HALLOWED GROUND

All-American IRREGULARS

FROM THE COLONIAL FRONTIER TO THE NAVY SEALS
VEN THOUGH I have a personal goal of reading 10,000 pages annually, I seldom re-read books. As so many good histories and biographies are being written every year, re-reading a work only puts me further behind on my ever-expanding “to read” list. I suspect many of you have the same problem. But this year I made an exception, picking up Jay Winik’s April 1865, which was first published 20 years ago. When I read his book in 2001, I recall being powerfully moved by Winik’s thesis that it was the spirit of reconciliation, as expressed by the far-reaching leadership decisions made by key people in the North and South, that prevented America’s descent into generations of guerilla warfare, bloody sectionalism and ethnic hatreds that have marked so many of the world’s previous civil wars. I’m pleased to report that the intervening two decades have not dimmed the power of that book’s message.

Historian Carol Berkin wrote in her book, A Brilliant Solution: Inventing the American Constitution, that she begins “every struggle to understand the present with a search of the past.” That is why I set aside the time to revisit the message. In his annual message to Congress on December 1, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln told lawmakers, “We cannot escape history. We will be remembered in spite of ourselves.” To me, that is why you and I struggle and sacrifice to save every acre of hallowed ground we can (22 years running of saving more than 1,000 acres). Why we work so hard to post authoritative and unbiased educational videos and articles online (300+ added to our website in 2020). Why we are pioneering the use of new technology to reach educators through our Virtual Teacher Institute (2,000 educators estimated to attend this year).

Knowing that we will be remembered for our actions and our leadership, just as we remember those who came before us, we champion the preservation and knowledge of history — not just for its own sake, significant as that is. Far more important, we work to preserve our nation’s irreplaceable history for those who came before us, we champion the protection of the American Revolution and even played a role in the War of 1812.

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

David N. Duncan
President, American Battlefield Trust

Learn about the French and Indian War
The Seven Years’ War was a global struggle between the French and British Empires. In the North American Theater, those colonial powers each allied themselves with Native populations on the expanding frontier. In many ways, the fighting that took place between 1754 and 1763 set the stage for the Revolutionary War, as the British Empire levied taxes to offset the costs incurred by the conflict. Learn about the people and places that laid the groundwork for a new American nation at www.battlefields.org/French-Indian-War.
In many ways, the 1983 report of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission was a wellspring of the modern battlefield preservation movement. It provided impetus for the creation of the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) within the auspices of the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior, a clear recognition of the importance of battlefield preservation to the historical narrative. This was then accompanied by the creation of a matching grant infrastructure that has facilitated federal investment in the preservation process and encouraged public-private cooperation to maximize efficacy. That document provided an authoritative inventory of the engagements included in the Civil War, as well as maps showing their locations and extent. This, in turn, enabled coordinated efforts to prioritize and protect remaining elements of these battlefields, long a hallmark of the American Battlefield Trust business model. This proven recipe for success was replicated with a subsequent ABPP study for the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 completed in 2007, which eventually led to the legislative expansion of federal matching grants for their protection.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To complete this massive undertaking, the Trust is calling upon members to contribute images of battlefield monuments in select regions, especially smaller and more remote sites. Full details on our needs and specifications are available at www.battlefields.org/markers-monuments.

Follow the “Road to Freedom” to explore stories of heroes, historic places and events central to African American experience. Laurel, Virginia to Jonesboro, Georgia, the Road to Freedom offers an interactive way for all ages to explore the African American experience in Civil War–era Virginia. More than 80 spots intricate on a map guide available in visitor centers and distribution sites across the state and a web app with downloadable versions for Android and iOS devices. The trail highlights 88 spots across Virginia, from Alexandria, just outside Washington, D.C., to Abingdon, near the Tennessee border. It tells the stories of soldiers, slaves, educators, politicians and others, marking the places where they staged rebellions, fought for freedom, educated soldiers, slaves, educators, politicians and others, marking the places where they staged rebellions, fought for freedom, educated.

Among the sites on the Road to Freedom network are: Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Engine House No. 1, Equal Justice Initiative, Freedom Park and Union Station. The program features free physical and digital resources — a map guide available in visitor centers and distribution sites across the state and a web app with downloadable versions for Android and iOS devices. The trail highlights 88 spots across Virginia, from Alexandria, just outside Washington, D.C., to Abingdon, near the Tennessee border. It tells the stories of soldiers, slaves, educators, politicians and others, marking the places where they staged rebellions, fought for freedom, educated, their children, were born and were buried.

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

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

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

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

The free app is now available for download via the App Store and Google Play, or online as a web app, available through any browser. Learn more at www.battlefields.org/RoadtoFreedom.
EARLY 180,000 BLACK MEN in Army units designated as U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) fought for liberty on scores of major battlefields during the Civil War, but nowhere with more distinction than at New Market Heights, near Richmond, Va. To honor their bravery, the American Battlefield Trust is working to preserve land and create a battlefield park, an effort recently boosted by the acquisition of a 12-acre property that otherwise could have been targeted for development. Thanks to donor contributions and federal and state matching grants, the Trust has now protected five properties totaling 88 acres at New Market Heights.

