PASTIMES THAT HAVE SUSTAINED
AMERICAN SOLDIERS FOR CENTURIES

War Games
To the Vintage Ball Game... by Doug Ulman

"Battle of the Bands" by Dan Welch

Page from the Past

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Recently I had the opportunity to take an early-morning walk on the Gettysburg Battlefield, specifically, the tracts of priceless hallowed ground associated with the First Day of that battle that have been preserved and largely restored by the Trust at Robert E. Lee’s Headquarters and Seminary Ridge. If you have not been there recently, at both sites you will now encounter markers we have installed recognizing by name the thousands of generous donors who made gifts to help acquire, preserve and restore these irreplaceable acres. Without them, this part of the battlefield might now be compromised by a multi-floor hotel or academic buildings or a townhouse development.

As I read through the list of donors — many of whom I know personally from 20-plus years of annual conferences, Color Bearer events or other gatherings — the question formed in my mind: What motivates some people to willingly donate significant sums of their hard-earned money, truly, part of their life’s success, to help save these parts of our nation’s history?

I then recalled that I had a large box of documents in my office, which were generated by a questionnaire we sent in one of our mailed battlefield-preservation appeals. In it, we asked supporters like you to write your answer to a similar question: Why are you proud to be a supporter of the American Battlefield Trust?

Mrs. D. Belanger of Tinley Park, Ill., says that to her, “It’s important to teach U.S. History to future generations. I’m so grateful that I can be a part of telling the stories of the sacrifices made, and to honor those who sacrificed their lives.” Mr. Albert Wiggins of Myrtle Beach, S.C., captures something perhaps you have also experienced: “It gives me chills to walk a battlefield early in the morning or as the sun is setting. You can almost feel the soldiers marching past to that last muster.” Sherry and Francis Holinaty, from my neck of the woods in northern Virginia, remind us that “Our country was not founded in a day, a week, or even a year. Every day we struggle to make it a better nation. Saving our history is how we preserve our country for our children and grandchildren.” Finally, Louise Sullivan from Woburn, Mass., says, “I want to encourage younger generations to visit the battlefields and learn the price our forefathers paid to give us a nation like no other.”

Preserve… Educate… Inspire. These aren’t just random words we pulled out of a hat. They are the foundation of everything we do here at the Trust, driven by a passion to preserve our country’s amazing history, not just for our own benefit today, but mostly for the benefit of future generations, and for the survival of our nation. With this call to action in mind, and as you make your year-end charitable giving plans, I respectfully ask you to continue to generously support the unique and irreplaceable mission of the American Battlefield Trust. Because today, with threats multiplying at an alarming rate, our country needs the work we do more than ever, which means I need you more than ever. Thank you, and I wish you and yours every joy of the upcoming holiday season.
A generous grant, investing in the advocacy work that each YLT member will bring to their community. The support also enabled the program to grow its membership and issue a base stipend for each member to put toward their capstone project.

“The passion of these young people is not just inspiring, but tangible,” said Connor Townsend, the Trust’s manager of audience development and the YLT project lead. “They have a vast dedication to the study of history, but through this program, they’ll have the necessary tools to demonstrate its continued relevance and resonance in our modern lives.” Planned projects for the coming academic year include a children’s book discussing women as Civil War soldiers, an advocacy campaign for a Revolutionary War site in New Jersey, a video series featuring Revolutionary and Civil War reenactors, expanded onsite and online interpretation for a Civil War-era raid on Richmond, and the promotion of under-told historical narratives, like those of women and Black soldiers.

“To me, historic preservation is a way to teach history in a far more engaging manner than a lecture in a classroom or a passage in a textbook,” said YLT participant Hank Thompson, 17, of Richmond, Va. “Whether it’s a child who has little knowledge, or a historian with decades of knowledge, there always seems to be something a person can gain from visiting the very site where the event transpired, and history was created.”

