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AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

# HALLOWED GROUND

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THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST preserves our nation's hallowed battlegrounds and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters today. We permanently protect these battlefields as a lasting and tangible memorial to the brave soldiers who fought in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Thanks to the contributions of more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide, we have preserved more than 54,000 acres, 143 sites in 24 states. For more information, call 800-298-7878 or visit our website at [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org). *Hallowed Ground* is the membership magazine of the American Battlefield Trust. It is produced solely for non-profit educational purposes and every reasonable attempt is made to provide accurate and appropriate attribution for all elements, including those in the public domain. Contemporary images are reproduced only with permission and appropriate attribution; uncredited images are courtesy of the American Battlefield Trust. Feature articles reflect the research and opinion of the bylined author. ©2022 American Battlefield Trust.

CORRECTION: The Trust regrets the following error that appeared in our Winter 2021 issue: On page 42, in our listing of decorated veteran members, the honors carried by LuAnn Fortenberry were misidentified. She should have been listed as the recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal.

Sunset regimental review at  
U.S. Coast Guard Academy  
New London, Ct.  
PETTY OFFICER  
3RD CLASS MATT THIEME



**I** WAS EXCITED when I learned this issue of *Hallowed Ground* would focus on America's military service academies. Not because I ever had the honor of attending one; in fact, my only real regret in life is that I did not serve in the armed forces, and therefore feel that I have missed out on a very important experience. Perhaps that's one reason why I have spent 22 years of my professional life attempting to preserve the places where others served to create and define this amazing country.

But as our television screens fill with images of tanks rolling through bombed-out city streets as civilian refugees flee for their lives, images we had hoped were relegated to bygone days, it emphasizes the importance of always maintaining a core of military professionals willing to do whatever it takes to protect the rest of us, our families, our homes, our freedoms and our way of life.

This hit home when Quinnipiac College released a poll conducted in the first week after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The poll asked several questions about the public's perceptions of the invasion before getting to — to me — the most important question. Simply stated, participants were asked: "If you were in the same position as Ukrainians are now, do you think you would stay and fight, or would you leave the country?" The pollsters led with the headline that "a majority of Americans would stay and fight," and that sounded reassuring, until one drilled deeper into the numbers. That "majority" was 55 percent. — *Only 55 percent*, I wondered? — but as I studied the data, a more troubling insight emerged. In the age group of 18–34-year-olds, 45 percent said they would stay and fight; 48 percent said they would leave the country.

Older age groups tended to answer "stay and fight" in greater numbers, which helped raise the overall percentages. But the high number of younger people who answered that they would "leave the country" surprised me. It reminded me of another survey, from 2020, in which a majority of those in roughly that same age group disagreed with the statement that "America is the greatest

nation on earth." Taken together, these surveys highlight a growing concern I know many of you share: A majority of those coming of age today — our country's future leaders — are questioning whether we are a great and good nation, or one worth fighting for. To me, that is an urgent call to action.



Even as the preservation of threatened historic battlefield land remains our driving focus — as data centers, warehouse distribution complexes and utility-scale solar farms threaten to overwhelm every acre of unprotected battlefield land within a one-day car trip of Richmond — we cannot lose even one more day in accelerating our efforts to increase our educational reach and impact. We must increase our efforts to save the outdoor classrooms threatened as never before, and then, we must do even more to educate people as to why these places still matter today and pass along the lessons those places teach. Urgently, we must do all we can to instill a love for and appreciation of our amazing history in everyone, but especially in younger people, who are navigating a culture where traditional norms of patriotism are sometimes regarded as less essential qualities.

But these qualities, as we have seen in the inspiring defense of Ukraine by its military and its private citizens, are more essential than ever. As Thomas Paine wrote in the introduction to *Common Sense*, "The cause of America is in great measure the cause of all mankind." He published those words 246 years ago, but they have never been more true. And I believe that cause is worth preserving, worth learning about, absolutely still worth fighting for. I take comfort in knowing that there ARE exceptional young men and women — those who make up the various corps of cadets and midshipmen at our service academies — who feel the same and decidedly WILL stay and fight. They have chosen to make it their lives' work to safeguard what we hold dear.

*David N. Duncan*

DAVID N. DUNCAN  
President, American Battlefield Trust

President Portrait by BUDDY SECOR

## EMBRACING THE WARRIOR LEGACY

The Trust's Warrior Legacy project showcases the deep connections today's veterans and active-duty military retain to their historical forebearers. Historic battlefields help bridge the eras. The organization's online Warrior Legacy hub helps support these links through feature films, military histories, information on military outreach, staff ride support and more. Discover these resources at [www.battlefields.org/warriorlegacy](http://www.battlefields.org/warriorlegacy).

## In the Footsteps of Heroes

The Medal of Honor Valor Trail connects you to the places most deeply linked with Medal of Honor recipients from the Civil War through the 21st century. Learn more about these incredible stories of valor. Visit the places where you can feel closest to them. Be inspired by their example. Learn more at [www.valortrail.org](http://www.valortrail.org)

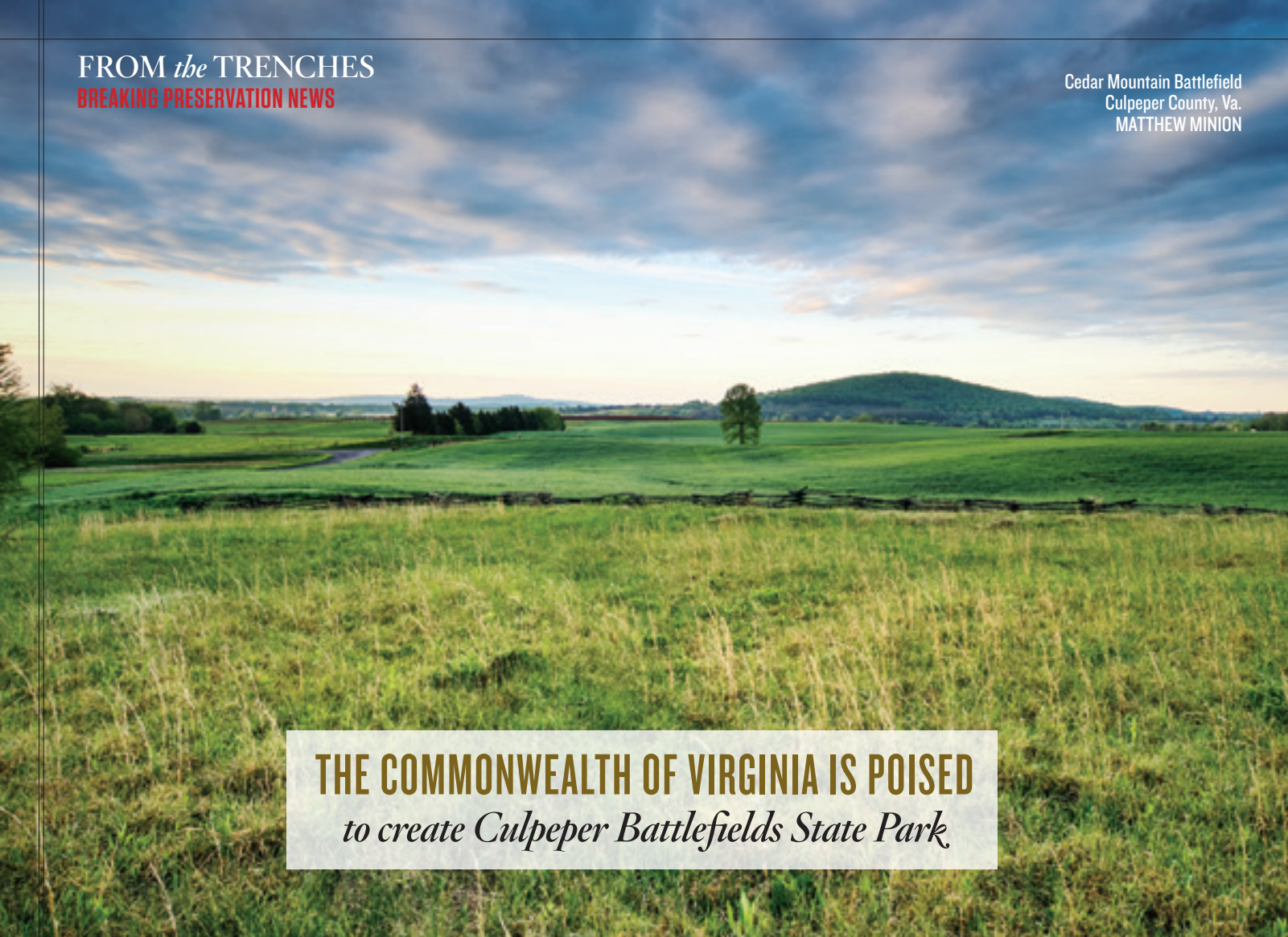
## A LONG TRADITION OF SERVICE

Watch as Damon and Edward Radcliffe trace the footsteps of their ancestor, First Sgt. Edward Ratcliff, in an exhilarating video filmed on location at spots critical to Ratcliff's journey. From the Hankins Farm to the New Market Heights Battlefield, the brothers ponder the bravery Ratcliff demonstrated as he departed the farm where he was enslaved to seek out the life of a soldier — one ready to go above and beyond. And that he did at New Market Heights, where his gallant actions earned him the Medal of Honor. But the patriotism didn't end there, as the family carries on an enduring legacy. See for yourself on the Trust's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/americanbattlefieldtrust](http://www.youtube.com/americanbattlefieldtrust).

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The beach on Morris Island in Charleston Harbor, S.C. where the 54th Massachusetts Regiment stormed Fort Wagner. CHARLES HARRIS

[www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org) AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST



## THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA IS POISED to create *Culpeper Battlefields State Park*

**A**

**FTER YEARS** of hope and anticipation among locals and the preservation community, the Commonwealth of Virginia is poised to create a new state park encompassing the important Civil War battlefields and scenic surroundings in Culpeper County.

The process kickstarted in January when Gov. Glenn Youngkin included a budget amendment requesting creation of a state battlefield park in Culpeper County, as part of a package of legislative initiatives and priorities submitted to the General Assembly at the outset of his term. In response and after further review, both the House and Senate included language for creation of the park in the budgets passed in February.

The Culpeper Battlefields State Park initiative is a proposal to create a state park from a critical mass of more than 1,700 acres of preserved lands on the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain Battlefields. While this landscape's overarching national significance is associated with famous Civil War battles and events, the region is rich in history and culture. The pristine countryside visible today retains the imprint

of its first Native people and the generations that followed.

State Sen. Bryce Reeves, long a champion of a state park in Culpeper County, played a key role in building momentum for the effort, supported by a bipartisan group of legislators, including: Delegates Robert Bloxon, Barry Knight, Paul Krizek, Alfonso Lopez, Daniel Marshall, Mark Sickles and Michael Webert, plus Senators George Barker, Creigh Deeds, Emmett Hanger, David Marsden, Chap Petersen and Jill Vogel. They are joined by a long-standing coalition of national and local preservation organizations, regional officials and local citizens. In 2016, the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors and the Culpeper Town Council both passed resolutions endorsing a state battlefield park in Culpeper County.

If the current budget language is approved, the new state park will open on July 1, 2023 — little more than a year away. In anticipation of the event, the Trust history and education team is working to upgrade interpretive trails on the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain battlefields this year.

Nestled in the Virginia Piedmont, Culpeper County is widely recognized for its scenic character, natural beauty and abundant history. In addition, its location between the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers made it an area of strategic importance during the Civil War.★

## LIBERTY TRAIL APP GOES LIVE!

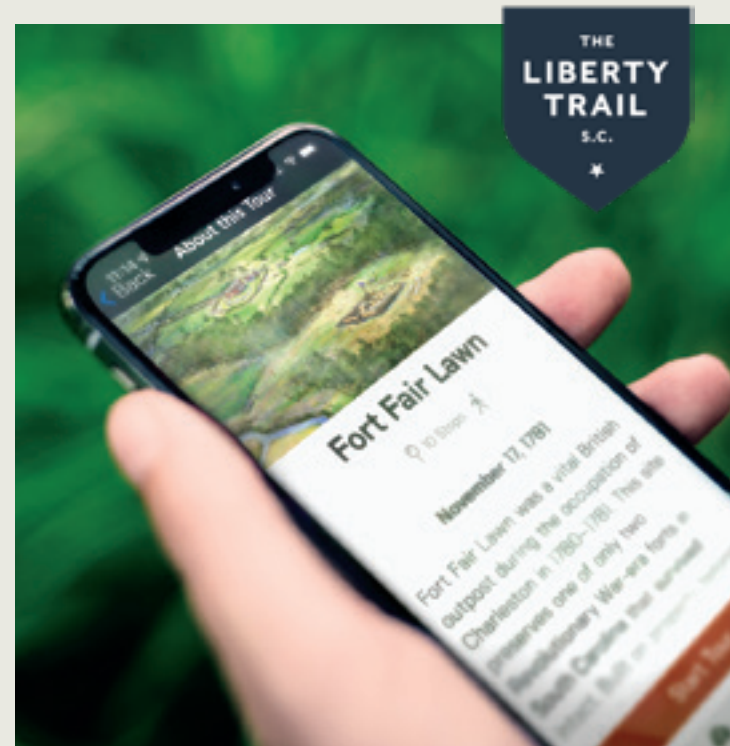
*Digital tour brings South Carolina's  
Revolutionary past to life*

**M**

**ORE THAN** a dry history lesson, the Liberty Trail app — now available for free through Google Play and the Apple Store — includes interpretation for 30 stops across the state, ranging from national and state parks to once-secret locations. Modern photography and 360-degree virtual tours, historical illustrations, original artwork and battle maps provide an exceptionally comprehensive travel companion, shedding light on the role of the state in the fight for liberty. Driving directions help users travel between sites, exploring communities and encountering local gems.

“More than 240 years may have passed since the British seized Charleston in 1780 and legendary Patriot figures like the ‘Swamp Fox’ Francis Marion and the ‘Fighting Gamecock’ Thomas Sumter waged their unorthodox campaigns in the swamps and backcountry, but the past is still evident across South Carolina,” said American Battlefield Trust President David Duncan. “This mobile app provides a glimpse of the past on a modern-day landscape and invites users to imagine walking in the footsteps of those who fought for our liberty.”

