by an organization uniquely situated to interpret it.”

When the Trust announced the project in May 2020, it emphasized that between a donation of value being made on the part of the seller and anticipated grants from the federal and state governments, each

MISSISSIPPI PURSUES new historic site grant fund



DURING ITS WINTER legislative session, Mississippi took important steps toward becoming the fourth state to create a matching grant fund specifically targeting landscapes central to historical narratives. Administered by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Historic Site Preservation Fund Grant Program will protect land directly related to Mississippi Native American heritage, Mississippi Civil War battlefields and Mississippi Civil Rights Movement sites. Having easily passed both cham-

dollar donated by Trust members would be matched \$220-to-\$1. Also notable, the land represented a pristine pocket of battlefield in a highly developed area. It provides an opportunity to honor seven American soldiers who received the Medal of Honor for their valor at Williamsburg and to tell how the battle’s outcome was shaped when members of the same enslaved community that built Confederate fortifications offered to lead Union troops through the woods around them.

The Battle of Williamsburg was fought on May 5, 1862, as the Union army moved up the Virginia Peninsula, hoping to threaten Richmond. One of the key geographic features of the morning fighting came to be known as the “Bloody Ravine,” as forces occupied opposite sides of the divide and hand-to-hand combat occurred between the lines. During the fighting, nearly 41,000 Federals and 32,000 Confederates slugged it out, inflicting a total of 3,800 casualties on both sides. ★

bers — the Senate unanimously — the final text now awaits the signature of Gov. Tate Reeves.

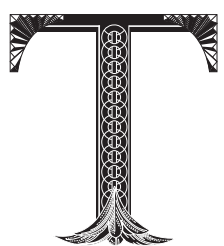
In creating this state-level fund, Mississippi joins Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky, which enacted its own legislation just last year. The Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, created in 2006, has been used to protect 9,600 acres associated with the Revolutionary War and Civil War; the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund dates to 2013 and has provided some \$5 million in matching grants.

This funding mechanism will encourage additional preservation activities in Mississippi, where only about 8,600 acres of the 194,000 acres originally occupied by the state’s 16 major battlefields are permanently protected — less than 5 percent. We are grateful to Trust Chairman Emeritus John L. Nau for his instrumental efforts in the creation of this latest tool in our preservation arsenal. ★



Ninety Six National Historic Site
Ninety Six, S.C.
MARK THORNBERRY

LEADING LOCAL PHILANTHROPIST *Embraces South Carolina's Revolutionary Story*



THE DARLA MOORE FOUNDATION, one of the Palmetto State's premier philanthropic institutions, gave efforts to blaze The Liberty Trail a major boost this spring, issuing the project a \$300,000 grant for ongoing battlefield site preservation and interpretation statewide.

The Liberty Trail, launched in 2019, is a network of historic sites that will bring to life South Carolina's Revolutionary War history. The brainchild of the American Battlefield Trust and the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust, it will establish new parks and expand existing ones — 650 acres have already been preserved under its auspices. It's ultimately envisioned to link more than 70 sites across the entire state, uniting them through on-site and digital interpretation via the web and a mobile app. Once completed, The Liberty Trail is expected to draw an estimated 95,000 new visits, creating economic impact of \$2.4 million annually through heritage tourism.

Support from the Darla Moore Foundation not only provides much needed funding to further our efforts, it also demonstrates that our work is endorsed by one of South Carolina's most prominent philanthropists. The first woman to be profiled on the cover of *Fortune* magazine, Moore is the former president of investment firm Rainwater, Inc., and the namesake of the University of South Carolina's Darla Moore School of Business. A proud native South Carolinian, Moore is founder and chair of both the Palmetto Institute, a nonprofit think tank aimed at bolstering per capita income in the state, and the Charleston Parks Conservancy.

"Interpreting the important Revolutionary War history of our state provides an opportunity for rural communities to share the wealth of the state's robust tourism industry. The Pee Dee region, the home of our foundation, has many important sites," commented Harry Lesesne, executive director, The Darla Moore Foundation. "We are honored to partner with local, state, and federal partners, as well as individuals and foundations across South Carolina and beyond to bring The Liberty Trail to life." ★



The Trust's annual Lobby Day, during which Trustees and donors advocate for preservation with their federal elected officials, looked different this year, but our message was no less warmly received! Over two days, we hosted more than 70 meetings with legislators and their staff. ★

PARTNERSHIP PROTECTS ALABAMA SITE *of environmental, historical significance*



SOME 60 ACRES in Baldwin County, Ala., where U.S. Colored Troops fought victoriously in one of the Civil War's last battles, are now protected, thanks to a partnership of the Trust, The Conservation Fund and the University of South Alabama (USA).

Known as the "last stand of the Confederate States of America," the Battle of Fort Blakeley was fought on April 9, 1865, the same day Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House. In less than half an hour, the Confederate fort was overrun by Union troops, including 5,000 Black soldiers, leading to an overwhelming victory. The encounter at Fort Blakeley ranks among the heaviest concentrations of African American soldiers participating in any one battle during the Civil War.

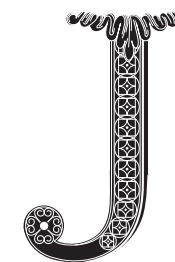
Although portions of the battlefield were already protected by the State of Alabama, the most significant area of fighting remained vulnerable. The newly protected site is expected to contain valuable archaeological data related to this African American experience and boasts a unique ecology. It contains some of the highest bluffs in Alabama, and the surrounding land consists of blackwater swamps, pine uplands and hardwood cove ravines that shelter pristine forests and support rich plant diversity for species such as lilies, hibiscus, orchids and the rare Alabama dahoon holly. Funding for this effort was provided by a battlefield land acquisition grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program; the property will be owned by The Conservation Fund, with a perpetual easement held by USA restricting any future development. ★



Historic Blakeley State Park
Spanish Fort, Ala.
MIKE TALPLACIDO



LIGHTHIZER RECEIVES *National Humanities Medal*



JAMES LIGHTHIZER, president emeritus of the American Battlefield Trust, was awarded the National Humanities Medal during a January White House ceremony presided over by President Donald J. Trump. The National Humanities Medal, inaugurated in 1997,

honors individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities and broadened our citizens' engagement with history, literature, languages, philosophy and other humanities subjects.

For more than 20 years, from December 1999 until his October 2020 retirement, Lighthizer led the organization, building it into the nation's most successful heritage land preservation organization and saving more than 53,000 acres of hallowed ground for future generations.

During his tenure, Lighthizer led Trust efforts to raise nearly \$235 million in private contributions to match an equal number of federal, state, local and other grants to acquire and preserve critically endangered Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War battlefields from development. As a result, hallowed ground at nearly 150 battlefields in 24 states — chronologically from the "shot heard 'round the world" at Lexington and Concord to the stillness at Appomattox — has been saved. He expanded the Trust's mission beyond land preservation to education efforts that reach millions of people annually through rich, interactive online resources and programs that have sent 35,000 students to visit historic sites firsthand. ★

IN MEMORIAM: Roger Mudd, former Trustee

THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST joins the broader history community in mourning the passing of Roger H. Mudd on March 9, 2021, at the age of 93. In addition to his recognizable role as a decades-long fixture in network TV news, Mudd was a devoted lover of history who served on the Board of Trustees of the Civil War Trust, a predecessor organization to the American Battlefield Trust.

“Roger was a down-to-earth guy who cared about our mission and worked to advance it,” remembered Trust President Emeritus Jim Lighthizer, who served alongside Mudd on the Board of Trustees in the late 1990s before taking on an executive role. “He was a gentleman in every way, with natural charisma and a love for storytelling that translated off the screen and into real life.”

Born in Washington, D.C., on February 9, 1928, Mudd received a bachelor’s degree in history from Washington and Lee University and a master’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Following success in both newspaper and radio reporting in Richmond, Va., Mudd returned to Washington to begin a 30-year career in television that earned him five Emmy Awards and tenures as co-anchor of the “NBC Nightly News” and co-moderator of “Meet the Press.”

Yet, the history buff in Mudd would not be stifled. By 1995, he became the first on-air anchor for The History Channel and continued in this role until retiring in 2004. The impact of his time with the organization continues to echo through an ongoing relationship with History.™★



EACH SPRING, thousands of volunteers gather at battlefields and historic sites across the nation to participate in the Trust’s Park Day clean-up effort. For 25 years, Boy and Girl Scouts, Rotarians, Lions Club members, church groups, ROTC units, youth groups and many others have participated in projects large and small to keep our nation’s heritage not only preserved, but pristine.

The top priority at this year’s Park Day will be the health and safety of the participants who make it possible, whether they take on projects April 10 or on an alternate date chosen by local organizers. Sites will focus on outdoor projects and will require volunteers to wear a mask that covers both mouth and nose, maintain social distance from other participants, wash hands often and/or use hand sanitizer and resist sharing equipment (i.e., rakes, shovels, paint brushes, etc.). It is also asked that anyone who has experienced any COVID symptoms in the two weeks prior to their Park Day event refrain from participating.

This event also allows the Trust to cast a spotlight on beloved American landscapes, from Maine to California. Projects will keep historic sites and battlefields clean, open and accessible for the enjoyment of all people — especially at a time when site budgets are severely limited and outdoor treasures have become a constant source of solace amidst social distancing precautions.

Being that the spirit of Park Day has always been about more than a single date on the calendar, please keep in mind that, based on preferences or local conditions, sites may seek alternative dates to ensure that projects are brought to fruition.

We thank the following sites for registering to participate in Park Day’s silver anniversary. To see the most up-to-date list of locations and learn more about this cherished tradition, please visit www.battlefields.org/parkday.★

ALABAMA

Historic Blakeley State Park

ARKANSAS

Jenkins Ferry Battlefield State Park

CALIFORNIA

Cieneguitas Cemetery

GEORGIA

Dalton Confederate Cemetery
Jefferson Davis Memorial Historic Site
Kettle Creek Battlefield
Prater’s Mill Historic Site
Resaca Confederate Cemetery
Shoupade Park

IDAHO

Morris Hill Cemetery, Civil War “Silent Camp” Plot

PARK DAY 2021

*Sites implement COVID restrictions,
mark Silver Anniversary*



ILLINOIS

U.S. Grant Home State Historic Site

INDIANA

General Lew Wallace Study & Museum

KANSAS

Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park
Fort Blair Historic Site
Mine Creek Battlefield

KENTUCKY

Battle for the Bridge Preserve
Battle of Richmond
Camp Nelson National Monument
Coburn-Baker Cemetery
Columbus-Belmont State Park
Fort Boone Civil War Battle Site
Fort Duffield Park and Historic Site
James A. Ramage Civil War Museum
Keller’s Bridge
Middle Creek National Battlefield
Tebbs Bend Battlefield Association

LOUISIANA

Camp Moore Confederate Museum and Cemetery
Mansfield State Historic Site

MAINE

Fort Knox Historic Site

MARYLAND

Fort #3 and Camp Hoffman,
Point Lookout State Park

MASSACHUSETTS

Minute Man National Historical Park

MICHIGAN

Historic Fort Wayne

MISSISSIPPI

Beauvoir Jefferson Davis Home
& Presidential Library
Brices Cross Roads Battlefield
Raymond Military Park

Vicksburg National Military Park

MISSOURI

Battle of Lexington State Historic Site
Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site
John Siddles Williams House, Hickory County
Museum
Lone Jack Civil War Battlefield, Soldier’s
Cemetery & Museum
Missouri Civil War Museum
Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield

NEW JERSEY

Fort Mott State Park
Princeton Battlefield State Park

NEW YORK

Revolutionary Cemetery (Deposit, N.Y.)
Thomas Paine Cottage Museum

NORTH CAROLINA

Fort Fisher State Historic Site
Historic Carson House
New Bern Battlefield Park

Smith-McDowell House Museum

OHIO

Buffington Island State Memorial
Harriet Beecher Stowe House
Johnson’s Island Civil War Military Prison Site

OKLAHOMA

Doaksville Archaeological Site
Honey Springs Battlefield

PENNSYLVANIA

Mount Moriah Cemetery

SOUTH CAROLINA

Buford Battlefield

TENNESSEE

Fort Donelson National Battlefield
Fort Pillow State Historic Park
Glenmore Mansion
Mabry-Hazen House
Parker’s Cross Roads Battlefield
Shiloh National Military Park

Stones River National Battlefield

TEXAS

Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Historic
Landmark and State Historic Site

VIRGINIA

Belle Grove Plantation
Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park
Cedar Creek Battlefield
Cedar Mountain Battlefield
Historic Sandusky
Kernstown Battlefield Park
Laurel Hill Farm
Mt. Defiance Historic Park
Pamplin Historical Park
Payne’s Farm/Mine Run Campaign
Petersburg National Battlefield
Richmond National Battlefield Park —
Gaines’ Mill Unit
Trevilian Station Battlefield

WEST VIRGINIA

Bulltown Historic Area



Ball’s Bluff Battlefield Regional Park
Leesburg, Va.

RECENT SUCCESSES

*Transactions completed
July–December 2020*

ANTIETAM, Maryland

The September 17, 1862, Battle of Antietam remains the single bloodiest day in American history. While the battle was a draw from a military standpoint, Lee's army withdrew, giving Abraham Lincoln the "victory" he had been waiting for to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

In September, the Trust swiftly closed on 2.71 acres in Antietam's West Woods. With acquisition made possible entirely by Trust donors, this tract will be eventually transferred to the National Park Service for incorporation into Antietam National Battlefield. The Trust has saved 463 acres at Antietam.

