The core purpose of the American Battlefield Trust is to preserve America's hallowed battlegrounds and educate the public about what happened there and why it matters.

Y THE CLOSE of 2020, the Trust had cumulatively saved more than 53,500 acres of battlefield land. This includes nearly 1,127 acres through 28 transactions at 22 battlefields in 10 states during 2020 alone. A full listing of those transactions follows.

One noteworthy victory in the competitive Richmond area was the preservation of 22.3 acres at the New Market Heights Battlefield. Here, 14 soldiers of the United States Colored Troops, including Pvt. Maj. Christian Fleetwood, received the Medal of Honor for their courageous actions at this battle in September of 1864. Fleetwood later described the battle as "a deadly hailstorm of bullets."

Just around the 158th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam, Trust members answered the urgent call to save 2.7 critical acres at the heart of the battlefield. In just five weeks, the Trust raised the funds needed to acquire this West Woods tract. This achievement brings us one step closer to substantially completing the battlefield that marks the single bloodiest day in American history.

Turning to the Western Theater, the Trust also celebrated the preservation of two contiguous tracts totaling 48.3 acres at the Stones River Battlefield. Most of this land was once considered lost to a major industrial facility. Primarily with the assistance of government funding, including the single largest grant in the history of the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund and an American Battlefield Protection Program grant, the Trust raised the formidable $5.2 million needed to recover this historic property.

The Trust's Revolutionary War efforts also continued at full speed, including the Trust's first preservation victory at the Bennington Battlefield in New York, where 23.1 acres were preserved and destined for the Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site. In the Southern Theater, the Trust helped save 12.2 acres at the Port Royal Island Battlefield, where Gen. William Moultrie's band of Patriot militia defeated British regulars in 1779. This battlefield will be a part of the Trust's collaborative Liberty Trail project that aims to link 70 Revolutionary War sites across South Carolina.

The Trust will enter the new year with more than 1,000 additional acres in the process of being preserved. This includes the Trust's landmark "Gaines' Mill — Cold Harbor Saved Forever" Campaign launched this December, which targets nearly one square mile of the most important unprotected battlefield land in the country.
HE AMERICAN Battlefield Trust continues to live out the three aspects engraved in our mission: Educate. Inspire. We protect important landscapes and share the stories of what happened there, so that countless others can understand why those events matter today. We want that ongoing relevance to inspire this and future generations to action — to encourage civic pride and help build a better America.

Within 2020, the Trust launched Warrior Legacy, a unified home for our various programs designed to benefit the military community — veterans, active duty and military families. In doing so, we showcase the deep connections today’s veterans and active duty military retain to their historical forebears and emphasize how battlefields can be used to bridge those eras.

Always looking for innovative ways to explore the American story, the Trust has been fortunate to partner with organizations that unlock eye-opening doors. This year saw the beginning of a collaborative partnership with Ancestry® and Fold3®. Users on the platforms may now cross paths with the Trust’s keen information on specific military engagements. Additionally, Ancestry® began supplying a regular column in the award-winning membership magazine, Hallowed Ground.

The Trust also continues to support young voices. The Trust’s Youth Leadership Team welcomed its second cohort of young leaders to serve as the youth face and voice of the organization. Empowered by their enthusiasm for history and their newfound connections, members of this trailblazing group will work toward the creation of battlefield preservation, education or visitation projects in their local communities. Members of the inaugural cohort demonstrated just how compelling their voices can be: One member unveiled an ambitious audio drama to bring new life to the Revolutionary War’s Battle of Kings Mountain, while another penned and published an opinion piece expressing the formative history tied to a battlefield in his “backyard” — at which the Trust endeavored to save land. By supporting this group, we create a ripple effect, fostering the next generation of preservation advocates that will tend to the important landscapes and share the stories of what happened there, so that countless others can understand why those events matter today. We want that ongoing relevance to inspire this and future generations to action — to encourage civic pride and help build a better America.

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In a video for the Warrior Legacy, retired U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Ron Coleman walked the New Market Heights Battlefield, following in the footsteps of those soldiers who came before him. [C] Our partnership with Ancestry® and Fold3® allows users to learn about the places where veteran ancestors fought, illustrating a more robust picture of their service. [D] A 2020 — 2021 Youth Leadership Team member sports Abigail Adams on her team shirt, as the group was given the chance to pick a few of their favorite figures from American history to display on their team shirts. [E] The Trust’s Gettysburg AR Experience app lets users interact with historical events, including President Lincoln’s delivery of the Gettysburg Address. [F] The Southern Campaign Animated Map debuted in a handful of NPS visitor centers and on the Trust’s YouTube channel, bringing a critical period to life like never before.