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

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

Completion of the latest Trust project was made possible by donations made by Trust members and private donors, as well as anticipated grants from the federal and state governments, each dollar donated by Trust members would be matched $220 to $1. Also notable, the land represented a pristine pocket of battlefield in a highly developed area. It provides an opportunity to honor seven American soldiers who received the Medal of Honor for their valor at Williamsburg and to tell how the battle’s outcome was shaped when members of the same enslaved community that built Confederate fortifications offered to lead Union troops through the woods around them.

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

During its winter legislative session, Mississippi took important steps toward becoming the fourth state to create a matching grant fund specifically targeting landscapes central to historical narratives. Administered by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Historic Site Preservation Fund Grant Program will protect land directly related to Mississippi Native American heritage, Mississippi Civil War battlefields and Mississippi Civil Rights Movement sites. Having easily passed both chambers — the Senate unanimously — the final text now awaits the signature of Gov. Tate Reeves.

In creating this state-level fund, Mississippi joins Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky, which enacted its own legislation just last year. The Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, created in 2006, has been used to protect 9,600 acres associated with the Revolutionary War and Civil War; the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund dates to 2010 and has provided some $5 million in matching grants. This funding mechanism will encourage additional preservation activities in Mississippi, where only about 8,600 acres of the 194,000 acres originally occupied by the state’s 16 major battlefields are permanently protected — less than 5 percent. We are grateful to Trust Chairman Emeritus John L. Nau for his instrumental efforts in the creation of this latest tool in our preservation arsenal.
LEADING LOCAL PHILANTHROPIST
Embraces South Carolina’s Revolutionary Story

The Darla Moore Foundation, one of the Palmetto State’s premier philanthropic institutions, gave efforts to blaze The Liberty Trail a major boost this spring, issuing the project a $300,000 grant for ongoing battlefield site preservation and interpretation statewide.

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

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

“Interpreting the important Revolutionary War history of our state provides an opportunity for rural communities to share the wealth of the state’s robust tourism industry. The Pee Dee region, the home of our foundation, has many important sites,” commented Harry Lesesne, executive director, The Darla Moore Foundation.

“We are honored to partner with local, state, and federal partners, as well as individuals and foundations across South Carolina and beyond to bring The Liberty Trail to life.”

PARTNERSHIP PROTECTS ALABAMA SITE of environmental, historical significance

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

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

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

Lighthizer receives National Humanities Medal

AMES LIGHTHIZER, president emeritus of the American Battlefield Trust, was awarded the National Humanities Medal during a January White House ceremony presided over by President Donald J. Trump. The National Humanities Medal, inaugurated in 1997, honors individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation’s understanding of the humanities and broadened our citizens’ engagement with history, literature, languages, philosophy and other humanities subjects.

For more than 20 years, from December 1999 until his October 2020 retirement, Lighthizer led the organization, building it into the nation’s most successful heritage land preservation organization and saving more than 55,000 acres of hallowed ground for future generations.

During his tenure, Lighthizer led Trust efforts to raise nearly $235 million in private contributions to match an equal number of federal, state, local and other grants to acquire and preserve critically endangered Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War battlefields from development. As a result, hallowed ground at nearly 150 battlefields in 24 states — chronologically from the “shot heard ’round the world” at Lexington and Concord to the stillness at Appomattox — has been saved.

He expanded the Trust’s mission beyond land preservation to education efforts that reach millions of people annually through rich, interactive online resources and programs that have sent 35,000 students to visit historic sites firsthand.

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

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

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

Yet, the history buff in Mudd would not be stifled. By 1995, he became the first on-air anchor for The History Channel and into real life. “Roger was a down-to-earth guy who cared about our mission and worked to advance it,” remembered Trust President Emeritus Jim Lighthizer, who served alongside Mudd on the Board of Trustees in the late 1990s before taking on an executive role. “He was a gentleman in every way, with natural charisma and a love for storytelling that translated off the screen into real life.”

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SUCCESS STORIES
LAND SAVED FOREVER

RECENT SUCCESSES
Transactions completed
July–December 2020

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

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

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

In September, the Trust acquired 3.24 acres at Bentonville, North Carolina, for incorporation into the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Park. The Trust has preserved 1,867 acres at Bentonville.

BRICES CROSS ROADS, Mississippi
In early June 1864, Confederate Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and some 2,000 troopers set out to destroy the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad, which carried men and supplies toward the campaigns in Georgia. On June 10, Forrest defeated a much larger Union force as he marched north into the Carolinas. Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston confronted an isolated wing on March 19, experiencing success until Union reinforcements arrived late in the day. On March 21, the Confederates attempted a final, desperate counterattack before retreating. Fighting was particularly intense in the area known as Crittenden’s Gate, where Union casualties reached 30 percent and Lt. Gen. “Stonewall” Jackson personally rallied his faltering command to final victory.

In August, the Trust joined with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the American Battlefield Protection Program to preserve 86 acres at Cedar Mountain. Upon creation of a new state park, the Trust anticipates transferring this land for incorporation. The Trust has protected 384.32 acres at Cedar Mountain.