BENTONVILLE, North Carolina

In March 1865, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman divided his force as he marched north into the Carolinas. Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston confronted an isolated wing on March 19, experiencing success until Union reinforcements arrived late in the day. On March 21, the Confederates attempted a final, desperate counterattack before retreating.

In September, the Trust acquired 3.24 acres at Bentonville, bolstered by aid from the American Battlefield Protection Program. The property has since been transferred to the State of North Carolina for incorporation into the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Park. The Trust has preserved 1,867 acres at Bentonville.

BRICES CROSS ROADS, Mississippi

In early June 1864, Confederate Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and some 2,000 troopers set out to destroy the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad, which carried men and supplies toward the campaigns in Georgia. On June 10, Forrest defeated a much larger Union column at Brices Cross Roads, a long-odds victory that cemented his fierce reputation.

In November, the Trust closed on 41 acres at Brices Cross Roads, moving ever closer to substantial completion of the battlefield. The transaction was made possible by a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program and a landowner donation; the land will be donated to the Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Commission. The Trust has now saved 2,243 acres at Brices Cross Roads.

CEDAR MOUNTAIN, Virginia

The Battle of Cedar Mountain occurred on August 9, 1862.



Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Site
Baldwyn, Miss.
MIKE TALPLACIDO

Fighting was particularly intense in the area known as Crittenden's Gate, where Union casualties reached 30 percent and Lt. Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson personally rallied his faltering command to final victory.

In August, the Trust joined with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the American Battlefield Protection Program to preserve 86 acres at Cedar Mountain. Upon creation of a new state park, the Trust anticipates transferring this land for incorporation. The Trust has protected 584.32 acres at Cedar Mountain.

CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee

The Union Army of the Cumberland, besieged in Chattanooga, was dependent on a single supply line. Desperate to open a more direct route for food and reinforcements, they used bridge pontoons to float past Confederate guards on Lookout Mountain and establish a bridgehead at Brown's Ferry on October 27, 1863. The resulting "Cracker Line" facilitated the men, food and supplies necessary for November's Federal assaults on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge.

In September, the Trust saved nine acres that included the historic Brown's Tavern — through support from the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund, administered by the Tennessee Historical Commission, and the American Battlefield Protection Program and a generous landowner donation. This land will be transferred to the National Park Partners. The Trust has now saved a total of 120 acres at Chattanooga.

COLD HARBOR, Virginia

The Battle of Cold Harbor is remembered as the culmination of the Overland Campaign and one of the bloodiest engagements of the Civil War. Beginning on May 31, 1864, Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant ordered a series of hopeless frontal assaults, finally shifting his army to threaten Petersburg on June 12.

The Trust acquired 5.5 acres at Cold Harbor in August and 12 more in December — enabled by the support of the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund and Trust donors. The Trust has saved a total of 250 acres at Cold Harbor.

GETTYSBURG, Pennsylvania

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

In December, the Trust secured two impressive tracts at Gettysburg — a 46.8-acre property with views of Big Round Top and a 1.1-acre property that hosts the historic McKnight House — through landowner donation and a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program. The Trust has now saved 1,231 acres at Gettysburg.

JACKSON, Tennessee

With the aim of sabotaging rail tracks and disturbing supply lines, Brig. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest began a late 1862 raid into West Tennessee. On December 19, the Confederates encountered a Union garrison at Jackson and charged their defensive position at the Old Salem Cemetery. Initially pleased at their repelling of the attack, the Union troops soon discovered it had been a feint, disguising a movement to destroy a section of railroad to the north.

In August, the Trust partnered with the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund and the American Battlefield Protection Program to protect 120 acres at Jackson. This was the Trust's first preservation success at Jackson.

NEW MARKET HEIGHTS, Virginia

At dawn on September 29, 1864, the Army of the James, including a significant number of U.S. Colored Troops, attacked the Richmond defenses. After the Confederates contained an initial breakthrough, Lee reinforced his lines and attempted a counterattack. The Federals entrenched, forcing the Confederates to erect a new line of works and shift troops away from Petersburg to meet the threat.

In the fall, the Trust secured 22 acres at New Market Heights, a portion of the battlefield that felt the resolute footsteps of Black soldiers, thanks to a grant from the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund. The Trust has preserved 88 acres at New Market Heights.

PARKER'S CROSS ROADS, Tennessee

On December 31, 1862, Union brigades attempted to cut off Brig. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's withdrawal from West Tennessee at Parker's Cross Roads. Despite Union determination and reinforcements surprising the Confederate rear, Forrest's men held the upper hand throughout most of the battle. Repelling Union forces, the Confederates ultimately made their way across the Tennessee River.

In July, the Trust closed on 0.65 acres at Parker's Cross Roads, with the help of the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund and the American Battlefield Protection Program. The Trust will steward this property until its transfer to the State of Tennessee and has now protected a total of 369 acres at Parker's Cross Roads.

PERRYVILLE, Kentucky

Fought on October 8, 1862, the Battle of Perryville was the largest engagement fought in Kentucky. Confederates exploited their early advantage resulting from a lack of communication in the Union command, until Federal reinforcements turned the tide. Confronted by a larger force and running low on supplies, Gen. Braxton Bragg withdrew toward the Cumberland Gap.

In December, the Trust, strengthened by support from the American Battlefield Protection Program, acquired 51.5 acres at Perryville. The property will eventually be transferred to the Commonwealth of Kentucky for incorporation into the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site. The Trust has now saved 1,202 acres at Perryville.

PORT ROYAL ISLAND, South Carolina

After capturing Savannah, the British turned north. On February 3, 1779, 200 British regulars were sent to seize strategic Port Royal Island, but were met by Brig. Gen. William Moultrie's Patriot forces the following day. The battle came to an impasse, with neither side able to gain the upper hand. Facing a dwindling supply of ammunition, the British withdrew.

In December, the Trust partnered with the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust, the South Carolina Conservation Bank, Beaufort County, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and a generous landowner for the acquisition of 12 acres at this Palmetto State site. This was the Trust's first preservation success at Port Royal Island.

REAM'S STATION, Virginia

On August 25, 1864, the Second Battle of Ream's Station saw Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill sent to stop the destruction of the Weldon Railroad, a vital supply line for the Confederate army. Hill expelled the Union troops from the station, but lost key parts of the railroad, creating major logistical complications for the Richmond-Petersburg Campaign.

In July, the Trust acquired a nine-acre parcel, one of the final unprotected portions of the Reams Station Battlefield, with aid from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the HTR Foundation. The Trust has now saved 293 acres at Reams Station.

SHILOH, Tennessee

On the morning of April 6, 1862, Confederate soldiers poured out of the nearby woods and struck a line of Union soldiers near Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. The overpower-

SUCCESS STORIES
LAND SAVED FOREVER

ing Confederate offensive drove the Federal forces from their camp. Fighting continued until after dark, but the Federals held. A Union counteroffensive the next morning overpowered the weakened and outnumbered Confederate forces, resulting in a Union triumph.

*In July, the Trust saved 22 acres at Shiloh, made possible with help from the National Park Service. Prominent in the morning actions of April 6, 1862, this site will be stewarded by the Trust until its transfer to the National Park Service. The Trust has preserved **1,400 acres** at Shiloh.*

STONES RIVER, Tennessee

The Battle of Stones River was an enduring and bitterly cold

three-day struggle — beginning on the final day of 1862 and concluding on the second day of 1863 — that resulted in 23,500 casualties and a much-needed strategic Union victory. Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg abandoned the field on January 3, leaving behind Confederate aspirations for control of Middle Tennessee.

*The Trust first secured six acres in the heart of the Stones River Battlefield in September, adding on to this thrilling feat in December with another 42 acres. Through a combination of support from the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund, National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program and a landowner donation, this acreage was spared an industrial fate and may eventually be incorporated into the Stones River National Battlefield. The Trust has now protected **74 acres** at Stones River.*

TREVILIAN STATION, Virginia

Union Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan hoped to disrupt enemy supply lines and create a distraction amid the 1864 Overland Campaign with a large-scale cavalry raid. Union troops seized the station on June 11 and destroyed some tracks, but were unable to dislodge the Confederate position the next day.

*In September, the Trust partnered with the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation to save six acres at Trevilian Station — acreage that is home to the reconstructed Netherland Tavern. The Trust will transfer this land to the Trevilian Station Battlefield Association. The Trust has now preserved **2,243 acres** at Trevilian Station.*

WHITE OAK ROAD, Virginia

Intending to cut Lee’s communications with Maj. Gen. George Pickett at Five Forks, Maj. Gen. Gouverneur Warren directed his corps against the Confederate entrenchments along White Oak Road on March 31, 1865. Victorious, Warren’s forces set the stage for a Confederate defeat at Five Forks the next day.

*In August, the Trust, along with the National Park Service, secured 48.4 acres that figured prominently in the initial phases of the fighting on March 31, 1865. This property will be stewarded by the Trust until transfer to the National Park Service. The Trust has preserved **951 acres** at Petersburg National Battlefield.*

WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia

The Battle of Williamsburg, fought on May 5, 1862, was the first pitched battle of the Peninsula Campaign, as troops from the Army of the Potomac engaged Confederates retreating from Yorktown following a month-long siege. The battle ended indecisively, and the Confederates resumed their withdrawal during the night.

*In December, the Trust partnered with The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation to save 29 acres at Williamsburg, with further support supplied by the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Virginia Land Conservation Fund and a landowner donation. The Trust has now saved **98 acres** at Williamsburg.★*

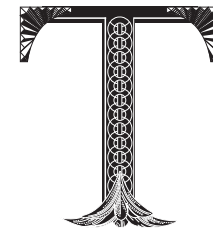


White Oak Road Battlefield
Dinwiddie County, Va.
KRISTI A. GORDON

WARRIOR LEGACY
SERVICE ACROSS CENTURIES



WHO ARE THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES?
A brief history of the most prominent units



THE SCOPE of a military special operation has changed across time, but certain elements remain constant. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) defines the term as those activities undertaken by “specially designated, organized, selected, trained, and equipped forces using unconventional techniques and modes of employment” — notably those emphasizing sufficiency, stealth, speed and tactical coordination by small, highly trained teams.

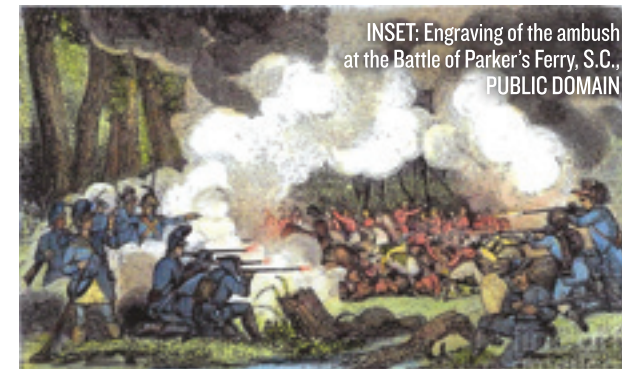
So just who is involved in reconnaissance, unconventional warfare and counterterrorism efforts within the U.S. military? Probably far more distinct units and joint forces than you’d expect! The Special Operations Forces (SOF) umbrella includes numerous units representing the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines, all falling under the Department of Defense’s United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). However, the name “Special Forces” is reserved for certain units within the U.S. Army, commonly referred to as Green Berets after the distinctive headwear worn by these units.

Although many of the elite units that are today grouped under the heading of United States Special Operations Forces were created in the 20th century, the philosophy behind such military efforts goes back much farther. Truly, these units have a

proud and rich heritage, a spirit of endurance and adaptability that stretches across centuries.

The U.S. Army Rangers explicitly state that their direct heritage begins in the French and Indian War (1754–1763, the North American Theater of the worldwide Seven Years’ War), while noting that some of their tactics emerged as early as King Philip’s War on the colonial New England frontier in the 1670s. The Army’s Special Forces Creed, which notes that its adherents “serve with the memory of those who have gone before me,” has included, in earlier iterations, explicit reference to Francis Marion, South Carolina’s famed “Swamp Fox” of the Revolutionary War, as well as later individuals and groups that predate the modern military era and organization. In the War of 1812 and throughout the first half of the 19th century, Ranger companies patrolled the western frontier by boat and horseback, with future president Abraham Lincoln briefly serving in one such unit of Illinois militia.

While both combatants in the Civil War fielded ranger units, the United States Army did not maintain any such active units in the conflict’s aftermath and did not field any for nearly 80 years. During World War II, using British Commando standards, six Ranger infantry units were activated. The 1st, 3rd and 5th Ranger Battalions saw significant action in North Africa. The 6th Ranger Battalion liberated more than 500 American prisoners from the Japanese POW camp at Cabanatuan in January 1945. Their daring acts



INSET: Engraving of the ambush at the Battle of Parker’s Ferry, S.C., PUBLIC DOMAIN

during the D-Day invasion of France included scaling the cliffs at Pointe Du Hoc, overlooking Omaha Beach, to destroy German gun emplacements trained on the beachhead. The 75th Ranger Regiment, Merrill's Marauders, was first organized for the China-Burma Campaign in 1943, bearing the numerical designation born by today's Rangers.

The units did not remain activated in peacetime, and 15 were organized to act as nomadic warriors in the Korean War, particularly during the winter of 1950 and spring of 1951. During the Vietnam War, the 75th Ranger Regiment was reorganized, resulting in 15 companies activated until August 1972. Permanent Ranger battalions were activated in 1974, and the ongoing 75th Ranger Regiment was designated in 1986. Causing some confusion, Ranger School is the Army's premier leadership school, and attendance is open to the entire service, not only those serving in one of the Ranger Regiment's five battalions.

