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AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

HALLOWED GROUND

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SLAUGHTER
PEN FARM

A PRESERVATION EFFORT FOR GENERATIONS

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 57,000 acres, more than 155 sites in 25 states. For more information, call 800-298-7878 or visit our website at www.battlefields.org. *Hallowed Ground* is the membership magazine of the American Battlefield Trust. It is produced solely for nonprofit educational purposes and every reasonable attempt is made to provide accurate and appropriate attribution for all elements, including those in the public domain. Contemporary images are reproduced only with permission and appropriate attribution; uncredited images are courtesy of the American Battlefield Trust. Feature articles reflect the research and opinion of the bylined author. ©2023 American Battlefield Trust.

CORRECTION: We regret the following errors in the Summer 2022 article *A National Calamity*, about the January 1813 Battle of River Raisin, both of which have been updated in the online version. Although American forces pressed into Canada in the summer of 1812 to threaten Fort Amherstburg, they did not capture it. The U.S. 17th Infantry Regiment did not manage to erect formal breastworks between their arrival and being attacked on January 22; they were encamped in the open.



**AMERICAN
BATTLEFIELD
TRUST**

PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.



Slaughter Pen Farm
Fredericksburg, Va.
JUDITH MUFFLEY

PRESERVATION rarely happens in a flash, but sometimes it can be an *especially* long road. And few properties have had as arduous a journey as the Slaughter Pen Farm at Fredericksburg. Through what soldiers who fought there might have called “benevolent providence,”

this incredibly historic landscape remained farmland, even as airports, industrial parks and strip malls sprang up around it.

When the chance to fully preserve it arose, the process was dramatic enough that it could have been plotted out by a novelist. Maneuvering to preempt a municipal infrastructure project. Negotiating with the seller clandestinely, using a residential development firm as intermediary. Prevailing upon sympathetic financiers to offer favorable terms. Setting a record for the then-largest federal battlefield preservation grant. Rallying the unprecedented support of local organizations.

Even then, we were far from done. It took us 16 years to pay down the entire loan on this \$12-million property, faithfully making our annual installments thanks to the ongoing support of members like you. Along the way, the Slaughter Pen Farm effort became synonymous with the broader cause of preservation. Those who joined our ranks along the way may not have appreciated the scale of what was undertaken and achieved.

As we prepare for the final phase of the Slaughter Pen Farm’s journey — removal of the last modern visual intrusions and a refreshed trailhead plaza orienting visitors and thanking donors — we thought it was a fitting time to revisit the full story of this special place. We could easily spill more ink on the story of what unfolded on those fields on December 13, 1862, and the deeds of the soldiers who fought there — not least the five Medal of Honor recipients whose citations are forever tied to this spot. I know that anyone who reads this issue of *Hallowed Ground* will understand exactly why this organization said, “Regardless of the cost or how long it takes, we *must* save it.”

In these pages, we also reflect on two other programs that demonstrate the longevity and endurance of the Trust and its

members. This spring, as so many others, we celebrated a highly successful Park Day, bringing volunteers to more than 100 historic sites across the nation. With 27 previous Park Days under our belt, this is our longest-running program besides land acquisition. In all those years, Trust members and allies have contributed a staggering 475,000 hours of volunteer labor at battlefields, cemeteries, and other important places. That is nearly 20,000 days — or an astonishing 54 years — of work on behalf of our nation’s history.



I also want to call attention to a critical group of donors listed in these pages: the Steadfast. This recognition society was created to honor donors who give with incredible consistency, regardless of the size of their contributions. Especially given how the Trust leverages private donations against government matching grants or other sources, every gift makes a difference. Our transaction-based model, inviting you

to choose those projects which resonate most with you, means that many donors give multiple times a year. But despite knowing this, I remain in awe every time I review this list, realizing just how many of you have entrusted us with your hard-earned treasure hundreds of times — one remarkable supporter has made, at last tally, 1,023 individual gifts!

However you choose to support this great and desperately needed mission — whether it be with time, talent, treasure, or all three — please know that I am grateful to you. Despite the many existential challenges we face (some of which are covered in this issue), never forget that you are my secret weapon. Your generosity allows me to tell developers, “You may have worldwide name recognition, you may have billions of dollars in the bank, and you may think you hold all the cards. But I have 46,000 dedicated preservationists standing right beside me, and we will never give up.” Working together, now and for many years to come, how can we possibly lose?

DAVID N. DUNCAN
President, American Battlefield Trust

President Portrait by BUDDY SECOR

battlefields.org

ON THE TRUST WEBSITE

DISCOVER THE TRUST’S VIDEOS BY SCOURING THE MAP!

Have a particular wartime location you’d like to learn more about? See if the Trust has a video, or two, that satisfies your curiosity — by looking at its interactive map full of pinned video resources. Zooming in on the map of Slaughter Pen Farm, you’ll encounter approximately 18 videos giving insight into the historic landscape and the actions that unfolded there. See it for yourself at www.battlefields.org/learn/videos-mapped

TAKE IN CIVIL WAR FREDERICKSBURG FROM AFAR

The historic town of Fredericksburg with its surrounding battlefields remains a must-see for all visitors interested in history and the Civil War, but we aren’t always able to seek adventure in person. Connect yourself with the sights this area has to offer — from downtown Fredericksburg to Prospect Hill — through the Trust’s 360° virtual tour, and see how the battle unfurled across the landscape through the gripping narration and immersive visuals present within the Fredericksburg Animated Map.

Peruse virtual tours at www.battlefields.org/virtual-tours

Learn from the Trust’s animated maps at www.youtube.com/americanbattlefieldtrust

CHASE ADVENTURE WITH THE TRUST’S CURATED ITINERARIES!

Plan your next battlefield trip using the recommendations in the Trust’s collection of itineraries. Explore points of interest in the Fredericksburg area or expand your scope by trekking from Fredericksburg to Gettysburg to behold Trust-saved battlefields with three-day itineraries. Find these and more at www.battlefields.org/itineraries

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VALOR AT SLAUGHTER PEN FARM

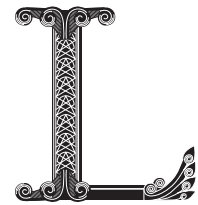
Follow along with War on Terror Medal of Honor recipient Britt Slabinski as he walks Slaughter Pen Farm and tells the incredible tale of George Maynard as part of the *Brothers in Valor* series. As Slabinski describes the actions that earned Maynard the Medal of Honor, learn how he relates to the emotions that must’ve flooded Maynard’s mind as he decided to help a friend in agony. Check out the story at www.battlefields.org/brothers

EXPLORE
THIS ISSUE



BATTLE STATIONS AT THE WILDERNESS!

Trust and allies file lawsuit to block controversial Orange County rezoning



LAST YEAR, a threat crystalized in Orange County, Va., the likes of which battlefield preservation has never seen before. The “Wilderness Crossing” mega-development would cover 2,600 acres of historically sensitive landscape with residential units, commercial and industrial space, data centers and distribution warehouses.

Unfortunately, even in the face of tremendous community opposition and despite serious concerns raised by historic preservation groups and the National Park Service, among many others, in late April the Orange County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to approve the project.

After carefully weighing our options and consulting with specialist counsel, on May 24, the American Battlefield Trust filed a legal challenge seeking to overturn this rezoning. In filing the appeal, we were joined by allies at the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT) and Friends of Wilderness Battlefield (FOWB), which also own and manage land set to be severely impacted by the project, as well as concerned local citizens. Although they lack legal standing to serve as plaintiffs, other groups like Preservation Virginia, the Piedmont Environmental Council, National Parks Conservation Association and National Trust for Historic Preservation stand with us in this fight.

This is a substantive suit identifying numerous failings in the process through which the proposed development was considered and in the resulting rezoning, which cleared the way for 5,000 residential units, plus vast commercial and industrial development spread over 800 acres.

Just before the final vote, the developers revised their proposal again, removing the five-million-square-foot cap on data center and distribution warehouse volume, allowing them to build as much industrial use as can be crammed into 750 acres. This was done without any analysis of how this type of development would impact historical resources, including the Wilderness Battlefield viewshed, and water usage and noise pollution in the community, among other issues.

Simply put, we could not stand on the sidelines and allow such immense and insensitive development to proceed unchallenged. As a steward of historic landscapes, it is our responsibility to advocate boldly on their behalf.

However, we are keenly aware that legal proceedings are expensive and time-consuming. Even as we pursue this course, we do not wish for this important work to detract

from the organization’s core land acquisition mission. Thus, we welcome donations specifically earmarked for advocacy efforts like this legal action and other grassroots activism in battlefield communities across the country — helping prevent destructive projects like this from gaining traction in the first place.

The concept of battlefield preservation — the protection of hallowed ground for future generations to study and set aside as living memorials to the citizen soldiers who fought and bled there — is often a unifying one. We do not ask that communities remain frozen in time, just that they consider these irreplaceable historic resources when they weigh development options and locations.

Time and again, we have sought win-win solutions, working with officials and developers to find a proper balance between development and historic preservation. But when those common-sense arguments fall on deaf ears or the process is circumvented to prevent their consideration, we remain willing to fight.

Sadly, this is the second time we have had to take such a stand for virtually the same ground. For several years, beginning in 2008, preservationists engaged in an advocacy campaign urging Walmart to relocate a proposed supercenter away from this battlefield gateway area. In 2011, that situation was fully resolved when Walmart agreed to open its store a short distance away, later donating the original 50-acre site to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

At that point, the preservation community became proactive. The Wilderness Battlefield Gateway Study — a multiyear community discussion spearheaded by the

Wilderness Battlefield Coalition and undertaken by the Hill Studio consulting firm — sought to establish a clear vision for the land surrounding the Wilderness Battlefield, blending preservation and development to create a welcoming gateway to the battlefield, the associated landscape and the community of Eastern Orange County.

In 2015, Orange County created its own Germanna-Wilderness Area Plan that reinforced the need for careful planning in region in order to protect the battlefield and other historic resources in the region. Similarly, the Wilderness Battlefield Gateway Study advocated for a model of development that would emphasize preservation of open space while allowing for a low-intensity, mixed-use village that was properly scaled for the rural character of Orange County.

Unfortunately, the Wilderness Crossing proposal abandons the goals, philosophies and hard-won wisdom that underpin these consensus-based planning documents. It stands to destroy a historic landscape and set a dangerous precedent that could endanger many others. We believe it must be fought with every tool at our disposal.★



ALSO IN THE CROSSHAIRS

More Virginia battlefields facing threats



THE SOLDIERS who once fought on these hallowed fields could not have imagined the strip malls and subdivisions that necessitated the creation of the American Battlefield Trust and the modern battlefield preservation movement in the mid-1980s. Similarly, even those stalwart souls who saw the need for an organization to purchase and protect these sites could never have envisioned the 21st-century threats that now constitute the most pressing danger to historic landscapes: things like industrial-scale solar farms, distribution centers fulfilling e-commerce’s overnight shipping demands and hyperscale data centers.

And, once again, Virginia is ground zero for these threats. While the pressures are felt elsewhere, a combination of geography — a central location on the East Coast transit network — along with federal and state investments in technology has placed the target squarely on Northern and Central Virginia, an area extremely rich in historical and cultural resources.

Industrial-scale solar complexes, facilities that create city-powering levels of electricity by consuming hundreds of acres of rural open space, became a major issue for us when Virginia mandated 100 percent of its electricity must be renewable by 2050. Scores of such facilities are under consideration across the Commonwealth at this moment, creating very real potential for numerous battlefields to be impacted. The Trust has attempted to be proactive by encouraging counties to adopt ordinances that prevent solar facilities on battlefield land and working with Preservation Virginia to craft a best practice report to distribute to those in the industry. However, the push for data centers to use renewable energy creates even greater demand for solar facilities.

Distribution warehouse hubs are also eating away at battlefield land directly and indirectly. These massive, windowless complexes with plenty of room to maneuver tractor-trailers require large tracts of undeveloped open space near population centers. And while the entire I-95 corridor is a hotbed — with Revolutionary War sites in New Jersey also impacted — Virginia is in the bullseye because more than half of Americans live within a day’s drive of Richmond.

The most egregious example of these warehouses threatening battlefield land is unfolding in Prince William County, where the Trust has worked with local officials to protect much of the Bristoe Station Battlefield as a county historical park. We had long pursued 85 adjacent acres associated with Kirkland’s Charge against the Union II Corps, but the local church instead sold the plot to developers for \$54.8 million, and the site is now being considered for a 740,000-square-foot warehouse distribution center. This situation has landed the site on Preservation Virginia’s annual list of the state’s most endangered historic sites.

The rising tide of data centers is perhaps most alarming. Driven by state and local tax incentives for data centers and related equipment, the industry is booming to the point that 70 percent of global internet traffic flows through Loudoun County, Virginia. Many data centers are underwritten by the biggest companies on Earth — Amazon, Meta and others — for whom price is no object. They can pay exponentially more than an otherwise fair market value for land, easily pricing out groups like the Trust.

Data centers raise concerns far beyond the destruction of history, as well. Large facilities require as much electricity as 25,000 homes to run their servers and 3–5 million gallons of water to cool them, daily. The constant humming of air conditioners to keep the machines running also creates significant noise pollution in the surrounding area.

We are currently tracking proposals that could negatively impact Brandy Station, Glendale, North Anna and Manassas, in addition to the Wilderness. But it is important to remember that the Trust and its allies in the preservation community are not opposed to modern infrastructure; we just believe it must be sited carefully.

Keep abreast of emerging threats and learn how you can help at www.battlefields.org/speak-out ★

PROTECTING FORT NEGLEY

*Trust honors modern defenders
of Nashville site*

BEFORE the official start of our Franklin-based Annual Conference in May, Trust officials gathered at Fort Negley, on the hills overlooking Nashville, to celebrate the groundswell of community support that, in recent years, has elevated the story of this unique site to the point of UNESCO designation and multimillion-dollar municipal investment.