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

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

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

The Trust acquired 3.5 acres at Cold Harbor in August and 12 more in December — enabled by the support of the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund and Trust donors. The Trust has saved a total of 250 acres at Cold Harbor.

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

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

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

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

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

In the fall, the Trust secured 22 acres at New Market Heights, a portion of the battlefield that felt the resolute footsteps of Black soldiers, thanks to a grant from the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund. The Trust has preserved 68 acres at New Market Heights.

PARKER’S CROSS ROADS, Tennessee
On December 31, 1861, Union brigades attempted to cut off Brig. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest’s withdrawal from West Tennessee to Parker’s Cross Roads. Despite Union determination and reinforcements surprising the Confederate rear, Forrest’s men held the upper hand throughout most of the battle. Repelling Union forces, the Confederates ultimately made their way across the Tennessee River.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHILOH, Tennessee
On the morning of April 6, 1862, Confederate soldiers poured out of the nearby woods and struck a line of Union soldiers near Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. The overpower-
ing Confederate offensive drove the Federal forces from their camp. Fighting continued until after dark, but the Federals held. A Union counteroffensive the next morning overpowered the weakened and outnumbered Confederate forces, resulting in a Union triumph.

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

STONES RIVER, Tennessee

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

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

TREVINIAN STATION, Virginia

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

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

WHITE OAK ROAD, Virginia

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

In August, the Trust, along with the National Park Service, secured 48 acres that figured prominently in the initial phases of the fighting on March 31, 1865. This property will be stewarded by the Trust until transfer to the National Park Service. The Trust has preserved 951 acres at Petersburg National Battlefield.

WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia

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

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

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

The U.S. Army Rangers explicitly state that their direct heritage begins in the French and Indian War (1754–1763), the North American Theater of the worldwide Seven Years’ War, while noting that some of their tactics emerged as early as King Philip’s War on the colonial New England frontier in the 1670s. The Army’s Special Forces Creed, which notes that its adherents “serve with the memory of those who have gone before me,” has included, in earlier iterations, explicit reference to Francis Marion, South Carolina’s famed “Swamp Fox” of the Revolutionary War, as well as later individuals and groups that predate the modern military era and organization.

In the War of 1812 and throughout the first half of the 19th century, Ranger companies patrolled the western frontier by boat and horseback, with future president Abraham Lincoln briefly serving in one such unit of Illinois militia. While both combatants in the Civil War fielded ranger units, the United States Army did not maintain any such active units in the conflict’s aftermath and did not field any for nearly 80 years. During World War II, using British Commando standards, six Ranger infantry units were activated. The 1st, 3rd and 5th Ranger Battalions saw significant action in North Africa. The 6th Ranger Battalion liberated more than 500 American prisoners from the Japanese POW camp at Cabanatuan in January 1945. Their daring acts
During the D-Day invasion of France included scaling the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc, overlooking Omaha Beach, to destroy German gun emplacements trained on the beachhead. The 75th Ranger Regiment, Merrill’s Marauders, was first organized for the China-Burma Campaign in 1943, bearing the numerical designation born by today’s Rangers.

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

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

During the latter stages of WWII and in its aftermath, Operation Groups of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), predecessor of the Department of State’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research and the Central Intelligence Agency, were instrumental in the creation of classified units that played a role in the Korean War. That conflict informed the formal creation of the 10th Special Forces Group in June 1952. Its first deployments were to Cold War Europe, an early instance of the unit living out its motto: De oppresso liber — “to free the oppressed.” Special Forces units and personnel were present during the Vietnam War, and the units gained popular attention in the era, through the hit song “Ballad of the Green Berets” and a John Wayne film The Green Berets.

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

The most well-known Special Forces Outside the U.S. Army are the U.S. Navy, Air and Land Teams — the Navy SEALs. The story of this famous group begins nine months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, when the Observer Group, a joint Army-Navy-Marine reconnaissance unit, created an Amphibious Scout and Raider School to advance covert intelligence gathering for landing beaches and coastal defenses. Their first test was Operation Torch, the Allied invasion of French North Africa in November 1942; thereafter, Scouts and Raiders also assisted in landings at Sicily, Salerno, Anzio, Normandy and southern France. Separately, Navy salvage personnel and Seabees (the construction battalions) were trained to become the first Navy Combat Demolition Units (NCDUs). By the spring of 1944, 34 NCDUs were in England preparing for Operation Overlord, the invasion of Normandy. At Omaha Beach, they suffered 52 percent casualties; less-heavily opposed on Utah Beach, the NCDUs cleared 1,600 yards of beach by nightfall.

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

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

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

by DR. MATTHEW KEAGLE

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

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

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

Europeans found themselves, despite their numbers and technology, regularly beaten by Natives and unable to achieve decisive victories. The tactics employed in Europe to fight against regularly equipped and increasingly professional...
armies were useless against this new warfare. As King Philip’s War — the conflict to which the modern Rangers explicitly trace their heritage — erupted across New England in 1675, Native nations — including the entrance of the Mohawks into King Philip’s War — tipped the scales. To conclusively end a campaign, Euro-Americans often resorted to the cruel destruction of Native communities, killing the population and burning villages and crops.