Today's Special Forces, or Green Berets, trace their official lineage to July 9, 1942, when the First Special Service Force (FSSF), a joint American-Canadian tactical unit, was activated at Montana's Fort William H. Harrison. Referencing similar philosophical roots as the rangers, the unit chose to include red arrowheads and crossed arrows of Indian Scout units in its it badges and symbols. During August 1943, two battalions of FSSF conducted Operation Cottage, an amphibious assault on the Aleutian Islands. FSSF units also led the Allied invasions of southern France and Italy, becoming the first troops into occupied Rome, before the unit disbanded in January 1945. Contemporaneously, in the Southwest Pacific Theater, the U.S. 6th Army Special Reconnaissance Unit was organized as the Alamo Scouts — another nod to the uniquely American roots of this type of effort.

During the latter stages of WWII and in its aftermath, Operation Groups of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), predecessor of the Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research and the Central Intelligence Agency, were instrumental in the creation of classified units that played a role in the Korean War. That conflict informed the formal creation of the 10th Special Forces Group in June 1952. Its first deployments were to Cold War Europe, an early instance of the unit living out its motto: *De oppresso liber* — "to free the oppressed." Special



OPENING PAGE, TOP

During the D-Day invasion of Normandy in June 1944, Rangers were assigned to capture Point du Hoc, a strategic outcropping that separated Omaha and Utah Beaches. Due to its overhanging cliffs — some 100 feet high — this point was among the most dangerous German emplacements on the Norman coast. To take the position, the Rangers had to scale the sheer cliffs, a feat re-created on the battle's 75th anniversary, as modern Rangers were greeted at the top by comrades in period uniform, while veterans of the engagement looked on. MARKUS RAUCHENBERGER, U.S. ARMY

LEFT TOP

Even after surmounting and capturing the heights at Pointe du Hoc, the Rangers were subjected to German counterattacks. By the time this image was taken two days later, the original landing force of roughly 225 was reduced to 90 men fit for duty.

LEFT MIDDLE

"Frogmen" from Underwater Demolition Teams 1 and 3 train at Naga Beach near Camp McGill, Japan, 1950.

LEFT BOTTOM

The USS *Begor* stands by, as demolition charges destroy port facilities during the Korean War's evacuation of Hungnam in December 1950. NAVY SEAL MUSEUM

RIGHT

Like all Special Operations units, the Navy SEALs are constantly training themselves in land, sea and air maneuvers. Here, they're perfecting their military dive operations. SENIOR CHIEF MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST JAYME PASTORIC, U.S. NAVY



Forces units and personnel were present during the Vietnam War, and the units gained popular attention in the era, through the hit song "Ballad of the Green Berets" and a John Wayne film *The Green Berets*.

The beret was worn unofficially (sometimes surreptitiously) for a decade during this time, before President John F. Kennedy made it an official part of the uniform, stating it would be "a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom." Recognizing Kennedy's special relationship to the movement, the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center is named in his honor, as was the Army Special Operations Forces Museum prior to a redesignation last year. Although the size of Special Forces has fluctuated across time, today there are about 7,000 soldiers on the Green Beret muster rolls. Although the first woman qualified for the unit in 1981, there were no active female members until 2020.

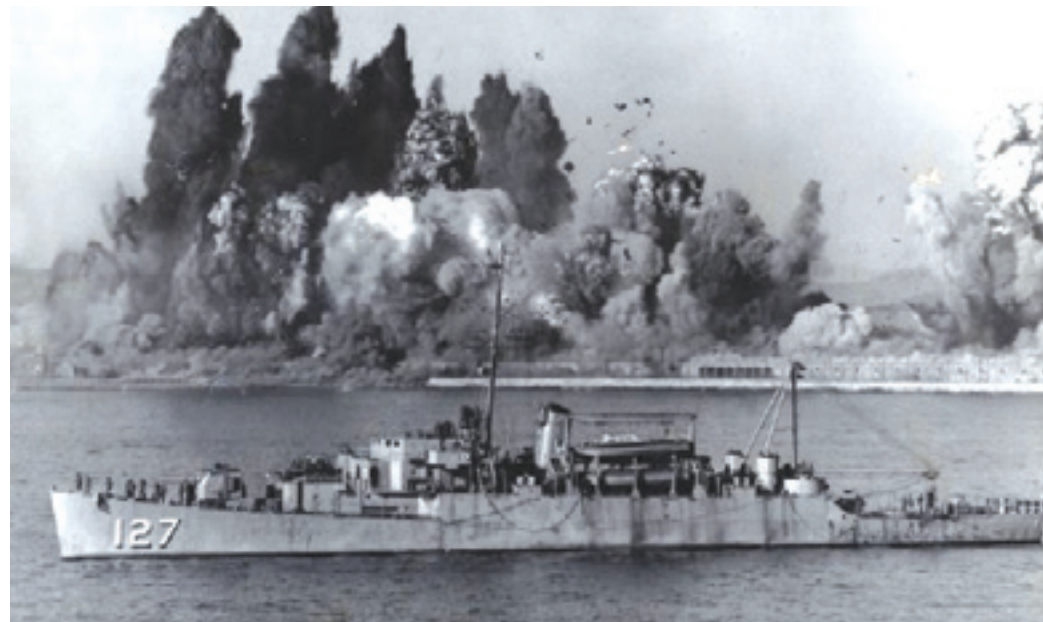
The most well-known Special Operations Force outside the U.S. Army are the U.S. Navy Sea, Air and Land Teams — the Navy SEALs. The story of this famous group begins nine months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, when the Observer Group, a joint Army-Navy-Marine reconnaissance unit, created an Amphibious Scout and Raider School to advance covert intelligence gathering for landing beaches and coastal defenses. Their first test was Operation Torch, the Allied invasion of French North Africa in November 1942; thereafter, Scouts and Raiders also assisted in landings at Sicily, Salerno, Anzio, Normandy and southern France. Separately, Navy salvage personnel and Seabees (the common name for Navy construction battalions) were trained to become the first Navy Combat Demolition Units (NCDUs). By the spring of 1944, 34 NCDUs were in England preparing for

Operation Overlord, the invasion of Normandy. At Omaha Beach, they suffered 52 percent casualties; less-heavily opposed on Utah Beach, the NCDUs cleared 1,600 yards of beach by nightfall.

In the Pacific Theater, Seabees received special training to blast through the coral reefs that hampered amphibious landings, becoming the first Underwater Demolition Units. These were eventually augmented with operational swimmers and combat divers trained by the OSS Maritime Unit to use swim fins, dive masks and closed-circuit diving equipment to infiltrate and sabotage.

Specialized Navy units remained after WWII, with the Korean War refining the use of water as concealment to infiltrate enemy positions and conduct demolitions of coastal bridges and fortifications. Then, in the same speech in which he dreamed to put a man on the moon, President Kennedy pledged \$100 million to strengthen U.S. Special Operations Forces and expand American capabilities in unconventional warfare, something that had already been gaining traction.

The first two SEAL Teams — guerrilla and counter-guerrilla units able to operate on sea and land and in the air — were formed in January 1962, composed entirely of recruits from Underwater Demolition Units, although those bodies were not dissolved. The first SEAL missions were deploying from submarines to conduct clandestine beach reconnaissance in preparation for the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. SEALs were also deployed to Vietnam and worked alongside the CIA on clandestine operations and subsequently played roles in the U.S. invasions of Grenada and Panama, the Iran-Iraq War, the Persian Gulf War, the Somalia intervention and the War on Terror in both Afghanistan and Iraq. High-profile missions, like the capture of Osama bin Laden and operations against Somali pirates, have significantly elevated public awareness of SEAL teams.★



THE AMERICAN IRREGULARS

TODAY, the Rangers of the U.S. Army may be just one of many elite forces from around the world, but they have a special place in the annals of military history for their pedigree dating back to the colonial wars, giving them a distinctively American character. While the modern Rangers cannot claim uninterrupted service, they are the spiritual heirs of irregular troops raised for the unique conditions of American warfare.

In some ways, the origins of the Rangers can be traced back to 1609. That summer, a mixed war party of Montagnais, Algonquin and Huron warriors from the St. Lawrence Valley entered Lake Champlain to engage an enemy force of Mohawks to the south. The campaign was just one small part of a longer series of conflicts between indigenous powers in North America, but this operation stands out, because accompanying the Canadian war party were three Frenchmen. This included Samuel de Champlain, the leader of the French colonizers who had established a post at Québec just the previous year. Despite technological advantages, the French colonists were far weaker than the surrounding Native peoples and understood that alliances were vital to their own survival and the profitability of the colony.

Champlain's Frenchmen joined the Native war party to cement their alliance and counter the serious threats from the powerful Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy, perhaps the most powerful political and military power on the continent. When the Canadian party formed to meet the Mohawks in battle on the lake shore near modern Ticonderoga, New York, Champlain stepped forward to fire his arquebus, unleashing a destructive new power that shaped the future of North America.

Native warriors realized their traditional weapons, armor and tactics were obsolete and quickly adapted to the introduction of firearms. Leveraging colonial powers against each other to secure guns and ammunition, Native warriors combined these new weapons with innovative tactics to subdue their enemies and counter the threat posed by European invaders. Learning how to load and fire guns with skill and accuracy, to lay ambushes and to disappear when counterattacked, Native warriors not only survived the trauma of colonization, epidemic disease and warfare, but also held off the more populous Europeans. They ultimately developed some of the most successful tactics of the gunpowder age.

Europeans found themselves, despite their numbers and technology, regularly beaten by Natives and unable to achieve decisive victories. The tactics employed in Europe to fight against regularly equipped and increasingly professional

**How the Colonial Frontier
around Fort Ticonderoga
Gave Rise to the Rangers**

by **DR. MATTHEW KEAGLE**

Robert Rogers's Powder Horn
Created June 3, 1756 by John Bush
at Fort William Henry, N.Y.
FORT TICONDEROGA MUSEUM COLLECTION

armies were useless against this new warfare. As King Philip's War — the conflict to which the modern Rangers explicitly trace their heritage — erupted across New England in 1675, Natives forced back European settlements up to a hundred miles. To respond, Euro-American settlers created the first Rangers. These troops were enlisted by the colonies for longer terms of service than the temporary levies from the militia and worked with allied Native Americans to learn the skills their enemies employed. Embracing these methods, Euro-American colonists were slowly able to turn the tide.

Despite their increasing competence at irregular warfare, Euro-American rangers could never fully compete at the level of Native American forces. Alliances with more powerful Native nations — including the entrance of the Mohawks into King Philip's War — tipped the scales. To conclusively end a campaign, Euro-Americans often resorted to the cruel destruction of Native communities, killing the population and burning villages and crops.

By the mid-18th century, the concept of the ranger was well-established from Massachusetts to Georgia. The etymology of these troops also says something about their unique role. English language dictionaries from the 18th century rarely define a ranger as a soldier. *Ranging* or *arranging* was defined as the act of organizing armies, but a ranger was defined simply as one who roves, or an official who patrolled forests to prevent poaching, like a gamekeeper or game warden. This law enforcement association was an element of the ranging companies established to patrol along colonial borders (anticipating the most famous "rangers" of the 19th century, the Texas Rangers). Their name further emphasized their relative lack of strict military regulations and freedom of movement.

Most colonies lacked soldiers to defend and secure the boundaries they claimed. The militia was often too unwieldy, poorly trained and problematic to use for any extended period. A number of companies of rangers were authorized by colonial governments, giving them longer-term military forces to confront threats, particularly from Native Americans whose territory land-hungry settlers were encroaching on. In some ways, these rangers were the American equivalent of European irregular forces, such as Hungarian Hussars, Croatian Pandours, Prussian Jaegers and Highland Watches that existed as paramilitary or border forces in peacetime and were employed as light troops during periods of warfare.



This was the case with the most famous rangers of all. Robert Rogers's alliterative name has become so synonymous with the ranging service that it has often overshadowed the origins and context of the ranger. The opening of the French and Indian War in 1754 once again saw colonies mobilizing military forces across the continent to face the French and their Native allies. British colonists suffered early in the war from a lack of allied Natives,



leaving their armies vulnerable to the hard-hitting attacks of their enemies who could also screen French forces, denying the British vital intelligence.

With minimal Native forces to counter the superior numbers of warriors aligned with the French, the British relied on Americans. A New Hampshire provincial captain, Robert Rogers, had impressed his superiors by scouting enemy positions and, in 1756, the British formally established an independent company of rangers under



Rogers's command. Initially a captain, he was eventually promoted to major, in command of multiple independent ranger companies. Rogers's "created Indians" were intended to meet the Native warriors on their own terms and to act as the eyes and ears of the British Army. They provided vital intelligence to British officers about the numbers, location and condition of French and Native forces and harassed them as necessary. In battle, they acted as light infantry, whether covering the landing of amphibious forces or screening the movements of British regulars and provincials, as they did during the failed attack on the French positions on the Heights of Carillon on July 8, 1758. Rogers also trained British and Provincial officers in his unique tactics and prepared a set of 28 rules, or a "plan of discipline," that for the first time codified in writing many of the principles of Native American warfare that Rogers had witnessed and practiced, and which are still taught to this day. An adapted version of Rogers's *Rules of Ranging* has been distributed to every participant in U.S. Army Ranger School since the 1950s, and the document is considered the "standing orders" for all Ranger operations.