“The mission of the American Battlefield Trust is predicated on the ‘power of place,’ an idea powerfully encapsulated by Fort Negley,” said organization President David Duncan. “Standing here, the pull of the past is inescapable — the way that this place has resonated with generations, gaining new layers of significance. We owe a debt to those who have led the way in advocating on its behalf, especially Mayor [John] Cooper and the African American Cultural Alliance.”

The event followed on the heels of the previous evening’s Metro Nashville Council meeting in which that body passed a resolution “affirming the protection of Fort Negley” and pledging the site will now be devoted to “educational purposes, archaeological research, historic interpretation, and public park uses and shall not be developed for any purpose other than those proposed in

the 2022 Fort Negley Master Plan.” The current municipal budget includes \$17 million for stabilization, interpretation and further land acquisition at Fort Negley, demonstrating the sincerity of that sentiment.

Now the last remnant of the Union’s Civil War defenses at the site, Fort Negley was largely constructed by the newly emancipated, and the park’s modern confines all but certainly still contain burials of many who died performing that labor. The fort was defended by regiments of United States Colored Troops, and many veterans stayed after the war, transforming what began as contraband camps into Nashville’s first post-Emancipation free Black neighborhood.

Despite this rich history, Fort Negley has faced notable threats in recent years, all of which were opposed by the Trust. Following the relocation of the city’s minor league baseball team from adjacent municipal parkland, a major mixed-use development was proposed that would have obliterated archaeological resources and destroyed the area’s context. The plan was abandoned, and when John Cooper ran for mayoral office, he made a pledge to champion Fort Negley a hallmark of his campaign. A subsequent effort by a nearby science center to plant an arboretum across the area archaeologists believe to include Civil War burials was contested by the African American Cultural Alliance (AACA). During the Trust event, both Cooper and the AACA were honored with the Trust’s prestigious Preservation Legacy Award for their tireless work.

“It has been an honor to advocate for the ongoing protection of Fort Negley throughout my time in public office,” said Mayor Cooper. “Fort Negley offers an irreplaceable, invaluable window into our history, and allows us to gaze into our past with courage, examine our flaws, and plan a brighter, better future for all. Its preservation is a victory for everyone.”★



The African American Cultural Alliance and Nashville Mayor John Cooper receive the Trust’s Preservation Legacy Award. From left to right: Cyril Stewart, President of Friends of Fort Negley Park; Jeneene Blackman, CEO of the African American Cultural Alliance; John Cooper, Mayor of Nashville; David Duncan, Trust President; Country Music Star Kix Brooks. MELISSA A. WINN

ABPP ENHANCEMENT ACT

*improves critical federal
battlefield grants program*



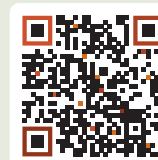
FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) has been a cornerstone of the Trust’s efforts to preserve our nation’s hallowed ground. Managed by the National Park Service (NPS), ABPP is the administrative body that oversees federal matching grants for the planning, acquisition, restoration and interpretation of battlefield landscapes.

Over these past two decades, the program has become one of the most successful public-private federal grant programs ever, aiding in the preservation of more than 35,000 acres of hallowed ground associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War across 21 states from New York to New Mexico. As a result of the program’s continued success, which earns it wide bipartisan support, the authorized level of funding has grown tenfold since first authorized in 2002.

To ensure this program remains strong and successful as we head into the 250th anniversary of our nation’s independence, the Congressional Battlefield Caucus Chairs and U.S. Reps. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) and Gerry Connolly (D-VA) recently introduced the **American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act (HR3448)**, which would make small but significant modifications to the program to further increase its impact.

The legislation would allow nonprofits and tribes to apply directly for federal grants, saving valuable time and ensuring key land acquisitions can move quickly and efficiently. Additionally, the legislation would widen the scope of ABPP’s restoration grants to all battlegrounds identified by the National Park Service and ensure land acquisition grants can be used to preserve our most significant battlefields from our nation’s founding conflicts. Finally, it would create a mechanism for the NPS to update the congressionally authorized reports identifying the key Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War battlefields when there is authoritative research, archaeology or study that demonstrate a larger battlefield than originally believed.★

Please contact your member of Congress and urge them to become a cosponsor of the American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act (H.R.3448).



ACCLAIMED UNTOLD HISTORY SERIES

continues to expand



AFTER THREE successful installments, the Trust once again expanded its award-winning *How We Became America: The Untold History* video series. By combining dynamic animations with historic images, the programs aim to fill in the gaps in history textbooks, bringing those stories to life. While the previous round of videos focused on the

Revolutionary War and the Civil War, the newest iterations focus their attention on the War of 1812.

At three minutes or less in length, the latest installments explore the often called “Second War of Independence” through different lenses. From the origin of the War of 1812 and the burning of Washington to the Battle of New Orleans and the Treaty of Ghent, viewers will be immersed in the world of early 19th century America. Other videos showcase the Battle of Fort Mchenry, the USS *Constitution*, the War on the Lakes and more.

The series, supported by the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program and produced and distributed by Makematic, is made in partnership with the Driving Force Institute for Public Engagement (DFI). The ever-growing series was the recipient of a Silver Award at the 43rd Annual Telly Awards where it was recognized in the online series group.

To watch the latest Untold videos, visit www.battlefields.org/untold ★



Medal of Honor Valor Trail

In the Footsteps of Heroes

"There is no higher and nobler mission
than to serve the Republic,
who honors the brave and
the just, for the common good,
the glory of brave and noble men."

CMOHS Executive Vice President
John Falkenbury and Medal of Honor
Recipient Ryan Pitts explore the freshly
installed exhibit.



Medal of Honor recipient Sammy Davis and his wife, Dixie, with Trust President David Duncan.
MELISSA A. WINN

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Trust launches manual for battlefield friends groups



THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST knows how critical it is to have friends: The battlefield preservation movement truly is a community effort bolstered by state, regional and site-specific local groups across the nation. But to be most effective, these often all-volunteer organizations can benefit from sharing proven practices and innovative solutions. That's why the Trust has partnered with Walker Collaborative to analyze inputs from more than 100 battlefield friends groups in 26 states and craft *Boots on the Ground: A Manual for Battlefield Friends Groups*.

This manual seeks to assist these groups in their work to support battlefield parks. From establishing new organizations, to cultivating board members with critical skillsets, to building membership and staff, to achieving preservation and stewardship missions, this resource has it all for groups in any stage of development. By including real-life examples from successful groups around the nation, *Boots on the Ground* serves as a trusty companion for those seeking to take part in protecting the battlefields of our country. A wide range of topics is addressed within, and the manual includes data, an inventory of friends groups and the results of a survey on current active battlefield partners organizations in more than 70 pages of content, now available on the Trust website.

Representatives of friends groups, round tables, historical societies and other organizations united in the cause of historic preservation are invited to subscribe to the Trust's newsletter community Allies for Battlefield Preservation by visiting www.battlefields.org/email-signup. Subscriptions to other email series are also available.★

INTERACTIVE MEDAL OF HONOR

Valor Trail exhibit expands its reach



THE MEDAL OF HONOR VALOR TRAIL™, a joint effort of the American Battlefield Trust and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society (CMOHS) is taking physical shape outside Charleston, Va., with the installation of an interactive exhibit aboard the USS *Yorktown*, home of the Society's Medal of Honor Museum. This first-of-its-kind touchscreen map lets users explore the stories of Medal of Honor recipients and focuses on the global places of valor where they went above and beyond the call of duty. The exhibit debuted in the events leading up to Medal of Honor Day on March 25 and is the first on-site component of the Medal of Honor Valor Trail™.

"The American Battlefield Trust is rooted in the power of place," said David Duncan, president of the organization devoted to historic land preservation. "The incredible stories of those who have earned our nation's highest honor gain a new level of significance when considered in their geographical context, and we're honored to help advance that storytelling."

Even if it were only a static plotting of the locations — from fields of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to the shores of Normandy to the mountains of Afghanistan — at which the 3,516 Medal of Honor citations unfolded, the map would be innovative, providing a unique view of American military involvement over the past 160 years. But each point is also tied to biographical information about the recipient and specific details of the individual citation. The large-format touchscreen exhibit was designed and fabricated by Interactive Knowledge, a longtime Trust partner and collaborator committed to delivering meaningful web and mobile applications, augmented reality experiences and impactful interactive exhibits for the nation's leading cultural, educational and public institutions.

Prospective sites can use this form to submit information for inclusion on the growing digital trail network.



Medal of Honor recipients placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to commemorate Medal of Honor Day. Courtesy NPS

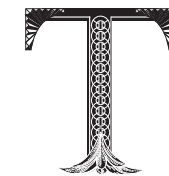
Laura Jowdy, CMOHS's director of archives, collections and museum, agreed, noting: "We firmly believe in the mantra 'Every Medal, a story to be told. Every Recipient a part of something greater.' This exhibit offers a powerful visualization of that holistic concept and provides an exciting new hands-on experience for visitors to the museum."

To celebrate Medal of Honor Day itself — marking the 160th anniversary of the first medals being awarded to Andrews' Raiders, whose exploits 200 miles behind Confederate lines were immortalized as *The Great Locomotive Chase* — Trust officials hosted more than a dozen recipients for lunch before traveling to Arlington National Cemetery for a special wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Medal of Honor Valor Trail™ initiative spans the full lineage of the Medal of Honor, from its Civil War origins into the 21st century. It is designed to connect the places most deeply associated with the lives and legacies of recipients — from battlefields to burial places, memorials to museums, hometowns to namesake sites. By connecting the many venues that tell a portion of the Medal of Honor story, the Valor Trail is creating a community of sites that together illuminate the core values of service that span centuries.★

SHILOH VIDEO TOUR

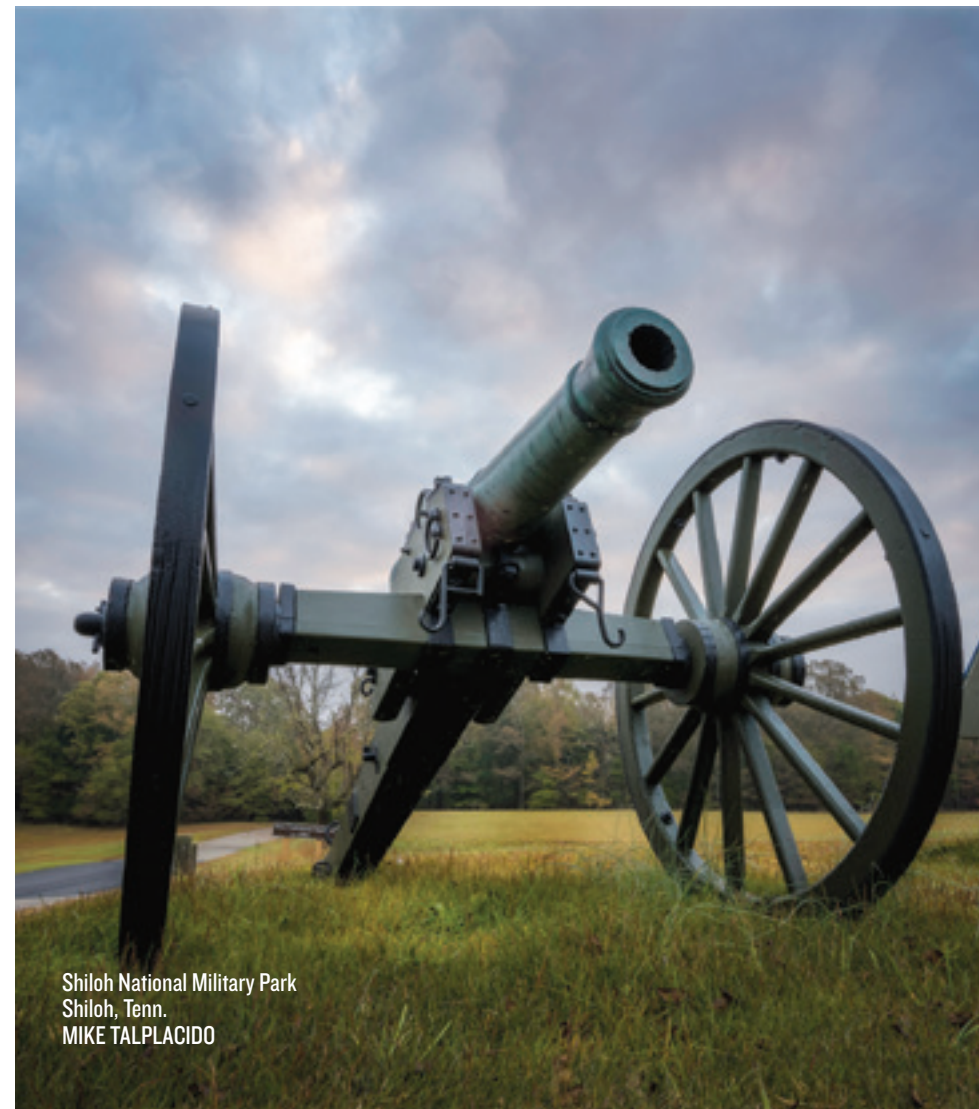
A drive through history



TO MARK the 161st anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh in April, the American Battlefield Trust launched a nearly two-hour video tour of the bloody 1862 battle site. Riding along with Dr. Timothy B.

Smith, a former National Park ranger and current professor of history at the University of Tennessee at Martin, viewers can experience a drive through the historic site as Smith expertly describes the iconic locations of Shiloh National Military Park. Smith takes viewers to places like Pittsburgh Landing, Grant's Last Line of Defense, Shiloh Church and the Hornet's Nest as he tells the story of the battlefield in and out of the car, as well as alongside maps and historical imagery that paint a picture of what happened on this hallowed ground.