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

Most colonies lacked soldiers to defend and secure the boundaries they claimed. The militia was often too unwieldy, poorly trained and problematic to use for any extended period. A number of companies of rangers were authorized by colonial governments, giving them longer-term military forces to confront threats, particularly from Native Americans whose territory land-hungry settlers were encroaching on. By the opening of the French and Indian War in 1754 once again saw colonies mobilizing military forces across the continent to face the French and their Native allies. British colonists suffering from this war from a lack of allied Natives, leaving their armies vulnerable to the hard-hitting attacks of their enemies who could also prey on French forces, denying the British vital intelligence.

With minimal Native numbers to counter the superior numbers of warriors aligned with the French, the British relied on Americans. A New Hampshire provincial captain, Robert Rogers, had impressed his superiors by scouting enemy positions and, in 1756, the British formally established an independent company of rangers under Rogers’s command. Initially a captain, he was eventually promoted to major, in command of multiple independent ranger companies. Rogers’s “created Indians” were intended to meet the Native warriors on their own terms and to act as the eyes and ears of the British Army. They provided vital intelligence to British officers about the numbers, location and condition of French and Native forces and harassed them as necessary. In battle, they acted as light infantry, whether covering the landing of amphibious forces or screening the movements of British regulars and provincials, as they did during the failed attack on the French positions on the Heights of Carillon on July 8, 1758. Rogers also trained British and provincial officers in his unique tactics and prepared a set of 28 rules, or “a plan of discipline,” that for the first time codified in writing many of the principles of Native American warfare that Rogers had witnessed and practiced, and which are still taught to this day. An adapted version of Rogers’s Rules of Ranging has been distributed to every participant in U.S. Army Ranger School since the 1950s, and the document is considered the “standing orders” for all Ranger operations.

The ranger’s best-known operations were a series of long-distance raids against the French at Fort Carillon.

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

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

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

The fame of Rogers and his Rangers...
AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

these forces. During the Revolution, the spirit of the rangers lived on as volunteer companies operating out of Ticonderoga. Despite Whitcomb’s success, the most extensive use of at least nominal “rangers” was actually by Americans on the other side of the conflict, most famously by Robert Rogers himself. Rogers actually did apply to Congress for a command among the Patriots, but was not trusted and eventually had his lot with the British and raised a Loyalist corps called the Queen’s Rangers. Under Rogers’s management, the unit was ineffective, however, and he and many of his officers were purged. The corps was transformed into one of the most successful Loyalist units of the Revolution under the command of the Englishman John Graves Simcoe. Rogers, and his brother James, were able to raise another unit, known as the King’s Rangers. They joined a host of Loyalist light troops that sought to evoke the spirit of the Rangers, from Colonel Thomas Browne’s East Florida Rangers to the New York Rangers, a volunteer company in occupied Manhattan, to the Loyalist refugees who formed the Queen’s Loyal Rangers in the Champlain Valley. Loyalist units like Butler’s Rangers, operating out of Fort Niagara, came closest to the irregular spirit of the rangers and their cooperation with Native Americans, earning them a fearsome reputation.

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

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

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

THE LEGACY of the original rangers is indelibly linked with the violence of imperialism and colonization, yet the ranger represents a distinctively American military type.
Ambush: Francis Marion and the Art of Guerilla Warfare

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

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
Chris M. Rogers

BY
David Paul Reuwer & Douglas W. Bostick

PARKER’S GROUNDS [SPRING 2011]
Marion was a student of Major Robert Rogers’s 28 Rules of Ranging, and in his long military career, Marion formulated, practiced and executed his own particular modes of “maneuvering.” The United States Marine Corps’ modern doctrinal manual, Warriorfight, defines maneuver warfare as “a state of mind bent on shattering the enemy morally and physically by paralyzing and confounding him, by avoiding his strength, by quickly and aggressively exploiting his vulnerabilities, and by striking him in a way that will hurt him most.” The sentiment certainly applies to Marion’s approach.

By the time of the Revolutionary War’s Southern Campaigns of 1780–1782, entering 48-year-old Patriot partisan General Francis Marion did everything in his power to effectuate Rogers’s concepts in the Carolinas following the surrender of Charleston. His philosophy, as described by the Harvard Business Review, in a description of how the practice can be adapted beyond the battlefield, amounted to “not ... destroy[ing] the adversary’s forces but ... render[ing] them unable to fight as ‘not ... destroy[ing] the adversary’s forces.” The United States Marine Corps’ modern doctrinal manual, Warriorfight, defines maneuver warfare as “a state of mind bent on shattering the enemy morally and physically by paralyzing and confounding him, by avoiding his strength, by quickly and aggressively exploiting his vulnerabilities, and by striking him in a way that will hurt him most.” The sentiment certainly applies to Marion’s approach. By the time of the Revolutionary War’s Southern Campaigns of 1780–1782, entering 48-year-old Patriot partisan General Francis Marion did everything in his power to effectuate Rogers’s concepts in the Carolinas following the surrender of Charleston. His philosophy, as described by the Harvard Business Review, in a description of how the practice can be adapted beyond the battlefield, amounted to “not ... destroy[ing] the adversary’s forces but ... render[ing] them unable to fight as ‘not ... destroy[ing] the adversary’s forces.”