The Liberty Trail is a joint effort of the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust and the American Battlefield Trust, supported by numerous partners at the local, state and federal levels. The new app covering sites statewide builds upon some two dozen Trust battlefield trails and sites. Future iterations of the app will further enrich the experience and include features such as augmented reality, local insider tips for lodging and dining and short videos. Thanks to funding support from the federal American Battlefield Protection Program and State of South Carolina, elements like an augmented reality rendering of the colossal Horn Work in Charleston's Marion Square will soon be brought to digital reality. Learn more at [www.battlefields.org/LibertyTrailApp](http://www.battlefields.org/LibertyTrailApp).★



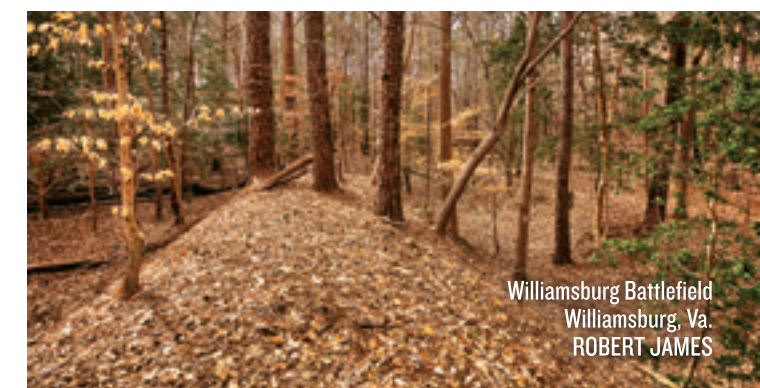
## DONORS STEP UP AT WILLIAMSBURG

*to protect the James Custis Farm*

**I**

**N THE CLOSING DAYS** of December, the Trust successfully completed the purchase of the James Custis Farm, a 245-acre property at the heart of the Williamsburg Battlefield with centuries of history. The approximately \$9.4-million inclusive cost makes the project the second-most expensive private battlefield acquisition in American history, but thanks to an exceptional confluence of grant funding from the National Park Service, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Department of Defense, only \$57,000 was needed in gifts from individual donors when fundraising began in February.

“The sheer number of categories in which this project is ‘one for the record books’ is astounding,” said Trust President



Williamsburg Battlefield  
Williamsburg, Va.  
ROBERT JAMES

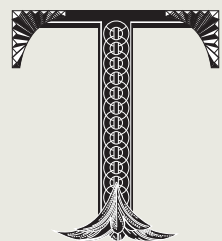
David Duncan. “Not only was it awarded the largest matching grant in the history of the federal American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), but it also includes one of the most staggering matching opportunities ever offered to our members — a monumental \$163-to-\$1 return on donations.”

The property's history dates to the 1690s, when it was originally known as “Fouace's Quarter” after Stephen Fouace, one of the original trustees of the College of William and Mary. It later became associated with Carter's Grove Plantation and before the outbreak of the Civil War, James W. Custis, who served in the Virginia State Senate and House of Delegates, operated the site. It is also a battleground of national significance, where, on the morning of May 5, 1862, Union soldiers turned the tide of the Battle of Williamsburg and Brig. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock his sobriquet “Hancock the Superb.”

“The James Custis Farm is the heart of this battlefield, and its protection is a major milestone that is poised to help us tell important stories like never before,” said Drew Gruber, president of the Williamsburg Battlefield Association, which has advocated for protection of the farm for more than a decade.★



## BATTLE STATIONS! *Infrastructure development targets Virginia*



**THE MODERN BATTLEFIELD** preservation movement may have been born out of the suburban boom around Washington, D.C., in the 1980s, but the current explosion of development across Northern Virginia is not limited to the all-too-familiar subdivisions and strip malls. In addition, we are confronted with very 21st-century types of infrastructure that require vast amounts of land and municipal services.

Now we face data centers (which require enormous amounts of electricity and other utilities to power both computer servers and air conditioning to prevent overheating), warehouse distribution complexes (which often require new roads and additional infrastructure) and utility-scale solar farms (to power all of the above, often mandated by the state as a form of green energy).

One company is advertising the region as “The Data Center Hotspot of the World!” Not to mention the *millions* of square feet of warehouse capacity being constructed along Interstate 95 between Richmond and Washington, much of it designed to facilitate demand for overnight shipping up and down the East Coast. That’s on top of construction of new toll lanes, overpasses, bridges and the general widening of travel lanes to handle all of the extra truck and commuter traffic.

This is a critical moment for the battlefield preservation movement, as the Trust adapts to advocate against these nontraditional threats — development that feeds more development. We are not against such projects in principle, recognizing that our modern way of life must be supported with infrastructure. However, careful siting of such projects and thoughtful land-use planning will allow our communities to thrive and our priceless history to be protected.

Unfortunately, in early April, the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors overruled a planning committee recommendation — and significant opposition from residents and the preservation community — to green-light a data center proposal near Hansborough Ridge on the Brandy Station Battlefield. Worse still, the project would be a visual blight on what is poised to become the newest Virginia State Park. ★

## THE EYE-OPENING ROAD TO FREEDOM

*steers toward success,  
earns global award*



**TRUST** digital tour guide showcasing scores of Virginia sites integral to the Black experience during the Civil War era has received a Silver Award in the Education, Art, & Culture division of the inaugural Anthem Awards. This new initiative of the Webby Awards celebrating purpose and mission-driven work is presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts & Sciences (IADAS). Other honorees in the Trust’s category include the National Geographic Society and Center for Inspired Teaching.

The “Road to Freedom” program, created through a partnership between the American Battlefield Trust and Civil War Trails, Inc., with assistance from the African American Heritage Preservation Foundation, offers free physical and digital products — 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 locales across Virginia, a key Civil War battleground state and an important passageway in the Underground Railroad. Sites stretch from Alexandria, just outside Washington, D.C., to Abingdon, near the Tennessee border, and tell 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.

Renee Ingram, president and founder of the African American Heritage Preservation Foundation, praised the work done on the project, which adds layers of context and history, including first-person narratives and multimedia elements. “The stories embodied along the Road to Freedom, like the Freedman’s Village established on the grounds of what is now Arlington National Cemetery, are rich and profound. It’s an honor to be part of a project that enables users to stand at these places and contemplate the threads that tie past and present together.” Learn more at [www.battlefields.org/RoadtoFreedom](http://www.battlefields.org/RoadtoFreedom). ★



## DISCOVER “UNTOLD” STORIES OF THE CIVIL WAR *with the newest installment of How We Became America*



**AFTER THE SUCCESS** of our first installment last summer, we’ve expanded our *How We Became America: The Untold History* series of video shorts.

This series is made for students and teachers, but easy-to-consume by all. It is designed to use eye-catching animation and a slightly irreverent spin to fill in the gaps and bring interesting stories to life. While our first batch of videos focused on the Revolution, the 15 new episodes cast an eye toward the Civil War.

A conflict of immense depth, the Civil War is explored through several lenses in the *Untold* series. Viewers will learn about such things as the vital roles of women during the war, the emergence of new technologies and innovations, how the camera changed the way war was viewed by



the mass public, the great weight of the two-minute Gettysburg Address, the evolution of medical kits and how they empowered medics in the field, how Native Americans chose sides in the war and why Black soldiers put their lives on the line to preserve the Union. And at no longer than three minutes, they are sure to hold even the shortest of attention spans.

*How We Became America: The Untold History* stems from the partnership of the American Battlefield Trust and the Driving Force Institute for Public Engagement (DFI), and this latest Civil War installment received generous financial support from the HTR Foundation. Later this year and into 2023, we will add more videos on topics associated with the American Revolution, with great thanks to grant funding from the Americans Battlefield Protection Program.

Watch the latest *Untold* videos at [www.battlefields.org/untold](http://www.battlefields.org/untold). ★

## CELEBRATING OUR 150TH BATTLEFIELD *at Great Bridge Revolutionary War site*



Great Bridge Battlefield  
Chesapeake, Va.  
MELISSA SADLER



**AS THE NEW YEAR DAWNED**, the Trust celebrated a major milestone — declaring victory on an acquisition at our 150th site, the Revolutionary War’s Great Bridge Battlefield in Virginia.

Not only that, we crested 54,000 total acres protected just in time to begin our 35th anniversary year.

Part of the modern city of Chesapeake, Va., Great Bridge is surrounded by development threats. The 0.66-acre tract the Trust saved had been listed “for lease,” with a sign planted on the land advertising the development of a strip shopping center on the hallowed ground. There, on December 9, 1775, Virginia Patriots were matched against the forces of colonial governor Lord Dunmore.

Upon British artillery firing from Fort Murray toward Patriot works, the alarm was raised by sentries on the bridge, who slowed the British advance long enough for the militiamen to man their defenses. Guarded by their works, the Patriots unleashed a surprising, sudden fire, causing the British to suffer enormously.

The battle ended after less than 30 minutes in a Patriot victory, the first notable one of the war. This was especially significant as the untried volunteers stood their ground against an enemy that included professionally trained British Regulars. Defeat at Great Bridge forced Dunmore, British Royal Governor of Virginia, and his soldiers to evacuate and ultimately leave Virginia in the new year. Six months after the battle, the Virginia delegation to the Continental Congress introduced the resolution that resulted in the Declaration of Independence. ★

## MEDAL OF HONOR VALOR TRAIL

*invites Americans to follow in the footsteps of heroes*

**T**HE TRUST believes deeply in the power of place, the unique ability for landscapes to teach meaningful and compelling lessons to those who follow in the footsteps of history. And through an ongoing, multifaceted collaboration with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society (CMOHS), the Trust is working to, quite literally, place valor on the map, connecting to the battlefields where Medal of Honor recipients performed their acts above and beyond the call of duty, and sharing their remarkable stories of service.

The Medal of Honor Valor Trail™ will weave the stories of the nation's highest decoration for valor with the places most deeply connected with Medal of Honor recipients — battlefields and historic sites, hometowns and burial places, namesake sites, monuments and museums. The envisioned trail will span centuries — from the Civil War through the present — and continents, showcasing the diverse universe of inspirational recipients who have worn the Medal.



Medal of Honor recipients placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

“There is no higher honor our country can bestow than the Medal of Honor,” said American Battlefield Trust President David Duncan. “This award really is synonymous with the best of who we are as Americans and the ideals of valor, patriotism and self-sacrifice. But the dramatic stories behind the awarding of many of these medals are rarely told at the places where they unfolded. We aim to change that.”

The Medal of Honor Valor Trail™ is envisioned to include signage elements to augment existing on-site interpretation,



Medal of Honor  
VALOR TRAIL



installed gradually and in partnership with management entities. A website that provides a flavor of the myriad appropriate sites launched at [ValorTrail.org](http://ValorTrail.org) on March 25 — National Medal of Honor Day, marking the date the first awards were presented in 1863 — and will continue to grow, highlighting the most compelling content created by the Trust and CMOHS, independently and jointly. The new venture was celebrated at events in the Washington area, including a wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, and at the Society's headquarters aboard the USS Yorktown near Charleston, S.C.

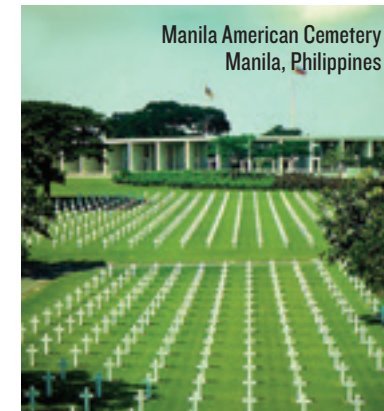
Medal of Honor recipient and Society President Leroy Petry



Medal of Honor recipient Britt Slabinski at the Slaughter Pen Farm at the Fredericksburg Battlefield, in Virginia where five recipients were awarded for valor. ROBERT MAXWELL



Joshua L. Chamberlain Museum Brunswick, Maine



Manila American Cemetery Manila, Philippines



Recipients honored on Medal of Honor Day at Patriots Point in South Carolina. TOWN HALL OF MOUNT PLEASANT

tion underfoot, but naturally extends even to other conflicts. And placing powerful personal stories, such as those of Medal of Honor recipients, into that context furthers the impact.

“Being at a battlefield where you know that individuals sacrificed their lives is a profound experience,” said WWII Medal of Honor recipient Woody Williams, who visited Gettysburg with the Trust as part of its 2019 Brothers in Valor project to have living recipients tell parallel Civil War stories. “We need these places to keep reminding us of those who gave more than any of us.... We, as a country, can't forget. We should never forget what their sacrifices have made possible.”

Recognizing that inherent connection between story and place, the Trust worked with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society to create an interactive map on the Trust website that identifies locations for all 1,500-plus Civil War citations, tying in biographical information — sometimes scant for these earliest awards — about the recipients.

In many ways, the Medal of Honor Valor Trail™ is a natural growth of that earlier collaboration, a marriage of story and place for the full lineage of the Medal. With celebrations of America's 250th birthday only a few years away, there is no better time to

reacquaint Americans hungry for history with these authentic stories of valor.★  
Visit [www.ValorTrail.org](http://www.ValorTrail.org).



Henry Johnson Memorial Albany, N.Y.



Sergeant York Walking Trail Chatel-Chéhéry, France

## EDWARD RATCLIFF'S LEGACY

*Born a slave, Medal of Honor recipient  
inspired generations of descendants  
to service*

Brothers Damon (left), a law enforcement officer, and Edward Radcliffe, a U.S. Marine, retrace the assault made by their great-great-grandfather, one of 14 USCT soldiers who received the Medal of Honor at New Market Heights.



**WE CAN OFTEN TURN** to our family history to explain many of the features we inherit, but for Damon and Edward Radcliffe, the story of their Civil War ancestor does not explain such things as a long line of brown eyes or an aversion to cilantro — but instead a multigenerational focus on patriotism and service.

Today, you can find Damon serving as a lieutenant in the York-Poquoson (Va.) Sheriff's Office. Meanwhile, his brother Edward is a master sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps. In September 1864, their second great-grandfather, First Sgt. Edward Ratcliff, served with Company C of the 38th U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) at the Battle of New Market Heights — also known as Chapin's Farm. Edward exhibited a degree of bravery that the average civilian cannot easily comprehend when he led his company forward in combat after the fall of his commanding officer. Not only that, he was the "first enlisted man to enter the enemy's works." His gallant actions were cemented in history forever when he was recognized with the Medal of Honor.

### FIRST SERGEANT EDWARD RATCLIFF'S MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION:

*Commanded and gallantly led his company after the commanding officer had been killed; was the first enlisted man to enter the enemy's works.*

This past summer, the Radcliffe brothers went on a journey through their extraordinary ancestor's footsteps, visiting the Hankins Farm and the New Market Heights Battlefield.