The Shiloh Driving Tour comes after the success of an earlier Gettysburg edition that let viewers hit the road with Trust historians and adds to the ever-growing collection of digital resources the Trust has created to provide access to some of the most important locations in our nation's history and which demonstrate the power of place. Future forays are also planned to the battlefields of Yorktown and Chickamauga.★



Shiloh National Military Park
Shiloh, Tenn.
MIKE TALPLACIDO

27TH ANNUAL PARK DAY

*brought volunteers together
to honor the past*



Two young boys help honor the legacy of our nation's veterans as they clean grave markers. Poplar Grove Cemetery, Va. JAMIE BETTS PHOTO



AN ANNUAL TRADITION that is near and dear to the American Battlefield Trust, Park Day 2023 once again united local communities to support the preservation of America's collective heritage and ready a wealth of historic sites for the busy summer season. The event rallied more than 3,200 volunteers across 108 sites spanning more than 27 states. Through the efforts of Wounded Warrior groups, Capital One Salute, ROTC units, church groups, Boy and Girl Scouts, battlefield reenactors and many others, some of America's most treasured historic sites have received the care they need through more than 475,000 cumulative hours of volunteer labor amassed over the last 27 years of Park Day.

This year, volunteers from New Mexico to Vermont braved muddy April showers and lingering spring chills to uplift history with more than 8,000 hours of labor. The financial value of this volunteer operation cannot be overlooked, as the Trust has estimated the monetary equivalent of this year's volunteer labor to be about \$245,000. Volunteer tasks included painting, trail and fence restoration, marker clean-up, garden maintenance, trash and leaf removal, gravestone upkeep and more. Their hard work does not go without notice, as the Trust commends these volunteers for their dedication to community and the cause of historic preservation.

The Trust looks forward to continuing this decades-long tradition of volunteerism by celebrating Park Day 2024 on Saturday, April 6. We hope that you will encourage your local park and historic sites to participate in this nationwide opportunity to preserve and maintain pieces of our American past. ★



Two volunteers tend to much-needed painting at the Kernstown Battlefield. Winchester, Va. MICHAEL ROSST



Trust President David Duncan scrubs clean a headstone at Poplar Grove Cemetery in Dinwiddie County, Va., during Park Day 2023. JAMIE BETTS PHOTO



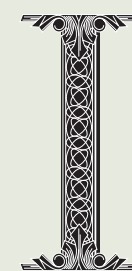
Volunteers help clean a plaque at Cedar Mountain Battlefield. Culpeper County, Va. JENNIFER MICHAEL



BACK ROW: (from left) Peter Carmichael, Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College; Pete Miele, Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center; Timothy Smith, Adams County Historical Society; Karl Pietrzak, Destination Gettysburg; Jill Sellers, Main Street Gettysburg; Lindsay Methlie, Destination Gettysburg; Carl Whitehall, Destination Gettysburg; FRONT ROW (from left): Wayne Motts, Gettysburg Foundation; Steven Sims, Gettysburg National Military Park; David Duncan, American Battlefield Trust; Andrew Dalton, Adams County Historical Society; Stephanie Lightner, Gettysburg Heritage Center. MELISSA A. WINN

GETTYSBURG BOUND IN 2024!

Annual Conference returns to Pennsylvania



IT'S BEEN EIGHT YEARS, but the American Battlefield Trust is headed back to Gettysburg for its Annual Conference in April 2024! The popular event will feature four days of illuminating tours, enlightening talks, convivial gatherings and special access to historical resources. According to 96 percent of those already clamoring to attend, the biggest draw is the chance to see landscapes newly preserved by the Trust or restored to their period appearance.

In his comments announcing the event alongside partners on the porch of the Trust's Lee's Headquarters property, organization President David Duncan noted that "more than half our membership tell us that Gettysburg is their favorite battlefield to visit, and we couldn't agree more." Due to the anticipated popularity of the event, Duncan encouraged members to pre-register and ensure they had first access to tour choices and information about elements of the gathering that will be held across the historic community.

The Trust is already coordinating with local businesses to provide the best experience possible for those coming to the event. However, if past trips to Gettysburg are any guide, attendance may ultimately have to be capped to ensure the group can be comfortably accommodated.

To build excitement for the gathering, the Trust has debuted a comprehensive page that showcases all its Gettysburg work to date — nearly 1,240 acres worth of land protected, and hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in landscape restoration and cutting-edge digital interpretation. Explore new assets like a virtual tour of Lee's Headquarters at www.battlefields.org/gettysburg-enlivened ★



LAWRENCE SWIADER

A LAST SALUTE

*Reburial ceremonies honor
Camden excavated soldiers*



IN APRIL, the South Carolina Battle-ground Preservation Trust (SCBPT) and its partners conducted ceremonies to honor the memory of 14 Revolutionary War soldiers excavated on the Camden Battlefield last autumn.

Fieldwork and artifacts recovered during the process indicated that the remains were those of 12 Continental soldiers of the Maryland and Delaware regiments, one British Loyalist of a North Carolina regiment and one Scottish Highlander of the 71st Regiment of Foot. The remains indicate that five of the Patriot soldiers were teenagers at the time of their service and ultimate sacrifice.

The soldiers will ultimately be reinterred in coordination with the U.S. Army, in keeping with its legislative mandate and policy regarding the perpetual care of military remains. The Loyalist militiaman, whose Native American ancestry is evidenced by the shape of his upper incisors, will be reinterred in coordination with the Catawba Nation.

The Trust is highly sensitive to the reality that wartime burials inevitably remain on battlefield landscapes, and pledges to follow appropriate protocols for their sensitive handling should they be discovered on our properties. ★

In the event that historic military remains are identified on battlefields through erosion, animal activity, survey work or any other means, the Office of Army Cemeteries appreciates prompt notification, leading to consultation in the process.

Site managers should email
usarmy.pentagon.hqda-anmc.mbx.accountability-coe@army.mil

Gettysburg NMP
Gettysburg, Pa.
NOEL KLINE

ONE HUNDRED NIGHTS OF TAPS enters 7th year at Gettysburg National Cemetery

THE INSPIRATION for One Hundred Nights of Taps came from the “Last Post” bugle-call at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium, a daily ceremony honoring those who fell in WWI. The ceremony has occurred every night for 95 years, even during a nearby WWII battle. In 2016, when artist Wendy Allen of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, observed the remembrance, she was deeply moved and conceived of a similar ceremony at home, using the U.S. Armed Forces bugle call Taps, which is sounded at military funerals. Gettysburg National Cemetery memorializes more than 6,000 men and women who served the United States in conflicts from 1863 through the 1970s, including more than 3,500 Union soldiers killed in the Battle of Gettysburg. Allen was on the board and is the current president of the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania, a nonprofit that furthers remembrance of the cemetery’s dedication featuring President Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. Her enthusiasm sparked support and, in 2017, birthed One Hundred Nights of Taps at the Soldiers’ National Monument. From small beginnings, attendance at the simple ceremony has grown exponentially, attracting some 8,000 visitors in 2022.

Additional partners have since joined the program, and for 2023, the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania and Gettysburg National Military Park will co-sponsor the seventh year alongside Taps for Veterans and Gettysburg’s Licensed Battlefield Guides.

The all-volunteer program combines education and moments of deep reverence each evening from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., a Licensed Battlefield Guide offers a free interpretive program exploring the aftermath of the battle and the creation of the national cemetery. The guides conclude at the Soldiers’ National Monument, where the 100 Nights program begins at 7:00 p.m. During the Taps program there is a brief historical vignette, with topics changing nightly. Buglers come from across the country to play the 24 notes.

John Tuskan, historian-archivist of the Lincoln Fellowship, is a frequent presenter and summarized the appeal. “It is unique to hear Taps so close to where President Lincoln spoke, surrounded by those who gave their lives to preserve our Union.”

Learn more at www.lincolnfellowship.org ★

“THEY LED THE WAY”

New N.C. marker honors 135th USCT

THIS SPRING, 158 years after the 135th U.S. Colored Troops marched to war, community leaders and descendants gathered in downtown Goldsboro, N.C., to dedicate a new Civil War Trails sign honoring the regiment’s service.

The story of these brave soldiers came to light through the 2016 work of the 135th USCT Research Team, Inc. These local citizens and regional historians explored archives, scoured online sources and analyzed historical documents to craft the new sign in downtown Goldsboro. Lt. Col. (ret.) Deborah Jones, secretary of the 135th USCT Research Team, Inc., expressed her excitement at getting to “witness the recognition of these once-enslaved men and their back-breaking efforts to secure freedom for all.”

The new marker joins more than 1,400 other signs in the Civil War Trails program, which connects visitors across six states as they follow in the footsteps of people of the past. The Trails team found the Goldsboro site to be particularly inspiring, with executive director Drew Gruber remarking, “It’s like time travel. Standing in the footsteps of the 135th is powerful: Many of those men entered one side of town as former property of another person and left town as soldiers of the United States. You can read about it in a book, but there is no substitute for being in that space and place, using the sign as a caption for the landscape and fuel for your imagination.”

Civil War Trails and the American Battlefield Trust are joining forces to digitally connect this and related North Carolina sites in a new “Road to Freedom” app modeled on the successful edition for Virginia launched in early 2021. Through the effort, stories like that of the 135th USCT will be brought to light and connected into a broader narrative that invites visitors to reflect upon the struggles and triumphs of those who paved the way for future generations. ★



Donald and Cheryl Harmon (left), Leonard Paul Sherrod Jr. (second from right), and Lt. Col. (retired) Deborah Jones (right) help place the new interpretive sign.

Above photo courtesy CIVIL WAR TRAILS, INC.



Nancy Hill (Harrodsburg Historical Society) and Chad Greene (Friends of Perryville Battlefield) pose with Dr. Thrift’s hospital ledger.

SOLD AT AUCTION

Perryville hospital ledger

THE MARCH DISCOVERY of a hospital ledger that details hundreds of soldiers wounded at the Battle of Perryville has given preservation allies a new window into the aftermath of that bloody engagement. Alerted to the artifact’s Ebay listing, the Friends of Perryville Battlefield raised enough funds from its donors to retrieve the ledger from an antiques dealer in New York and return it to Kentucky and the care of the Harrodsburg Historical Society.

Many of those wounded during the Battle of Perryville were taken to Harrodsburg to be treated, overwhelming the city some 10 miles away from the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site following the largest battle of the Kentucky Campaign in the Civil War. In the engagement that led to the Confederate retreat from Kentucky, the Federals outnumbered the Confederates more than three-to-one and pushed Gen. Braxton Bragg’s army back into East Tennessee.

The newly recovered ledger is attributed to Dr. Robert Wilson Thrift, surgeon of the 49th Ohio Infantry. It serves as a record of the soldiers treated in Harrodsburg and provides insight into the fates of many who wound up in the area. As often happens with history, the ledger may bring about more questions than answers. According to Civil War historian and preservationist Joni House, there appear to be discrepancies regarding some of the Georgia regiments, leading her to posit that the Georgia soldiers could have lied about their origins.

The Friends of Perryville will be assisting the Harrodsburg Historical Society by taking donations for restoration of the ledger, as some pages are partially pasted over and obscured, and their contents could illuminate more about those treated. The nonprofit’s president, Chad Greene, described the importance of bringing this document back to the community to examine it, stating that “many of those young men’s families may not have known what happened to their loved one during the war. We hope that this is a chance to give back to those men who sacrificed so much.”

Learn how you can help support study and safekeeping of this important artifact at www.friendsofperryville.org ★



Photos courtesy HARRODSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TOUR THE BAYOU

New offering features Port Hudson



BLUE, GRAY & BAYOUS tours has entered into an agreement with Louisiana State Parks to offer guided, for-hire tours of Port Hudson State Historic Site. Blue, Gray & Bayous guides will conduct the tours, which launched on June 1.

“We are always looking at ways to enhance the guest experience at our state parks and historic sites,” said Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser. “This partnership will provide yet another option to experience Port Hudson State Historic Site.”

Port Hudson State Historic Site, located 20 miles north of Baton Rouge, preserves the site of the 1863 Union siege of the Confederate stronghold along the river bluffs. As part of the Vicksburg Campaign, Union General Nathaniel P. Banks was tasked with capturing the small garrison at Port Hudson, Louisiana, and then moving on toward Vicksburg, Mississippi, to aid Union forces in capturing the city.

From May 21 to July 9, 1863, Banks besieged Major General Franklin Gardner’s small command at Port Hudson, one of the last strongholds on the Mississippi River. When Gardner learned that Vicksburg had fallen on July 4, and that no reinforcements were coming to rescue his men, he decided to surrender. The surrender of Port Hudson rendered the entire Mississippi River under Federal control, and the Confederacy was cut in two.

The state of Louisiana maintains the site, which includes a museum, artillery displays, redoubts and interpretive plaques. Living history re-enactments are held each year. In 1974, the Port Hudson battlefield was designated a National Historic Landmark. Port Hudson National Cemetery is located about 6 miles to the south.

Blue, Gray & Bayous, established in 2014, is the only tour business in the state dedicated entirely to the subject of the American Civil War in Louisiana.

To purchase private guided-tour tickets, go to www.bluegrayand-bayous.com ★



Port Hudson State Historic Site
Jackson, La.
GERARD PLAUCHE

www.battlefields.org AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST 13

THE LONG HAUL

The Slaughter Pen Farm Timeline

IN MARCH 2006, the Trust announced the most ambitious private battlefield acquisition project in American history — a \$12-million fundraising campaign to purchase the 208-acre Slaughter Pen Farm on the southern end of the Fredericksburg Battlefield. It took more than 16 years, but in June 2022, the Trust finally claimed victory at Slaughter Pen Farm. The final payment on the long-term loan was made in May 2022 — two years early. It remains the largest and most complex private battlefield preservation effort in the nation's history.



December 13, 1862: Union forces launch a massive frontal assault about five miles south of Marye's Heights at Prospect Hill, a muddy plantation field. Before the fighting ended, 9,000 Union and Confederate soldiers had fallen at a place later dubbed "the Slaughter Pen."

1970s: Robert K. Krick, then historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, convinced the farm's owner to sell two tracts of 20 and 23 acres, respectively, in the southwest corner of the property along the railroad to the National Park Service.

2003: The then Civil War Preservation Trust (the Trust) recognized the need to save Slaughter Pen Farm property but, valued at more than \$10 million, it posed a seemingly insurmountable financial challenge.