THE RISE OF THE SWAMP FOX

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

As 1780 wore on, the Williamson District was transformed by Marion’s emergence, seemingly mocking the British claim to have subdued South Carolina. Major General Charles, Lord Cornwallis assigned the destruction of Marion’s Brigade to that rapid-rising, hard-charging British Legion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton. Marion set out to ambush the small troop then escorting Tarleton, who had descended upon Colonel Richard Richardson’s plantation, stripped his house and set it afire. In turn, Marion realized that the British were also on their way to seize him. On November 8, Tarleton vigorously pursued Marion from Jack’s Creek northwest of Nelson’s Ferry for 2½ miles east to Ox Swamp. Marion’s men galloped through the swamp’s watery morass along trails that few could have followed. With dogged deter-mination equal to Marion’s, Tarleton drove his men forward until they reached the Woodward. Tarleton’s Legion could not cross that swamp in the dark, resting at its edge for the night.

Marion would not retreat indefinitely, deciding to make a stand near Bennbow’s Ferry. With felled trees blocking paths and swamps protecting their rear and flanks, Marion’s marksmen awaited the man whom Patriots called the “Butcher.” Tarleton’s men swung around the swamp’s edge, hoping to again pick up Marion’s trail on its opposite side. For seven hours, the British officer drove Legion cavalry, wagons and two artil-lery pieces back at a pace that with his horses drop in their tracks. Riders who lost their mounts were left to trot along exhaustedly. Tarleton’s scouts reported that the route headed into Ox Swamp. Unable to disable a cover trail across or through it, Tarleton despaired after intensely chasing so long through the swampy morass to no avail. Tarleton is credited with commenting, “Come my boys. Let us go back, and we’ll soon find the Gamecock [Thomas Sumter].” But as for this damned old fox, the devil himself could not catch him! This earned moniker struck true and spread quickly. Incredibly daring, the great guerrilla fighter terrorized the British Army in South Carolina, swiftly striking, then vanishing ghost-like from fields into swamps.

THE EXEMPLAR VICTORY

Parker’s Ferry was a major thoroughfare crossing the Pon Pon River (Edisto River) about 33 miles west of Charleston. Here, Brigadier General Francis Marion planned a famously successful ambush. British and Loyalist troops were operating in the summer of 1782 throughout the Lowcountry around Charleston, foraging for provisions and attempting to suppress the Patriot militia. On August 10, 1781, Major General Nathanael Greene dispatched Major Thomas Fraser to assist Colonel William Hardman’s Patriot militia. Marion learned that a Loyalist force of 100 troops, commanded by William “Bloody Bill” Richardson, was at Parker’s Ferry, with 800 Loyalist, British and German troops into a Patriot trap. As shots were fired, British Lieutenant Colonel Ernest Leopold von Borck ordered Major Thomas Fraser and his dragoons to charge to the scene. Fraser’s troops galloped blindly into the “gauntlet” that Marion had set for them.

Harden’s men moved back 100 yards from the ambush line so they could be used as reserves. Major Samuel Cooper’s 60 swordsmen were told to attack the rear of the enemy after the ambush was initiated. They then waited for the British, as von Borck left camp in mid-afternoon with his infantry, accompanied by two pieces of artillery in front of the column and Fraser’s mounted South Carolina Royalists in the rear. It was almost dark when they stumbled into a fire-fight between Marion’s men and Loyalists who had just discovered them. Fraser sent Lieutenant Stephen Jarvis charging forward while he placed three other divisions on the road and to the left and right of the road. Mounted Patriots charged Jarvis, who reversed course quickly. Fraser believed these to be Harden’s men and ordered his cavalry to fall in full gallop to intercept them. Marion now had the British right where he wanted them, and instantly Fraser’s horde was surrounded. At 40 yards, the Patriots opened with buckshot and downed the British dragoons. Fraser rallied and tried to charge, but the Patriots delivered a second and a third volley. There was no way for Fraser to attack into the thick trees and nearby swamp, so he with-drew down the causeway, down the full length of the ambush. British Captain Archibald Campbell was wounded twice, and Fraser was badly bruised when his horse was killed, and the rest of his cavalry rode over him as he lay in the road.

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

**AVENUE OF THE CEDARS**

**AUGUST 29, 1782**

Almost exactly one year later, Marion participated in his final battle, Avenue of the Cedars, on August 29, 1782. British Major Thomas Fraser’s Royalists were dispatched to get needed meat for the British in Charleston. They crossed the Cooper River to surprise the Patriot guards at Biggin Bridge and Strawberry Ferry. Marion had finished with Georgetown, returning to his post at the old Sir John Colleton plantation house on the south side of the Wadboo Creek. When Marion learned of the approaching foraging party, his cavalry patrolled down the Wadboo looking for British galleys. He sent Captain Gavin Witherspoon to find Fraser. Part of Marion’s troops were positioned to the side of a cedar-lined avenue, ready for ambush. The rest were placed in and around nearby slave cabins. Joining Marion for the first time was Major Micajah Gainey’s 40 men, all who had recently “converted” from Loyalist to Patriot.