The rangers' best-known operations were a series of long-distance raids against enemy positions, particularly against the French at Fort Carillon (Ticonderoga). In the winter of 1757 and 1758, Rogers's

THE RANGERS' best-known operations were a series of long-distance raids against the French at Fort Carillon

Rangers were twice engaged in fierce fire-fights with French and Native forces outside the French fort, gathering information and testing French defenses. The First and Second Battles on Snowshoes, as these engagements have become known, reveal the Rangers' ability to operate deep behind enemy lines, but not without significant danger. Rogers himself barely escaped the 1758 battle, losing many of his men in the process. These engagements also reveal the intense conditions faced by Rogers's Rangers that rendered regular forces immobile in the depths of winter. Employing sleds, snowshoes, whaleboats and even ice skates, they traversed the wooded and inhospitable landscape of the lakes, rivers and mountains of the north.

Perhaps his most famous exploit also emphasizes the violence and ambiguity of colonial warfare. Europeans, threatened

and viewing Native American ways of war as uncivilized, resorted to the same "savage" conduct they decried in their enemies. In 1759, Rogers was ordered on a bold long-distance raid against the Abenaki village of Odanak (St. Francis), which tested his troops' endurance. Striking far to the north through forests and bogs and evading French naval forces and enemy patrols while cut off from their line of approach, Rogers executed the daring mission. However, as the Rangers sprang the trap on the sleeping village, they encountered few warriors. Like other Europeans unable to find their enemy, they set fire to a substantially built Native town, leaving the dead behind, mostly women and children.

The ranks of Roberts's ranger unit were surprisingly diverse. Recruited in America, colonial Americans were joined by Europeans from the British Isles, as well as continental Europe. In addition, a number of men of African descent were found in its ranks, and the Rangers operated alongside a large contingent of Stockbridge Mohicans. The confidence gained through the ranging service undoubtedly had an impact on many former members: John Stark and Moses Hazen, both former Rangers, served as Continental generals during the Revolutionary War, leading troops at Bennington and Yorktown, respectively.

The fame of Rogers and his Rangers



was elevated in no small part through self-promotion. Rogers arrived in England after the war and published his own account of his exploits in London in 1765. *The Journals of Major Robert Rogers* solidified his reputation, and he secured a position as Governor Commandant of Michilimackinac. His actual governorship was marred by disputes and tension with superiors and subordinates, leading to a protracted court martial and imprisonment. The experience stained his reputation, and he struggled to revive his fortunes as the colonies crept toward revolution.

The extensive use of regular troops to garrison the colonies and enforce new accommodations for Native Americans after the French and Indian War decreased the need for colonial Rangers to monitor the frontier. However, Euro-American colonists increasingly grew frustrated and resentful of these forces. During the *Rage Militaire* that

THE LEGACY of the original rangers is indelibly linked with the violence of imperialism and colonization, yet the ranger represents a distinctively American military type



ABOVE: A plan of the town and Fort of Carillon at Ticonderoga: with the attack made by the British army commanded by Genl. Abercrombie, 8 July 1758, Thomas Jefferys, 1768. Prepared based on a captured French map, this plan depicts the formations during the catastrophic British attack on the Marquis de Montcalm's entrenched French troops. The rangers are depicted in their capacity as light infantry, screening the advance of the assault columns. Courtesy Fort Ticonderoga Museum Collection

LEFT & NEXT PAGE: Members of Fort Ticonderoga's Public History department portray members of Rogers' Rangers during a recreation of the Battle on Snowshoes. FORT TICONDEROGA / © Drifting Focus Photography



swept the colonies in the heady years preceding the American Revolution, the spirit of the rangers lived on as volunteer companies across America chose the name "rangers" to evoke these hardy American soldiers. In proposing flank troops for the militia in 1775, Timothy Pickering, a future secretary of war, gave them the denomination "rangers," expressing a claim to a distinctively American military prowess.

Congress's recruitment of "expert riflemen" from Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania in 1775 in some ways revived the notion of the rangers who had served during the French and Indian War as an embodied corps of light troops. The increasing American use of riflemen, a skilled minority in the Continental ranks, often replaced the use of rangers as such in the role they had made famous two decades earlier. The term was used as Pickering had suggested for some troops drafted for duty outside the line, such as Colonel Thomas Knowlton's Rangers, who acted as light troops for Washington's army during the New York Campaign of 1776.

The ongoing need for light troops for reconnaissance and harassment of the enemy, often employing Native experts, gave rangers a vital role in the Northern and Canadian Theaters. Captain, later Colonel, Timothy Bedel ultimately raised a regiment of Rangers from New Hampshire. One of Bedel's officers, Benjamin Whitcomb, became perhaps the most successful ranger of the Revolution. Evading detection for days, Whitcomb scouted British positions along the Richelieu River in July 1776,

when he fired on a mounted British officer. Whitcomb had, in fact, mortally wounded Brigadier General Patrick Gordon, one of the highest-ranking British casualties during the entire war, earning Whitcomb the mark of an assassin by the British. He was ultimately rewarded with a captaincy and the command of two independent companies of rangers operating out of Ticonderoga.

Despite Whitcomb's success, the most extensive use of at least nominal "rangers" was actually by Americans on the other side of the conflict, most famously by Robert Rogers himself. Rogers actually did apply to Congress for a command among the Patriots, but was not trusted and eventually cast his lot with the British and raised a Loyalist corps called the Queen's Rangers. Under Rogers's management, the unit was ineffective, however, and he and many of his officers were purged. The corps was transformed into one of the most successful Loyalist units of the Revolution under the command of the Englishman John Graves Simcoe. Rogers, and his brother James, were able to raise another unit, known as the King's Rangers.

They joined a host of Loyalist light troops that sought to evoke the spirit of the Rangers, from Colonel Thomas Browne's East Florida Rangers to the New York Rangers, a volunteer company in occupied Manhattan, to the Loyalist refugees who formed the Queen's Loyal Rangers in the Champlain Valley. Loyalist units like Butler's Rangers, operating out of Fort Niagara, came closest to the irregular spirit of the rangers and their

cooperation with Native Americans, earning them a fearsome reputation.

By the end of the 18th century, the term "ranger" was being applied more loosely. In Ireland, the Tullamore True Blue Rangers and the Borris in Ossery Rangers were just some of the companies found in the popular volunteer movement of the 1770s and '80s. As the wars with Revolutionary France expanded into the Napoleonic Wars, British volunteer units like the New Forest Rangers and the Cambrian Rangers joined regulars like the 88th Regiment of Foot, which, known as the Connaught Rangers, carried the name, if not the operational aspects, of the rangers forward. In America, the term continued to be used by volunteer militia companies eager to appear elite and claim the aura of the rough frontier spirit of the past.

Although true rangers were largely gone by the end of the Revolution, their spirit — independent, hardy irregulars shaped by the intersection of European technology with Native skill and adaptability — has lived on. The legacy of the original rangers is indelibly linked with the violence of imperialism and colonization, yet the ranger represents a distinctively American military type — a concept powerful enough to be claimed by Americans on both sides of the Revolutionary conflict.

Dr. Matthew Keagle is the curator at Fort Ticonderoga, which preserves 2,000 acres of historic landscape on Lake Champlain, the Carillon Battlefield and the largest series of untouched Revolutionary War-era earthworks surviving in America.

Parker's Ferry Battlefield
Charleston County, S.C.

BY
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M.
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AMM BUSH

Francis
Marion
and
the Art of
Guerilla
Warfare

By the time

of the Revolutionary War, Francis Marion, best known to history as the Swamp Fox, was acquainted with both conventional and irregular warfare. By then a trained Continental officer who had helped repulse the British at Fort Sullivan alongside Colonel William Moultrie, Marion had initially been recruited into service during the French and Indian War at age 24 by Captain John Postell in 1757, and then participated in South Carolina's 1759–61 attacks into Cherokee lands.

Marion was a student of Major Robert Rogers's *28 Rules of Ranging*, and in his long military career, Marion formulated, practiced and executed his own particular modes of "maneuvering." The United States Marine Corps' modern doctrinal manual, *Warfighting*, defines maneuver warfare as "a state of mind bent on shattering the enemy morally and physically by paralyzing and confounding him, by avoiding his strength, by quickly and aggressively exploiting his vulnerabilities, and by striking him in a way that will hurt him most." The sentiment certainly applies to Marion's approach.



MARION

By the time of the Revolutionary War's Southern Campaigns of 1780–1782, enterprising 48-year-old Patriot partisan General Francis Marion did everything in his power to effectuate Rogers's concepts in the Carolinas following the surrender of Charleston. His philosophy, as described by the *Harvard Business Review*, in a description of how the practice can be adapted beyond the battlefield, amounted to "not ... destroy[ing] the adversary's forces but ... render[ing] them unable to fight as an effective, coordinated whole.... Instead of attacking enemy defense positions, maneuver warfare practitioners to bypass those positions, capture the enemy's command-and-

control center in the rear, and cut off supply lines. Moreover, maneuver warfare doesn't aim to avoid or resist the uncertainty and disorder that inevitably shape armed conflict; it embraces them as keys to vanquishing the foe."

Ultimately, as a result of Marion's simpler, straightforward execution of innovative techniques, guerrilla tactics, interdiction and irregular warfare, liberty was slowly won blow by blow in South Carolina combat. The hand of fate was also in play for Marion's success. First, he escaped the surrender of Charleston because he was recuperating from a broken ankle away from the city. Then, days before the Battle of Camden, Marion and two dozen men rode into General Horatio Gates's camp offering assistance. These men were scruffy, backcountry Williamsburg District militia. Colonel Otho Holland Williams, adjutant general, asserted that Gates was "glad of an opportunity of detaching" the "burlesque" Marion away into the South Carolina interior. Whatever the reason, by August 15, 1780, Gates ordered Marion to "go Down the Country to Destroy all boats & Craft of any kind" to prevent British troops from escaping Camden. The dismissal spared Marion being captured or killed in that devastating Patriot loss.

THE RISE OF THE SWAMP FOX

After Camden, un-civil warfare magnified on both sides, exacerbated by civil strife and other forms of violence, igniting an epistolary barrage amongst Patriot and British commanders. Marion was particularly upset after his old friend Captain John Postell was captured by the British while under a white flag of truce in March 1781. "The hanging of men taken prisoners, and the violation of my flag will be retaliated, if a stop is not put to such proceedings, which are disgraceful to all civilized nations. All of your officers and men who have fallen in my hands have been treated with humanity and tenderness; and I wish sincerely, that I may not be obliged to act contrary to my inclinations, but such treatments as my unhappy followers whom the chance of war have thrown in my enemies' hands meet with such, such must those experience who fall in my hands," wrote Marion.

As 1780 wore on, the Williamsburg District was transformed by Marion's emergence, seemingly mocking the British claim to have subdued South Carolina. Major General Charles, Lord Cornwallis assigned the destruction of Marion's Brigade to that rapid-riding, hard-charging British Legion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton. Marion set out to ambush the small troop then escorting Tarleton, who had descended upon Colonel Richard Richardson's plantation, stripped his house and set it afire. In turn, Marion realized that the British were also on their way to seize

him. On November 8, Tarleton vigorously pursued Marion from Jack's Creek northwest of Nelson's Ferry for 20-plus miles east to Ox Swamp. Marion's men galloped through the swamp's watery morass along trails that few could have followed. With dogged determination equal to Marion's, Tarleton drove his men forward until they reached the Woodyard. Tarleton's Legion could not cross that swamp in the dark, resting at its edge for the night.

Marion would not retreat indefinitely, deciding to make a stand near Benbow's Ferry. With felled trees blockading paths and swamps protecting their rear and flanks, Marion's marksmen awaited the man whom Patriots called the "Butcher." Tarleton's men swung around the swamp's edge, hoping to again pick up Marion's trail on its opposite side. For seven hours, the British officer drove Legion calvary, wagons and two artillery pieces at a pace that made his horses drop in their tracks. Riders who lost their mounts were left to trot along exhaustedly. Tarleton's scouts reported that the route headed into miry Ox Swamp. Unable to discover a trail across or through it, Tarleton despaired after intensely chasing so long through the swampy morass to no avail.

Tarleton is credited with declaring, "Come my boys. Let us go back, and we'll soon find the Gamecock [Thomas Sumter]. But as for this damned old Fox, the devil himself could not catch him!" This earned moniker struck true and spread quickly. Incredibly daring, the great guerrilla fighter terrorized the British Army in South Carolina, swiftly striking, then vanishing ghost-like from fields into swamps.

THE EXEMPLAR VICTORY

Parker's Ferry was a major thoroughfare crossing the Pon Pon River (Edisto River) about 33 miles west of Charleston. Here, Brigadier General Francis Marion planned a famously successful ambush. British and Loyalist troops were operating in the summer of 1781 throughout the Low Country around Charleston, foraging for provisions and attempting to suppress the Patriot militia. On August 10, 1781, Major General Nathanael Greene dispatched Marion to assist Colonel William Harden's Patriot militia. Marion learned that a Loyalist force of 100 troops, commanded by William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham, was at the Pon Pon River to join a larger force of British regulars, Hessians and other Loyalist militia.



Marion placed his 445 troops in the thick woods about the causeway leading to Parker's Ferry, a mile away. Several dragoons galloped forward to entice the more than 600 Loyalist, British and German troops into a Patriot trap. As shots were fired, British Lieutenant Colonel Ernest Leopold von Borck ordered Major Thomas Fraser and his dragoons to charge to the scene. Fraser's troops galloped blindly into the "gauntlet" that Marion had set for them.