Fall 2004: The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT) scored a major preservation victory when it obtained a conservation easement on 104 acres zoned for industry on Latimer's Knoll, just northwest of Slaughter Pen Farm on the other side of the railroad tracks.

July 2005: Campi had the Trust's law firm send a Freedom of Information Act request and then President Jim Lighthizer sent a letter to the members of the Spotsylvania Battlefields Coalition, calling the troops out to attend a special community meeting set for July 14. Ultimately, the school administration backed down and cancelled the meeting.

December 2005: The farm, then 208 acres, went on the market as the "Pearson Industrial Tract" at \$12 million.

March 28, 2006: The Trust announced that it had agreed to buy the property for \$12 million, with a closing date of June 15, thus beginning its fundraising campaign.

Summer 2006: In his *Message from Headquarters* column in the summer issue of *Hallowed Ground*, then President Jim Lighthizer wrote that the Trust was pursuing the purchase of the Slaughter Pen Farm without knowing exactly how it would be paid for. But a game plan was built with creativity: Longtime Trust banking partner SunTrust, now Truist, agreed to fund the whole transaction and offer the Trust innovative financing opportunities. The loan's terms required an annual payment of \$400,000, and many donors scheduled a recurring gift to help pay down the balance. Plus, the Trust devised a plan to sell Virginia tax credits once it had placed a conservation easement on the property.

October 2006: The Trust held the first public event at the Slaughter Pen Farm, a news conference at which then Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne announced that the project would receive a \$2-million federal matching grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program — a sum that remains among the largest awards in that program's history. In addition to its other funding sources, the Commonwealth of Virginia also contributed \$300,000 toward the acquisition, a process that directly led to the creation of a first-in-the-nation state matching grant program for battlefield preservation in 2006.

1930s: The Confederate line along Prospect Hill was added to Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, but the open plain — that which contained the Slaughter Pen — remained a dairy farm. Over time, it became hemmed in by a highway, a railroad and a small airport. The land was zoned for light industry, making it even more valuable for developers.

1997: The farm escaped becoming an auto auction venture only when the business decided to build on another property.

November 2004: The farm's owner being ill, he left his niece — his to-be sole beneficiary and executor of his estate — to field a slew of calls from interested developers and realtors, which prompted the Trust to back off at the time.

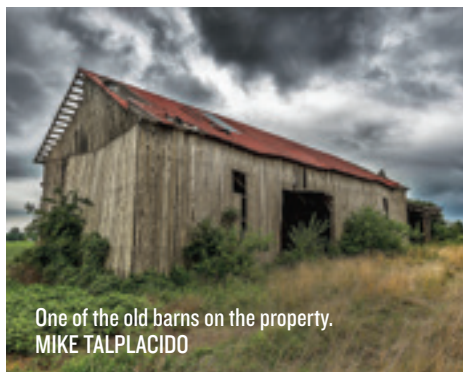
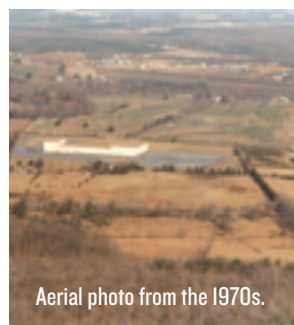
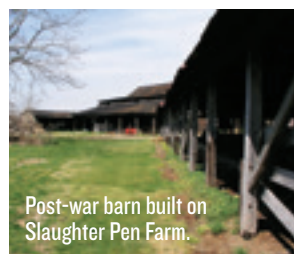
Spring 2005: Chief Policy and Communications Officer Jim Campi was alerted that the Spotsylvania County School Administration was working on a plan to buy 25 acres of Slaughter Pen Farm for a new elementary school. He worked to organize local residents into the Spotsylvania Battlefields Coalition, arranging tours of the property to prepare volunteers for a fight.

September 2005: When the longtime owner died, his niece made plans to sell. But she was not interested in working with preservationists — possibly because of the previous Spotsylvania County School Administration experience. Trust leaders were concerned that even a full cash offer might be rejected.

February 2006: After contacting Tricord Homes, a local firm with which the Trust had worked to fashion a preservation-friendly development proposal on the nearby Chancellorsville Battlefield, the Trust was able to utilize its relationship with the firm to secure a \$12-million purchase contract on the Slaughter Pen Farm.

Spring 2006: CVBT pledged \$1 million to save Slaughter Pen Farm, demonstrating the local commitment to saving the site.

June 15, 2006: The acquisition of the 208-acre Slaughter Pen Farm closed, becoming the largest and most complex private battlefield preservation effort in the nation's history.



SUCCESS STORIES
LAND SAVED FOREVER



Rendering of a new interpretive plaza to come once final demolitions are complete. DALE WATSON

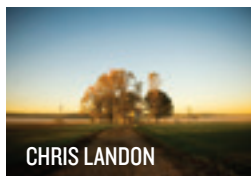


One by one the non-historic buildings have been demolished.

June 2012: At the Trust's Annual Conference, CVBT representatives were honored for their commitment, presenting the final installment of their payment and receiving a standing ovation from grateful attendees.

2021: Although the Trust was due to finish its fundraising in 2024, a longtime, anonymous supporter challenged the group. If individual donors could come up with the next \$400,000 annual payment, he would contribute all of the \$800,000 remaining on the loan, paying it off two years early.

September 2022: The Trust teamed up with Capital One's Salute Business Resource Group to arrange a special Park Day volunteer clean-up at Slaughter Pen Farm and First Day of Chancellorsville Battlefields sites in Fredericksburg, Va. Volunteers raked leaves, picked up litter and cleared walking paths.



CHRIS LANDON

2023: A postwar farmhouse, the property's last lingering modern structure, will be demolished and the full field viewshed restored. ★

2009: The Trust installed an almost two-mile educational walking trail at Slaughter Pen Farm. The route is popular with locals, students of history and military units participating in staff rides to study lessons in leadership and tactics.

March 2019: Trust debuts Brothers in Valor project, bringing living Medal of Honor heroes to battlefields to walk in the footsteps of their Civil War counterparts, including Master Chief Special Warfare Operator Britt Slabinski, U.S. Navy Seals, at the Slaughter Pen Farm.

May 2022: The final payment on the loan was made, two years ahead of schedule. With the Slaughter Pen Farm now owned free and clear by preservationists, the Trust and its many partners turned toward celebrating the milestone.

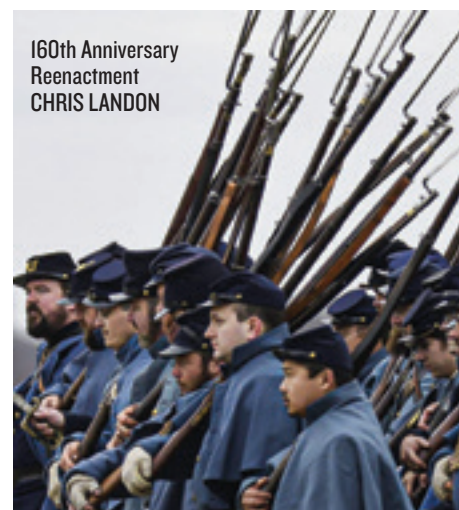
December 2022: Living historians and reenactors commemorate the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg and the fighting at Slaughter Pen Farm.



Marines tour the battlefield
ZACH ANDERSON



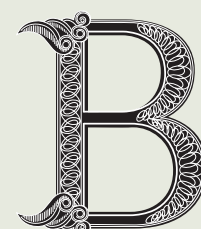
Medal of Honor Recipient
Britt Slabinski at the SPF.
ROBERT MAXWELL



160th Anniversary
Reenactment
CHRIS LANDON

PROFILES in PRESERVATION
RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

**CENTRAL VIRGINIA
BATTLEFIELDS TRUST**
"Preserving Dirt and Grass"



BETWEEN 1862 AND 1864, the Federal and Confederate armies clashed on multiple occasions and in momentous engagements in the Rappahannock River Valley: at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House. The strategic location that drew armies to Central Virginia more than 160 years ago has also drawn residential and commercial development at a staggering pace.

Specifically, an interchange built in the 1960s on I-95 spawned massive development along State Route 3 (the historic Orange Turnpike), which, over decades, resulted in the paving over of the site of fighting around Salem Church, where Union and Confederate forces suffered more than 9,500 casualties on May 3, 1863. The National Park Service (NPS), strapped for the cash and resources to compete with developers for historic land purchases, was all but powerless to stop it.

In 1996, a group of concerned, "fed up," local citizens banded together in the basement of a Fredericksburg home and created the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust (CVBT). Its mission: "Preserving Dirt and Grass." According to CVBT President Thomas Van Winkle, the organization's initial purpose was to fill in the gaps for funding that NPS could not. That included purchasing properties that were within a park boundary, but NPS could not afford, and properties outside an NPS boundary.

From there, CVBT branched off to include saving and preserving properties associated with all four of the major battlefields in the area: Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania and the Wilderness.

With a membership of 600 from across the nation, and even the United Kingdom, the organization has saved a total of 1,700 acres of Civil War battlefield land.

CVBT's first success occurred at Willis Hill in 1996, where it assisted NPS in acquiring a critical 8.5-acre parcel atop Marye's Heights, which was occupied by the famed Washington Artillery during the Battle of Fredericksburg. Today, the site is one of the most heavily visited on the battlefields around Fredericksburg. The preservation success also marked the first of many collaborative partnerships between CVBT and the American Battlefield Trust.

In the early 2000s, when developers threatened to bulldoze the Chancellorsville Battlefield to accommodate more than 2,000 houses and 2.4 million square feet of commercial and office space, the Trust and CVBT joined together to stop them. With resources from additional collaboration, the First Day at Chancellorsville site has been saved forever as open space.



Trust President David Duncan presents CVBT President Tom Van Winkle and CVBT Executive Director Terry Rensel with a map for the organization's 25th anniversary, showing the properties the two organizations have saved in central Virginia.

And in one of the most remarkable preservation efforts to date, when the price tag for Fredericksburg's Slaughter Pen Farm rose to a seemingly insurmountable \$12 million, and it seemed preservationists, including the American Battlefield Trust, would have to pass on the chance to buy the land, CVBT jump-started the effort with a gallant move.

"Historians were all looking at the land then and trying to decide which parts of it could be saved," Van Winkle says. "And then [notable historian] Frank O'Reilly said, 'It should all be saved.' Well, if anybody knows about Fredericksburg, it's Frank O'Reilly. We took that to heart and decided to do what we could. We said, 'What if we pledge \$1 million to it?' We decided that it was that important, as small as we are, so we raised \$1 million."

The small organization's big promise worked and enlivened the preservation community. Together with the American Battlefield Trust and its members and partners, the full amount was raised, and the land saved.

Seven years later, in 2013, when CVBT invested a \$770,000 state grant into the Trust's Fleetwood Hill purchase at Brandy Station, it helped ensure the project's success.

CVBT has also been working with the Trust for more than 20 years to piece together the lands associated with Jackson's Flank Attack. The organization just purchased two more properties on the Chancellorsville Battlefield and is close to completing the full goal.

"We are one or two more properties away from putting a long stretch of that flank attack together so you can walk it without having to go around somebody's private property," Van Winkle says. "It's been a long project and it's still going, but we're really stitching it back together."

The organization has recently added the Mine Run Battlefield to its preservation mission statement and is already working toward saving some parcels of land there.

In 2007, CVBT received the Trust's coveted Brian C. Pohanka Preservation Organization of the Year Award, alongside the Richmond Battlefields Association. Then Trust President James Lighthizer called the CVBT, "the best grassroots land preservation group in the U.S.," and an integral part of many preservation success stories, noting that "the \$1 million pledge to Slaughter Pen was an astonishing feat for a group CVBT's size."

What started as an almost literal grassroots effort to preserve the area's historic green spaces has blossomed into a preservation powerhouse saving the hallowed ground so vital to the history of the war's years-long grip on this crossroads. ★



ECHOES OF REVOLUTIONARY FREDERICKSBURG

dot the landscape of the history-rich Virginia city

THE PROPERTY that George Weedon and Hugh Mercer — brothers-in-arms and, later, brothers-in-law — purchased on what is now Caroline Street in Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1764 was well positioned, within sight of the Rappahannock River and George Washington's childhood home at Ferry Farm beyond. The stately home that Weedon built there, known as the "Sentry Box," remains a powerful connection to both Patriots' legacies.

Weedon, born on his family's plantation in Virginia's Northern Neck, and Mercer, a Scottish-born surgeon who had served the Jacobite cause at Culloden, became friends while fighting alongside Washington in the French and Indian War. Upon the conflict's conclusion, both men sought new beginnings and, likely encouraged by the future president, settled in Fredericksburg. Weedon married Catherine Gordon and took over management of her family's tavern, while Mercer married her sister Isabella and began a medical practice.

But discontent in the colonies continued to mount and, at the outset of the Revolutionary War, both men took up arms for the Patriot cause, serving with the Third Virginia Regiment — Mercer as colonel and Weedon as lieutenant colonel. Following the summer of 1776, when the unit played an instrumental role in protecting Virginia from attacks led by Lord Dunmore, they moved north, joining with George Washington's main force in New York by September. Both men aided in the campaign for New York City before participating in what historians now call the "Ten Crucial Days." But while Weedon was tasked with bringing prisoners of war to Philadelphia following the first Battle of Trenton, Mercer



continued fighting, meeting his end at the Battle of Princeton. Weedon went on to become a brigadier general, commanding troops at the Battles of Brandywine, Germantown and, later, Yorktown.

When George Weedon returned to Fredericksburg, he kept on as a tavern keeper but didn't limit himself in the world beyond — he served as a councilman from 1782 to 1787, was president of the Virginia state chapter the Society of the Cincinnati from 1784 to 1792 and acted as mayor of Fredericksburg in 1785. An ambitious man, it is no surprise that Weedon desired to build a home that reflected his success.

Weedon's ledgers and personal records, covering the period of 1734–1793, convey that he presided over the construction of the two-story, wood-framed home. Between construction and materials, these records indicate that the original home cost approximately \$2,185. While George and Catherine were childless, the home was full — thanks to

the presence of sister Isabella and the five Mercer children. The close quarters predicament even prompted an expansion of the home.