Upon arrival at the Hankins Farm — the ground on which his second great-grandfather was enslaved in James City County, Va. — Damon said, "There was a heart flutter when we pulled into the driveway up front, which I guess it could be him saying, 'Hey, this is where it all began.'"

To the brothers, this place is charged with emotion, as they considered their ancestor's experience on the property and imagined the cour-

### PHOTOGRAPHY by JAY PAUL

age it took for him to leave at age 29. He proceeded to make the 16-mile trek to Yorktown to enlist in the Union army in January 1864 — as a man fighting to keep his freedom.

Melvin Morris, a Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor recipient for his actions at Chi Lang, accompanied them, reflecting on his own experiences while envisioning the long-ago life of a fellow soldier of color. Morris expressed his curiosity for Ratcliff's path to service when he said, "He could've gone anywhere; why would he join the Union army after he got his freedom?"

While we'll never know his exact thoughts, it is known that the recruitment of U.S. Colored Troops was on the rise, and Ratcliff chose to answer that call. Within a month of his enlistment, Ratcliff was promoted from private to first sergeant, signifying that he was looked upon highly by both his peers and superiors — likely for his ability to lead.

While USCT were often called upon for labor, especially the building of fortifications, combat was not as common. But in his eighth month in service, Ratcliff dove into combat with a grit that allowed him to guide and inspire the men fighting by his side at New Market Heights.

Great-great-grandsons Damon and Edward pause to think about what this meant to their ancestor and his fellow soldiers, as it was likely that they had yet to be in combat. "I couldn't imagine what any of the men were going through, let alone an ancestor of mine." Yet, these current-day men have carried Ratcliff's attitude into their careers and everyday lives, putting their lives on the line to serve the greater good.

"They're patriots, and that's what [Ratcliff] was," Morris said. "He wanted freedom for all. He had a dream about the new United States. And so that was his legacy, and it's being carried forward."

The Trust has saved 87 acres at the New Market Heights Battlefield and intends to acquire more acreage as opportunities arise, partly motivated by the powerful stories — like Ratcliff's — woven into the fabric of the landscape. Damon noted, "Being here [at New Market Heights], being the hallowed ground that it is, and knowing that Edward traversed through this very path, it's almost unimaginable without this [land] being here."★



Melvin Morris, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War, expounds on what the USCT soldiers might have experienced physically and emotionally during the battle.



Damon Radcliffe walks the Hankins Farm, near Williamsburg, Va., where his ancestor was born and enslaved for 29 years until joining the Union army. Like generations before him, Radcliffe still lives in the area.



During the battle, the 5th USCT was pinned down in the ravine created by Four Mile Creek for some 30 minutes. It's likely this artillery maelstrom wounded his officer, forcing Ratcliffe to step forward and lead the assault. The physical landscape brought the story alive like never before for the brothers.

## AVERASBORO RECEIVES A HELPING HAND

*Eagle Scout project expands engagement*



**STARTING THE NEW YEAR** on a purposeful note, Cole Sumner took to the Averasboro Battlefield to complete his Eagle Scout service project on January 1. The Dunn, N.C., teen, with help from fellow Scouts and parents of Dunn Troop No. 711, worked to bring access to a segment of the battlefield previously saved by the Trust.

“The American Battlefield Trust provided us with this land, and we are thrilled to make good use of it,” notes C.C. Livingston, the Averasboro Battlefield and Museum’s director of operations. Expanding the interpretive experience, Sumner’s project falls in line with hopes to attract an increased number of visitors to Harnett and Cumberland Counties. Over the years, the work of Scouts has had a positive impact on the Tarheel State site, as the Averasboro Battlefield Commission, Inc. decided early in its formation to embrace partner projects with these motivated young people.

While the battlefield benefits from enhancements, Scouts gain valuable project planning and implementation experience. Boy Scouts working toward the rank of Eagle are also met with challenges in leadership, demonstrated as they provide direction and guidance



Cole Sumner, along with fellow Scouts and parents, at the Averasboro Battlefield, Dunn, N.C., COLE SUMNER

to individuals assisting on service projects. The Eagle Scout Award is the highest award in the Boy Scouts of America and is earned through an incredible degree of hard work and perseverance.

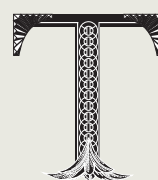
Sumner’s service project will act as a bridge to bring his community closer to its Civil War past. The Battle of Averasboro unfolded across the Smithville Plantation on March 16, 1865, and ended with no clear victor. However, it set the stage for the Battle of Bentonville, when Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman and Confederate Gen. Joseph Johnston met in the war’s final clash in the Carolinas. Within a month, the two generals met at Bennett Place to discuss terms of surrender.

Today, the Averasboro Battlefield Commission, Inc. holds the responsibility of preserving and presenting this history, via driving tour and a museum and visitor center. In this endeavor, the group has found great value in partnering with local and national groups, such as the Trust, which has protected 569 acres at Averasboro.

Learn more about this increasingly dynamic North Carolina battlefield site at [www.averasboro.com](http://www.averasboro.com).★

## IN MEMORIAM

*Robert Hicks and Mary Ann Peckham*



**THE VOLUNTEER STATE** lost two titans of preservation this winter with the passing of Franklin visionary and self-described scribbler Robert Hicks and Mary Ann Peckham, who spent a career with

the National Park Service before joining preservation nonprofits as a second act. Both stalwarts were deeply concerned with the dynamic individual stories that make up our shared history and left indelible marks — physically on the landscapes of Tennessee and spiritually on the broader battlefield preservation movement.

Hicks (1951–2022) was a two-time New York Times bestselling author who rose to fame with the 2005 publication of *The Widow of the South*, centered on the real-life figure of Carrie McGavock, who buried some 1,500 Confederate dead around her home at Carnton Plantation on the Franklin Battlefield, which

he had helped restore. At the same time, Hicks was leading the nonprofit Franklin’s Charge, campaigning to protect the Eastern Flank property at Franklin, completed with the aid of a Trust predecessor organization. His charisma and enthusiasm drew national attention to Franklin and helped turn it from a cautionary tale into a preservation miracle, with the battlefield reclaimed lot by lot to create a downtown park. An evangelist for the preservation movement, he received the Trust’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018. It is especially fitting that he was laid to rest in the cemetery at Carnton.

Peckham (1951–2022) was the longtime executive director of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association, a landmark statewide preserva-

tion organization. But nonprofits were a second career, following exceptional federal service within the National Park System. Her first duty station was at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, followed by tenures at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Blue Ridge Parkway, plus special assignments in historical research and interpretation at Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park. From 1989 to 2001, she was the superintendent of Stones River National Battlefield and oversaw the creation of the Friends of Stones River, an organization that remains active and has played a key role in the Trust’s recent preservation victories at the Tuskegee Park Service sites. She was a leading voice in the systemwide movement to ensure that individual battle histories were contextualized against the larger political, social and cultural elements of the period. In 2017, the Trust honored Peckham with our State Preservation Leadership Award.

The Trust and the entire preservation movement are richer for having enjoyed the friendship and collaboration of Mary Ann and Robert, and we join their families in mourning them. We will strive to continue their legacies, in Tennessee and beyond.★



## PARK DAY 2022

*uplifts historic sites throughout the nation!*



**FOR 26 YEARS**, thousands of volunteers have gathered at battlefields and historic sites across the nation to participate in the Trust’s Park Day clean-up effort. Including Boy and Girl Scouts, Rotarians, Lions Club members, church groups, ROTC units, youth groups, Wounded Warrior groups and many others, more than 450,000 cumulative hours of labor have been contributed to projects large and small to keep our nation’s heritage not only preserved, but also pristine.

This event allows the Trust to cast a spotlight on beloved American landscapes nationwide. Projects will keep historic sites and battlefields clean, open and accessible for the enjoyment of all — this year, Park Day projects included painting signs, garden maintenance, trash and leaf removal, marker clean-up, trail and fence building and more!

“For years, Park Day has been a time to hit ‘refresh’ and bring our country’s historic gems to their best and brightest state,” notes American Battlefield Trust President David Duncan. We thank the following sites for their participation in this year’s Park Day effort, which took place largely on April 9, 2022.★

### ALABAMA

Historic Blakeley State Park

### ARKANSAS

Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park

### CONNECTICUT

Fort Trumbull State Park

### DELAWARE

Fort Delaware State Park

### GEORGIA

Dunagan Cemetery  
Fort McAllister State Historic Park  
Kettle Creek Battlefield  
Prater’s Mill Historic Site  
Resaca Confederate Cemetery  
Shoupade Park

### IDAHO

Morris Hill Pioneer Cemetery

### ILLINOIS

General John A. Logan Museum

### INDIANA

General Lew Wallace Study and Museum

### KANSAS

Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park  
Mine Creek Battlefield

### KENTUCKY

Battle for the Bridge Preserve  
Camp Nelson National Monument  
Columbus-Belmont State Park  
Fort Boone Civil War Battle Site

Historic Coburn-Baker Cemetery  
Middle Creek National Battlefield  
Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument  
Perryville Battlefield  
Richmond Battlefield Park  
Tebbs Bend Battlefield

### LOUISIANA

Camp Moore Historical Association  
Mansfield State Historic Site  
Port Hudson State Historic Site

### MARYLAND

Antietam National Battlefield  
Fort Washington Park  
Monocacy National Battlefield  
Point Lookout State Park

### MASSACHUSETTS

Minute Man National Historical Park

### MICHIGAN

River Raisin National Battlefield Park

### MISSISSIPPI

Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library  
Mississippi Final Stands Interpretive Center  
Raymond Military Park  
Vicksburg National Military Park

### MISSOURI

Battle of Lexington State Historic Site  
Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site  
Fort D Historic Site

John Siddle Williams House and Museum  
Lone Jack Civil War Battlefield, Museum & Soldiers’ Cemetery  
Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield

### NEVADA

Lone Mountain Cemetery

### NEW JERSEY

Fort Mott State Park

### NEW YORK

Ulysses S. Grant Cottage Historic Site

### NORTH CAROLINA

Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site  
Fort Branch Confederate Earthen Fort  
Fort Fisher State Historic Site  
Fort Raleigh National Historic Site  
Historic Carson House  
New Bern Battlefield Park

### OHIO

Buffington Island Battlefield Memorial Park  
Harriet Beecher Stowe House  
Johnson’s Island Civil War Prison

### OKLAHOMA

Fort Townson Historic Site

### PENNSYLVANIA

Allegheny Arsenal Park  
Mount Moriah Cemetery



### SOUTH CAROLINA

Battle of Rivers Bridge State Historic State  
Friends of the Buford Massacre Battlefield  
Hanging Rock Battlefield

### TENNESSEE

Britton Lane Battlefield Park  
Brown’s Ferry Tavern Historic Site  
Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park  
Fort Pillow State Historic Park  
Glenmore Mansion  
Mabry-Hazen House  
Parkers Crossroads Battlefield  
Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center  
Shiloh National Military Park

### TEXAS

Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Historical Landmark and State Historic Site

### VIRGINIA

Ball’s Bluff Battlefield Regional Park  
Belle Grove Plantation  
Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park  
Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation  
Cedar Mountain Battlefield  
Fisher’s Hill Battlefield  
Graffiti House  
Historic Sandusky  
Kernstown Battlefield  
Laurel Hill Farm  
Manassas National Battlefield Park  
Payne’s Farm/Mine Run Campaign  
Petersburg National Battlefield  
St. James Church  
Third Winchester Battlefield Park  
Trevilian Station Battlefield Park  
Williamsburg Battlefield

### WEST VIRGINIA

Bulltown Historical Area  
Shepherdstown Battlefield





Cold Harbor Battlefield  
Richmond National Battlefield Park  
Mechanicsville, Va.  
ROBERT JAMES

## LAND SAVED & PRESERVED

*Projects completed between July and December 2021*

### **BELMONT, Mo.**

Fought on November 7, 1861, the Battle of Belmont served as Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's first test as a commander on the field. The battle ended inconclusively, although both sides claimed otherwise. The Confederates, having forced the Union troops to retreat to Paducah, claimed victory. Conversely, Union forces believed they were victorious due to heavy Confederate losses.

*In December, the American Battlefield Trust acquired one acre at Belmont, representing the Trust's first preservation success at the battlefield site. The property will be stewarded by the Trust until its transfer to Columbus-Belmont State Park. The Trust has now saved **one acre** at Belmont.*

### **BENTONVILLE, N.C.**

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

*The Trust secured six acres at Bentonville in August and 34 more in December — enabled by the American Battlefield Protection Program and the State of North Carolina. The Trust will steward both properties and remove structures with help from the Friends of the Bentonville Battlefield. After, this acreage will be transferred to the State of North Carolina for incorporation into the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site. The Trust has now saved **1,909 acres** at Bentonville.*

### **BRISTOE STATION, Va.**

On October 14, 1863, at Bristoe Station, Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill's corps stumbled upon and attacked two corps of the Union army as they withdrew from pursuit of the Army of Northern Virginia. During the battle, Union soldiers posted behind an embankment of the Orange & Alexandria Railroad ambushed and captured a battery of Confederate

artillery. The victorious Union troops continued their withdrawal unmolested, while the Confederate offensive sputtered to a premature halt.

*In December, the Trust saved 22 acres at Bristoe Station, made possible with support from the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and Prince William County. The Trust will steward this property until its transfer to Prince William County for incorporation into the Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park. The Trust has now saved **309 acres** at Bristoe Station.*

### **CHAMPION HILL, Miss.**

Fought on May 16, 1863, the Battle of Champion Hill was the largest and bloodiest action of the Vicksburg Campaign, as nearly 55,000 soldiers clashed in a fierce struggle for a vital crossroads. The Confederates were posted on high ground, covering the roads from Jackson, while the Union troops moved west and outflanked them at Champion Hill. The Confederates were driven off the hill and compelled to retreat, virtually assuring the fall of Vicksburg.

*This summer, the Trust acquired 144 acres at Champion Hill — the site that includes the hill and the historic Jackson Road at the crossroads. The property will be stewarded until transferred to the Vicksburg National Military Park. The Trust has now saved **869 acres** at Champion Hill.*

### **CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.**

After Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant received command of the Western armies, the Federals began offensive operations to open a supply line to besieged Chattanooga. On November 23–24, Union forces captured Orchard Knob and Lookout Mountain; the next day, they assaulted and carried the seemingly impregnable Missionary Ridge. One of the Confederacy's two major armies was routed, and the Union held the "Gateway to the Lower South."

*The Trust acquired eight acres at Chattanooga's Lookout Mountain in September and secured a conservation easement on an additional 300 acres at the battlefield in December, all made possible by the American Battlefield Protection Program, the State of Tennessee Historical Commission, the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund, the North American Land Trust and a generous landowner. Reflection Riding Arboretum & Nature Center will retain ownership of the 300-acre property. The Trust has now saved **404 acres** at Chattanooga.*

### **COLD HARBOR, Va.**

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.