Harden's men moved back 100 yards from the ambush line so they could be used as reserves. Major Samuel Cooper's 60 swordsmen were told to attack the rear of the enemy after the ambush was initiated. They then waited for the British, as von Borck left camp in midafternoon with his infantry, accompanied by two pieces of artillery in front of the column and Fraser's mounted South Carolina Royalists in the rear. It was almost dark when they stumbled into a fire-fight between Marion's men and Loyalists who had just discovered them. Fraser sent Lieutenant Stephen Jarvis charging forward while he placed three other divisions on the road and to the left and right of the road. Mounted Patriots charged Jarvis, who



TARLETON

reversed course quickly. Fraser believed these to be Harden's men and ordered his cavalry in full gallop to intercept them. Marion now had the British right where he wanted them, and instantly Fraser's horsemen were surprised. At 40 yards, the Patriots opened with buckshot and downed the British dragoons. Fraser rallied and tried to charge, but the Patriots delivered a second and a third volley. There was no way for Fraser to attack into the thick trees and nearby swamp, so he withdrew down the causeway, down the full length of the ambush. British Captain Archibald Campbell was wounded twice, and Fraser was badly bruised when his horse was killed, and the rest of his cavalry rode over him as he lay in the road.

British casualties, at 125 killed and 80 wounded, were heavy, while Marion suffered only one man killed and three wounded. Marion's victory at Parker's Ferry on August 30 directly impacted the Battle of Eutaw Springs nine days later by depriving British of horses not available to fight there on September 8. Marion maneuvered through enemy territory back to the Santee River and joined Greene to command that battle's

right militia line at Eutaw Springs. Parker's Ferry is the exemplar of Marion's guerilla warfare tactics.

AVENUE OF THE CEDARS AUGUST 29, 1782

Almost exactly one year later, Marion participated in his final battle, Avenue of the Cedars, on August 29, 1782. British Major Thomas Fraser's Royalists were dispatched to get needed meat for the British in Charleston. They crossed the Cooper River to surprise the Patriot guards at Biggin Bridge and Strawberry Ferry. Marion had finished with Georgetown, returning to his post at the old Sir John Colleton plantation house on the south side of the Wadboo Creek. When Marion learned of the approaching foraging party, his cavalry patrolled down the Wadboo looking for British galleys. He sent Captain Gavin Witherspoon to find Fraser. Part of Marion's troops were positioned to the side of a cedar-lined avenue, ready for ambush. The rest were placed in and around nearby slave cabins. Joining Marion for the

first time was Major Micajah Gainey's 40 men, all who had recently "converted" from Loyalist to Patriot.

Fraser approached, capturing some of Marion's pickets. He detected and charged Witherspoon in the woods. Witherspoon and his men turned back toward the plantation house at a full gallop. They fell behind in the ambush kill zone to let the Loyalist cavalry catch up. Fraser's more than 100 British dragoons confidently charged the Patriot infantry and cavalry force. As Fraser's dragoons came within 30 yards of the ambush site, Marion's hidden men simultaneously cheered and fired a volley. Fraser tried to rally his men as they were being cut down on both sides of the road. During the skirmish, a Patriot wagon full of ammunition was lost. Too low on ammunition, Marion

retreated to the Santee River. The British lost one captain and three enlisted killed, several wounded and one captured. Marion had no casualties in his last combat.

For all his maneuvering, machinations, menace and manpower, General Nathanael Greene best condensed Marion's characterization in a letter written the day before the Hobkirk Hill debacle in April 1781. "When I consider how much you have done and suffered, and under what difficulties you have maintained your ground, I am at a loss which to admire most, your courage and fortitude or your address and management. Certain it is, no man has a better claim to the public thanks than you. History affords no instance where an officer has kept possession of a country under so many disadvantages as you have. Surrounded on every side

with a superior force, hunted from every quarter with veteran troops, you have found means to elude their attempts, and to keep alive the expiring hopes of an oppressed militia, when all succor seemed to be cut off. To fight the enemy bravely with the prospect of victory, is nothing; but to fight with intrepidity under the constant impression of defeat, and inspire irregular troops to do it, is a talent peculiar to yourself. Nothing will give me greater pleasure than to do justice to your merit, and I shall miss no opportunity of declaring to Congress, to the commander-in-chief of the American army, and to the world, the great sense I have of your merit and your services."

Legends aside, Francis Marion's daring leadership diminished British control in the South. The best revelation of the intensity and enormity of Francis Marion's revolutionary maneuvering is in visiting the South Carolina swamps and fields where his men trekked to arms for liberty.

Historian and preservation attorney Paul David Reuwer is a member of the board of the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust. Douglas W. Bostick is the executive director of SCBPT and a key partner in The Liberty Trail initiative.

MARION

*now had the British right
where he wanted them,
and instantly
Fraser's horsemen
were surprised.*



The Parker's Ferry Battlefield retains an air of mystery suitable to the legend and legacy of the Swamp Fox.

CIVIL WAR

IRREGULAR OPERATIONS

IN HIS 1996 BOOK *SPEC OPS: Case Studies in Special Operations Warfare: Theory and Practice*, Adm. William McRaven crafted a definition of the genre tailored to his analysis of undertakings that predated the official formation of modern Special Operations Forces. By his reckoning, Special Operations are those “conducted by forces specially trained, equipped, and supported for a specific target whose destruction, elimination, or rescue (in the case of hostages) is a political or military objective.”

Many famed Civil War “irregular operations” slot easily into this framework — unconventional warfare, like partisan units or sabotage, direct raids and ambushes and special reconnaissance missions. A number of Trust staff members, all passionate students of history, jumped at the chance to share their own choices for the most fascinating irregular operations of that conflict.



From the original painting *The Fairfax Raid* by Mort Künstler
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www.mkunstler.com

Mosby's Fairfax Raid

DAVID DUNCAN | President

Under the cover of night and shrouded by inclement weather, Lt. Col. John Mosby — aptly nicknamed “The Gray Ghost of the Confederacy” — launched a legendary raid over the Northern Virginia terrain that I now call home. On his side were all the ingredients that make a Special Operation successful: good intelligence, practice and the element of surprise.

Mosby's force was filled with resourceful horsemen who executed their work with precision and speed, and then stealthily reintegrated back into civilian life following each mission. After a string of successful raids in early 1863, Mosby's notoriety as a ranger — and Federal frustration — was on the rise. Unable to catch him, Sir Percy Wynham, a flamboyant Englishman in command of regiment of New Jersey cavalry in the region, resorted to impugning Mosby's honor, calling his men “horse thieves” and setting into motion one of the Civil War's most fascinating irregular operations.

In response to this insult, Mosby set out to capture Wynham and upend Union forces in Fairfax. He gathered intelligence from civilians and Union prisoners,

studied the county's “deer and rabbit” pathways with one of his local troopers and obtained details of picket lines from a Yankee deserter. The stage was set for the night of March 8–9, 1863.

The success of the operation depended on its security, given that Mosby's reputation for raiding made him a high-profile target. Only after crossing enemy lines did Mosby reveal the full extent of the plan to his 29 troopers. At 2:00 a.m., in the rain, Mosby's men infiltrated the hamlet of Fairfax Courthouse and began taking prisoners and horses. As they moved toward the Fairfax Station in search of Wynham,

they learned that he had returned to Washington, and that Brig. Gen. Edwin Stoughton, the commander of the Vermont Infantry Brigade, was sleeping in a house down the street.

Mosby adjusted on the fly and utilized the element of surprise to break in and capture the sleeping Stoughton. When they slipped back through Union lines in the pre-dawn gloom, Mosby's Rangers brought with them one brigadier general, two captains, 30 enlisted men and 58 horses. Only a single shot had been fired the whole night, and not a soul was harmed.★



James Andrews and his raiders abandoning “The General” and escaping on foot.
Engraving from *The Locomotive Chase in Georgia*.
BRITISH LIBRARY

The Great Locomotive Chase

PAUL COUSSAN | Deputy Director of Government Relations

A few years ago, on one of my excursions to Georgia for the Trust, I decided to track down the series of pocket parks built in the 1930s tracing the Union army's march from Chattanooga to Atlanta. Authorized by the secretary of the interior in 1944, the Atlanta Campaign National Historic Site (NHS) is a defunct, never fully realized national park unit that has been largely forgotten as a means of highlighting and connecting the series of actions in 1864 that culminated in the capture of Atlanta by Sherman's army. Small parks along the “Dixie Highway” in Ringgold, Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Cassville and New Hope Church are all that remain of this early effort to interpret one of the more decisive actions of the entire Civil War.

Not far from the first stop in Ringgold, just south of Chattanooga, is a small, unassuming marker along the side of a railroad track — a weathered granite monument, engraved with the word “GENERAL,” the red paint in each letter fading away. Below the carving is a bronze plaque that reads, in part, “This tablet marks the spot at which the Locomotive “GENERAL” was abandoned by Andrews' Raiders, afternoon of April 12, 1862.” Two years before the Union army swung through here, northern Georgia was already a hotbed of activity, as Confederate forces secured and defended all major railroad lines between the cities

of Chattanooga and Atlanta. Several attempts were made by Union spies to cut the rail lines and sever travel and communications between the cities, and one came close to succeeding. This most well-known raid was led by a civilian, James Andrews, who commandeered the locomotive “General” near Atlanta, and hurtled north with a band of raiders, cutting a trail of destruction in their wake. They severed communication wires and tore up railroads, but the steep grade of the tracks slowed the locomotive and allowed another engine, “Texas,” to pursue them. As the Texas closed in, Andrews and his raiders were unable to sever the lines and destroy the rails behind them, and were forced to abandon the locomotive outside Ringgold, escaping to the surrounding woods. Eventually, Confederate forces tracked all of them, and tried, convicted and executed most of them, including Andrews. After the war, the raiders were buried at Chattanooga National Cemetery; a small monument capped with a bronze model of “General” stands watch over their headstones in a small section of the cemetery.

The heroism of the raiders became legendary, and many received the Medal of Honor (as a civilian, Andrews was not eligible.) Audiences of the 20th century became familiar with the raid with the Disney film *The Great Locomotive Chase*.

If you plan to track down the many battlefields saved by the Trust that make up the Atlanta Campaign, or you want to stop by the pocket parks of the former Atlanta Campaign NHS, the “General” monument should definitely be on your list. The marker is not far from Ringgold, but be careful if you want to try to visit! There is a small pull-off in front of the marker, barely large enough for one vehicle, and there are no signs alerting drivers to the historic marker.★



Sinking of the CSS Albemarle
NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

Cushing's Attack on CSS Albemarle

JIM CAMPI | Chief Policy Officer

The leader of an operation whose target is a steam-powered ironclad gunboat ram ought not to be faint of heart. And indeed, Union Lt. William Cushing was bold in the extreme, submitting plans to take on the Confederate ironclad that was dominating the Roanoke River during the Civil War.

The CSS *Albemarle* played a significant role in the Confederate capture of Plymouth, N.C., in the spring of 1864, managing to sink the Union's USS *Southfield*, and severely damage

the USS *Miami*, killing Cushing's dear friend Lt. Commander Charles Flusser in the process. From a strategic standpoint, capturing or sinking the dangerous *Albemarle* was crucial for the Union, but for Cushing, it was personal.

Many elements had to come together for Cushing's envisioned operation, starting with specialized equipment and a committed crew. Cushing got the idea for a portable torpedo from the Confederate attack on the USS *Cairo* near Vicksburg in 1862. The boat Cushing launched his attack on was armed as a spar torpedo launch: One lanyard had control over the wooden spar, which could lower the device into the water, another set off the cannon and a third detonated the torpedo. All those who undertook the mission were volunteers, and Cushing instructed them not to hope for return, ensuring full commitment to the outcome of the operation.

On the night of October 27–28, 1864, Cushing and company on the spar launch crawled up the Roanoke toward Plymouth. Increasing obstacles arose as they approached the *Albemarle*. First, a dog barked, waking and alerting the Confederate

sentry. Then, upon approach to the *Albemarle*, the clandestine crew found a barrier of logs protecting the ironclad's hull from torpedo attack.

But Cushing would not stop now after coming this far — the only way was forward, pushing past the logs even as the fully roused Confederates opened fire. Through a swarm of bullets, Cushing was able to keep a tight grip on the torpedo's controls and lower the boom holding it into the water alongside the *Albemarle's* hull. He pulled the lanyard, setting off both the cannon and the torpedo in a massive explosion that knocked all the Union soldiers into the water.

Cushing made it to the riverbank, where he hid from Confederate search parties. After daylight, he stole a skiff and, using his arms instead of oars, made the perilous journey down-river to Union lines. The rest of his own command were not so lucky: Two men drowned and 11 were captured — only one other raider escaped. But the mission had been successful! Courtesy of a hole “big enough to drive a wagon in,” the CSS *Albemarle* sat at the bottom of the river.★

The Mysterious Fate of the H.L. Hunley

CATHERINE NOYES
Liberty Trail Program Director

As a native of South Carolina, I've long been interested in the story of the H. L. *Hunley*. I remember hearing the news when the mysterious sunken submarine was discovered off the shores of Charleston in 1995. Headlines came again in 2000, when it was retrieved from the water and moved to the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, and intermittently since, as various discoveries about the ship and her fate have been uncovered — especially as members of the lost crew were identified and laid to rest.

Designed and built in Mobile, Ala., and sent to Charleston to combat the Union blockade, the *Hunley* was the first submarine to sink an enemy ship in combat. Unlike modern submarines that can launch missiles great distances, the *Hunley* was essentially a submerged spar torpedo boat — it had to deliver its single explosive right up to the target and ram it home. The *Hunley* had no on-board engine, instead, it was powered manually by a crew of eight men, all volunteers. Serving inside the 40-foot, iron-hulled vessel was dangerous — she sank twice

on training exercises, losing a total of 13 sailors. Despite the casualties, the *Hunley's* method showed promise, and a mission was organized.