While built in the Federal style, the structure that passersby see today is the product of 230-plus years of additions and alterations that drew from Georgian, Greek Revival and Colonial Revival architecture. The original home was also flanked by numerous one-story buildings, consisting of a kitchen, a meat house, a study and an ice-house, which has a unique Civil War connection.

When General Weedon passed in



1793, the home went to his wife, and then after into the hands of his nephews John and Hugh Tennent Weedon Mercer — Weedon having provided for his nieces and nephews, children of his dearest friend, as if they were his. Future generations also came to know the house; Hugh Weedon Mercer, a future Confederate brigadier general named in honor of his grandfather, was born at the Sentry Box in 1808.

The war had made its way to Fredericksburg by late 1862, and the Sentry Box stood as witness to much of the fighting that unfurled in the streets. It also overlooked the middle pontoon bridge that Union forces used in the process of crossing the Rappahannock River — all while being fired at by Confederates on the opposite bank, where a few Southern soldiers positioned themselves between the Weedon home and the river in the Sentry Box's icehouse.

When the Federals finished their crossing, they took to occupying lower Fredericksburg in the evening hours of December 11. While looting the homes in the city, the Sentry Box on Caroline Street was also targeted. Legend claims that an existing friendship between invading Union Brig.



Gen. Ambrose Burnside and Confederate Capt. Roy Mason, whose grandmother had bought the home in 1859, was the factor that spared the home.

The Sentry Box was not fully without its battle scars, as Union artillery fire had rained down on the home. Its detached kitchen was completely devastated and had

to be rebuilt after the war. But the structure was not the only thing harmed upon the property during the fighting — Capt. Mason reported that he found several fallen blue-clad soldiers on the grounds.

Many layers of mesmerizing American history are tied to the property, imbuing in those who pass by or walk its halls the weight of its historic value. Its current owner has especially appreciated the presence of the past.

"I bought General Weedon's home in 1962 and, since then, my wife Mary Wynn Richmond and I have devoted ourselves to restoring the property to reflect its vast and fascinating history," said Sentry Box owner, Central Virginia Battlefields Trust board member and collateral descendent of Weedon, Charles McDaniel. "Throughout this time, we've gleaned a great deal about George Weedon and the memories he and his family made within this home. I often think about how the general carried down stories of the Revolution, even celebrating Washington's 1776 victory at Trenton with a party each Christmas. Over the past 60 years in the Sentry Box, we've filled the home with many memories of our own while paying tribute to those who came before us."

In 1992, the Sentry Box was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources placed a historical marker along Caroline Street in 2008, inviting the curious minded public to glean its story. ★

OTHER GLIMPSES OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR FREDERICKSBURG

HUGH MERCER APOTHECARY SHOP
1020 Caroline Street,
Fredericksburg, Va. 22401

From leeches and lancets to crab claws and snakeroots, this 1772 apothecary serves as a museum of medicine, pharmacy and military and political affairs.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S FERRY FARM
268 Kings Highway,
Fredericksburg, Va. 22405

See where young George Washington spent his formative years through guided house tours and exhibits.

THE RISING SUN TAVERN
1304 Caroline Street,
Fredericksburg, Va. 22401

Built by George Washington's brother, Charles, this tavern originally served as Charles's private residence. Once sold outside the Washington family, the building was leased out as a tavern in 1792.

KENMORE PLANTATION AND GARDENS
1201 Washington Avenue,
Fredericksburg, Va. 22401

Explore the Georgian-style brick mansion built by George Washington's sister, Betty Washington Lewis, and her husband, Fredericksburg merchant Fielding Lewis.

JAMES MONROE MUSEUM
908 Charles Street,
Fredericksburg, Va. 22401

Dedicated to the life of the country's fifth president, the James Monroe Museum offers materials and exhibits on the study, interpretation and presentation of this founder.

FREDERICKSBURG OLD MASONIC CEMETERY
Corner of George & Charles Streets,
Fredericksburg, Va. 22401

Maintained by the Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge, where George Washington became a Mason, this cemetery has more than 200 graves of Masons that range from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and beyond.

H O R R O R

On land known as the “Slaughter Pen,” the Battle of Fredericksburg was both won and lost on December 13, 1862. As outnumbered, blue-clad troops marched across the ground, they encountered horror like never before. Despite performing a number of gallant actions, the Federals were outmatched, ultimately placing victory in Confederate hands.

and H E R O I S M

at Slaughter Pen Farm

by KRISTOPHER D. WHITE

Slaughter Pen Farm
Fredericksburg, Va.
CHRIS LANDON



THE BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG is misunderstood, its intricacies brushed off and reduced to a futile frontal assault against a fixed position, with Confederate soldiers well positioned for easy victory, mowing down thousands of Federal soldiers. The reality of what happened on December 13, 1862, is far different. It was a two-front fight: One-sided carnage, indeed, at Marye's Heights, but a close-fought thing to the south, where the Union army was on the cusp of dislodging and possibly defeating Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

The plan that Federal commander Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside decided upon was simple enough: a pre-dawn, nearly simultaneous assault on the Confederate lines. On the Union left, Burnside amassed nearly 65,000 Federal soldiers to attack across a plain south of Fredericksburg, strike the Confederate right and push it to the west and north — away from the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia. “The enemy had cut a road ... in the rear of the lie of heights ... by which they connected the two wings of their army,” Burnside later told the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War, “I wanted to obtain possession of that new road, and that was my reason for making the attack on the extreme [Federal] left.” Immediately following the seizure of the road, Burnside intended to launch the assaults on the Rebel left and right, which would “stagger

the enemy, cutting their line in two.” When the “direct attack on their front,” drove the Confederates from their works, Burnside could then pursue the disorganized enemy or interpose his army between Richmond and Lee's army.

Vague orders arrived at the front after dawn on December 13, and they seemed to contradict the plan Burnside had discussed with his commanders the previous evening. The Federal commander in charge of the Union left, Maj. Gen. William Buell Franklin, was baffled. He had assumed his men would be the vanguard of the offensive, yet the orders he received sounded impotent: “The general commanding directs that you keep your command in position for a rapid movement down the Old Richmond Road, and you will send out at once a division at least to pass below Smithfield, to seize, if possible, the height near Capt Hamilton's ... taking care to keep it well supported and its line of retreat open.”

Rather than ask Burnside for clarification, Franklin stuck to what he perceived as the tone of the order and, instead of launching 65,000 Federals on an assault, he sent forward “a division at least” — some 4,200 men — and he kept “it well supported” with another division of some 4,000 soldiers. Simply put, a poorly worded order and terrible communications — all made worse by a bad map — led to Franklin's decision to throw forward a mere 8,200 men — a fraction of what were at his disposal — toward an enemy line of more than 38,000 Confederate soldiers.

Why would Franklin not ask for clarification? According to the Left Grand Division commander [Franklin], General-in-Chief Henry Halleck informed him prior to the battle that he “would be tried as soon as they were through with Fitz John Porter.” Porter was Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's favorite corps commander



FRANKLIN



JACKSON

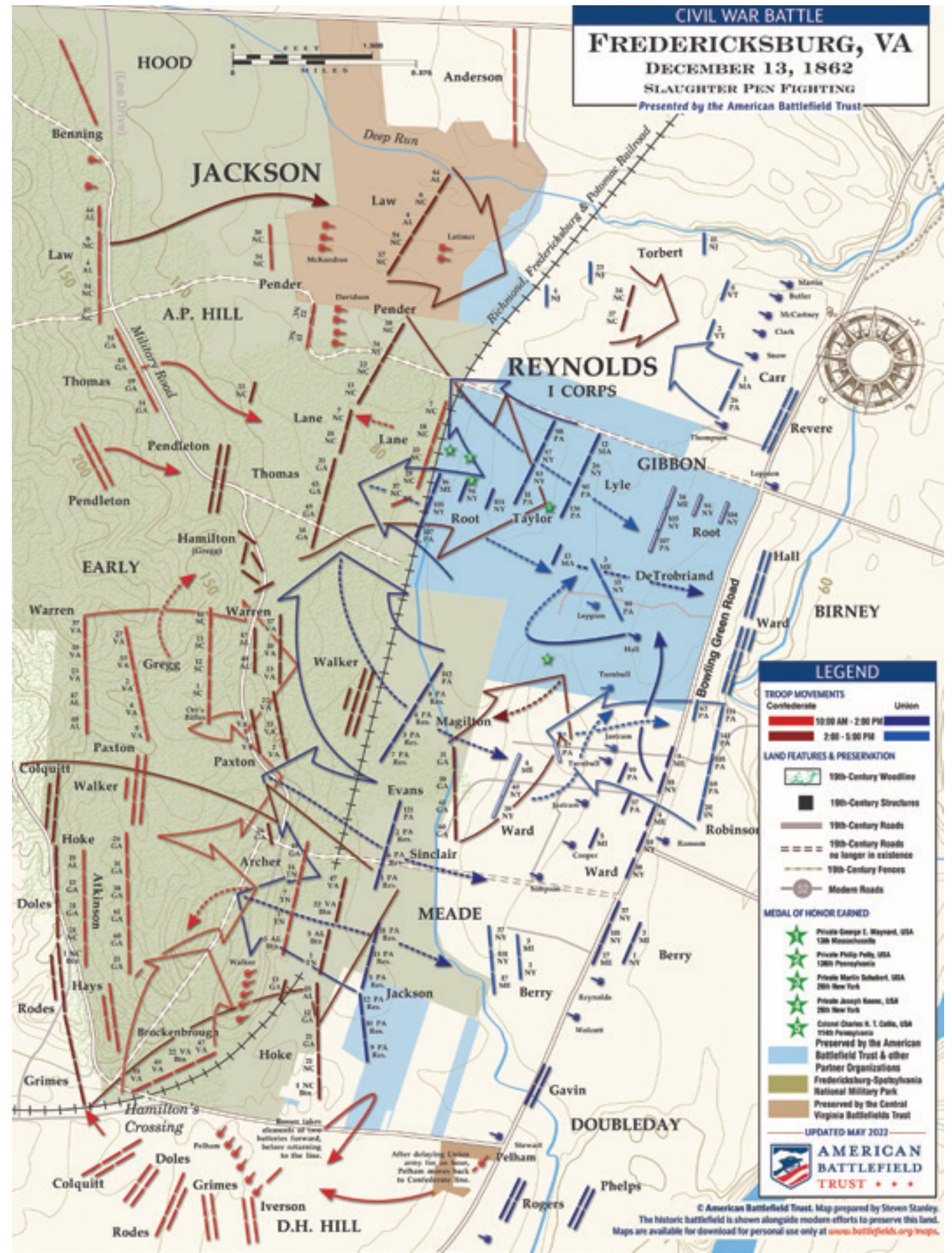
during the Peninsula Campaign and Seven Days Battles. He'd been relieved of command and was about to face a military tribunal for actions at Second Manassas. Franklin, another of “Little Mac's” favorites, was next on the chopping block. Thus, as one of the highest-ranking officers entering the Battle of Fredericksburg, he feared for his career. This led to Franklin going out of his way not to make waves or think outside the box. He stuck to the letter of the order.

In 1862, the fields south of Fredericksburg were open and slightly rolling. A handful of men owned most of the land along the Richmond Highway (present-day Routes 2 and 17). Alfred Bernard owned the 911-acre plantation known as the Bend, while his brother Arthur owned some 1,800 adjacent acres at Mannsfield Plantation. Farther to the south stood Smithfield (today the Fredericksburg Country Club), then owned by Thomas Pratt and consisting of 1,750 acres. It was largely across these three plantations that Franklin's men arrayed for battle.

As the blanket of blue engulfed the plantation fields, one Confederate opined, “It was a grand sight seeing them come in position this morning, but it seemed that host would eat us up.” The Federal formation was not as imposing as it seemed, however. Near 10:00 a.m., a few stray cannon shots fell among the Union ranks, originating not from the far tree line but from the Union left, where there should be no Confederates. A Pennsylvania soldier stated, “Naturally supposing, from the position [of the cannon], 'twas one of our own batteries, we thought our gunners had had too much 'commissary' this morning, and so remarked.” Yet the shots kept coming, not from a few inebriated Union artilleryists but instead a rogue Confederate officer. Maj. John Pelham of Stuart's Horse Artillery had ridden forward with a lone cannon and pelted the Union flank for nearly an hour, stalling the Federal offensive.

Around noon, the Federal offensive lurched forward once more. This time, the Confederates responded with a roar. The full force of Southern artillery, some 56 cannons, came to bear on the Federals, who were easy targets on an open plain. Federal artillery countered in an artillery duel not topped in the war's Eastern Theater until Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg.

Spearheading the Federal advance was



47-year-old Maj. Gen. George G. Meade. A Pennsylvanian and West Point graduate, Meade was one of the finest combat officers in the Army of the Potomac. His division of Pennsylvania Reserves were, by December 1862, veteran soldiers. The normally no-nonsense Meade, the “goggled-eyed snapping turtle,” was in fine spirits as the man-made hurricane of Confederate shot and shell pierced the air and earth. It was a front, a lie. Meade did everything to bolster the men’s spirits. He rode over to Col. William “Buck” McCandless and inquired, “A star today, William?” referring to his promotion to general. Just then, a shell gutted the colonel’s horse. McCandless retorted, “More likely a wooden overcoat.” The two men laughed and moved on.

Around 1:00 p.m., two Confederate ammunition chests exploded along the Southern lines in rapid succession. Some Federals leaped to their feet and cheered wildly.

AS GIBBON STEELED HIMSELF FOR BATTLE, HE COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN THAT THE CONFEDERATE FORCE HE WAS ABOUT TO ASSAULT CONTAINED *THREE OF HIS BROTHERS.*

Meade called all his 4,200 Pennsylvanians to their feet, and they pressed forward into a point of woods and flowed onto a low rise called Prospect Hill. Although outnumbered, Meade’s men burst like a shell in all directions and, amazingly, breached the dense Confederate line. They desperately needed support, though.