*In July, the Trust preserved 29 acres at the Cold Harbor crossroads by partnering with the HTR Foundation, the National Park Service and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Brimming with historical significance, the land was once home to the Old Cold Harbor Tavern. The Trust will steward the property and is developing plans for interpretation. The Trust has now saved **280 acres** at Cold Harbor.*

### **CORINTH, Miss.**

After the September 19, 1862, Battle of Iuka, the Confederate armies in the area moved toward Corinth, hoping to seize the city and then sweep into Middle Tennessee. Since the

siege the previous spring, Union forces had erected various fortifications, which they manned upon the approach of the Confederates. The Southern attack was initially successful, pushing the Federals back to their inner defenses, but after a period of desperate hand-to-hand fighting, their gains were entirely reversed, leading to a general retreat.

*In August, the Trust acquired a critical half-acre tract at Corinth near the Corinth Interpretive Center at Shiloh National Military Park. The Trust will steward the property until it's transferred to the National Park Service. The Trust has now saved **792 acres** at Corinth.*

### **DAVIS BRIDGE, Tenn.**

On October 4, 1862, Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn's Confederate army retreated from Corinth, Miss., but it wasn't long before Union Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans sent forces, under Maj. Gen. Edward Ord, in pursuit the next morning. Confederate forces were pushed back to the Hatchie River and across Davis Bridge. However, Confederate scouts were able to find another crossing on the river, and Van Dorn's men escaped. While a Union victory, the Confederates evaded destruction.

*This September, the Trust acquired an acre at Davis Bridge. This tract, in the epicenter of a key portion of the battlefield, will be transferred to the Shiloh National Military Park. The Trust has now saved **860 acres** at Davis Bridge.*

### **GETTYSBURG, Pa.**

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

*In December, the Trust successfully saved one acre at Gettysburg, where Union cavalry advanced against the Confederates on July 3. The tract will be transferred to Gettysburg National Military Park, where it will provide an important access point. The Trust has now saved **1,238 acres** at Gettysburg.*

### **GREAT BRIDGE, Va.**

Wary of a possible advance on Suffolk, Patriot forces arrived in Great Bridge on November 28, 1775, stymying Lord Dunmore and his Loyalist forces. On the morning of

December 9, tensions turned into a full-fledged fight. Dunmore ordered Fort Murray's artillery to begin bombarding Patriot works and followed with an attack of British grenadiers. Upon attack, the alarm was raised by Patriot sentries on the bridge. The Patriots held their fire until the grenadiers were within 50 yards, a move that wiped out half their attackers and quickly defused the British assault. The Patriot victory eventually led to Dunmore's departure from Virginia in 1776.

*Aided by the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, the City of Chesapeake and the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Foundation, the Trust acquired one acre at Great Bridge in June. A site of significance for Black soldier participation in the nation's founding conflict, this land represents the organization's first preservation victory at Great Bridge and the organization's 150th site. The Trust plans to transfer the property to the City of Chesapeake. The Trust has now saved **one acre** at Great Bridge.*

### **Guilford Courthouse, N.C.**

On March 15, 1781, British forces under Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis defeated an American army more than twice its size at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. But it was a costly victory; Cornwallis lost a quarter of his force and retreated back into Virginia, where he ultimately surrendered at Yorktown. Although Guilford Courthouse National Military Park was established in 1917, the battlefield was gradually enveloped by the city of Greensboro. However, in recent years, the park has acquired and reclaimed several acres.

*In December, the Trust issued a grant to help the National Park Service protect nearly one acre at Guilford Courthouse. The property, which witnessed the British advance during the 1781 battle, was acquired by the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. The Trust has now saved **one acre** at Guilford Courthouse.*

### **MANASSAS, Va.**

On August 28, 1862, Confederate Maj. Gen. Stonewall Jackson encountered and attacked elements of the Union army, holding off several assaults the next day until reinforcements could arrive on the field. A crushing Confederate flank attack on August 30 sent the Federals into a retreat eastward.

The Trust acquired nearly four acres at Manassas in December. This acreage, located near the Sudley Church, was a top priority of the National Park Service for several years. The Trust will steward the property until its transfer to the Manassas National Battlefield Park. The Trust has now saved **377 acres** at Manassas.

#### **MANSFIELD, La.**

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

In November, the Trust acquired 20 acres at Mansfield through its partnership with the American Battlefield Protection Program and the State of Louisiana. The tract, which covers land tied to the second phase of the 1864 battle, will be transferred to the Mansfield Battlefield State Historic Site. The Trust has now saved **455 acres** at Mansfield.

#### **PARKER'S CROSS ROADS, Tenn.**

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.

With funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund, the Trust and the State of Tennessee Historical Commission preserved nearly a half-acre at Parker's Cross Roads in December. The property will be transferred to the State of Tennessee for its incorporation into the Parker's Crossroads Battlefield. The Trust has now saved **369 acres** at Parker's Cross Roads.

#### **PORT HUDSON, La.**

From May 21 to July 9, 1863, Union and Confederate forces at Port Hudson, La., found themselves locked in a protracted 48-day siege — the longest of the war until that point. The Union army owed much of its ultimate victory to the troops of African descent involved in the fighting. The 1st and 3rd Louisiana Native Guards participated in a critical attack against the seemingly impenetrable Confederate fortress. Although unsuccessful in capturing the fort, their courage under fire and tenacity began to chip away at prejudices within the army and public at large that maintained Black troops were not reliable in combat.

In late September, the Trust acquired nearly three acres at the Port Hudson Battlefield, in partnership with the American Battlefield Protection Program and the State of Louisiana. This land was within Confederate defenses during the 48-day siege and later served as the headquarters



Manassas National Battlefield Park  
Manassas, Va.  
MATT BRANT



Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park  
Rice, Va.  
BUDDY SECOR

for the "Corps d'Afrique" before it became the U.S. Colored Troops. The Trust has now saved **259 acres** at Port Hudson.

#### **SAILOR'S CREEK, Va.**

On April 6, 1865, just three days before Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox, the Confederates suffered a crushing defeat at Sailor's Creek. In three separate actions, Union troops overwhelmed three corps of Confederates, capturing 7,700 men and depriving Lee of roughly one-fourth of his army.

The Trust, with help from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Commonwealth of Virginia, secured one acre at Sailor's Creek this winter. This land, which witnessed actions at Marshall's Crossroads, will be stewarded by the Trust until transferred to the Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park. The Trust has now saved **1,319 acres** at Sailor's Creek.

#### **SPOTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE, Va.**

Following the vicious Battle of the Wilderness, Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant continued his march "by the left flank" toward Richmond; he set his next target as Spotsylvania Court House. As both armies snaked south, parallel to each other, they finally met in battle on May 8. This was the opening of a two-week contest that would see some of the fiercest fighting of the war. Grant's assault on the Confederate salient was the scene of more than 20 hours of continuous fighting through torrential downpours of both rain and bullets. Union troops captured more than 3,000 prisoners during this fight, but the Federals were unable to break the Confederate lines and fighting continued until the 19th. The outcome was inconclusive, and each army continued its march south toward Richmond.

Thanks to the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund and the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, the Trust saved 141 acres at Spotsylvania Court House this past November. The property includes the site of the 19th-century Todd's Tavern and witnessed considerable cavalry fighting on May 7, 1864. The Trust has now saved **141 acres** at Spotsylvania Court House.

#### **TREVILIAN STATION, Va.**

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 December, the Trust — aided by the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation and a landowner donation — acquired three acres at Trevilian Station. Comprised of land once traversed by

both Confederate and Union troops, the property will be transferred to the Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation. The Trust has now saved **2,246 acres** at Trevilian Station.

#### **WARE BOTTOM CHURCH, Va.**

On May 20, 1864, Confederate Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard attacked Gen. Ben Butler's Bermuda Hundred line near Ware Bottom Church in Chesterfield County, Va. After driving back Butler's advanced pickets, the Confederates constructed the Howlett Line, effectively bottling up the Federals. Of the 10,000 soldiers who entered the fray, 1,400 lay dead or wounded by day's end. This victory allowed Beauregard to send reinforcements for Lee's army in time for the fighting at Cold Harbor and ended Butler's chances of capturing Richmond or Petersburg anytime in the near future.

With the support of the American Battlefield Protection Program, Commonwealth of Virginia, a landowner donation and a grant from the Trust, Chesterfield County acquired 53 acres at Ware Bottom Church in September. The county plans to expand the Ware Bottom Church Battlefield Park with this acreage. The Trust has now protected **75 acres** at Ware Bottom Church.

#### **WILLIAMSBURG, Va.**

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.

The Trust acquired 245 acres at Williamsburg, made possible through funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, a landowner donation and the U.S. Navy's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program. The tract has witnessed centuries of history, from stories of self-emancipation to its role in the Battle of Williamsburg. The Trust has now saved **343 acres** at Williamsburg.

★ Grasp the full extent of the Trust's preservation efforts at [www.battlefields.org/preserve/saved-land](http://www.battlefields.org/preserve/saved-land). ★

West Point cadets during a staff ride  
at Antietam National Battlefield,  
Sharpsburg, Md.  
ZACH ANDERSON



# THE ACADEMIES

Cadets. Midshipmen. Rats.  
Plebes. The long gray line.  
Whatever you call them,  
those who study at America's  
service academies are part of  
a great tradition and legacy.



West Point cadets parade onto the field during the 2021 Army-Navy Football Game at Met Life Stadium.  
ELIZABETH WOODRUFF, USMA

# WEST POINT

## THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, N.Y.

### Before, During and After the Civil War

By *John C. Waugh*

**W**HEN “THE GLORIOUS UNION” was plunging past a collapsing compromise over slavery toward inevitable civil war in the 1850s, one of the last national institutions to split openly North and South was the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Its graduates and cadets came from every state in the Union to train as engineers and officers. They knew they would be called on to command armies against one another in such a war, the only ones with the education, competence, background and experience to command armies on such a huge scale. Yet they were brothers, not by blood, but by constant association and shared experience at West Point — and on assignments beyond, including two years of war against Mexico. And because they understood what the gathering storm meant most keenly, they dreaded it most deeply.

Historian Stephen E. Ambrose tells us how such an iron brotherhood is formed: Isolate them together on a flat granite hilltop in the middle of the Hudson River for four years of intense study and training under stress. The certain result, Ambrose wrote, “[W]as a feeling of comradeship stronger than that in most college fraternities, and it overcame nearly all social, religious, and political differences.” Could it also overcome a bloody, fratricidal war?

Southerners had more to lose in a war of brothers. In those times, a allegiance to states trumped allegiance to the Union. If their state — their home, their people — seceded, most of them believed, they must secede with it. They would resign or be dismissed for refusing to take an oath of

allegiance to the Union. If war came, they would fight for their states against the Union they now served, destroying their careers in the process.

Cadet Pierce Young of Georgia wrote his parents, “You and the others down there don’t realize the sacrifice resignation means.” But every Southern cadet and West Point graduate knew the cost. Cadet Edward Anderson of Virginia, who refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Union and was therefore dismissed, wrote his mother, “I actually cried . . . I knew well that I resign everything.” Another Virginia cadet, Tom Rowland, captured the Southern despair in a letter to his father: “What is to become of our glorious Union? Everyone seems to despair of its perpetuation, but I cannot give it up. I will catch at the last straw, and stand by the Union until all is hopelessly lost. Then we must cast our lot with Virginia and hope for the best.”

The anguish over the coming war hit Southern graduates who were now officers in the regular army just as hard as it did cadets. Richard Stoddert Ewell, a Virginian from the class of 1840, noted army Indian fighter in the Arizona Territory and future lieutenant general in the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, said that the war was “sacrificing every earthly hope,” that “it was like death for me.”

During the nearly six decades since the Academy’s founding in 1802, there had been little sign that the North-South split over slavery was cracking the West Point brotherhood as it was the rest of the country. James Ewell Brown Stuart, who graduated in the class of 1854 and became Robert E. Lee’s cavalry commander in the Army of Northern Virginia, explained: “There seems,” he said, “to be a sentiment of mutual forbearance.”

This forbearance was shattered when hot-blooded abolitionist John Brown launched his ill-starred raid on the Harpers Ferry armory on October 16, 1859, to seize arms and incite a slave rebellion. Brown went to the gallows, and sectionalism arrived at the Academy, with the North-South split now raging openly at West Point as it did everywhere else.

Arguments, challenges and fights broke out between Northern and Southern cadets. When Abraham Lincoln was elected president in early November 1860, tensions hit the ceiling. In a letter to their local *Columbia Guardian*, a group of South Carolina cadets wrote, “We cannot so stifle our convictions of duty as to serve under such a man as Mr. Lincoln as our commander-in-chief.”

Henry Dupont, a cadet from Delaware, confessed, “There is an insane spirit here

rampant on the secession question.” Another Northerner, Cadet William Harris, said, sorrowfully, “It seems inevitable that we must lose some of the finest fellows in our class.”

The loss began on November 19, 1860, when red-haired secessionist firebrand cadet Henry S. Farley departed a month and a day before his native South Carolina seceded. Many other Southern cadets were baffled about when to jump. For those who did decide when, and prepared to jump, the enduring brotherhood kicked back in. The acrimony over slavery and secession that had followed John Brown’s raid at Harpers Ferry gave way to fond farewells, with departing cadets carried to the boat landing on the shoulders of those remaining.

By April 12, 1861, Confederate cannon ringed Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, waiting to fire and thus end Southern cadet bafflement. By the end of April, 65 of the 68 Southern cadets had left West Point, either of their own accord or having been dismissed for refusing to take an oath of support for the Union.

Not all Southern West Point cadets or graduates jumped. Among them were a handful of high-ranking officers, including George Thomas, who graduated in the class of 1840 with Ewell. Thomas, one of the best Union generals in the war, suffered bleak isolation from his home in Virginia and angry, unforgiving scorn from his three sisters. They turned their brother’s picture to the wall, destroyed his letters, refused to acknowledge his existence and never forgave him for his disloyalty to his state.



West Point cadets gather for a photograph in the 1860s. Most of the men shown probably served in the Civil War. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

## Many West Point graduates had seen a part of that world, and readied themselves to command in the Civil War...

Where the waters of the Hudson River crash against West Point’s granite face is universally regarded as one of the most beautiful natural vistas in the world. Cadets



WINFIELD SCOTT

since the Academy’s founding had appreciated its dazzling beauty, but had not realized its isolation, particularly as civil war raged out in the country. Cadet Cullum Bryant wrote his father early in the war, “We are almost completely secluded and shut out from the rest of the world.”