On the evening of February 17, 1864, the *Hunley* attacked the USS *Housatonic* outside Charleston Harbor. Union sailors sighted her approach and fired on the submarine, but their shots were deflected by the metal hull. The *Hunley* reached its target and detonated its spar torpedo, and the *Housatonic* sank in less than 15 minutes. But the triumphant *Hunley* never re-emerged from beneath the waves, and the secrets of her successful run were lost along with all hands.

When the *Hunley* was rediscovered 130 years later, those secrets slowly began to come to light. Forensic anthropology revealed the identities of the lost crew, and blast analysis has offered speculation about the damage sustained by the ship and the crew's cause of death. Perhaps the most poignant story to come out of the *Hunley* involves its captain, Lt. George Dixon. Fighting at Shiloh in 1862, Dixon was struck in the hip by a ball, a wound that might have been mortal had the round not been deflected by a gold coin in his pocket. Alongside the remains found in the wreckage was a deformed \$20 gold coin engraved with the lines “Shiloh April 6, 1862/ My life Preserver/ G.E.D.”★



H.L. *Hunley*
by Conrad Wise Chapman
PUBLIC DOMAIN



Harriet Tubman
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
& CULTURE

The Combahee River Raid

TRACEY MCINTYRE | Program Assistant

On the night of June 1, 1863, three Union gunboats left Beaufort, S.C. Their mission: to remove mines from the Combahee River, destroy supplies destined for Confederate troops stored at nearby plantations and rescue and recruit enslaved African Americans along the route. This raid was unique among the many conducted during the Civil War for two reasons. Not only was it led by a woman, but she was an African American who had been enslaved.

Harriet Tubman escaped slavery in 1849 and gained renown conducting raids of her native state of Maryland to bring others to freedom. By 1862, she had left her work on the Underground Railroad and volunteered as a teacher, nurse and spy in Union-occupied Hilton Head, S.C. From those who had escaped from plantations in the area, Tubman gained important information about the location of mines that had been placed in the Combahee River by Confederate forces. In June of 1863, she was asked to put this information to use and lead a raid by Union gunboats into Confederate territory.

Three gunboats — USS *Sentinel*, USS *Harriet A. Weed* and USS *John Adams* — left port on June 1 with 300 African American soldiers from the 2nd South Carolina Volunteer Infantry and the 3rd Rhode Island Heavy Artillery. After the *Sentinel* ran aground, the two remaining gunboats, guided

by Tubman, steamed up the Combahee River. Tubman guided them past treacherous mines and to specific areas on the river where enslaved people who had escaped from local plantations had congregated.

After landing a small detachment at the mouth of the river to deal with Confederate pickets, the *Harriet A. Weed* anchored a few miles upriver. The *John Adams* continued to Combahee Ferry, where it encountered a band of Confederate cavalry crossing a pontoon bridge. Shots from the gunboat scattered the troopers, and a party sent from the ship set fire to the bridge. These troops then went ashore, with orders to confiscate or destroy all viable property there. The *John Adams*, forced to stop by obstructions in the river, then moored at the causeway.

Confederate response to the invasion was slow, occurring as it did during the height of the malaria season, when only small detachments of troops remained left along the rivers and swamps. Eventually, a battery of artillery arrived at the causeway and fired at the Union troops, but it was quickly repelled by the big guns of the *John Adams*. By this time, the damage had been done, and plantations, mills and outbuildings were in flames. Union troops were able to confiscate stores of rice, cotton, vegetables and livestock. Most importantly, more than 700 enslaved people had flocked to the gunboats and were taken to freedom. The raid was a resounding success, thanks to the intelligence and leadership provided by Harriet Tubman, the only woman known to have led a military raid during the Civil War.★

Morgan's Raiders and Their Trail of Destruction

COLLEEN CHESLAK | Communications Associate

When the approximately five-year-old John Hunt Morgan moved to my native Kentucky between 1830 and 1831, little did he know the havoc that he would bring upon the Bluegrass State in the 1860s. Perhaps his 1844 expulsion from Transylvania College was a red flag — the consequence he faced for dueling with a fraternity brother. At minimum, it was an indicator of the fighting spirit he would come to embrace as a Confederate cavalry leader in the Civil War.

In an escapade that would lead *Harper's Weekly* to label Morgan a “guerrilla, and bandit,” he and 900 Confederate cavaliers — “attached” to Gen. Braxton Bragg’s Army of Tennessee — spent three weeks riding through Kentucky in the summer of 1862. This ride was all but calm, as Morgan and his “band of dare-devil vagabonds” disrupted the progress of Union forces by destroying railroad and telegraph lines, seizing hordes of Federal supplies, capturing a reported 1,200 Union soldiers, procuring hundreds of horses and — broadly speaking — unleashing hell upon his home state. *Harper's Weekly* would also recognize Morgan as having “the most desperate courage,” as his path of devastation also paved a glimmer of hope for those who sought a fully Confederate Kentucky.

After the Confederacy’s dual losses at Vicksburg and Gettysburg in the summer of 1863, Morgan aspired to uplift the downtrodden by embarking on his most ambitious raid of the war. And he did so by ignoring the explicit orders of Bragg. Beginning in Tennessee, he expanded his cavalry’s hoofprints and crossed the Ohio River with approximately 2,400 men before riding more than one thousand miles along its north bank. For three weeks, Morgan’s Raiders terrorized the local defenses of southern Indiana and Ohio. His brazen tactics included having his telegraph operator act as a Union soldier, sending blatant misinformation regarding his actions, objectives and troop strength. But Morgan’s luck began to run out at the Battle of Buffington Island on July 19, 1863 — a massive blow that resulted in 750 Confederate cavaliers taken prisoner. Seven days later at the Battle of Salineville, defeat would amount to Morgan and a slew of his officers being sent to the Ohio State Penitentiary, while other cavaliers were sent to Chicago’s Camp Douglas.

Throughout their escapades, Morgan’s Raiders captured and paroled approximately 6,000 Union soldiers, ravaged 34 bridges, cut off rail lines at 60 sites and sidetracked tens of thousands of troops. Simply looking at Ohio, 2,500 horses were taken and more than 4,300 homes and businesses were raided. As a result, nearly 4,400 Ohioans filed claims for compensation with the federal government. However much damage the raids produced, they caused the number of Confederate veteran cavalymen to dwindle while doing no significant harm to the transportation and communication infrastructure of the Union. Not to mention, they often inspired the Union to fight with an even greater degree of determination!★



John Hunt Morgan
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

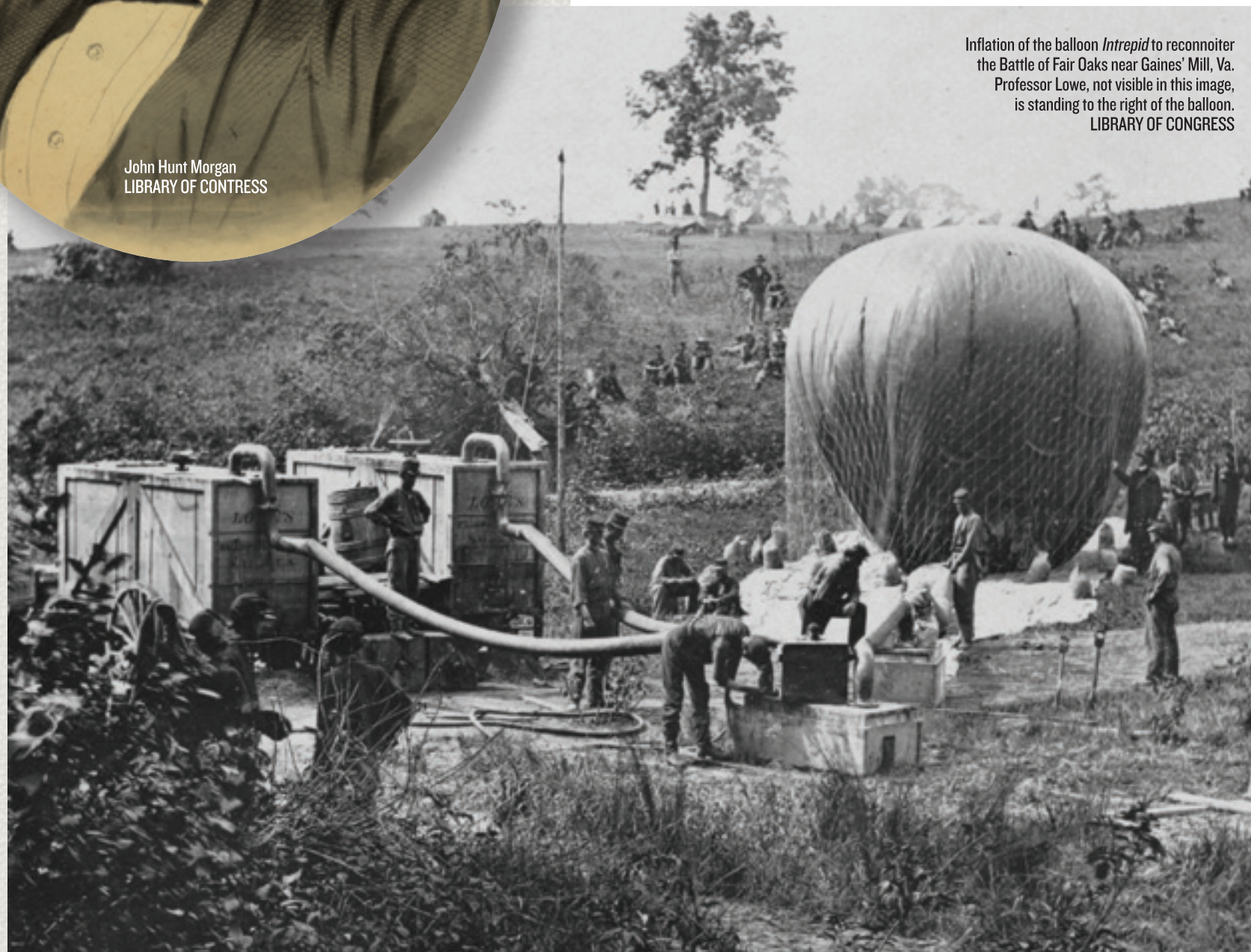
High Anxiety: Aerial Reconnaissance

GARRY ADELMAN | Chief Historian

Ordered by Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee to take charge of and make observations of Union positions from a silk balloon just arrived in Richmond, Lt. Col. Edward P. Alexander was uneasy. His fear of heights was of a peculiar sort; ever since he had fallen off a cliff at West Point, he felt a strong urge to jump off any height he ascended. Just before his first balloon ascent outside Richmond in June 1862, he was calmed by an experienced aeronaut who said that the balloon experience was different: “You’re afraid of that feeling people have on steeples & precipices, but you needn’t be.” He was right. “The balloon had not risen 50 feet before I felt as safe & as much at home as if I had lived in one for years,” Alexander recalled of how he took to the balloon immediately. He also found that having a trained staff officer 1,000

feet up could be of immense military value, swiftly identifying Union reinforcements moving toward the Battle of Gaines’ Mill.

The Union army already knew this, of course. The previous year, scientist Thaddeus Lowe had demonstrated to the Lincoln administration the benefit of tethered balloons and soon became the Union army’s chief aeronaut. As with most things technological, the Union held advantages over the Confederates. Lowe’s balloons held more people, could launch from more places and consistently rose to higher altitudes for longer durations. Problems persisted nonetheless, leading, in one instance, to Union Brig. Gen. Fitz John Porter’s harrowing and unintended journey over Confederate lines in an untethered balloon! In May 1863, Lowe and his team supported General Hooker’s Chancellorsville campaign with frequent messages that could inform Union movements. Portions of two of Lowe’s messages to Hooker’s Chief of Staff Daniel Butterfield at 1:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. highlight the intelligence gathered:



Inflation of the balloon *Intrepid* to reconnoiter the Battle of Fair Oaks near Gaines’ Mill, Va. Professor Lowe, not visible in this image, is standing to the right of the balloon.
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

1:30pm: The enemy opposite this ford occupy three positions from a half to one mile from the river, also opposite what I take to be United States Ford. About five miles up there is a small force. To the left of Banks’ ford, commanding the road, the enemy have a battery in position.

8:30pm: I ... ascended at 7 o’clock, remaining up until after dark in order to see the location of the enemy’s camp-fires. I find them most numerous in a ravine about one mile beyond the heights opposite General Sedgwick’s forces, extending from opposite the lower crossing to a little above the upper crossing. There are also many additional fires in the rear of Fredericksburg. From appearances I should judge that full three-fourths of the enemy’s force is immediately back and below Fredericksburg.

Both sides launched from the ground and both used naval vessels for transport and launch as early “aircraft carriers.” Both also employed methods (telegraphs and signals) to relay actionable intelligence from the balloon to those on the ground. And while balloons were seen chiefly in the east, Union forces in the Western Theater used them to better direct their fire against Confederate positions near Island Number 10 in Missouri.

By the summer of 1863, both sides had effectively ceased aerial operations, favoring more traditional methods such as hills, platforms in trees and towers built for observation. For the South, which never fully enjoyed the fruits of aeronautical Special Forces, the cessation of balloon operations is not surprising. For the North, the disbanding of the Balloon Corps was puzzling on its face, and E.P. Alexander agreed, recalling, “[T]his would imply they did not finally consider [balloons] of much value. If so, I think their conclusion a decided mistake.”★



Commissioning of the Continental Ship Alfred at Philadelphia, December 1775. By W. Nowland Van Powell, Courtesy U.S. NAVY ART COLLECTION

“Resolved, That two Battalions of marines be raised.”

“A SHIP WITHOUT MARINES IS LIKE A GARMENT WITHOUT BUTTONS,” said Union Admiral David Dixon Porter in 1852, expressing the critical role Marines play aboard warfaring vessels. Unlike purely land- or sea-based services, the Marines’ value is in versatility, an ability to undertake specialized and cross-disciplinary missions.