Fraser approached, capturing some of Marion’s pickets. He detected and charged Witherspoon in the woods. Witherspoon’s men turned back toward the plantation house at a full gallop. They fell behind in the ambush kill zone to let the Loyalist cavalry catch up. Fraser’s more than 100 British dragoons confidently charged the Patriot infantry and cavalry force. As Fraser’s dragoons came within 30 yards of the ambush site, Marion’s hidden men simultaneously cheered and fired a volley. Fraser tried to rally his men as they were being cut down on both sides of the road. During the skirmish, a Patriot wagon full of ammunition was lost. Too low on ammunition, Marion retreated to the Santee River. The British lost one captain and three enlisted killed, several wounded and one captured. Marion had no casualties in his last combat.

For all his maneuvering, machinations, menace and manpower, General Nathanael Greene best condensed Marion’s characterization in a letter written the day before the Hobkirk Hill debacle in April 1781. “When I consider how much you have done and suffered, and under what difficulties you have maintained your ground, I am at a loss which to admire most, your courage and fortitude or your address and management. Certain it is, no man has a better claim to the public thanks than you. History affords no instance where an officer has kept possession of a country under so many disadvantages as you have. Surrounded on every side with a superior force, hunted from every quarter with veteran troops, you have found means to elude their attempts, and to keep alive the expiring hopes of an oppressed militia, when all succor seemed to be cut off. To fight the enemy bravely with the prospect of victory, is nothing; but to fight with intrepidity under the constant impression of defeat, and inspire irregular troops to do it, is a talent peculiar to yourself. Nothing will give me greater pleasure than to do justice to your merit, and I shall miss no opportunity of declaring to Congress, to the commander-in-chief of the American army, and to the world, the great sense I have of your merit and your services.”

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

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

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

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

**www.battlefields.org**
IRREGULAR OPERATIONS

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

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

Mosby’s Fairfax Raid

DAVID DUNCAN | President

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

Mosby’s force was filled with resourceful horsemen who executed their work with precision and speed, and then stealthily reintegrated back into civilian life following each mission. After a string of successful raids in early 1863, Mosby’s notoriety as a ranger — and Federal frustration — was on the rise. Unable to catch him, Sir Percy Wynham, a flamboyant Englishman in command of a regiment of New Jersey cavalry in the region, resorted to his own strategy of raiding — was on the rise. Unable to catch him, Sir Percy Wynham, a flamboyant Englishman in command of a regiment of New Jersey cavalry in the region, resorted to his own strategy of raiding.

The success of the operation depended on its secrecy, given that Mosby’s reputation for raiding made him a high-profile target. Only after crossing enemy lines did Mosby reveal the full extent of the plan to his 29 troopers. At 2:00 a.m., in the rain, Mosby’s men infiltrated the hamlet of Fairfax. They studied the country’s “deer and rabbit” pathways with one of his local troopers and obtained details of picket lines from a Yankee deserter. The stage was set for the night of March 8-9, 1863.

The Fairfax Raid

The Great Locomotive Chase

The Great Locomotive Chase

The heroism of the raiders became legendary, and many received the Medal of Honor (as a civilian, Andrews was not eligible). Audiences of the 20th century became familiar with the raid with the Disney film The Great Locomotive Chase. If you plan to track down the many battlefields saved by the Trust that make up the Atlanta Campaign, or you want to stop by the pocket parks of the former Atlanta Campaign NHS, the “General” monument should definitely be on your list. The marker is not far from Ringgold, but be careful if you want to try to visit! There is a small pull-off in front of the marker, barely large enough for one vehicle, and there are no signs alerting drivers to the historic marker.
the USS Miami, killing Cushing’s dear friend Lt. Commander Charles Flusser in the process. From a strategic standpoint, capturing or sinking the dangerous Hunley was crucial for the Union, but for Cushing, it was personal.

Many elements had to come together for Cushing’s envisioned operation, starting with specialized equipment and a committed crew. Cushing got the idea for a portable torpedo from the Confederate attack on the USS Cairo near Vicksburg in 1862. The boat Cushing launched his attack on was armed as a spar torpedo launch: One lanyard had control over the wooden spar, which could lower the device into the water. Another spar launch was also on hand, which could lift the spar out of the water and move to the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, and intermittently the war’s only worlds-first underwater vessel was dangerous — she sank twice.

On the night of October 27–28, 1864, Cushing and company on the spar launch crawled up the Roanoke toward Plymouth. Increasing obstacles arose as they approached the Confederate position. One lanyard had control over the wooden spar, which could lower the device into the water. Another spar launch was also on hand, which could lift the spar out of the water and move to the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, and intermittently the war’s only worlds-first underwater vessel was dangerous — she sank twice.