Many West Point graduates had seen a part of that world, and readied themselves to command in the Civil War, during the Mexican-American War in 1846–48. In one of the most stunning successes in U.S. military history, former West Pointers had fought under Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott, one of the finest battlefield commanders in American military history, and distinguished themselves.

Not an Academy graduate himself, Scott said of them, “I give it as my fixed opinion, that but for our graduated cadets, the war between the United States and Mexico might, and probably would, have lasted some four or five years, with, in its

half, more defeats than victories falling to our share; whereas in less than two campaigns, we conquered a great country and a peace, without the loss of a single battle or skirmish.”

In this new war, the graduated cadets mentored by Scott, as expected, began immediately assuming high command on both sides. There was irony in this: If the Mexican conflict was kept short because of their competence, the Civil War would stretch across four long, wrenching years because of the same talent. All had been trained in the same military and engineering rooms at West Point, graduated with the same knowledge and skill set and marched on the plain and taken fire together.

These equally trained officers monopolized high command throughout the war. In its 60 major battles, 55 were commanded on both sides by West Pointers. In the other five, one of the commanders was also a West Pointer.

One of the results of that near-total monopoly of leadership was an “equilibrium of competence” that frequently stopped one side from utterly destroying the other and seriously elongated the time it took for one side to win. In the Civil War, 217 Academy graduates became general officers in the Union armies, 146 in the Confederate armies. One hundred five graduates were killed in the war — 60 Union and 45 Confederate — and another 151 wounded, a total figure that amounted to 25 percent of all graduates becoming casualties.



West Point cadets participate in the Plebe-Parent Pass in Review. DELANCEY PRYOR III, USMA

Even before the war ended, the brotherhood of West Pointers had begun to mend. Several graduates, generals from both armies, gathered peacefully the morning of April 9, 1865, on the Appomattox Court House steps, even as Grant and Lee met in Wilmer McLean’s parlor agreeing to surrender terms. It was a happy reunion of enemies and brothers at the courthouse, with welcoming hugs and handshakes all around.

In the wake of the war, the Academy worked to restore what it had been in the antebellum years, and over the coming decades it made stunning changes to broaden its curriculum and to the composition of its cadet corps. Cadets from the Confederate States arrived again as their states were folded back into the Union.

Ten percent of Union armies had ultimately been made up of U.S. Colored Troops units, and after the war, West Point began to reflect this diversity, although it was not an easy transition, given the virulent racism at

the Academy and everywhere in the country. The first African American cadet to overcome the never-ending discrimination, hostility and abuse and graduate was Henry O. Flipper, a former slave from Georgia, in the class of 1877. Today, Black cadets comprise 9 percent of the cadet corps.

In 1976, the Academy made the most contentious move in its history, enrolling 119 women in its first coeducational class. Despite male cadet resentment and harassment, 62 female cadets graduated in the class of 1980, as fully trained and competent as the men. Forty-five years later, women make up 15 percent of the cadet corps and have held top leadership ranks.

Douglas McArthur, a 1903 graduate and a superintendent of the Academy from 1919 to 1922, summed up what West Point is all about. “Upon the fields of friendly strife [West Point],” McArthur said, “are sown the seeds that, upon other fields on other days, will bear the fruits of victory.”

The truth of that was seen clearly in the Civil War. Though there was only one victor, the Union, the seeds sown on West Point’s fields were just as evident on the losing Confederate side. That indeed was a reason the war lasted so long.

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West Point cadets participating in the Sandhurst Competition. JOHN PELLINO, USMA



West Point cadets march out to participate in the Sandhurst Competition. CDT HANNAH LAMB, USMA



Midshipmen 4th Class, or plebes, during the third week of Plebe Summer, a demanding six-week indoctrination period intended to transition the candidates from civilian to military life.  
ENS MARION BAUTISTA, U.S. NAVY

# NAVAL ACADEMY

## THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY AT ANNAPOLIS, MD.

### Coming of Age for the Civil War

By Dwight Hughes, Class of 1967

*Seamanship is an art like any other; it is not something which can be picked up in one's spare time, indeed, it leaves no leisure for anything else.*

— Pericles addressing the Athenians  
Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War* 1:142.

*“The training which Naval [Academy] Cadets receive is admirable, and the education makes them useful citizens, and strengthens the defense of the country,” wrote James I. Waddell, who had served in both the United States and Confederate States navies, in his 1885 memoir. However, he continued, “The all important, useful and necessary branches of my profession, I learned at sea, on ship board, while a boy.... I may be in error when I assert that practical seamanship cannot be learned from books....”*

**I** **N THIS SENTIMENT**, Waddell personified the antebellum evolution from the ancient school of the sea to professional naval officer education. He first went to sea as a traditional midshipman of the old wood-and-canvas navy at age 16 in 1841. Six years later, he reported to the new school at Annapolis, where he and other seasoned mariners studied uncomfortably alongside youngsters fresh from civilian life to be certified as passed midshipmen.

Cruising the globe for the next decade, Waddell advanced to lieutenant and served a tour teaching navigation at the Academy. In 1861, the North Carolinian was second in command of the USS *Saginaw*, a brand-new steam sloop of war on the China Station, when he swapped blue for gray, ultimately commanding the infamous Rebel commerce raider CSS *Shenandoah*.

Waddell had become an officer the hard way and, to him, the right way: a slow, tedious progression through the ranks based on seniority, which gave enormous prestige to promotion. He doubted the practical application of classroom learning and seemed to harbor resentment for book learners. Such controversies had delayed the launch of a naval academy for 40 years after West Point's founding and underscored the tension between academic learning and professional training.

Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft established the Naval School at the former Fort Severn in Annapolis, Maryland, on October 10, 1845, with a class of 50 midshipmen and seven professors. The initial curriculum involved two years of study in mathematics, navigation, gunnery, steam engineering, chemistry, English, natural

philosophy and French. This was to be followed by three years' service afloat, and another year at the school before sitting for the lieutenant's exam. Five years later, the Naval School became the Naval Academy, with a full four-year course of study augmented by summer training at sea.

In his history of the antebellum Academy, *The Spirited Years*, Charles Todorich concluded: “It was during this [antebellum] period that the efficacy of formal naval education was proven....” The new commandant of midshipmen established authority over daily affairs and, with the Executive Department as police force, maintained firm discipline over unruly young men. The broad-based, college-like curriculum taught by civilian professors transmuted midshipmen from quasi-officers to student-cadets. A mutually beneficial relationship developed with the city of Annapolis. The Academy soon became the near-sole supplier of officers to the fleet and a repository for navy memorabilia and tradition.

Despite periods of stagnation and neglect, the sea service had come a long way since its baptism by fire during the undeclared war with France in 1798. By mid-century, a more efficient departmental structure replaced the ad-hoc administration of the past. A body of trained sailors manned the fleet; flogging had been outlawed and alcohol would be banned afloat (for the Union navy) in 1862. Six new screw-driven steam frigates, a class of smaller steam sloops of war and innovations in naval artillery initiated a technological revolution and rebuilding that would accelerate dramatically during the coming conflict.

However, nothing in the history and traditions of the United States Navy prepared it for civil war. U.S. warships were still cruising individually or in small, semipermanent squadrons on far-flung stations to show the flag and to protect the burgeoning, global American shipping and whaling industries. The navy of 1860 trained primarily to refight the War of 1812 — glorious single-ship duels against a foreign foe, and commerce warfare with pirate suppression as needed. Massive Civil War campaigns with elements like a continent-wide blockade, reduction of shore fortifications in heavily defended ports, amphibious assaults, coastal and riverine warfare and coordinated army-navy operations were not imagined.

A small but formidable officer corps served with proud heritage and expert seamanship. Their heroes were intrepid and pugnacious captains: John Paul Jones, Thomas Truxton, Edward Preble, David Porter, William Bainbridge, Isaac Hull and Stephen Decatur commanding

ships like the *Enterprise*, *Essex*, *Philadelphia*, *Constellation* and *Constitution*. They drew inspiration from Jones proclaiming, “I have not yet begun to fight!” in his 1779 victory over the HMS *Serapis* and Capt. James Lawrence gasping, “Don’t give up the ship!” as he lay dying on the bloody deck of the USS *Chesapeake* following defeat by the HMS *Shannon* in 1813.

But with no standards for selecting and educating officers or for weeding out the physically and mentally unfit, that hard-won professionalism was not universal or consistent. Alcoholism and disciplinary infractions afloat were prevalent, leading to numerous courts martial, and dueling was quite common. During a training cruise to the West Indies in 1842, Midshipman Philip Spencer, the son of the secretary of war, was hanged for attempted mutiny. Salty old captains and commodores clogged the promotion pipeline, while talented but frustrated lieutenants and midshipmen groused, and many left the service.

Midshipmen appointments had been the prerogative of ship captains, the secretary of the navy and the president, with political and personal influence being the highest criterion. “A cruise in Washington” went a common adage, was “worth two around Cape Horn.” Such lobbying undercut the secretary’s authority and further undermined discipline. Well-connected applicants who could read and write and possessed the basics of arithmetic and geography were acceptable. One navy secretary referred to “wayward and incorrigible boys, whom even parental

authority cannot control.”

Sporadic efforts to educate midshipmen at navy yard schools and with shipboard civilian instructors were ineffective. A lucky young man might receive rudimentary instruction in mathematics, navigation and languages, but many received no formal instruction. Boys like James Waddell were treated as servants, their progress hostage to a captain’s often lagging interest. Afloat, they learned by doing under the strict discipline of lieutenants and the tutelage of grizzled senior seamen. “The whole system of naval education in those days was rough and crude, and did not seem altogether fair; the wonder is that we got on as well as we did,” recorded retired admiral Samuel Franklin late in the century.

Mariners were generalists in the millennia-old technology of sail, employing muscle and simple tools to maneuver huge, complex machines through all Neptune’s moods. A ship heeled to the wind, they sustained a tenuous equilibrium with the elements in a masterful choreography of sea and sky, often with uncertain progress. Their open-air attention was always upward and outward. Sailors’ skills were not amenable to book learning — more art, instinct and experience than science or technical understanding.

In a few decades, however, the expertise required to manage a tall square-rigger would become archaic and nearly superfluous. Internal propulsion — less than a half-century old and rapidly developing — placed potent propulsive power in human hands, channeling it into purposeful

motion frequently in opposition to the elements. In reasonable conditions, a ship sits up and goes where she is pointed.

The new profession of marine engineer foreshadowed the machine age. Denizens of engine and boiler spaces — claustrophobic dens of darkness and fire, intense heat and noise, reeking of iron, oil, coal and sweat — were specialists who shared little in the way of knowledge or sensibilities with those above. They focused inward. There could hardly be a greater disparity in concept and feel, a manifestation of increasing human dominance of creation.

Sea officers were not accustomed to being dependent on technicians whose equipment they only generally understood. The old guard respected the potential of steam and iron but insisted on conservative and practical evolution. In this transitional process, the new technology had not yet proven its efficacy against the nation’s enemies while preserving her sons, although the coming of war would markedly accelerate the pace of proof. A dedicated cadre of exasperated younger officers was anxious to learn and adapt, but also was not being educated like West Point and university counterparts, which diminished both professional and social status.

As far back as 1777, Capt. John Paul Jones, Alexander Hamilton, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson proposed formal naval officer education. Secretary of the Navy William Jones urged Congress to establish an academy in 1814 for instruction in mathematics, “experimental philosophy,” the “science and practice of gunnery, theory of naval architecture, and art of mechanical drawing.” He failed, as did nine subsequent secretaries. In 1825, President John Quincy Adams urged Congress to establish a naval academy “for the formation of scientific and accomplished officers.” Secretary of the Navy Samuel Southard, in 1827, appealed to efficiency, economy and national honor: “The American naval officer is, in fact, the representative of his country in every port to which he goes, and by him that country in a greater or less degree estimated.”

But, with the nation facing no immediate external threat, Congress and the public were not interested. A professional naval officer corps violated Jacksonian populism; it smacked of aristocracy and the Royal Navy. Americans gazed westward, where the army facilitated settlement while the navy was out of sight, out of mind. And it was expensive.



Midshipmen take part in the second formal parade of the season. MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2<sup>ND</sup> CLASS DANA D. LEGG, USNA

## The impetus for an academy gained steam. The great revolution in naval technology demanded technically competent officers.

Senior officers feared that book learning, culture and refinement would emasculate young officers, diluting the hero spirit.

Meanwhile however, self-educated mid-grade officers facilitated an explosion in global discovery and science driven by the new nation’s burgeoning trade and influence, its demands to exploit rich trade routes and destinations and the need to protect those who went there — a maritime Manifest Destiny. Matthew F. Maury, the “Father of Oceanography”; ordinance experts John A. Dahlgren and John M. Brooke; and explorers Charles Wilkes and John Rodgers gained international renown. They also demanded reform: “Never before has the spirit of discontent, among all grades in the Navy, walked forth in the broad light of day, with half such restive but determined steps,” wrote Lieutenant Maury in 1840. These men would lead on both sides in the coming conflict.

The impetus for an academy gained steam. The great revolution in naval technology demanded technically competent officers.

Between 1843 and 1860, the number of sailing warships decreased from 59 to 44, while steamers increased from 6 to 38. Meanwhile, war with Mexico loomed and tensions with Great Britain flared.

Three committed men established the Naval Academy. First, Navy Secretary George Bancroft — distinguished educator, politician, historian and statesman — constituted federal authority. Renowned



The Blue Angels perform a flyover during a graduation and commissioning ceremony for the Naval Academy. CHIEF MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST ANTHONY KOCH

mathematician William A. Chauvenet contributed academic credibility and prestige with a curriculum that resembled West Point’s and covered mathematics, navigation, astronomy, surveying, steam mechanics, drawing, gunnery, foreign languages, history and maritime law. As first superintendent of midshipmen, Cdr. (and future Confederate admiral) Franklin Buchanan brought ashore 30 years on the salt and strict naval discipline.

A decade of growing pains followed, but by 1861, the institution rivaled the school on the Hudson in professional quality and prestige. And like the Military Academy on a lesser scale, the Naval Academy provided core talent to both sides in the Civil War, its instructors as more senior officers and graduates among middle and lower ranks. The second superintendent, Cdr. Sidney Smith Lee (brother of Robert E. Lee) became a senior Confederate navy captain.