Although his family lived in the South, Brig. Gen. John Gibbon had felt compelled by duty to stay with the Union, where he amassed a stellar reputation as the leader of the famed Iron Brigade. On the afternoon of December 13, he stood at the head of an entire Union division. As Gibbon steeled himself for battle, he could not have known that the Confederate force he was about to assault — across what has been dubbed as the “Slaughter Pen” of Fredericksburg — contained three of his brothers.

As Meade’s men fought for their lives atop Prospect Hill, Gibbon readied his division for action, stacking his three brigades one behind the other, with two online and his third in a “close column of regiments.”

This Napoleonic-era tactic offered advantages to both the attacker and defender. The formation could act as a battering ram, while at the same time allowing Gibbon to swing brigades to the left or right of his lead brigade and also offer close support of the frontline troops. Conversely, the formation allowed the defender to outflank and encircle this formation (as had happened in the West Woods at Antietam), while also giving the Rebel artillerymen a target with great depth.

At about 1:30 p.m., Gibbon’s first wave trudged across the marshy, muddy field that sought to suck the shoes right off the men’s feet. Their wool uniforms were made heavy by the water they had absorbed while the men lie in the open, waiting to go into action. Gibbon’s soldiers advanced “on a double-quick over a rough road and high fence, midst the whistling shot and shell ... the noise was terrific, almost deafening.”

Brig. Gen. Nelson Taylor, Gibbon’s senior brigade commander, found that the seemingly flat field the men were trudging through was not so flat. The plantation fields across which they advanced had several fences. The traditional wood fence along the road offered little difficulty; rather, the ditch fence they came across in the field posed a major issue. Farmers in that part of Virginia dug ditch fences to provide irrigation for their fields, denote property lines and keep cattle from wandering. One Third Corps officer wrote that the “meadow [was] intersected by two parallel ditch-drains from five to six feet deep, with steep sides, and at many points almost impassable.” This particular fence was also around 10 feet wide. The width of the fence meant the muddy Federal soldiers could not leap across it — they had to jump into more mud and ankle- to knee-deep water. Once out of the ditch fence, the men ascended an almost-imperceptible rise, dubbed a “slight elevation” by Gibbon.

Once atop, Taylor’s lead brigade felt the full brunt of the Confederate small-arms fire.

Four of the five North Carolina regiments led by Brig. Gen. James Lane opened upon the exposed Federals. (These were the same Tar Heels who would wound Confederate Lt. Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson in a

The defensive line of Jackson’s Second Army Corps ran roughly north to south for approximately two miles. Jackson, an excellent attacker but a poor defender, established a defense in depth along his sector

north end of the field. The low-rising Prospect Hill; Deep Run to the south; woods; and the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad embankment offered Jackson’s men some protection. But a swamp made it

On the Federal side, Taylor’s attack fumbled. Standing in an open field, exchanging shots with an enemy protected behind the railroad embankment and in the tree line, was a losing proposition. To make matters



CHRIS LANDON

friendly fire incident six months later.) Taylor attempted to steady his men, who began falling left and right. “A severe fire was at once opened ... by the enemy,” who was “posted behind the railroad embankment and in the wood.”

of the Confederate line. His portion of Lee’s overall position at Fredericksburg was much weaker geographically than Lt. Gen. James Longstreet’s First Corps sector. Jackson’s position lacked the numerous natural and artificial obstacles facing the Yankees on the

impossible for Jackson to run a continuous front line, leaving a 600-yard indefensible gap in his front line. To bolster this position, Old Jack had his men construct earthen fortifications, and he stacked his divisions one behind the other.

worse, the left of Taylor’s line stood on the exposed knoll taking heavy fire, while the right was in a lower piece of ground, unable to bring its full weight of fire upon Lane’s North Carolinians. Adding to Taylor’s woes, the 88th Pennsylvania on the right of his line

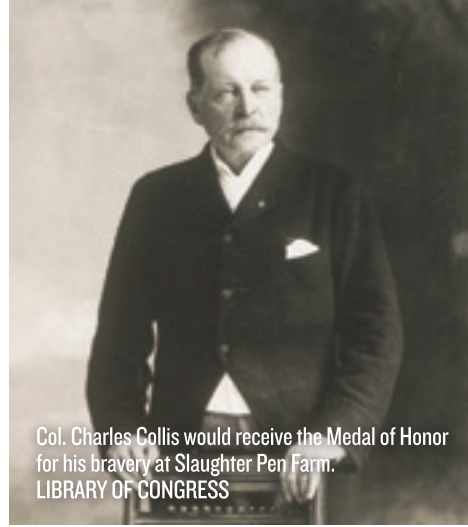
was ordered forward to fire into an enemy battery. Upon executing this command, the Pennsylvanians became “frightened at the noise they had made themselves, with a few exceptions the whole regiment turned and ran toward the rear.” Taylor and one of his aides managed to rally the 88th Pennsylvania, but it took some time and reduced the effectiveness of his force.

After 20 minutes of fighting, the left of Taylor’s line ran low on ammunition. Gibbon called upon Col. Peter Lyle’s brigade to add its weight to the Federal frontline. Once at the front, Lyle found half of Taylor’s men streaming to the rear. The latter’s right two regiments, the 11th Pennsylvania and the 83rd New York, stood and exchanged fire until their ammo boxes were empty. With the arrival of Lyle’s men, the New Yorkers and Pennsylvanians felt that their job was done.

Taylor brought his other two regiments still on the field, the 88th Pennsylvania and the 97th New York, online with Lyle’s men. The line of six regiments inched closer to the sheltered Confederate line. Lyle’s battle line faltered as his men pressed across the field. Confederates leaped atop the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad embankment and singled out many of the Federal color bearers. The color bearer of the 26th New York Infantry fell wounded as the unit advanced across the Slaughter Pen. The men of the 26th had already entered the battle with a pall over their heads. Their former colonel, William Christian, had resigned from the army in disgrace, labeled as a coward. Thus, the soldiers of 26th New York had something to prove at Fredericksburg.

As their colors fell, a German immigrant sprang forward. Sickly Martin Schubert should not have been on the battlefield at Fredericksburg, having just received a medical discharge from the army. But instead of abandoning his comrades in their time of need, Schubert had stayed to fight. Now, he scooped up the flag and, rather than just stand his ground, he strode forward, urging his unit to follow. Moments later, Schubert fell wounded — but another immigrant stepped in to take up the colors and the advance. Joseph Keene, born an Englishman, took the flag from Schubert and helped to keep the advance going. Both Schubert and Keene received the Medal of Honor.

Down the line from the 26th New York was the brand-new 136th Pennsylvania Infantry. These nine-month soldiers, who hailed from western Pennsylvania, had



Col. Charles Collis would receive the Medal of Honor for his bravery at Slaughter Pen Farm. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

joined the Union cause when President Lincoln called for 300,000 more men in response to Robert E. Lee’s move into Maryland earlier in the fall.

The fight at the Slaughter Pen was overwhelming for some of the green Keystone Staters. The color bearer of the unit was a 250-pound man who made a perfect target for the Rebels. As this fact dawned on him, he abandoned his flag. Phillip Petty saw the discarded banner and snatched it up. Like Schubert, Petty led by example and moved forward with the flag, helping to urge his men across the field. He stomped on for a few yards, planted the flag in the ground, knelt beside it and fired on the enemy. His fellow Pennsylvanians rallied around him. Petty was later presented with the Medal of Honor.

Meanwhile, John Gibbon added the weight of his third and final brigade to the attack. Col. Adrian Root’s five regiments moved to the front. Exposed and “[f]inding his fire very disastrous, and seeing that our fire was doing little or no execution, the order was received ... to fix bayonets, charge, and drive him from his breast-works.” Gibbon was wounded in the wrist and turned command over to Nelson Taylor. In the meantime, the 16th Maine entering its first battle and “15 paces in advance of those” on their left and right, surged toward the wood line.

Gibbon’s depleted division followed. “The brigade charged up to the railroad in the face of a close and telling fire from the enemy,” said Maj. John Kress of the 94th New York.

Yankees and Rebels fought hand-to-hand, crossing bayonets and swords along the railroad cut, while clubbed muskets swung wildly along the lines. Otis Libby, “of Company H [16th Maine] crazed with pain from a wound in the head by a clubbed musket, ran two rebels through with his bayonet, and heedless of the fact that his enemies had sur-

rendered”; only an officer removing the crazed soldier from the front stopped the private.

The Federals drove into the woods, scattering Lane’s Tar Heels. Unfortunately for the Yankees, they were met by some of the best units in Lee’s army. On the Federal right, the guns of Joseph Latimer’s and Greenlee Davidson’s batteries stopped their momentum along the railroad embankment. The 16th North Carolina of Brig. Gen. William Dorsey Pender’s brigade even sallied forth to fire into the Federal flank. The brigades of Gens. Alfred Scales, Edward Thomas and Lane struck back in the woods. Gibbon’s division shot its bolt and began withdrawing to the embankment and back into the open fields strewn with dead and wounded.

In the pell-mell retreat, scores of Union prisoners fell into Rebel hands; Pvt. George Heiser of the 136th Pennsylvania was among those unlucky men. Heiser had refused to leave a wounded comrade near the rail line. Confederates sent him to Libby Prison, although he was later exchanged. Heiser survived his nine months with the army and was incredibly proud of his service. He participated in veterans’ reunions, marched in memorial parades and instilled the pride of patriotism in his son Victor. George owned a store in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, filled with everything necessary to live in coal country and operated with utter generosity: If you couldn’t afford to pay, George Heiser let you take what you needed anyhow — he knew you were good for it. Tragically, in May 1889, two days after marching in the annual memorial celebration, George and his wife, Mathilde, were swept away in the waters of the epic Johnstown Flood. Fifteen-year-old Victor Heiser miraculously survived and, after the flood waters receded, went to where his parents’ store had once stood: All that remained was a wardrobe. He opened it to find the contents: his father’s Civil War uniform. In the pocket, Victor found the entirety of his inheritance — one cent — perhaps carried by George at Fredericksburg. George Heiser had survived the horror of the Slaughter Pen at Fredericksburg and the hell of Libby Prison only to die in one of the other great tragedies of the late 19th century. Victor became a local doctor and was remembered for having the same giving heart as his father.

With Meade’s and Gibbon’s attacks both over, now it was a matter of survival. Meade begged for reinforcements. Then he pleaded for them. Finally, he went on the warpath with fellow Union officers. After far too much



Near the railroad track. MATTHEW HARTWIG

“THE BRIGADE CHARGED UP TO THE RAILROAD IN THE FACE OF A CLOSE AND TELLING FIRE FROM THE ENEMY.”

— MAJ. JOHN KRESS, 94TH NEW YORK

time, reinforcements arrived at the front, but the ever-aggressive Jackson launched counterattacks off Prospect Hill and into the Slaughter Pen Farm.

Fresh Union troops entered the field as the Confederate counterattack reached its zenith. Col. Charles Collis was a native of Ireland who had immigrated to the United States shortly before the Civil War. Collis served in the 1862 Valley Campaign and seemed to have solid battlefield acumen. His unit, the 114th Pennsylvania, was known as “Collis’s Zouaves” because they wore flashy red and blue uniforms modeled after French Algerian soldiers. Unfortunately, they were entering their first battle. They looked the part for a role they would struggle to fill.

What the Pennsylvanians saw was akin to pandemonium. Their brigade commander, John Robinson, was knocked out of action, and Gibbon’s men were fleeing into the fields with Confederates in hot pursuit. Federal batteries were about to be overrun. Collis didn’t flinch. He rode to the center of his line, snatched the flag from the color bearer and

spurred his horse forward, bellowing, “Remember the stone wall at Middletown!”

While the phrase might have been invigorating to other soldiers, the 114th Pennsylvania had not fought at Middletown. Thus, the meaning of the phrase was lost. What did spur the men of the 114th Pennsylvania forward was the action of the colonel, on horseback, flag in hand. The Keystone State men slammed into the Confederates, halting the Rebel counterattack. The moment was immortalized in a massive painting, while Collis’s heroism earned him the Medal of Honor.

Marching into battle with the men of the 114th Pennsylvania, but often overlooked, was a vivandière named French Mary Tepe.

Like a Zouave, a vivandière was a carryover from the French army, in this case a woman who supported soldiers in the field by supplying them with water, aid and other care. Tepe was right behind the battle line in the Slaughter Pen when she was wounded in the ankle. For her actions, she was awarded the Kearney Cross, an award exclusively presented by Gen. Philip Kearney’s old division.

The cross was granted “only to brave and worthy soldiers.”

By 3:00 p.m., the fighting at the Slaughter Pen was all but over, nearly 5,000 soldiers having fallen in the life-and-death struggle. Across that bloody plain, and in a radius of some 400 yards, five men “received the highest and most prestigious personal military decoration that may be awarded to recognize U.S. military service members who distinguished themselves by acts of valor” — the Medal of Honor. Few sites of battle ever witnessed this amount of horror and heroism in such a small span of time and space.

Upon retreating across the Rappahannock River, one Pennsylvania soldier seemed to sum up the experience of every Federal soldier who fought at the Battle of Fredericksburg and survived. “I am free to confess that the moment I touched the earth I drew a long, strong and soul-relieving breath, and from the bottom of my heart, thanked God that I have lived to get out of that infernal slaughter pen and was once more safely landed on the other side of Jordan.”★

Kristopher D. White is the deputy director of education at the American Battlefield Trust. White is the co-founder and chief historian of Emerging Civil War. He is the author of articles that have appeared in publications such as Civil War Times, Blue & Gray Magazine, and America’s Civil War.

MEDALS OF HONOR



Five men received the Medal of Honor for gallant efforts at Slaughter Pen Farm

Photo by SHANNON RAE



IN DECEMBER 13, 1862, in the field near Fredericksburg, Virginia, that would come to be known as “Slaughter Pen Farm,” a veritable hell on Earth erupted and unfolded. It’s in the midst of such horrific battle that men sometimes find a courage that compels them to unthinkable acts of honor, and that was the case here. Five soldiers were later bestowed the Medal of Honor for their actions on this field on that bloody day: George Maynard of the 13th Massachusetts, Charles Collis of the 114th Pennsylvania, Philip Petty of the 136th Pennsylvania and Martin Schubert and Joseph Keene of the 26th New York Infantry.