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Cushing was able to keep a tight grip on the torpedo’s controls and to deliver its single spar torpedo, and blast analysis has offered speculation about the damage sustained by the ship and the crew’s cause of death. Perhaps the most poignant story to come out of the Hunley involves its captain, Lt. George Dixon. Fighting at Shiloh in 1862, Dixon was struck in the hip by a ball, a wound that might have been mortal had the round not been deflected by a gold coin in his pocket. Alongside the remains found in the wreckage was a deformed $20 gold coin engraved with the lines “Shiloh April 6, 1862/ My Life Preserver/ G.E.D.”

**The Mysterious Fate of the H.L. Hunley**

**CATHERINE NOYES**

**Liberty Trail Program Director**

As a native of South Carolina, I’ve long been interested in the story of the H.L. Hunley. I remember hearing the news when the mysterious sunken submarine was discovered off the shores of Charleston. In 2000, when it was retrieved from the water and moved to the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, and intermittently since, there has never been a discovery in South Carolina that has captivated me more.

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

On the night of October 27–28, 1864, Cushing and company on the spar launch crawled up the Roanoke toward Plymouth. Increasing obstacles arose as they approached the Confederate position. One lanyard had control over the wooden spar, which could lower the device into the water. Another spar launch was also on hand, which could lift the spar out of the water and move to the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, and intermittently the war’s only worlds-first underwater vessel was dangerous — she sank twice.

Cushing was able to keep a tight grip on the torpedo’s controls and to deliver its single spar torpedo, and blast analysis has offered speculation about the damage sustained by the ship and the crew’s cause of death. Perhaps the most poignant story to come out of the Hunley involves its captain, Lt. George Dixon. Fighting at Shiloh in 1862, Dixon was struck in the hip by a ball, a wound that might have been mortal had the round not been deflected by a gold coin in his pocket. Alongside the remains found in the wreckage was a deformed $20 gold coin engraved with the lines “Shiloh April 6, 1862/ My Life Preserver/ G.E.D.”

**Tracey McIntyre**

**Program Assistant**

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

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

Three gunboats — USS Sentinel, USS Harriet A. Weed and USS John Adams — left port on June 1 with 300 African American soldiers from the 2nd South Carolina Volunteer Infantry and the 3rd Rhode Island Heavy Artillery. After the Sentinel ran aground, the two remaining gunboats, guided by Tubman, steamed up the Combahee River. Tubman guided them past treacherous mines and to specific areas on the river where enslaved people who had escaped from local plantations had congregated.

After landing a small detachment at the mouth of the river to deal with Confederate pickets, the Harriet A. Weed anchored a few miles upriver. The John Adams continued to Combahee Ferry, where it encountered a band of Confederate cavalry crossing a pontoon bridge. Shots from the gunboat scattered the troopers, and a party sent from the ship set fire to the bridge. These troops then went ashore, with orders to confiscate or destroy all viable property there. The John Adams, forced to stop by obstructions in the river, turned at the causeway. Confederate response to the invasion was slow, occurring as it did during the height of the malaria season, when only small detachments of troops remained left along the rivers and swamps. Eventually, a battery of artillery arrived at the causeway and fired at the Union troops, but it was quickly repelled by the big guns of the John Adams. By this time, the damage had been done, and plantations, mills and outbuildings were in flames. Union troops were able to confiscate stores of rice, cotton, vegetables and livestock. Most importantly, more than 700 enslaved people had flocked to the gunboats and were taken to freedom. The raid was a resounding success, thanks to the intelligence and leadership provided by Harriet Tubman, the only woman known to have led a military raid during the Civil War.★★
High Anxiety: Aerial Reconnaissance

GARRY ADELMAN | Chief Historian

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

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

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

3:00pm: I assaulted at 7 o’clock, remaining up until after dark in order to see the location of the enemy’s camp-fires. I find them most numerous in a ravine about one mile beyond the heights opposite General Sedgwick’s forces, extending from opposite the lower crossing to a little above the upper crossing. There are also many additional fires in the rear of Fredericksburg. From appearances I should judge that full three-fourths of the enemy’s force is immediately back and below Fredericksburg.

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

By the summer of 1863, both sides had effectively ceased aerial operations, favoring more traditional methods such as hills, platforms in trees and towers built for observation. For the South, which never fully enjoyed the fruits of aeronautical Special Forces, the cessation of balloon operations is not surprising. For the North, the disbanding of the Balloon Corps was puzzling on its face, and E.P. Alexander agreed, no less: “I think their conclusion a decided mistake.”

Morgan’s Raiders and Their Trail of Destruction

COLLEEN CHESLAK | Communications Associate

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

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

After the Confederacy’s dual losses at Vicksburg and Gettysburg in the summer of 1863, Morgan aspired to uplift the downcast by embarking on his most ambitious raid of the war. And he did so by ignoring the explicit orders of Bragg. Beginning in Tennessee, he expanded his cavalry’s footprints and crossed the Ohio River with approximately 2,400 men before riding more than one thousand miles along its north bank. For three weeks, Morgan’s Raiders terrorized the local defenses of southern Indiana and Ohio. His brazen tactics included having his telegraph operator act as a Union soldier, sending blatant misinformation regarding his actions, objectives and troop strengths. But Morgan’s luck would also act as a Union soldier, sending blatant misinformation regarding his actions, objectives and troop strengths. But Morgan’s luck turned upon his home state. Harpers Weekly would also recognize Morgan as having “the most desperate courage,” as his path of devastation also paved a glimmer of hope for those who sought a fully Confederate Kentucky.
“Resolved, That two Battalions of marines be raised.”