Among many lieutenants, William H. Parker, class of 1848, established an impressive combat record and the Confederate States Naval Academy. Charles Read, “anchor man” (graduated last) in the class of 1860, caused panic in New England with an attack on the harbor of Portland, Maine. Lt. (and future admiral of the navy) George Dewey, class of 1858, steered the USS *Mississippi* past the blazing guns of forts at New Orleans.

Samuel D. Greene, class of 1859, captained the USS *Monitor* against Franklin Buchanan commanding the CSS *Virginia* (aka *Merrimack*). William B. Cushing was expelled just before graduation in 1861 for pranks and poor scholarship but reinstated as war came. Among other feats, he famously sank the Rebel ironclad *Albemarle* with a small boat and a spar torpedo.

Ultimately, 400 graduates served in the Union navy and 95 in the Confederate navy. Twenty-three graduates were killed in battle or died of wounds. A new generation was educated at the United States Naval Academy, steeped in new technology, and fired in the crucible of war to lead the sea service into the 20th century.★

*Dwight Hughes is a public historian, author and speaker on Civil War naval history. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1967 and served 20 years as a surface warfare officer, including with river forces in Vietnam. He is the author of A Confederate Biography: The Cruise of the CSS Shenandoah (Naval Institute Press, 2015) and Unlike Anything that Ever Floated: The Monitor and Virginia and the Battle of Hampton Roads, March 8-9, 1862 (Savas Beatie, 2021). Read his work through Emerging Civil War or on his blog, [civilwarnavyhistory.com](http://civilwarnavyhistory.com).*



Members of the U.S. Naval Academy Varsity and Junior Varsity Offshore Sailing teams participate in practice races. MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS CHAD RUNGE, USNA

# HISTORY OF SERVICE ACADEMIES



**JANUARY 27, 1778:**  
Connecticut militia under General Samuel H. Parsons first occupy West Point

**1802:**  
U.S. Military Academy (USMA) at West Point established by President Thomas Jefferson; two attendees graduate that same year

**1845:**  
U.S. Naval School, located at the site of Fort Severn in Annapolis, Md., established through efforts of Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft



**1854:**  
The West Point Museum opens to the public as the first federal museum

**AUGUST 9, 1865:**  
After four years in Newport, R.I., during the Civil War, the USNA returns to Annapolis, Md.

**1817:**  
USMA begins a huge reorganization under superintendent Sylvanus Thayer, becoming one of the nation's finest sources of civil engineers

**1850:**  
The U.S. Naval School is renamed the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA)

**1876:**  
The first Coast Guard Academy, then called the Revenue Cutter School of Instruction, started aboard the two-masted topsail schooner *Dobbin*



**1861:**  
With the War Department in desperate need of Union officers, the USMA graduates the classes of 1861 and 1862 in the summer of 1861



**1917-1918:**  
World War I; cadets and midshipmen from both the USMA and USNA graduate early to fill the ranks during the conflict



**OCTOBER 7, 1975:**  
President Gerald R. Ford signs law that allows women to be admitted to the then all-male military colleges



**JUNE 14, 1877:**  
Henry O. Flipper becomes the first Black cadet to graduate from the USMA

**1939:**  
Naval Academy Museum building, later named Preble Hall, is dedicated



**SEPTEMBER 18, 1947:**  
Air Force becomes separate entity under the National Security Act and formation of an academy begins

**1932:**  
The U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) moves to its present-day location

**JUNE 3, 1959:**  
The U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) graduates its first class of 207 cadets



**1910:**  
Coast Guard Academy established at Fort Trumbull, a Revolutionary War fort in New London, Conn.



**1946:**  
Seized from Germany following WWII, the Barque *Eagle* arrives at the USCGA



**April 18, 2020:**  
86 graduates receive their diplomas from the USAFA and move directly into the U.S. Space Force



## U.S. Air Force Academy Colorado Springs, Colo.

By Sarah Kay Bierle



Cadets march on to the terrazzo to start the U.S. Air Force Academy's Graduation Ceremony. JOSHUA ARMSTRONG, USAF

beginning the “long blue line” that now totals 52,682 graduates — my own brother included — with another class set to join the ranks later this spring. Each graduating cadet experiences four years of academic studies and military training, then commissions as a second lieutenant for further military service.

Surrounded by towering mountains, the Air Force Academy seeks “to be the center of excellence for character and leadership development.” Part of the cadets’ training includes looking back on history. During I-Day (In-processing Day), the appointed youth leave their families to begin their enlistment, summer of basic training and cadetship. The future cadets take a journey with former graduates, and they are challenged to walk the path “consecrated by the blood of heroes and paved with the selfless service of countless men and women like you.” At the Challenge Bridge, they are asked to make a commitment to “Cross this bridge with the determination to live a life that will make all who went before proud of you.”

The long-gone veterans of the Battle of Concord or Antietam might recognize the style of the bridge, but young volunteers whose footsteps echo over this bridge will fly into the future, taking the defense of liberty to new heights.

For the next four years, the cadets use the present to prepare for a rapidly changing future. Currently,

the Air Force Academy offers 32 majors and 13 minors for their academics, and all cadets pursue a rigorous course of study, physical education and military training during their attendance. Some of the cadets pursue pilot training, while others prepare for other vital roles in their service branch. As in the other service academies, Air Force Academy cadets are allowed to cross-commission into other armed service branches. Since 2020, the USAFA cadets also have the opportunity to commission into the United States Space Force.

Four years after crossing the bridge and taking their enlistment oath, these young men and women wait on the graduation field and anticipate the roar of the Thunderbirds flying over the field, signaling the end of their cadetship and the beginning of their future service. Inspired by traditions and history and prepared with training and studies, each new class is poised to take off into the “wild blue yonder” — where not even the sky or space can limit the history they will create.★

*Sarah Kay Bierle serves as education associate at the American Battlefield Trust and is a proud sibling and sister-in-law to U.S. Air Force Academy graduates. She received her bachelor's degree in history from Thomas Edison State University and is a published author dedicated to the study of the Civil War, also volunteering as managing editor for Emerging Civil War.*

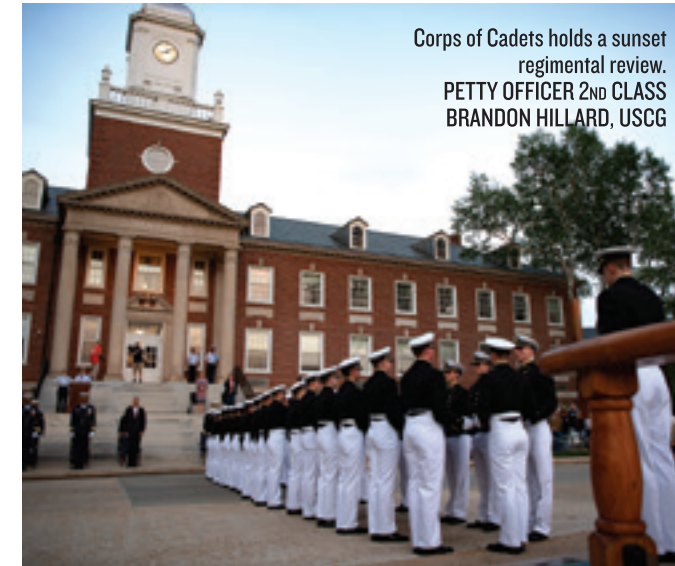
“**Y**OU WILL HAVE an opportunity to help make that history — an opportunity for a service career more varied and demanding than any that has been opened to any officer corps in the history of any country.”

President John F. Kennedy’s words to the graduating class at the U.S. Air Force Academy on June 5, 1963, reflected the expanding tradition of military leadership. The traditions rooted in the early centuries at West Point and Annapolis moved into the Jet Age with the new academy’s focus on air and space power for the global superpower.

Nine years before Kennedy’s speech, the concept of the Air Force Academy was approved, and commissioners recommended Colorado Springs, Colo., as the location. Since the end of World War I, military men and early aeronauts had discussed the idea of an academy focused on developing the technology of powered flight and its role in warfare. However, the plans did not formalize until after 1947, when the air force officially emerged as a separate service branch. Three years later, after a board review, officials decided that a new military academy should be formed to directly support the defining roles of the Air Force. In April 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed congressional legislation for the establishment of the United States Air Force Academy. The first class of graduates in 1959 numbered 207,

## U.S. Coast Guard Academy New London, Conn.

By Darran McLenon, Class of 1991



Corps of Cadets holds a sunset regimetal review. PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS BRANDON HILLARD, USCG

**T**HE U.S. COAST GUARD has come a long way from the Alexander Hamilton-inspired Revenue Cutter Service of the late 1700s, and its accompanying service academy has been through quite the evolution itself.

The first Coast Guard Academy began aboard the topsail schooner *Dobbin*, which set sail from Baltimore, Md., in 1876, for a two-year training cruise. Cadets were trained on the open ocean until 1900, when the first campus was established on solid ground in Curtis Bay, Md. After 10 years, the academy was moved to Fort Trumbull, a Revolutionary-era fort in New London, Conn. Remaining in the town, the academy shifted to the 90 acres it sits on today in 1932 when members of the town donated the land to the U.S. Treasury Department, which, at the time, oversaw the Coast Guard.

This acreage is what I came to know when I attended the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) from 1988 to 1991. For a guy from Monroe, Mich., I had no idea what I was walking into. As soon as I went through the gates, I was catapulted into an English-type campus with history at every turn. The buildings are old, and everything is polished. It’s on the Thames River, but it’s also on a hill! I walked up and down that hill amongst statues, monuments and the museum, but was kept so busy that, at times, the scenery was a blur.

It wasn’t until 1941 that cadets were granted a bachelor of science degree in addition to their commission as an ensign in the U.S. Coast Guard, and the years following greatly expanded academic options. In the sixties, the number of faculty increased, a system of academic honors was established and elective courses were first offered. Today, cadets can receive their degree in eight different majors: Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Cyber Systems, Mechanical Engineering, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering,

Operations Research and Computer Analysis, Marine and Environmental Sciences, Management and Government.

I thought I was smart in high school, but the academy is no joke. Being the only federal service academy that does not require a congressional nomination, competition for admission was — and remains — fierce. So, I entered with an elite bunch and was presented with 25–32 credit hours each semester; 16- and 17-hour days were typical. With a balance of academics, sports and leadership training, it’s this rigorous schedule that makes or breaks a cadet.

Frankly, I didn’t know I would graduate until that fourth year, and the support system I found in the baseball team made all the difference. Out of the 330 I started the academy with, I crossed the finish line with about 205 cadets. The tiring moments I endured made it difficult to fully appreciate the history in the moment, but looking back, it was truly woven into the academy experience.

One piece of history that we literally sailed upon is the tall ship *Barque Eagle*. The 295-foot ship, received as a war prize from Germany after World War II, serves as a training tool and is the only active-duty sailing vessel in the U.S. military. It is actually a requirement for all USCGA cadets to venture out on the vessel. For four summers, I was on the *Eagle*, taking in sights I never thought I’d see as a kid from Michigan.

However, the rigors of the sea were intense as a young “Coastie” because the ship operated on mostly sail power. I was reminded of the ship’s historic nature when I’d climb into the rigging and masts that were more

than 100 feet tall. While intimidating then, I can look back now and say I’m lucky to have had such an experience. I can also — without a doubt — claim that the academy’s motto, *Scientiæ cedit mare* (Latin for “the sea yields to knowledge”), applied to my time on the *Eagle* and my many years following as a sailor.

The academy, and my Coast Guard career as a whole, gave me a gift in the form of fellowship. Of the 200-something individuals I graduated with, there’s not one of them I couldn’t call on today.★

*Darran McLenon graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., in 1991, and took to sea for most of his 32-year career. Now retired from the Coast Guard, Captain McLenon resides where he grew up — in Michigan.*

# COAST GUARD

# AIR FORCE

## The Citadel Charleston, S.C.

By Maj. Gen. Joseph G. "Skip" Garrett III (Ret.), Class of 1969

**F**ROM AN EARLY AGE, growing up in Toledo, Ohio, I was interested in pursuing a military career. My father was a WWII veteran, whose experience as a young, enlisted medic in Europe had been very positive. While I initially aspired to a principal appointment to West Point, I failed the medical exam due to poor eyesight. Although disappointed, I was encouraged to look at The Citadel and was accepted there. The first time I laid eyes on campus was when I reported as a cadet in August 1965.

Arriving at The Citadel is a bit like stepping off the high dive — no matter how good a swimmer you are, you will go under! It was overwhelming because it was designed to be so. You must put other things aside and focus on your new life as a cadet. Four years passed quickly, surrounded by outstanding educators and student leaders, as I received scholarships in recognition of my studies and my commitment to join the army.

The Citadel gave me a very strong foundation for going into the military, and any graduate is given a strong foundation to do whatever they want to do in life. You learn teamwork, time management, accountability, the importance of not just accomplishments, but also of taking care of subordinates. I am deeply grateful for the training I received, relying on it heavily in my military career. Whenever faced with a difficult situation, I knew what was expected of me as a leader because The Citadel set me on the path toward that type of leadership.

The Citadel has made tremendous

strides to modernize its curriculum to develop skills for officers and civilians — graduates are not required to enter the military; in fact, only one-third do — and prepare them to meet the demands of society today. In my day, cadets could receive commissions in the army and air force, with a small number in the marine corps. Commissions in the navy are also now an option. In addition to strong engineering programs, the school now has a focused emphasis on cybersecurity, as well as newly added coursework on entrepreneurship and nurs-



ing. More than students or even officers, The Citadel creates a brotherhood. I have friends all over the world gained from combat tours in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, assignments in Korea and Germany, posts at the Pentagon and State Department and time in private industry. But I remain closest to my 1969 Citadel classmates.

The true purpose of The Citadel is to develop principled leaders for all

walks of life who find ways to give back to society. And we give back to each other — that's why my late wife, Beth, and I created an armed forces scholarship in my parents' name and a separate one in our own names for deserving students.

But one of the strongest traditions in this regard surrounds our beloved class rings, which are bestowed in a solemn ceremony in the fall of senior year. Through the Band of Gold program, new class rings include gold from rings given back to the

school by the families of deceased alumni.

The rings bestowed on the Class of 2022 were fashioned using gold melted down from rings that had been worn by members of the Class of 1942, including my father-in-law, Col. Frank Poole (Ret.).★

*Maj. Gen. Joseph G. "Skip" Garrett III (Ret.) graduated from The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., in 1969 and was commissioned in the U.S. Army, where he spent a 32-year career. After retiring from the army, Skip served as the vice president and deputy for Patriot Programs at Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems. Now fully retired, he lives in Asheville, N.C.*

**W**ITH INTENTIONS of molding "fair specimens of citizen-soldiers," the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) was established by the Virginia legislature in March 1839 and opened later that year on the site of the Virginia State Arsenal in Lexington. While the first graduating class in 1842 was made up of 16 cadets, 2021's Commencement witnessed nearly 350 cadets graduate. I myself graduated in 1969 with a group of 261 "Brother Rats" — so-called because of the trying "rat line" boot camp experience we all went through upon arrival at the Institute.