Most importantly, the Trust has been able to provide all of this at little or no cost to students of history around the world. This has only been possible with the enduring support of our donors, who stepped up to make 2020 our most successful year for educational program fundraisers. Our partnership with Ancestry® and Fold3® allows users to learn about the places where veteran ancestors fought, illustrating a more robust picture of their service. [D] A 2020 — 2021 Youth Leadership Team member sports Abigail Adams on her team shirt, as the group was given the chance to pick a few of their favorite figures from American history to display on their team shirts. [E] The Trust’s Gettysburg AR Experience app lets users interact with historical events, including President Lincoln’s delivery of the Gettysburg Address. [F] The Southern Campaign Animated Map debuted in a handful of NPS visitor centers and on the Trust’s YouTube channel, bringing a critical period to life like never before.

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American Battlefield Trust Protection Program; National Park Service; Bearcat County, S.C.; Boyle County Fiscal Court; Ky.; City of Chattanooga; City of Parkers Crossroads, Tenn.; Cross County, N.Y.; Commonwealth of Kentucky; Commonwealth of Virginia; Jefferson County Farmyard Protection Board, WVa.; Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C. NOWA Parks; Oklahoma Historical Society; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; South Carolina Conservation Bank, State of Mississippi; State of New York; State of North Carolina; State of Tennessee; Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service; Village of Sackets Harbor, N.Y.; Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund; Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

PRIVATE AND NONPROFIT PARTNERS

Including battlefield friends groups that were active participants in land preservation transactions during the calendar year.

Bikes Crossroads National Battlefield Commission; Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; Friends of Bontonville Battlefield; Friends of Pony Express; Friends of Shiloh National Military Park; Friends of Stones River National Battlefield; Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign; Georgia Battlefields Association; Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterway History Foundation; HTR Foundation; Land Trust of Virginia; National Park Partners; O'Reilly Auto Parts; Parker's Crossroads Battlefield Association; Reflection Riding, Arbourton and Nature Center; Save Historic Antietam Foundation; Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation; South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust; Trexler Station Battlefield Foundation; Williamsburg Battlefield Association.

WILE THE TRUST IS dedicated to manifesting its mission through countless efforts, it is also dedicated to upholding the highest standards of fiscal responsibility and prudent management of the donations entrusted to us by our supporters. Our members’ choice to contribute their hard-earned funds to our organization — among the many worthwhile charitable causes an individual may support — represents not only a staunch belief in mission, but also confidence in the Trust’s ability to successfully exercise the various aspects of that mission.

Our staff works to serve as effective, efficient and accountable stewards of our members’ contributions. Since Trust’s genesis in the 1980s, we have successfully preserved more than 53,500 acres of America’s battlefields, putting every dollar we can directly toward land preservation and the creation of historical resources. In addition to the sound fiscal management that allows the Trust to maximize the amount of funding used for program services, we also aim to magnify donor contributions by diligently utilizing matching grants from various sources, frequently multiplying donor contributions by a factor of three or more.

In recognition of our careful efforts to be the best possible financial stewards — from individuals you — the Trust received its 11th consecutive four-star rating. The Trust has earned this rating by meeting all 20 of the Better Business Bureau’s standards for governance and oversight, measuring effectiveness, finances and fundraising.

The Trust is a recipient of a Google Grants award. For more information see www.battlefields.org.
DONOR RECOGNITION SOCIETIES

THE TRUST is deeply indebted to each individual who chooses to support our work and maintains several donor recognition societies that recognize them. The Color Bearer Society consists of those who make an annual membership contribution in excess of $1,000. The Honor Guard legacy giving society recognizes those who have made the American Battlefield Trust a beneficiary of their estate plans. The Steadfast honors those individuals who have made more than 100 individual gifts over the course of their membership.

The significant growth we have experienced in these categories has rendered these lists so long that they have driven up our printing costs significantly. Thus, we have made the decision to include those lists only in the digital version of this report, which can be viewed at [www.battlefields.org/AnnualReport2020](http://www.battlefields.org/AnnualReport2020).