“A SHIP WITHOUT MARINES IS LIKE A GARMENT WITHOUT BUTTONS,” said Union Admiral David Dixon Porter in 1852, expressing the critical need for maritime services. The Marines’ value is in versatility, an ability to be used to advantage by sea when required...

The Continental Marines’ First and Only Commandant

The first Marine officer commissioned was Samuel Nicholas, a young Philadelphia Quaker and proprietor of the Conestoga Wagon Tavern. A society man, he belonged to the exclusive Society of Friends Fish Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial fishing endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company, a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped found the Gloucester Fishing Company — a gentlemen’s club, not a commercial endeavor — and helped find...
The American Battlefield Trust and Ancestry are partnering to help people learn more about the soldiers who fought in the Civil War and their family histories. By exploring records and stories related to those soldiers, you can gain a new perspective on the past and how your family is connected to it. This partnership allows you to trace your roots and discover the stories of your ancestors who fought in the Civil War and other conflicts.

David Duncan, Trust president, has deep roots in the Old Dominion. He is the great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandson of a soldier who fought in the Revolutionary War.

When you start digging into your family history, you never know what interesting nuggets you might find. Trust President David Duncan was well aware of numerous leaves on his family tree representing soldiers who fought in the Civil War — at least eight, many with fascinating service in the Confederate ranks. But the Ancestry team was able to reach significantly farther back, where deep Virginia roots offered up meaningful narratives, including service in other American conflicts.

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

Jabez Dowdy served under Cassimere, as did Henry Gearheart. Four of Matthew and Hannah’s sons were living in Amelia County, Va., during the Revolutionary War, and while none of them fought, all of them supplied aid and provisions to the troops during the War for Independence. Matthew and Hannah’s grandson, Cassimere Cabaniss, was born in Virginia in 1773 to Matthew and Mary Clark. He married Prudence Beeler around 1798, earning his living as a farmer.

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

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

Along another tree branch, we find David’s fourth great grand-grandfather Nathaniel Vaughan of Grayson County, Va. He was the son of Jesse Vaughan and Frances Jones. Nathaniel also served in the War of 1812, both as a private and a sergeant in the 4th Virginia Militia. He served long enough and lived long enough to obtain a pension.

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

Details from these earlier wars are more sparse than details about ancestors who served in the Civil War. But identifying those who served puts your family heritage in a new light regarding how the Trust for Public Land while earning an MBA from The Citadel. An economic downturn afforded him time to attend law school, but he never quite escaped the calling of conservation. After less than a year practicing law in Charleston, he left to become the first paid executive director of a land trust in his hometown.

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

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

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

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

For more information about the American Battlefield Trust, visit www.battlefields.org. To learn more about Ancestry and its partnership with the Trust, visit www.ancestry.com/americansoldier.
DON’T THINK TWICE: PURSUE CONTINUING EDUCATION WITH THE TRUST

Teachers can “Log in and Learn” this summer!

NE of the Trust’s most beloved education programs, the National Teacher Institute, brings K-12 teachers, museum professionals, librarians and trainer educators from around the world together to pursue an immersive learning experience like no other. The Trust realizes the value these individuals bring into classrooms and educational institutions and is committed to equipping them with innovative tools and knowledge from the field. So, to best arm educators with its top-notch tools — while ensuring accessibility and safety — health concerns continue to hold, the Trust had to forego the in-person event and refocus its energy into bringing the virtual program to new heights.

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

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

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

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

LEADING the CHARGE

PRIORITYng SAFETY, GUEST EXPERIENCE

Trust postpones Annual Conference

In light of restrictions on large public gatherings in Virginia has necessitated the difficult decision for the Trust to delay its scheduled Annual Conference in Chantilly. The event will now be held May 14–15, 2022. Guests who had previously completed the process to attend will be contacted about transferring their registration. Attendees who had not previously attended the program will have the opportunity by attending all available sessions and emphasized that she “walked away with an arsenal of new resources and connections.”

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

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

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

PROJECT REVOLUTION:

Donors Sought to Embrace a Bold Vision for Education Expansion

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

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

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

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

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

LEGACY GIVING

LEAVING A GIFT to the Trust through your estate is easier than you think — and may not even require a visit to your lawyer. We pledge to respect you throughout this process, understanding that circumstances or your intentions may change, and honor your desire for anonymity, should you choose.

To get started, request our Guide to Legacy Giving by e-mailing legacy@battlefields.org or visiting www.battlefields.org/legacygiving.

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

GIVE THROUGH YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN

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

THE HONOR GUARD

Legacy Giving

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Ready to TIME TRAVEL?

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

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

DIGITALLY REBUILD COLD HARBOR TAVERN!!

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