These indispensable warriors entered our American story during the first year of the fight for independence. While planning for an invasion of Nova Scotia — the main British reinforcement and supply point in North America — in 1775, the Continental Congress realized the advantages that authorizing a special maritime service would provide. And so, with the goal of executing an amphibious assault on the British lifeline, John Adams penned the following resolution on November 10, 1775:

Resolved, That two Battalions of marines be raised, consisting of

one Colonel, two Lieutenant Colonels, two Majors, and other officers as usual in other regiments; and that they consist of an equal number of privates with other battalions; that particular care be taken, that no persons be appointed to office, or enlisted into said Battalions, but such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve to advantage by sea when required...

The Continental Marines’ First and Only Commandant

The first Marine officer commissioned was Samuel Nicholas, a young Philadelphia Quaker and proprietor of the Conestoga Wagon Tavern. A society man, he belonged to the exclusive Schuylkill Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial fishing endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fox Hunting Club. Perhaps the personal recommendation of a distinguished acquaintance, coupled with some experience in the colonial merchant service, led to his selection. Regardless, Captain Nicholas’s appointment was an indicator: Philadelphia was to be the backdrop for the birth of this specialized force.

Tun Tavern: Birthplace of the Marines

Today, at the intersection of Philadelphia’s South Front Street and Samson Walk, near the waterfront at Penn’s Landing, a marker identifies the former location of Tun Tavern, a three-story watering hole and inn commonly recognized as the birthplace of the United States Marine Corps. Originally founded by Joshua Carpenter in the late 1600s, the structure met its fair share of famous faces and is recognized by the Masonic Temple of Philadelphia as the birthplace of Masonic

teachings in the country. Founding fathers like George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson became acquainted with the establishment as a common meeting place for members of the First and Second Continental Congresses. Members of the Naval Committee of the Continental Congress met at Tun Tavern on several occasions to talk naval and maritime affairs, sparking the conversation about the utility of a Marine force.

The Tun Tavern was co-owned by Robert Mullan when the Continental Congress called for the formation of “two Battalions of marines” in November 1775. Mullan, an acquaintance of Captain Samuel Nicholas, was commissioned as a first lieutenant of the new force. The tavern continued to serve as recruiting station for Continental Marines throughout the Revolution, although it was destroyed by fire in 1781, the same year the British surrendered at Yorktown.

The Continental Fleet and Its Flagship Alfred

Philadelphia’s waterfront was the first major shipping port in North America and, during the Revolution, it served as a vital parking lot for vessels of the fledgling Continental fleet. Among the early ships in this fleet were the *Alfred*, *Columbus*, *Andrew Doria*, *Cabot*, *Providence* and *Fly* — later joined by the *Hornet* and *Wasp*, which had been fitted out in Baltimore. Esek Hopkins was designated by the Naval Committee as commander in chief of the fleet and boarded the flagship *Alfred*. When the Marines received their ship assignments, Nicholas, his two lieutenants and approximately enlisted 60 Marines joined Hopkins on the *Alfred*.

The *Alfred* had an undeniable presence — so much so that she became the subject of an intricately engraved powder horn dating to 1776, carved by an H. Mack and carried by Private Isaac Chalker Ackley, both Connecticut militiamen from East Haddam. It is likely that Mack or Ackley saw the massive vessel when she visited New London, Conn. The *Alfred* had a white bottom, a wide black band along the waterline, vivid yellow sides, 20 9-pounder guns protruding from the lower deck gunports, 10 6-pounders on the upper deck and a figurehead of a sword-bearing, armor-clad man on her bow. While the vessel was captured by the British in 1778 and later sold off, the powder horn can still be found today in the National Museum of the Marine Corps’ Defending the New Republic Gallery in Triangle, Va.

The First Amphibious Landing

In January 1776, the *Alfred* — along with the *Columbus*, *Andrew Doria*, *Cabot*, *Providence* and *Fly* — went south from Philadelphia with the intent to “search out and attack, take or destroy all the Naval forces of our Enemies” in Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay, and later destroy the British naval force in Rhode Island. But winter’s icy waters didn’t agree with that plan, and Hopkins altered the fleet’s plans to sail toward New Providence in the Bahamas to seek out gunpowder and other armaments for the bereft Continental army — but even this envisioned route wouldn’t take form until the Delaware River began to thaw in February.



Tun Tavern Philadelphia, Pa.



Upon arrival, Hopkins hoped to take New Providence before an alarm could be sounded, but blundered by sailing the fleet past its planned landing spot and into eyeshot of the British. The island on alert, Hopkins conferred with his captains and chose to land the Marines on the more obscure eastern shore. From the *Providence* and two captured British sloops, Captain Samuel Nicholas and 234 Marines — boosted by the support of 50 sailors — carried out the Continental Marines’ first amphibious

landing on March 3, 1776. The hybrid force landed unopposed, captured New Providence and seized its two forts. While the island’s Governor Browne snuck more than 150 barrels of gunpowder out before the American landing, the Continental force still procured numerous brass cannons and mortars for George Washington’s army, foreshadowing the Marines’ success in Revolutionary raids to come.

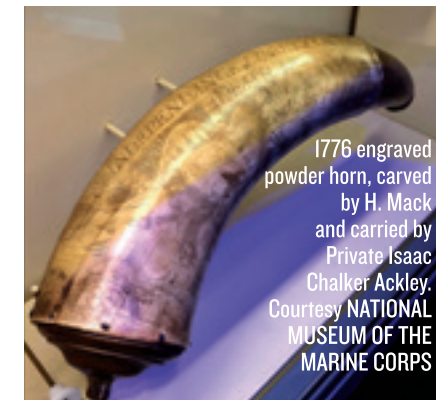
The First Land Combat

In late December 1776, the Marines found themselves not at sea, but on a river, ready to assist Washington in his planned crossing of the Delaware. Although not engaged at Trenton, they joined the main force near

Trenton on the night of January 2, 1777. Attached to General Greene’s Division, they were initially placed in reserve for the next day’s battle at Princeton, but the approximately 130 Marines were called into action at a critical moment. Advancing on the right flank, they managed to slow the British advance, but began to falter under intense fire. Reinforced by timely arrivals and rallied by Washington himself, the Marines recorded their first land action — and victory.

Upon the Revolution’s end with the 1783 Treaty of Paris, the Continental Marines were disbanded — and out of approximately 130 Marine officers and 2,000 enlistees, only 49 were lost in the fight for independence. But the powerful group wouldn’t be gone for long. On July 11, 1798, President John Adams — the man who penned the resolution to establish the Continental Marines — signed a congressional act into law, creating the United States Marine Corps.

To learn more about the fascinating development of this branch of the United States military, check out all that the National Museum of the Marine Corps has to offer at www.usmcmuseum.com.



ANCESTRY
HISTORIC CONNECTIONS IN YOUR FAMILY TREE

DAVID DUNCAN

Trust president has deep roots in the Old Dominion



WHEN YOU START digging into the past, you never know what interesting nuggets you might find.

Trust President David Duncan was well aware of numerous leaves on his family tree representing soldiers who fought in the Civil War — at least eight, many with fascinating service in the Confederation ranks. But the Ancestry team was able to reach significantly farther back, where deep Virginia roots offered up meaningful narratives, including service in other American conflicts.

Henry Cabaniss, his seventh great grandfather, was born in France in the late 1600s and fled religious persecution with other Huguenots. He first made his way to England, then eventually to Virginia in the early 1700s, living there until he died in Prince George County about 1720.

Henry's son Matthew married Hannah Clay, and they eventually settled in Amelia County, Va., where their 12 children were born. Hannah was distantly related to Speaker of the House Henry Clay from Kentucky, who, along with John C. Calhoun, called for the defense of the young country in the War of 1812.

Four of Matthew and Hannah's sons were living in Amelia County, Va., during the Revolutionary War, and while none of them fought, all of them supplied aid and provisions to the troops during the War for Independence.

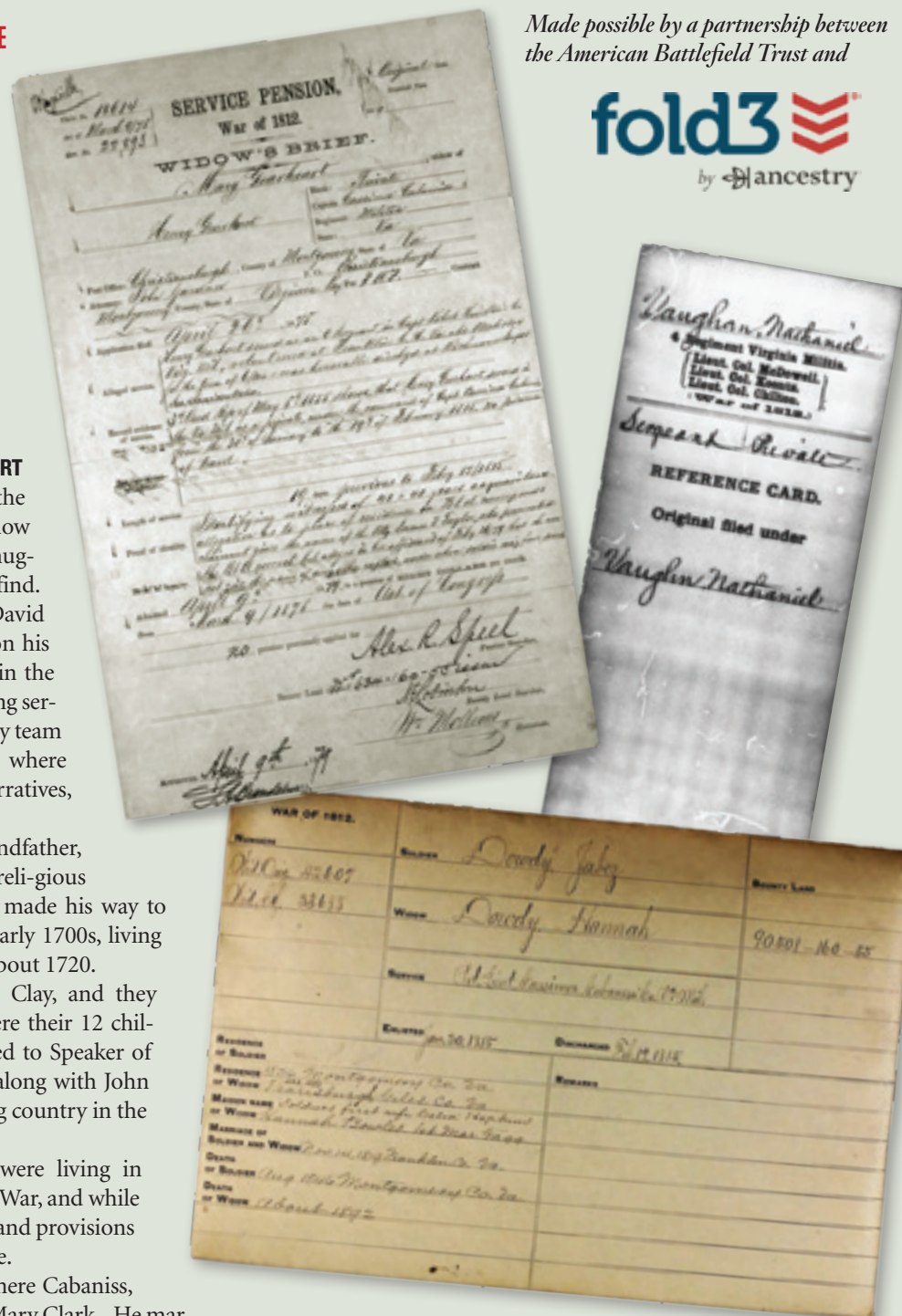
Matthew and Hannah's grandson, Cassimere Cabaniss, was born in Virginia in 1773 to Matthew and Mary Clark. He married Prudence Belcher around 1798, earning his living as a farmer.

He answered his country's call like his father, but his service was as a lieutenant for the 5th Virginia Militia in the War of 1812. Neither Cassimere nor his wife Prudence, who outlived him, filed for a pension, but we do find him mentioned in the pensions of the men who served under him.

Jabez Dowdy served under Cassimere, as did Henry Gearheart. While the Virginia Militia units were not in many conflicts, the state was always under threat of attack, and the men were kept in the field throughout the war.

Along another tree branch, we find David's fourth great grandfather Nathaniel Vaughan of Grayson County, Va. He was the son of Jesse Vaughan and Frances Jones. Nathaniel also served in the War

Made possible by a partnership between the American Battlefield Trust and



WAR OF 1812			
NAME	GRADE	REGIMENT	REMARKS
Jabez Dowdy	Private	5th Virginia Militia	
Henry Gearheart	Private	5th Virginia Militia	
Nathaniel Vaughan	Private	4th Virginia Militia	

of 1812, both as a private and a sergeant in the 4th Virginia Militia. He served long enough and lived long enough to obtain a pension.

Jesse Vaughan, born in 1767, was too young to have served in Revolutionary War, but his older brother William did, serving as a substitute for Jesse and William's father, William. He entered the war in 1780 and spent the winter near Cheraw Hills. He spent the next few months fighting in skirmishes throughout South Carolina.