VMI, for me and many others, marked a period of immense growth. But the school itself has grown much since 1839.

When the Civil War broke out, the Cadet Corps went to Richmond to train Confederate recruits and later re-formed at VMI to furnish officers for the Confederate armies. VMI faculty member Thomas J. Jackson became Confederate Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson, and, when he perished at Chancellorsville, it was the Corps of Cadets that transported his body to his grave in Lexington.

Throughout the war, the Cadet Corps was called into action on 15 occasions in the Valley of Virginia. At the Battle of New Market on May 15, 1864, 257 cadets were organized into a battalion of four companies of infantry and one section of artillery. Six of the cadets who perished there are buried on Institute grounds.

And then, on June 12, 1864, VMI was shelled and burned by Union forces under Gen. David Hunter — you can still see cannon balls from the attack that remain embedded in the exterior walls of the VMI barracks! Remarkably, the Institute reopened the following year, on October 17, 1865.

In the years that followed, VMI was on the rise. In 1912, it replaced its "graduate" degree with a bachelor of arts. During WWI, more than 1,400 alumni served and cadets practiced building trenches at the

## Virginia Military Institute Lexington, Va.

By Charles F. Bryan, Jr., Class of 1969



spot where Foster Stadium now stands. During WWII, it hosted federally operated training programs, and more than 4,000 alumni answered Uncle Sam's call. By 1968, the school was integrated.

My time at the Institute was during a period of social change in our country. On January 20, 1969, I, along with some 250 of my classmates, represented the Commonwealth of Virginia in the inaugural parade honoring the recently elected President Richard Nixon.

After a great many hours of practice and the anticipation of appearing on national TV, we loaded on to a dozen buses that bone-chilling January 20 morning and arrived four hours later at Bolling Air Force Base. We changed into our overcoats and put on our white cross web belts, only to reboard the buses and assemble near the National Mall.

It wasn't long before we encountered a large group of anti-war protestors who shouted absurdities at us. But despite their taunts and the delay they caused, we finally formed up behind Virginia Tech's "Highly Tightly" military marching band and stepped off in a battalion mass formation with our cadet first captain and his regimental staff in

the lead. As one newspaper reported, we marched "flawlessly"; we were also treated to an unexpected compliment when President Nixon turned to his family and pointed out the VMI unit. His daughter, Tricia, blew kisses at us as we marched by. A week later, we were met by a full-page cover photograph of parading cadets in *LIFE* magazine.

That cold day, 54 years ago, has long faded to a warm memory of my youth during troubled times.★

*Charles F. Bryan, Jr., Ph.D., graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1969. He is the president and CEO emeritus of the Virginia Historical Society and is founding partner of Bryan & Jordan Consulting, LLC.*



# THE CITADEL

## Norwich University Northfield, Vt. *By Kristopher White, Class of 2009*

**H**ISTORY BUFFS love to know where you attended college. It is the inevitable conversation at any round table meeting or when you are leading a tour. My alma maters usually elicit the same reactions from an audience. For my undergrad, California University of Pennsylvania, their reaction is, “Is that a real place?” Indeed, it is — the “Harvard on the Mon” is older than the actual state of California. And for my graduate degree, Norwich University, the response is normally, “It’s that online school, right?” Or, as many people think, including my mother, “That’s that school in Connecticut, correct?” Well, yes and no.

Norwich University is the oldest private military college in the United States (take that VMI, we are older), and is today located in Northfield, Vt. But this was not always the case. Norwich was founded by Aldan Partridge, an 1806 graduate of West Point and a former instructor at and superintendent of the academy. After a falling out with the army, Partridge founded his own military academy in August of 1819 (and, subsequently, a few other institutions). He believed in the idea of the citizen-soldier, supporting well-trained and regulated militias and both rigorous physical and intellectual training for America’s growing officer corps.

Over time, the school moved from Vermont to Connecticut and then back to Vermont. Class sizes grew and shrank in size as it overcame poor enrollment, a devastating fire and the shock of the American Civil War. From America’s western expansion to the continuing War on Terror, Norwich has provided the nation with well trained and innovative military and civilian leaders. It is the oldest



est and the only one of the six senior military colleges located north of the Mason Dixon Line and is the “Birthplace of ROTC.” Where else can you attend a college football game with a Sherman tank sitting on the sidelines or walk to class past a 47-mm Hotchkiss gun used in the Spanish American War, or take a moment and reflect at the “Gold Star Families Memorial Monument”?

Norwich is a special place for all alumni. Its motto is “I will try” — a phrase that I use on a daily basis.

More than 750 Norwich attendees served in the American Civil War, with at least 56 serving on the side of the Confederacy. Of those wearing Union blue, four were recipients of the Medal of Honor, including Edward Williston, who earned his Medal of Honor at Trevillian Station on land preserved by the members of the American Battlefield Trust.

Other famous attendees and alumni include: Grenville N. Dodge, Grant’s intelligence chief in the Western Theater who went on to Congress and helped create the Transcontinent-

tal Rail- road; Pierre Garcon, who spent 10 years as an NFL wide receiver; Roxane Gay, Yale professor, writer, editor and social commentator; Ernest N. Harmon, ultimately major general in the Armored Division and most famous for his actions in the WWII Tunisian Campaign; Horatio Seymour, New York governor who ran against Ulysses Grant in the presidential election of 1868; James H. Ward, the first U.S. Navy officer killed in the Civil War; Gideon Welles, Civil War era secretary of the navy; William G. Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous; and Horatio G. Wright, Union general who lent his engineering skills to the Brooklyn Bridge and Washington Monument after the war.

Other military academies may be larger or more famous, but Norwich has produced leaders who rose to the occasion in all branches of the service on battlefields across the globe — Gettysburg, the Little Big Horn, Manila Bay, the Bulge, Fallujah and countless other places across the globe where America’s soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines were placed in harm’s way.★

*Kristopher D. White is the deputy director of education at the American Battlefield Trust, as well as the co-founder and chief historian of Emerging Civil War.*

## PROFILES *in* PRESERVATION RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT



◀  
Trevillian Station Battlefield  
Louisa County, Va.  
CHRIS LONDON

invites Americans to explore the intangible bonds of our shared history and create space for reconciliation and healing in the future,” stressed NPS Deputy Director Shawn Bengel in announcing a BLAG grant for the Williamsburg battlefield.

But ABPP supports more than land acquisition with its game-changing grants. Preservation Planning matching grants have long been its purview, assisting entities connected to conflicts ranging from the colonial era through the 20th century. The Trust has received

several designed to craft best practice guides to empower local and regional entities, as well as ambitious efforts to GIS map battles from conflicts like the French and Indian War.

The newest programs — Battlefield Restoration and Battlefield Interpretation — were authorized by Congress in 2019. The first round of Battlefield Interpretation grants distributed \$917,173 through 11 grants to seven recipients. The Trust received five of these grants, which will allow the organization to use traditional and digital interpretation to bring the stories of sites of armed conflict alive for modern audiences, from brochures tactile maps that expand accessibility, to smartphone apps with augmented reality, to engaging videos and more. We have an exciting slate of new projects to submit in 2022, and we also look forward to the launch of the new restoration grant program.

“These grants represent an important investment in public-private conservation efforts across America,” emphasizes NPS Director Chuck Sams. “They ensure that future generations have access to green spaces and can reflect on our collective history.”

The American Battlefield Protection Program represents the daily federal commitment to protection of historic battlefields and the Trust remains thankful for all that it makes possible.★

## THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM *A driving force in battlefield preservation*



**F THE MANY** partners that facilitate the Trust’s work, none is more integral than the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), a bureau administered by the

National Park Service. Small but mighty, this office administers the federal matching grants that enable us to leverage member donations for acquisition, interpretation and restoration projects. It also maintains the official rosters of the principle battles and their geographic footprints — plus the authoritative list of conflicts with their dates and belligerents across American history. On many fronts, our work would not be feasible without ABPP.

Initially created by the Secretary of the Interior in 1991, ABPP was officially authorized when Congress signed the American Battlefield Protection Act into law in 1996. In this capacity, it has been the entity responsible for implemen-

tation and update of the *1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields* and creation of the *Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the U.S.*

These documents, which delineate and rate battles within those conflicts by historic significance and preservation status, are the backbone of the federal Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants (BLAG), which mark their 20th anniversary in 2022. Although the grants were first created with an eye toward Civil War sites, the program was expanded to include Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites by act of Congress in 2014. The program is authorized to receive up to \$18 million per year — to be matched at least 1-to-1 from other sources — but exact funding must be determined in the annual Interior Appropriations Bill.

To date, BLAG grants have protected land at 110 battlefields in 19 states, totaling more than \$126 million in matching grants to nonprofit organizations. “Preserving battlefields and sites of armed conflict

# NORWICH

## A SCENERY OF STORY-FILLED STONE

### Memorials and Monuments of West Point and Annapolis

**E**ACH DAY, cadets and midshipmen at the U.S. Military Academy and U.S. Naval Academy walk past reminders of those who laid the foundation on which they themselves strive to build their own legacies. Cast in stone, monuments and statues are the keepers of stories that have and continue to inspire our nation's military leaders.

#### U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

##### Wood's Monument (1818)

The oldest monument at West Point, the four-sided obelisk Wood's Monument honors Lieutenant Colonel Eleazar Derby Wood — an academy graduate and army



Wood's Monument in its original location

engineer who died valiantly at the siege of Fort Erie during the War of 1812. At the conclusion of the war, Major General Jacob Brown ordered its construction at his own expense. Erected in 1818, the 15-foot

monument now sits in the West Point cemetery. Wood was also memorialized through the naming of a star fort in New York Harbor, which now stands as part of the base for one of our nation's ultimate symbols of freedom, the Statue of Liberty.

##### Kościuszko's Monument (1828)

During the American Revolution, General Washington appointed Tadeusz Kościuszko as fortification engineer of West Point, and as such, he designed the defenses of the West Point garrison from 1778 to 1780. In 1825, John Latrobe — son of the famous Architect of the Capitol Benjamin Latrobe — proposed a monument be built on the campus to honor the "Patron Saint of West Point." Dedicated in 1828, the monument became the second oldest in the world dedicated to the Polish general, with the first in Krakow, Poland. The statue element, designed by D. Borja, wasn't added until 1913.



The lucky spur of the Sedgwick Monument  
BUDDY SECOR

##### Sedgwick Monument (1868)

The first monument built to honor the West Point graduate and Union Corps Commander John Sedgwick, who fell at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, the Sedgwick Monument was sculpted by Launt Thompson. It was erected and dedicated in 1868 with the support of officers and soldiers from his last command, the 6th Army Corps. Legend has it that his statue was cast from Confederate cannons captured by them! Additionally, it is said to be a source of good luck for cadets struggling academically — if one spins the spurs on the Sedgwick's boots.

##### Battle Monument (1897)

Standing tall upon the U.S. Military Academy campus at Trophy Point, the Battle Monument cannot easily be missed. Funded by the officers and soldiers of the Union Regular Army, the monument consists of a 46-foot-tall, polished granite column and surrounding cannons; the names of 2,230 Union officers and soldiers are inscribed throughout; and high atop, a statue of "Fame." While the bulk of the monument was designed by Stanford White, the famed female statue was designed and sculpted by Frederick MacMonnies. Dedicated in 1897, it stands as a tribute to the Federals who fell in battle during the Civil War.

#### U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY AT ANNAPOLIS

##### Mexican War Midshipmen's (1848)

The first monument to be built upon the grounds of the Naval Academy, the Mexican War Midshipmen's Monument is a marble obelisk that was created by sculptors R.A. Griffith and John Stephenson. Inscribed on each side are the names of four midshipmen — Clemson, Hynson, Pillsbury and Shubrick — who fell during the Battle of Veracruz in 1847. While none of these men stepped foot upon the campus grounds in Annapolis, their fellow midshipmen ensured their legacy would inspire generations of future attendees by gifting the structure in 1848.



Mexican War Midshipmen's Monument  
CRAIG FILDES

##### Tripoli Monument (1860)

Honoring six naval officers killed in action during the little-known Barbary Wars of the early 1800s, the Tripoli Monument was carved in Italy by Giovanni C. Micali in 1806. It is the oldest military monument in



Tripoli Monument  
RON GUNZBURGER

the United States and features the allegorical figures America, History, Commerce and Victory. The monument is a reminder of the evolution of the U.S. Navy, as the Barbary Wars marked the first real test abroad for the young naval force. Originally erected in the Washington Navy Yard, the monument was later moved to the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, and in November 1860, it was transferred to its current home at the U.S. Naval Academy.



Tamanend Statue  
IAN WITHNALL

##### Tamanend Statue (1930)

Chief of the Delaware Indians, Tamanend envisioned a peaceful existence between Native tribes and European settlers. He even agreed to a series of treaties with William Penn to ensure peace "as long as the creeks and rivers flow and the sun, moon and stars endure." More than a hundred years after his passing, Tamanend's likeness was carved into wood by artist William Luke in 1817, and was used as the figurehead for the USS *Delaware*. While the ship was salvaged in 1866 and the wooden sculpture sent to the Naval Academy, it wasn't until 1930 that the wooden carving was cast in bronze and placed on a pedestal facing Bancroft Hall. Today, midshipmen look to the statue with penny offerings and hopes of passing grades.

##### Commodore John Barry Memorial (2014)

Erected by the Ancient Order of the Hibernians and dedicated in 2014, the Commodore John Barry Memorial pays tribute to "The Father of the American Navy." After offering his services to Washington and the Continental Congress, Captain Barry was given command of the *Lexington* in December 1775. Throughout the course of the Revolution, Barry captained three ships and delivered the first successful Patriot naval win with the defeat of the HMS *Edward*. The young memorial sits upon the Barry Plaza, which can be accessed through the Barry Gate on the U.S. Naval Academy campus. ★

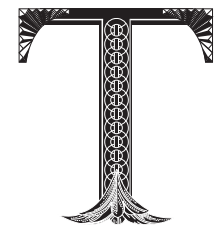


Commodore John Barry Memorial  
CRAIG FILDES

Kościuszko's Monument  
at the U.S. Military Academy,  
West Point, N.Y.  
U.S. ARMY

## MOLDING THE FUTURE OF THE MILITARY

### *The Reserve Officers' and Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps*



**THE RESERVE OFFICERS'** Training Corps (ROTC) and the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), commonly called "Rotsee" and "J-Rotsee," respectively, are educational programs sponsored by the United States Armed Forces at universities, colleges, high schools and some middle

schools to prepare young people for careers in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force.