Pennsylvania, Philip Petty of the 136th Pennsylvania and Martin Schubert and Joseph Keene of the 26th New York Infantry.

NO MAN LEFT BEHIND

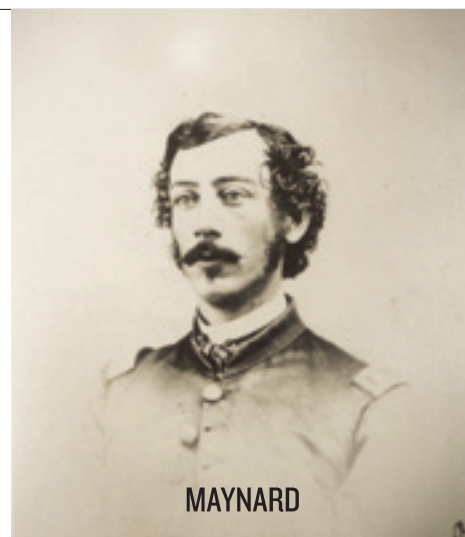
Born in Waltham, Massachusetts, in 1836, George Maynard worked as a watchmaker before enlisting in the 13th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry in July of 1861. His regiment participated in many of the war’s early battles, including the Second Battle of Bull Run, the Battle of Ox Hill and Antietam. On December 13, 1862, the regiment’s Col. Samuel Leonard ordered four companies to support Capt. James Hall’s Second Maine Battery on Gen. George Meade’s right flank, with the rest of the companies, including Maynard’s, to fall back to Bowling Green Road. When Maynard reached the road and realized his comrade Charles Armstrong was missing, he went back into the fray to find him. Armstrong was badly wounded in the thigh. Maynard tied a tourniquet around Armstrong’s leg and carried him back to the Union lines. In 1898, Maynard would receive the Medal of Honor for this selfless act, with the citation reading: “A wounded and helpless comrade, having been left on the skirmish line, this soldier voluntarily returned to the front under a severe fire and carried the wounded man to a place of safety.” Armstrong would not survive, however, and died later that night at a field hospital.

In March 1863, Maynard mustered out for promotion to first lieutenant in the Fifth U.S. Volunteers, later the 82nd United States Colored Troops, of which he later became a captain. Late in his service, he contracted malaria and suffered from scurvy, both of which impacted the rest of his life. He mustered out in September of 1866 and returned to being a watchmaker. Maynard was granted a pension for his ailments, including the loss of most of his teeth.

On May 5, 1868, Maynard married Harriet Elizabeth Henry of Boston. They had seven children together, four of whom died in childhood and three of whom died in their early 20s. Maynard became a member of the military organization the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts in 1875. He died in 1927, at the age of 91, having outlived his wife and all his children. He’s buried in the Mount Feake Cemetery in Waltham.

“A CRITICAL MOMENT”

On February 4, 1838, Charles Henry Tucker Collis was born in Cork, Ireland, the first son of William and Mary Collis. The family eventually moved to England, where Mary bore five more children. In the spring of 1853,



15-year-old Collis and his father set sail for Philadelphia. On March 1, 1854, Mary and the other five children set sail to join them, but the ship never made it. His mother, two brothers, and three sisters were lost at sea. It’s believed the ship sank after hitting an iceberg. Collis and his father were forced to find a new life without them.

Fortunately for Collis, he landed under the tutelage of influential local attorney and politician John Meredith Read. By 1859, he was admitted to the bar. Shortly before the war broke out, he married Septima Levy. Eager to defend the Union, he enlisted with the 18th Pennsylvania upon Abraham Lincoln’s Call for Volunteers in April 1861. The 18th Pennsylvania spent much of its three-month term of enlistment stationed at Fort

McHenry in Baltimore. They returned home and he mustered out on August 7, 1861. Immediately, Collis set out to raise a company of Zouaves d’Afrique and was soon granted approval. The Zouave craze had swept the nation, and Collis outfitted his men with the French-influenced uniform: baggy red pantaloons, a short blue Zouave jacket with a lighter blue cuff, white leggings and a light blue merino sash around the waist, topped by a red fez and white turban.

In January 1862, with the help of now Judge Read, Collis was authorized to raise a battalion that would soon move south. In late May, Collis’s men joined Capt. Robert Hampton’s First Pennsylvania Artillery, a small force of cavalry and additional infantry in a skirmish with Gen. Thomas Jackson’s men in Middletown, Virginia. Their presence successfully rerouted Jackson toward Strasburg, instead of Winchester. On September 1, 1862, Collis was promoted to colonel and instructed to recruit a regiment, which became the 114th Pennsylvania Infantry.

As the fighting raged on December 13, 1862, Collis’s Zouaves, many untested by battle, crossed the lower pontoon bridge on the Rappahannock in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and made their way to the field now known as Slaughter Pen Farm. Gen. John C. Robison rode in front of the 114th Pennsylvania to guide them into their first battle. As he did, a solid shot ripped through his horse, sending Robinson to the ground. The explosion of another artillery shell killed his bugler, and

Pvt. Samuel Hamilton “had his head shot off,” one of the Zouaves later recounted. Stunned and horrified, the Zouaves recoiled. Colonel Collis raced to the front, grabbed the regimental flag and rode to the center of the line to rouse his men, shouting, “Remember the stone wall at Middletown!” The 114th rallied and swept into the fire. “Nothing was to be seen but smoke and dirt flying from cannon balls,” a Zouave later wrote. “I have heard of hot places; I now know what they are.”

On March 10, 1893, Collis received the Medal of Honor; the citation reading: “Gallantly led his regiment in battle at a critical moment.”

In May 1863, Collis was wounded at the Battle of Chancellorsville and contracted typhoid. In August 1863, he became a brigade commander under Maj. Gen. David B. Birney. On December 12, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln nominated Collis for appointment to the brevet grade of brigadier general of volunteers to rank from October 28, 1864, and the U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment on February 14, 1865. Collis was mustered out of the army on May 29, 1865. On January 13, 1866, President Andrew Johnson nominated Collis for appointment to the brevet grade of major general of volunteers to rank from March 13, 1865, and the U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment on March 12, 1866.

After the war, Collis returned to law. He died on May 11, 1902, and is buried at Gettysburg National Cemetery.

“The Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862,” artist Carl Röchling painted Collis, with his regiment’s colors, rallying the 114 Pennsylvania Infantry.





RALLY ON THE FLAG

In battle, the act of bearing the colors was itself a sacrificial bravery. Consuming both hands to grasp it, the bearer could not at the same time bear arms to defend himself. This was a precarious situation, since the flags were of utmost importance, guiding troops and acting as rallying points. Hence, color bearers were a prime target for enemy shooters. A source of supreme pride, as well, it was a great dishonor to lose one to the enemy in action. Many flags were threatened during the fiery storm of battle at Slaughter Pen Farm, and Philip Petty, Martin Schubert and Joseph Keene each received their Medal of Honor for defending the colors.

When the color bearer of the 26th New York Infantry was wounded as the unit advanced across the Slaughter Pen, and the flag fell to the Earth, German immigrant Martin Schubert sprang forward to defend it. Most remarkably, Schubert was not even supposed to be there. Wounded at the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, he had been granted a medical furlough. "I went into battle with the regiment, however, against the protests of my colonel and captain, who insisted that I should use the furlough. I thought the Government needed me on the battlefield rather than at home," Schubert later wrote.

Schubert carried the flag until he was shot on the left side, a bullet he carried for the rest of his life. His Medal of Honor citation reads: "Private Schubert relinquished a furlough granted for wounds, entered the battle, where he picked up the



colors after several bearers had been killed or wounded, and carried them until himself again wounded."

On December 22, 1862, Schubert was promoted to corporal. He mustered out of this unit in May 1863 in Utica and subsequently served with the 14th New York Heavy Artillery, where he eventually rose to the rank of first lieutenant.

After the war, Schubert returned to his work as a butcher. In 1893, he joined the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), an organization of military officers dedicated to preserving the United States government after Lincoln's assassination, and became its treasurer. He died on April 25, 1912, in St. Louis, Missouri, and is buried in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in Lemay, Missouri.

When Schubert fell wounded with the flag, another immigrant in the 26th New York picked up the colors and the advance. A former Englishman, Joseph Keene saw the flag of the 26th New York laying on the ground, hoisted it up and advanced with the regiment. He bore the colors throughout the fight and got them safely off the field. In 1892, he was bestowed the Medal of Honor, the citation reading: "[V]oluntarily seized the colors after several Color Bearers had been shot down and led the regiment in the charge."

Keene mustered out with this regiment in May 1863 and re-enlisted with the Third New York Heavy Artillery in June 1863. He mustered out of the U.S. Army in July 1865. He died in 1921 and is buried in



buried in Whitesboro, New York.

Just down the line from the 26th New York was the 136th Pennsylvania Infantry, a fresh nine-month-old regiment from western Pennsylvania. The unit's color bearer, 250-pound S. Dean Canan, made a perfect target for the Rebels, with some singling him out for aim. Unnerved and terrified under fire, the untested Canan dropped the colors and ran away. When Pvt. Philip Petty saw the discarded banner, he grabbed it up and moved forward, rallying his men to move across the field with him. Moving ahead of the line at one point, he planted the flag in the ground, knelt beside it and began to fire at oncoming Confederates. The 136th cheered him on.

Petty, of Jackson Summit, Pennsylvania, had enlisted August 1, 1861, at Harrisburg in Company C of the 12th Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, or Troy Guard. He served with them until March 1862, when he was discharged for physical disability due to typhoid. He re-enlisted in August of 1862, in Company A, of the 136th Pennsylvania.

Remarkably, Petty's records list his rank as a musician — proving, as all these men's stories do, that in the thick of battle, men are driven to courage above any rank or prior profession. It's a higher calling of duty and honor. ★

Stand on the Slaughter Pen Farm with Medal of Honor Recipient Britt Slabinski



ANCESTRY
HISTORIC CONNECTIONS IN YOUR FAMILY TREE

A MEDLEY OF CIVIL WAR CONNECTIONS

with Youth Leadership Team members of the past



WHAT WAS THE SPARK that inspired American Battlefield Trust's Youth Leadership Team (YLT) members' passion for history? For many, it was a personal connection to events of the past via their family tree.

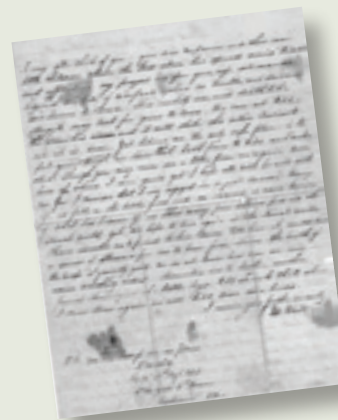
OWEN LANIER, 2019-2020 YLT

My grandmother sparked my fascination with genealogy, which began in her own youth. When she was 17, she grabbed a stack of old letters from an abandoned cabinet in her family home — in that stack were the writings of my ancestor, Lalister M. White.

Lalister served in the 20th and 30th North Carolina during the Civil War and fought in every battle that the Army of Northern Virginia participated in until Spotsylvania. In one of his 20-odd letters, Lalister warned that "many of us fall on the battlefield and no account is never known of what has become of us." My experience with the Trust disproves Lalister in a good way: We do not forget what became of these men; we preserve the battlefields on which they fought and educate others about what happened there. Lalister was killed at Spotsylvania and buried in an unmarked grave, so the battlefield serves as his final resting place and memorial.

DANIEL HOLT, 2020-2021 YLT

My four-times great grandfather, Theodore A.P. White, was a private in the 43rd North Carolina Infantry, Company K, in the Army of Northern Virginia. He mustered into service in April 1862, and was paroled at Appomattox Court House in April 1865. His unit fought in major engagements along



Wartime letter from Lalister M. White



Theodore A.P. White wearing the souvenir medal he received during the 50th anniversary reunion at Gettysburg



LEFT: Confederate pension application submitted by Mastin Moorefield's widow Sarah in 1928. RIGHT: Moorefield's grave at Rodgers Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery in Halifax County, Va.

the Eastern Theater, including Malvern Hill, Gettysburg, Plymouth, the Valley Campaign of 1864 and Appomattox Court House. He later attended the 50th anniversary reunion of the Battle of Gettysburg and received a souvenir medal.

Learning about Theodore kickstarted my fascination with the 19th century and the daily lives of those caught in the political turmoil of the Secession Crisis, their involvement in the war and the Reconstruction period that followed. Even now, my knowledge of this ancestor has encouraged me to delve further back into American history to discover the untold story of my family. Additionally, this ancestry journey helped me develop a whole new appreciation for battlefields and the need for their preservation.

HANK THOMPSON, 2021-2022 YLT

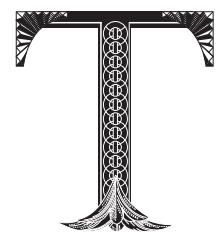
My ancestor Mastin Moorefield served as a private with the 53rd Virginia Infantry, and I grew up on impressive stories of his service, from holding the line at Fredericksburg to participating in the carnage of Pickett's Charge. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, I took the opportunity to research him and uncovered a far different reality.

I discovered that, unlike many relatives, Mastin did not enlist in 1861, instead shouldering the burden of his family's farm in southern Virginia while his brothers fought in the Carolinas. He was drafted in the winter of 1864, and his only wartime experience was spent in horrific trenches, and his only encounter with Union forces was when he was captured during the evacuation of Richmond. In his story, I learned how historical memory changes and becomes warped with time. But I also grew to appreciate how even those who saw little combat were subject to trying conditions. It also planted my interest in less prominent Civil War sites, such as campgrounds and trench networks.