Details from these earlier wars are more sparse than details about ancestors who served in the Civil War. But identifying those who served puts your family heritage in a new light regarding how they participated to create America. ★

PROFILES in PRESERVATION
RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

RALEIGH WEST
South Carolina Conservation Bank



JUST NORTH of Charleston, S.C., about 30 miles as the crow flies, lies the town of Moncks Corner. During the Revolutionary War, the nearby Cooper River served as the main travel corridor between Charleston and interior Carolina for British forces following the Siege of Charleston in 1780 and the infamous guerrilla warfare campaign conducted by Francis "Swamp Fox" Marion in the surrounding area, which substantially contributed to the collapse of the British Southern Campaign strategy. After the Battle of Eutaw Springs, the British forces retreated from their interior strongholds through Moncks Corner to Charleston, where they remained until the end of the war. Before the Civil War, the landscape was dominated by rice plantations, and its wealthy industrialists began purchasing vast riverfront acreages as personal waterfowl retreats.

Today, Raleigh West, executive director of the South Carolina Conservation Bank, calls the burgeoning Charleston bedroom community of Moncks Corner home. From sunrise in a duck blind on the Cooper River to a sunflower field on the opening day of dove season, the landscape of his homeplace deeply rooted him to the land. But the sad reality is that many of the backdrops to these memories are now gone.

"I think what drives people to believe in conservation is, first, recognizing that the places that hold such deep sentimental value to you, the ones you assumed would always be there, become threatened," West said. "I recall seeing massive development projects on landscape I assumed would always remain in its natural state, and historic properties lost to neglect and conversion, and realizing that I wanted to try to save what was left so my children could have some of the same experiences I was so fortunate to have."

After graduating from Wofford College in Spartanburg with honors, West worked on conservation projects along the Carolina coastline for

the Trust for Public Land while earning an MBA from The Citadel. An economic downturn afforded him time to attend law school, but he never quite escaped the calling of conservation. After less than a year practicing law in Charleston, he left to become the first paid executive director of a land trust in his hometown.

At Lord Berkeley Conservation Trust, West quickly earned a reputation for his tenacity in negotiating complicated land transactions and the polished, but approachable southern demeanor that made him equally comfortable in boardrooms and the backwoods. In a matter of five years, West secured the permanent protection of more than 35,000 acres, including the acquisition of the Revolutionary-era Fort Fair Lawn and a conservation easement on nearly 12,000 acres surrounding the grave of Francis Marion.

In 2019, West became executive director of the South Carolina Conservation Bank, the state agency with the sole mission of protecting important land statewide. The Bank has a broad mandate to protect significant ecological and cultural assets throughout South Carolina, which Raleigh describes as "everything from Revolutionary War battlefields to bottomland swamps to mountain vistas." More often than not, though, those special places that receive funding tend to be where multiple values converge.

The Bank also prides itself on the fiscal responsibility of its program. "I want to leverage the State's investment multiple times over with every project, so that we're getting the most bang for our buck." West views the Bank's contribution as a financial building block from which project funding structures can be designed. "We want to attract federal, local, private and philanthropic partners to every project, so that our investment goes further." In so doing, the Bank's contributions every year generally average to be only a fraction of the market value of the land being protected.

"The seed of every successful conservation effort is borne out of a love for the land and its history. It doesn't matter if you're a biologist, a lawyer, a historian or a stay-at-home parent, you're only going to want to save what you deeply care about. That's why inculcating an appreciation of history in folks of all ages is so important." ★

DON'T THINK TWICE: PURSUE CONTINUING EDUCATION WITH THE TRUST

Teachers can “Log in and Learn” this summer!



ONE OF THE TRUST'S most beloved education programs, the National Teacher Institute, brings K-12 teachers, museum professionals, librarians and trainee educators from around the world together to pursue an immersive learning experience like no other. The Trust realizes the value these individuals bring into classrooms and educational institutions and is committed to equipping them with innovative tools and knowledge from the field. So, to best arm educators with its top-notch tools — while ensuring accessibility and safety —

“Thank you so much to the members that made this year’s Teacher Institute possible in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic! While so much about HOW we will be teaching this coming year is still undecided in many school districts across the country, the fact remains that we WILL be teaching. Workshops like these help us to better utilize the tools already at our disposal and give us new ones (and new ideas) to try with our students.”

“Thank you for making this a free event. There is no budget at my school site for professional development. Opportunities, like attending your conference, inspire me to be a better teacher.”

“This was probably the best organized PD I have ever attended. Staff members did an amazing job organizing the event and keeping all activities on schedule. HUGE THANK YOU to donors that enable the American Battlefield Trust to provide a free and meaningful event for teachers!!”

East Cavalry Field
Gettysburg National Military Park
Gettysburg, Pa.
NOEL KLINE

the Trust will be embarking on its second Virtual Teacher Institute this summer.

Since 2002, the National Teacher Institute had been an in-person event, but COVID restrictions forced the 2020 event to go virtual. That necessary switch allowed the organization to reach 784 educators — more than triple the usual number! This amazing opportunity for connection motivated the Trust to seek out methods to deliver more content to an ever-larger audience, as it hoped to pursue a dual-track program with both in-person and online options. However, as public

health concerns continue to hold, the Trust had to forego the in-person event and refocus its energy into bringing the virtual program to new heights.

Our second annual Virtual Teacher Institute will conveniently bring the Trust’s many experts and speakers to screens near and far, July 13–16, 2021. Modeled on elements from past on-site Teacher Institutes, this online event will feature workshops, lectures and virtual tours that run the gamut and leave attendees considering America’s formative struggles from a wide range of perspectives, both popular and under-told. Last year, attendees raved, noting the variety of topics and the animated and engaging nature of the presenters.

The virtual format provides unparalleled access and the ability to connect with new faces — and at everybody’s favorite price: \$0. For instance, 2020’s Virtual Teacher Institute allowed educators who had not previously attended the program to finally get their chance. Such educators included Carla Smith, who jumped at the opportunity by attending all available sessions and emphasized that she “walked away with an arsenal of new resources and connections.”

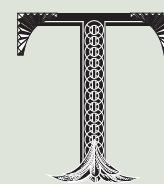
By attending the Virtual Teacher Institute, educators can apply for a Continuing Education Unit (CEU) certificate — provided by the American Battlefield Trust — at the conclusion of the event. Attendees will be required to register for each session they wish to attend and must attend a minimum of six live sessions to qualify for a CEU certificate.

To learn more and keep up to date with the event, visit www.battlefields.org/events/virtual-teacher-institute-2021.★

LEADING *the* CHARGE SALUTING OUR MEMBERS

PRIORITIZING SAFETY, GUEST EXPERIENCE

Trust postpones Annual Conference



THE ONGOING PRESENCE of restrictions on large public gatherings in Virginia has necessitated the difficult decision for the Trust to delay its scheduled Annual Conference in Chantilly. The event will now be held May 11–15, 2022. Guests who had previously completed the process to attend will be contacted about transferring their registration.

“As eager as our Board and staff are to gather on the battlefields with our devoted members, we determined that the hurdles to holding the high-quality events for which we are known were insurmountable,” said Trust President David Duncan. “Health and safety remain our top priorities, but even as the public health crisis begins to abate through vaccination, considerations remain that we know would significantly impact the guest experience in an unacceptable way.”

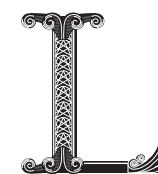
As we have done throughout the past year, we will transition some of the planned content into virtual sessions. In lieu of the large-scale battlefield tours typically held at the Conference, the Trust is inaugurating a series of smaller pop-up tours that will be held on various battlefields throughout the spring and summer months. Our hope is to offer these in greater geographic diversity than we could at a single member event.

Full details about this and other Trust events are available at www.battlefields.org/events.★



PROJECT REVOLUTION:

*Donors Sought to Embrace a Bold Vision for
Education Expansion*



LAST YEAR, for the first time, the Trust formally articulated a vision for its education programs that will drive us forward as we approach the 250th anniversary of the nation’s founding in 2026. In it, we pledged: *Through cutting-edge technology and compelling storytelling, we will become the unrivaled history resource for this crucial era as we bring its battlefields to life.* Our ambitious goal is to reach 100 million Americans with our educational content annually by 2026, a nearly five-fold increase over 2019.

A key aspect of meeting these goals, especially in tying to the upcoming semiquicentennial, is increasing our footprint in the Revolutionary War universe. The Trust was born of Civil War history but has laid the foundation to become a premier public education entity for that earlier era as well. We recognize that doing so will require strategic planning and significant financial investment, and we have united our thinking on both fronts into Project Revolution.

Project Revolution is five-year approach that blends the Trust’s programs, resources and capabilities with the vision of Trustee Tom Hand, who has challenged us to match his lead gift of \$200,000 per year against other donations and federal grants to “spread the American Word” via educational initiatives that focus on the American Revolution. An immediate result of the implementation of this plan is the presence of two Revolutionary War Fellows, greatly increasing our capacity to create quality content related to the Revolutionary War and early republic, including civics-focused topics.

Hand — a West Point graduate, Army veteran, former brand management executive with Proctor & Gamble and Baskin-Robbins and CEO of the Gilman Cheese Corporation — is spending his retirement as a prolific blog author, writing extensively on Revolutionary War and civics topics at www.AmericanaCorner.com. He believes passionately in a positive message of America’s incredible founding and first century of expansion. “I hope to remind my fellow citizens why we all should be grateful for the blessings of this wonderful country,” he says.

If you would like to support Project Revolution by meeting the match challenge issued by Tom Hand and thus enable the Trust meet its goal of reaching almost a third of all Americans with quality history education content, contact Christopher Hackman of the Trust’s development team at chackman@battlefields.org.★

MAKE BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION YOUR LEGACY

More than 1,400 American Battlefield Trust members have made battlefield preservation and education their legacy through membership in our Honor Guard legacy giving society. If you are passionate about preserving hallowed ground, consider joining this special group today!

LEGACY GIVING

LEAVING A GIFT to the Trust through your estate is easier than you think — and may not even require a visit to your lawyer. We pledge to respect you throughout this process, understanding that circumstances or your intentions may change, and honor your desire for anonymity, should you choose. To get started, request our Guide to Legacy Giving by e-mailing legacy@battlefields.org or visiting www.battlefields.org/legacygiving.



STEP 1:
Make an inventory of your assets.
Our *Guide to Legacy Giving* has a chart to use as a guide.

STEP 2:
Decide where your assets should go — and how.
Our *Guide* outlines the five main categories of beneficiaries and different types of charitable gifts you can consider.

STEP 3:
Meet with your attorney, accountant and financial adviser.
See our suggested bequest language and be sure to provide our federal tax ID number.

STEP 4:
Tell the Trust you have included us in your estate plans.
Contact Meaghan K. Hogan at legacy@battlefields.org.

THE HONOR GUARD is the American Battlefield Trust's legacy giving society, made up of committed supporters who are ensuring that endangered battlefield land will be protected and preserved for decades to come. To learn more visit www.battlefields.org/legacygiving or e-mail legacy@battlefields.org.

The American Battlefield Trust is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The federal tax ID number is 54-1426643.
*You may also wish to restrict your gift to fund a certain purpose, please contact Meaghan K. Hogan to discuss options (legacy@battlefields.org). This information should not be construed as tax, investment or estate planning advice. Please consult your estate planning attorney, accountant and financial adviser before making financial decisions.



Trust members in coastal Georgia exploring its hallowed ground. MIKE TALPLACIDO



Annual Conference Perryville Battlefield, Ky. BUDDY SECOR

A LEGACY GIFT DELIVERS LONG-LASTING IMPACT BY...

- ★ helping the American Battlefield Trust preserve even more hallowed ground for future generations
- ★ funding educational programs, restoration and interpretation of battlefield land
- ★ going directly to a particular program or use of your choice — or being sent where need is considered greatest upon receipt

Consider making YOUR permanent mark on the preservation movement by joining the Honor Guard today, a group that is already more than 1,400-strong and always in need of additional members to inspire this and future generations to action — so that the places that make up our American story are cherished for ages to come.

GIVE THROUGH YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN

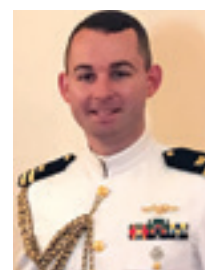
YOU MAY WANT to consider making the Trust a beneficiary of your retirement plan. Simply complete the beneficiary form from your plan administrator and update the beneficiaries. This is easy and makes sense tax-wise (retirement plan distributions are taxable, so if you leave a retirement plan's assets to your heirs, they may face double taxation). The Trust can also serve as a beneficiary on life insurance plans, checking, savings or brokerage accounts, as well as donor-advised fund residuals.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE INCLUDED THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS

HAVE YOU already included the Trust in your estate plans? Please let us know by completing our online confidential Declaration of Intent form online at <https://americanbattlefieldlegacy.org/declaration-of-intent/> or by e-mailing Meaghan K. Hogan at legacy@battlefields.org.



Color Bearers Weekend Chalmette, La. BUDDY SECOR



“The American Battlefield Trust allows me to participate in the tangible, measurable preservation of our priceless heritage... If our ancestors gave their lives, can we not come together to give a fraction of the fruits of freedom we now enjoy so to honor their sacrifice?”

— LT HOBART K. KISTLER, SC, USN
HONOR GUARD MEMBER



AMERICAN
BATTLEFIELD
TRUST ★ ★ ★

PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.

1156 15th Street NW,
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005

Ready to TIME TRAVEL?

SCAN THIS CODE with your smartphone to preview how we are using augmented reality to interpret land you are helping the Trust save. Use your phone's camera or use a QR Code reader app to be automatically taken to an online demonstration of this groundbreaking technology.

BONUS: You'll be able to enter to win a signed copy of *Battle Maps of the Civil War Volume 2: The Western Theater*.



**DIGITALLY REBUILD
COLD HARBOR
TAVERN!!**



**Aim your phone's camera at
this Code or use a QR code reader.**