ROTC programs are offered at more than 1,700 colleges and universities in the United States. Participants commit to serve in the armed forces after graduation in exchange for a paid college education and a commission as an officer. More than half of all newly commissioned military officers in the U.S. in 2020 were in the ROTC.

The genesis for the ROTC came during the Civil War with the Morrill Act of 1862, which established land-grant colleges and stipulated that they include military instruction. The ROTC was formally established by Congress in 1916 as part of the National

Defense Act. ROTC enrollees attend college like other students, but also receive basic military training and participate in regular military drills.

The U.S. Army ROTC is the largest branch of the program, with more than 20,000 enrollees, known as cadets, and more than 270 courses of instruction. Army ROTC courses are held in both classrooms and in the field and are complemented by a student's other academic studies.

The U.S. Naval and Marine Corps ROTC is the navy's single largest source of navy officers. The NROTC program was created in 1926, and the Marine Corps was added to the program in 1932; those seeking to become Marine Corps officers participate in the NROTC. NROTC students, known as midshipmen, are commissioned as naval officers upon graduation and can choose a career in surface warfare, naval aviation, submarine warfare or special warfare.

Air Force ROTC students, known as cadets, enroll in four-year or three-year programs that include a mix of college classes and an Air Force ROTC curriculum led by active-duty officers.

The Junior ROTC program, also established in 1916, is at high schools and some middle schools across the country and at U.S. military bases around the world. There are more than 3,270 JROTC units covering the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, with the majority — 1,600 — affiliated with the army.

The JROTC programs emphasize military discipline and the study of military science and military history. Cadets and midshipmen who successfully complete JROTC programs and one to three years of classes are usually able to enlist at an advanced rank. JROTC participants are not required to join the military, but 30 percent or more either join one of the services or continue with ROTC in college.

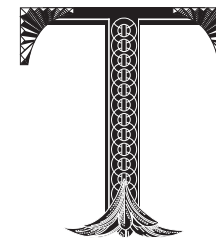
As mandated by federal law, each branch of the military must have a JROTC program to "instill in students in United States secondary education institutions the values of citizenship, service to the United States and personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment."★



Participants in the U.S. Army ROTC Challenge  
SARAH WINDMUELLER  
U.S. Army Cadet Command PublicAffairs

## LEARNING NEVER STOPS

### *The pursuit of graduate-level military instruction*



**THE MILITARY'S** higher education system is built around the five

federal service academies, but they are supplemented by 10 military graduate schools, of which the best known is the United States Army War College at Carlisle Barracks in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The Carlisle Barracks dates back to 1757 and the French and Indian War and is the second-oldest active military base in the U.S.

The Army War College, founded in 1901, offers graduate-level classes to prepare hand-picked army colonels and lieutenant colonels and officers from other branches of service for senior leadership positions. The college has about 800 students and awards its graduates master's degrees in strategic studies.

Its counterpart in the U.S. Navy is the Naval War College, established in 1884 at Newport, Rhode Island. More than 50,000 students have obtained degrees there since its first class of nine graduated in 1885. The college has about 600 graduate students working toward a master of arts degree in national security and strategic studies.

The navy also operates the long-established Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Founded in 1909, the school offers master's and doctoral degrees in more than 70 fields of study and has about 2,200 students.

The primary graduate school of the



Graduation Day  
National Defense University

U.S. Air Force is the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, which was established in 1919. It has more than 700 full-time graduate students, mostly air force officers, studying at four schools — the Graduate School of Engineering and Management, the School of Systems and Logistics, the Civil Engineer School and the School of Strategic Force Studies. The Institute also has seven research centers.

The Marine Corps University, founded in 1989 by Gen. Alfred M. Gray, Jr., is the newest of the major military postgraduate schools. Its campus is at Quantico, Virginia, on the Potomac River just south of Washington, D.C., and includes the nearby National Museum of the Marine Corps. The Marine War College, established in 1991, is the senior school within the university. Others include the School of Advanced Warfighting, the Command and Staff College and the Expeditionary Warfare School.

The National Defense University at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C.,

was established in 1976 to provide high-level education and professional development of national security leaders both inside and outside the military. It has about 4,000 students in five different colleges and schools: the National War College, the College of International Security Affairs, the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, the Joint Forces Staff College and the College of Information and Cyber-space.

The university says its mission is to educate military officers "and other national security leaders in critical thinking and the creative application of military power. . . under conditions of disruptive change, in order to prevail in war, peace, and competition."

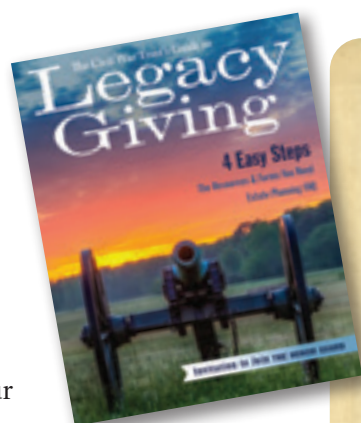
The other military graduate schools in the United States are the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama, the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the United States Army Warrant Officer Career College at Fort Rucker, Alabama.★

## MAKE BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION YOUR LEGACY

More than 1,500 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

**L**EAVING 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](mailto:legacy@battlefields.org) or visiting [www.battlefields.org/legacygiving](http://www.battlefields.org/legacygiving).



**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](http://www.battlefields.org/legacygiving) or e-mail [legacy@battlefields.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.

#### 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](mailto:legacy@battlefields.org).



Trust members at Eutaw Springs Battlefield exploring its hallowed ground.  
BUDDY SECOR



Donor Thank You Weekend  
Columbia, S.C.  
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 1,500-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.



Donor Thank You Weekend  
Columbia, S.C.  
BUDDY SECOR

## GIVE THROUGH YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN

**Y**OU 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 [www.battlefields.org/declarationofintent](http://www.battlefields.org/declarationofintent) or by e-mailing Meaghan K. Hogan at [legacy@battlefields.org](mailto:legacy@battlefields.org).

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— KEN ENGLE, AMADO, ARIZ.  
HONOR GUARD MEMBER



## America's History, LLC 2022 Calendar of History Tours

April 6-9—Kill Jeff Davis: The Kilpatrick-Dahlgren Raid on Richmond and Custer's Charlottesville Raid—Bruce M. Venter—Goochland, VA

May 14—Women in War: The Revolutionary Experience—Holly Mayer, Head of Faculty, Todd Braisted, Jenna Schitzer and others—A Symposium offered by The Marshall House—Schuylerville, NY

June 1-4—The Revolutionary World of Dr. Joseph Warren: Boston, Lexington, Concord, Bunker Hill and more—Christian DiSpigna and Bruce Venter—Woburn, MA

June 15-18—Following Famous Fighting Brigades at Gettysburg—Larry Korczyk—Licensed Battlefield Guide—Gettysburg, PA

June (dates TBD)—Wellington vs. Napoleon: The Waterloo Campaign of 1815—Call America's History for details—Waterloo, Belgium.

August 24-27—Virginia's Founding Fathers: Essentially Important for Independence—Edward G. Lengel and Bruce Venter—HQ TBD.

September 7-10—Sullivan's Campaign against the Iroquois in 1779: Retribution or Genocide—Dr. Glenn F. Williams—Victor, NY

September 14-17—Young George Washington: How Frontier Warfare Shaped His Leadership—Dr. David Preston—Cranberry, PA

September 23—New York's Frontier on Fire: Major Christopher Carleton's Raid in 1780—Patrick Niles and Bruce Venter—in conjunction with the Fort Ticonderoga American Revolution Seminar—Ticonderoga, NY

October 3-9—Grant Moves South: Vicksburg to Chattanooga—A. Wilson "Will" Greene—Birmingham, AL—(all meals and hotel rooms are included in the registration fee.)

October 28—World War II Conference Bus Tour—TBD—Gettysburg, PA

October 28-30—3rd Annual World War II Conference—Edward G. Lengel, Head of Faculty, Alex Kershaw, Michael Gabriel, Leah Garrett, John McManus, Charles Neimeyer, Daniel O'Keefe, James M. Scott, Craig Symonds, Flint Whitlock, and others—Gettysburg, PA

November 2-5—America's Heroes: A National Medal of Honor Battlefield Experience—Edward G. Lengel—Knoxville, TN

Each tour includes motor coach transportation, all lunches, beverage and snack breaks, a map package, all admissions and gratuities and the services of experienced tour guides/historians. You pay only for your transportation to the start point of the tour, evening meals and your overnight accommodations (at pre-negotiated special rates.) The Grant Moves South tour includes all accommodations and all meals. Details will be available on our web site on each tour's description page.

For details: see [www.AmericasHistoryLLC.com](http://www.AmericasHistoryLLC.com)  
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## A PARTING SHOT HERITAGE SITES



WEST POINT MUSEUM

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**HE UNITED STATES** Military Academy at West Point is legendary among military academies, with alumni such as Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, Gen. Robert E. Lee, Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, and Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. With such legends and an accumulation of head-

tilting objects comes a place where visitors can learn more about West Point's story. Right outside the gates from the campus, next to the Visitors Center and along the Hudson River, sits the West Point Museum in Olmstead Hall. Amazingly, it is the nation's oldest federal museum!

Opened in 1854, when Robert E. Lee was superintendent of the Academy, the museum was not at all what visitors encounter today. It was first a museum of weaponry, with a smidge of scattered objects. But growth came with the 20th century, rocketing the didactic site to the position of a leading public museum, especially as tourists flocked to the Hudson Valley. Starting in the then Academy Building, the museum was moved to its current location in 1988.

Today, visitors can view exhibits on both large and small weaponry, as well as the history of West Point — starting with its Revolutionary beginnings. You can even find pieces that belonged to George Washington, Napoleon I, John Pershing, Dwight Eisenhower and more!

Even if military history is not the apple of your eye, the museum has a fabulous art collection, including works by artists such as James Whistler, Robert Weir and Frederick Remington. Seasonally, the museum also opens access to Fort Putnam, a Revolutionary-era fort used by the Continental Army to prohibit northern access of the Hudson River to the British.

If you are visiting only the museum and Visitors Center, you will need a Real ID. If you wish to walk the gorgeous grounds of the campus, including the cemetery, additional permissions can be obtained at the Visitors Center. The Visitors Center and West Point Museum are free and open to the general public on a daily basis, but it is recommended that you verify the operational status and public health protocol before making your plans. ★

**WEST POINT MUSEUM** 2110 New South Post Road, West Point, NY 10996 (845) 938-3590  
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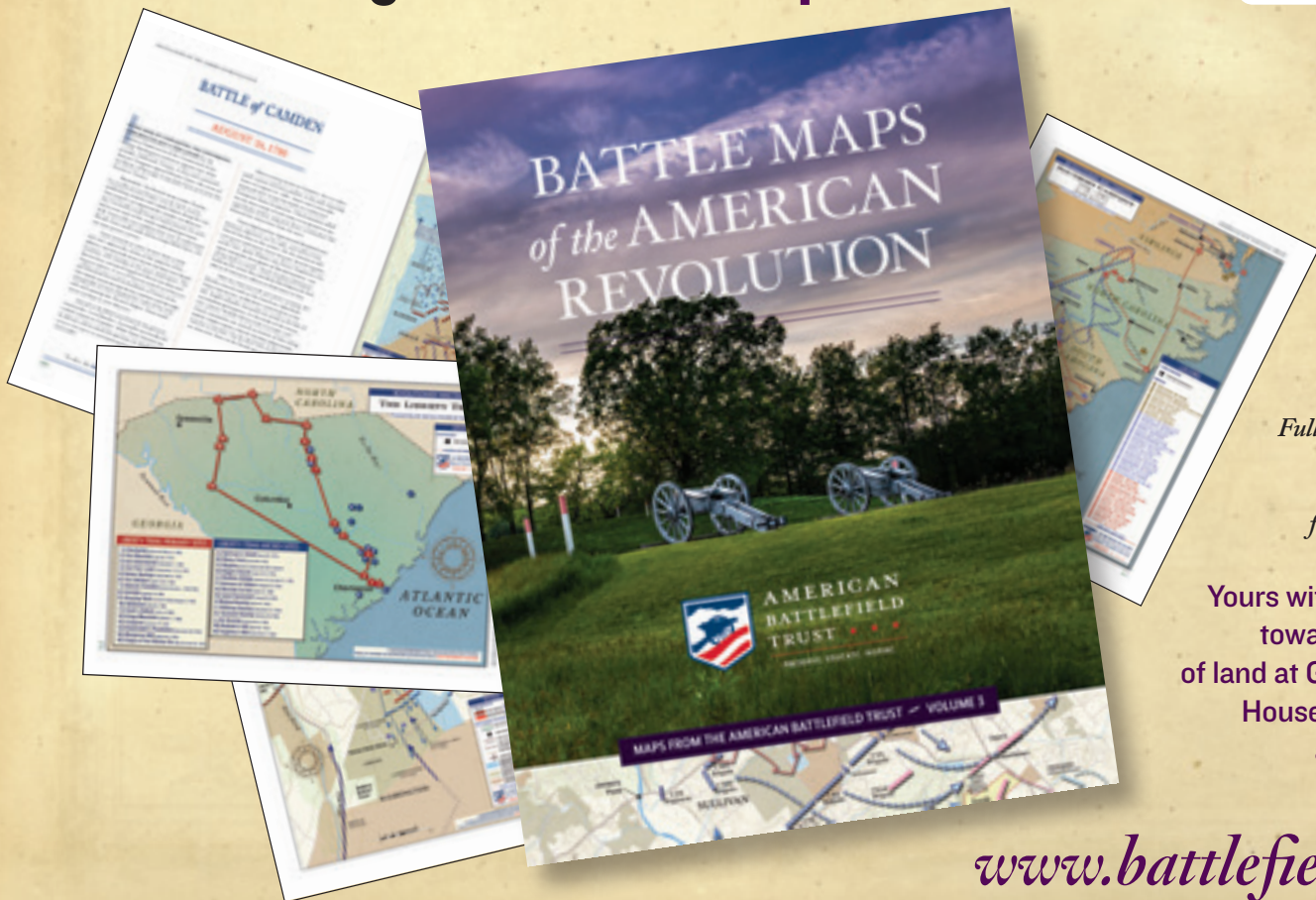




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