Since 2019, the American Battlefield Trust's Youth Leadership Team has showcased bright students from across the nation, cultivating their love of history and helping them undertake preservation-focused projects in their own communities. A competitive process selects high schoolers and offers them mentorship and leadership training. Benefits include a trip to Washington, D.C., for a lobbying experience on Capitol Hill, as well as the opportunity to present on their capstone projects during the Trust's Annual Conference. Learn more about the Trust's Youth Leadership Team at www.battlefields.org/ylt ★

TAKE A FIELD TRIP

Students enjoy real and virtual battlefield visits



THANKS TO NEW and updated programs from the American Battlefield Trust, 21st-century classrooms have more choices than ever when they weigh field trip options. Lack of resources — whether temporal or financial — might have once kept teachers from bringing their students to historical sites, but now they can

share these iconic places with their students.

TRAVEL FROM THE COMFORT OF HOME

The Trust's new virtual field trips are the next-best thing to an overnight journey to a great historical city, conducted for free and in a fraction of the time! These accessible and engaging videos showcase "greatest hits" sites, as well as offer behind-the-scenes access for teachers, students and anyone with a deep interest in history. The Trust has already produced virtual field trips of both Baltimore and Boston, providing rich models for other cities featured in upcoming videos.

What goes into making an informative and entertaining virtual field trip? In partnership with the award-winning film company acowsay, Trust experts and collaborators are driven to create content that tells a rich narrative about these distinctive destinations and their roles in the conflicts that define the country. Through crisp camera work and experienced and charismatic hosts and guests, the Trust blends learning and fun into these pieces of content, accessible and available to all.

As both preservationists and educators, Trust staff are eager to provide resources on our nation's formative conflicts and beyond. Knowing that students and teachers appreciate visual resources, content like virtual field trips is vital in keeping students engaged with our country's history. Furthermore, it inspires American students to view the events and people they learn about through a more personal lens. Kanisorn "Kid" Wongsrichanalai, director of research at the Massachusetts Historical Society and collaborator in the Boston virtual field trip, describes how "the written record of what people did in the past can humanize these people that we look up to," and that their stories can "[give] us some inspiration that you too can do something great."

In the Boston virtual field trip, Trust Copie Hill Fellow Chris Mackowski takes viewers on a 70-minute journey to meet historians, reenactors and other experts in the so-called cradle of liberty, but



also ventures 14 miles beyond Beantown to Minute Man National Historical Park. He throws tea into Boston Harbor, listens to live playing on the Lexington Green, enjoys lunch at the Union Oyster House and even fires a shot aboard the USS *Constitution*. His conversations along the way illuminate the importance of the city — and nearby battlegrounds — to the Revolution, and his interactions with costumed interpreters humanize the Revolutionary generation.

Over the next two years, the Trust will produce more virtual field trips in the style of the ones set in Boston and Baltimore with help from acowsay, targeting cities across the country that are popular with educators and student, including New Orleans, La., Vicksburg, Miss., and Charleston, S.C. Through such virtual excursions, students will learn about locations relevant to the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War, as each city is vital to the stories of these American conflicts.

40,000 STUDENTS ON BATTLEFIELDS — AND COUNTING!

There are few schoolhouse traditions as beloved as the field trip — a chance to go out into the world and experience some aspect of what is being studied in a new and tangible way. But with tight budgets and jam-packed curricula, it can be hard for even the most passionate educators to secure these coveted adventures. The squeeze can be particularly tough on social studies and humanities teachers, whose subjects are often not as valued when it comes to standardized test scores.

"At the American Battlefield Trust, we believe in the power of place above all," said organization President David Duncan. "As the son of a social studies teacher, I give tremendous credit to our educators. But not even the finest lecture from the finest teacher can ever replace the magic of standing in a spot where you know important things happened. And so, we want to provide this resource to help educators take their instruction to the next level by sending them out into the field."

Nine years ago, the Trust launched a program to help finance classroom trips to battlefields and other historic sites relevant to our mission. These grants were immediately popular, and demand has always outstripped the available funding, making competition fierce. Among other criteria, educators must submit applications and pledge to meet certain requirements, like the integration of preservation messaging, into their itinerary.

All told, the Trust's History Field Trip Grant Program has now sent 40,000 students to battlefields and other historic sites associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War.

Among the most recent recipients of a grant is teacher Timothy Zgliczynski of Lancaster, Pa., who took his elementary students to visit Hull House, home of local Revolutionary War hero Warren Hull. "We had an amazing trip that was a capstone to a year of learning where we studied both the Revolutionary War and the Hull House in great detail," he wrote in thanks. "Our classes collected donations for the Hull House and actually were able to raise \$1,100 to help in its preservation. Because of that, we were thanked by the Hull House foundation and also featured in the local newspaper! Again, this is all due to your generosity."

If you would like to support our History Field Trip Grant Fund and send more classrooms on field trips to historic sites next school year, visit www.battlefields.org ★

ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN FRANKLIN

Recognizes leaders and spotlights Tennessee history



The Tennessee Historical Commission's Patrick McIntyre and Tennessee Wars Commission's Nina Scall accept the Pohanka Award from Trust President David Duncan. BUDDY SECOR



AT THIS YEAR'S Annual Conference, the American Battlefield Trust descended upon Franklin, Tennessee, for an eventful weekend of battlefield tours, museum visits, history talks and more. Hundreds of dedicated Trust members enjoyed tours and talks designed to highlight the history of the state while incorporating the community surrounding it. Tours included visits to the Stones River Battlefield with local park rangers, and to Franklin Battlefield and Parker's Cross Roads. Trust members also enjoyed several history talks with guest speakers and historians, including Trust staff, university professors and acclaimed authors.

During its culminating banquet, the Trust recognized two top battlefield preservation advocates with its preservation leadership awards for their steadfast efforts in helping advance history and preservation in the Volunteer State. A state historian and longtime director of the Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation, Dr. Carroll Van West received the State Preservation Leadership Award, and the Tennessee Wars Commission was awarded with the Brian C. Pohanka Preservation Organization Award.

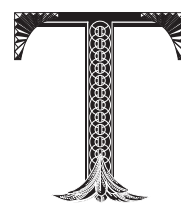
The Tennessee Wars Commission was recognized for its work in advancing the study of military history in Tennessee. The state organization has successfully helped to preserve, protect and restore Tennessee battlefields and historic sites related to 17th- and 18th-century conflicts, including the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War. In conjunction with the Commission, the Trust has worked to help save hundreds of acres across the state.

Alongside the state organization, Dr. Carroll Van West was honored for his continuing championing of Civil War history and preservation in Tennessee. The gubernatorially appointed state historian, Dr. Van West has cemented himself as a strong voice for preservation across the state and currently leads the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University.

Continuing its recognition of preservation leaders, the Trust paid tribute to novelist Robert Hicks and former executive director of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association Mary Ann Peckham during the weekend. ★

THE TRUST'S ALUMNI BOARD

demonstrates commitment to the cause beyond time as Trustees



THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST'S Alumni Board is a dynamic group made up of veteran members of our Board of Trustees who remain eager to be involved in our mission despite their official terms on that body ending. The Trust is thrilled to continue working with them in this capacity, taking advantage of their considerable institutional knowledge and enthusiasm for our cause.

How exactly does a former Trustee serve on the Alumni Board?

They must be elected to participate on the Alumni Board by members of the Board of Trustees' Governance Committee. This group invites new members once a year — following the spring Board of Trustees meeting, when Trustee terms expire, and before the fall Grand Review, when the annual Alumni Board meeting occurs.

What determines eligibility for Alumni Board membership?

To be eligible for the Alumni Board, former Trustees must have served at least three three-year terms on the Board of Trustees. Although, the Governance Committee, at its discretion, may make an exception.

What is a typical term of service for an Alumni Board member?

Former Trustees shall serve on the Alumni Board for a term of six years, but may resign at any time and may be voted on for an extended term by the Board of Trustees' Governance Committee.

While this group does not have a set list of duties, their commitment to and involvement with the Trust is unmistakably commendable. They are fierce advocates and wholly beneficial to the success of our mission.

EXHIBITING PASSION FOR THE CAUSE

CARLTON CRENSHAW first became involved with the Trust in 2007 and had zero hesitation about joining the Alumni Board ranks when his term as a Trustee concluded, allowing his sound business strategy and financial acumen to remain an asset for the organization.

"I have great expectations about the future of the American Battlefield Trust," he said. "Not only do we have a great contributor base, we also have a large number of future commitments in wills and bequests that will enable our organization to acquire most of the land that Americans fought in our country as well as to increase our education programs and outreach that will benefit military veterans as well as the public in general."

Crenshaw's determination to preserve America's military heritage seems to be part of his DNA. Six generations of his family have been involved in military service within America's wars, dating back to the French and Indian War. His own military experience began in 1966, when he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps upon after graduating from Southern Methodist University. Deployed to Vietnam, he fought in two of the Marine's three largest battles — Con Thien, in September 1967, and the 77-day siege at Khe Sanh, on the most remote position, Hill 881 South, in 1968. For his service, he was the recipient of a Bronze

Star with Combat V, two Purple Hearts, two Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry with Silver Stars, Combat Action Ribbon and two Presidential Unit citations.

"During my tour I was wounded three times but requested that they not process the third one so I could stay with my unit, the 3rd Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment," Crenshaw remembered. "I applied for admission to graduate school from my bunker at Khe Sanh. I received the largest fellowship available from the Stern School of business at NYU and ultimately graduated first in my class."

Professionally, Crenshaw combined his education and military training to forge a successful career in financial analysis, serving as treasurer, executive vice president and/or CFO of a series of rapidly growing technology firms. But respect for the military remained near to his heart, leading to a foundational role with the Marine Corps Heritage Museum and service on the Marine Corps Association Board of Advisors, in addition to his longstanding work with the Trust. ★



Carlton Crenshaw



A NEW WAY
for Color Bearers to connect

THE TRUST is thrilled to announce the launch of a new portal filled with exclusive content for members of our Color Bearer Society!

My Battlefields is a new community filled with special materials and even more behind-the-scenes access to Trust happenings. With *My Battlefields*, you can connect not only with the Trust's mission, but also with other Color Bearers.

To get started, visit www.battlefields.org/mybattlefields and enter your primary membership email address when prompted; this will generate an email containing a personal login link. Once you're in and exploring, we'd love to hear what you think! Member feedback is very helpful as we expand this new feature.

Becoming a Color Bearer is easier than you may realize, thanks to recurring giving options starting at just \$84 per month. And if you upgrade your membership to the Brigade level now, you're eligible to attend the invitation-only Grand Review in October! Learn more at www.battlefields.org/colorbearers ★



Gettysburg National Military Park
Gettysburg, Pa.
JENNIFER GOELLNITZ

SAVE THE DATE

for upcoming Trust events

GRAND REVIEW: October 13–15, 2023, Williamsburg, Va.

COLOR BEARER WEEKEND: February 2–4, 2024,
Charleston, S.C.

PARK DAY: April 6, 2024, Nationwide

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: April 25–28, 2024, Gettysburg, Pa.

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Who is eligible for membership?

Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. DAR volunteers are willing to provide guidance and assistance with your first step into the world of genealogy.

How is Patriot defined?

DAR recognizes as Patriots not only soldiers, but also anyone who contributed to the cause of American freedom. To find out if your ancestor is recognized by the DAR as a Revolutionary Patriot, use the request form available online. Visit www.dar.org and click on "Membership."

How many members does the National Society have?

DAR has nearly 190,000 members in nearly 3,000 chapters worldwide, including chapters in 14 foreign countries and one territory. Since its founding in 1890, DAR has admitted more than 1 million members.

How can I find out more?

Go to www.dar.org and click on "Membership." There you'll find helpful instructions, advice on finding your lineage and a Prospective Member Information Request Form. Or call (202) 879-3224 for more information on joining this vital, service-minded organization.

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The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR or SAR) was founded in 1889. SAR is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education for our future generations. SAR members volunteer untold hours of service each year in their local communities. SAR is very active in assisting veterans. We proudly assist teachers with living history interpreters, lesson planning materials, and reenactment events for school-aged youth to attend.

- ★Remembering Our Past...By honoring those who served or assisted the efforts for Independence during the Revolutionary War.
- ★Promoting Core Values...By inspiring communities and institutions with more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers.
- ★Shaping Future Generations...By educating our youth about the founding of our nation and American ideals and traditions.

Having an ancestral connection to our nation's revolutionary era, the SAR is a collegial organization whose mission is to further the founding ideals. As a hereditary society, our members are connected through a shared sense of honor, privilege, and responsibility to perpetuate the "cause" of the founders to create an independent nation of free people.



Join the SAR | SAR.org



TESTAMENT to Virginia's role in America's bloodiest conflict, the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park includes land from four Civil War battlefields: Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Court House, Chancellorsville and the Wilderness. Tens of thousands were killed or wounded at these locations, some 50 miles from the nation's capital. While close in proximity, they each speak to a different aspect of the Civil War story.

Across the expansive park, visitor services, driving routes and trails supply a variety of options for exploring the beautiful, somber landscapes — and contemplating the battles that unfolded there. If choosing to embark upon the fields by foot, visitors can choose between more than 17 trails of varying lengths and intensity. While not permitted on the trails, bikes are a blood-pumping alternative to automobiles along park roads. To stop for a meal within the park, there are 10 spots designated for picnicking.

Historic sites pepper the park, including Chatham Manor, Ellwood Manor, Salem Church and the farm office of the Chandler plantation. It was there that Lt. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson took his last breath after being mistakenly fired upon by his own men during the Battle of Chancellorsville. Visitors can also visit Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg, where Confederate artillery crushed assaulting Union troops with ease, forcing them to retreat.

Even more such locations await visitors on the more than 8,000 acres of park land. Visitors of all ages and interests can find a way to immerse themselves in these history-filled acres.

While park structures are typically open each day of the week, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., holidays and the winter season may alter operating hours. Meanwhile, park grounds are open from sunrise to sunset. ★

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Peer into the *UNTOLD HISTORY*



HAVE A CASE of “textbook fatigue?” Ever wonder what these pages might not be telling you?

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part series here