The full roster of the 2021-2022 Youth Leadership Team follows: Olivia Buc, 16, of Columbus, N.J.; Joseph Candelas, 17, of Harker Heights, Texas; Justin Chung, 16, of Anaheim, Calif.; Alexis Ellis, 16, of Saint Rose, La.; Abbie Hasty, 16, of Alton, Ill.; Sydney Kirages, 15, of Lake Forest, Ill.; Joseph Martin, 17, of Richmond, Va.; Hank Thompson, 17, of Davidson, N.C.; Sean Myers, 17, of Church Point, La.; Catherine Stavich, 16, of Lanett, Ala.; Hank Thompson, 17, of Richmond, Va.; Rachael Walters, 17, of Brunswick, Ga.; Stephanie Wang, 17, of Katy, Texas; and William Whitworth, 15, of Ashburn, Va.

VETERAN ARCHEOLOGY TEAM RETURNS TO SARATOGA

IN THE SUMMER of 2019, a first-of-its-kind partnership brought modern warriors with American Veterans Archaeological Recovery (AVAR) to Saratoga National Historical Park to assist professionals from the National Park Service (NPS) in conducing archaeological research on the battlefield that represents the turning point of the American Revolution. The partnership, which marked the first time AVAR participants were able to engage on a battlefield where American troops fought, was facilitated by the American Battlefield Trust, which also financially supported the work.

As explored in depth in the Winter 2019 issue of Hallowed Ground, the work done at Saratoga was groundbreaking—literally and figuratively. Important artifacts that helped solidify and verify existing interpretations of the action on October 7, 1777, were unearthed, and the professional archaeologists gained appreciation for the distinct skillset represented by military veterans. AVAR participants experienced the unique benefits of rehabilitation archaeology, demonstrating that the skills gained in military service can be transferred to other mission-driven teams. So successful was the joint effort that it was awarded the National Park Service’s 2020 Appleman-Judd-Lewis Cultural Resource Award in recognition of its impressive inter-disciplinary stewardship team. Perhaps even more exciting, a second phase of the project was swiftly approved.

Just after Labor Day 2021, the joint AVAR-NPS team returned to Saratoga, with the Trust again serving as a financial sponsor, thanks to the support of our members. Over four weeks, dozens of veterans put their combat-honed skills to use, examining an American battlefield nearly 250 years removed from their own era of service. But regardless of the passage of time, these warriors felt a legacy and brotherhood unique to America’s military and were eager to better understand what their predecessors experienced during this battle.

Although the excavation tools are now packed away, NPS archaeologists are just beginning to analyze the objects discovered and observations made in the field. What we look forward to sharing is this most robust vision of the fighting around the Barber Wheatfield once they complete this important work.

Meanwhile, AVAR has already identified its next project on U.S. soil — joining the Finding Medina team on a quest to positively identify the location of the 1813 Battle of Medina near San Antonio, Texas. The battle took place on August 18, 1813, between 1,839 Spanish Royalists and 1,400 irregulars of the Republic of the North as part of the Mexican War of Independence and featured an array of ethnic groups that came together to form the modern state of Texas: Tejanos, Native Americans, Anglos and former Spanish Royalists.

The Trust is excited to continue championing the important work done by AVAR on battlefields across the country and around the world as the veteran group partners with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to assist in the recovery and repatriation of missing American military personnel remains.

Photography by GLENN RIEGEL

www.battlefields.org AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST
PECULATING ALTERNATIVE scenarios and outcomes for historical events is an almost limitless endeavor. Historians — both professional and amateur — engage in this type of thought exercise for academic purposes and entertainment. According to our friends at Little Wars TV, a popular YouTube channel about historical miniature war-gaming, the hobby of playing games of military strategy stretches back to 2000 B.C.!

This September, as we celebrated the engagement’s 244th anniversary, Little Wars TV invited the Trust to join them in re-creating the largest fight of the American Revolution — the Battle of Brandywine — with a preservation spin. The four teams played with the rules of the game “Live Free or Die.”

Rather than simply playing through, the action was presented with an interactive twist: Teams played the scenario not once, but twice! At a critical moment in the battle, we hit “pause” and ask you to make a command decision as George Washington, creating an engaging experience for academic purposes and entertainment.

The Rappahannock River runs for approximately 55 miles, serving as a boundary between Fauquier County and Rappahannock and Culpeper Counties. In a stand-up fight and retreat in good order to fight another day. Still, the loss of Philadelphia rankled, and there were calls for Washington to step down.

And then, six players squared off in an epic wargame to re-fight the events of September 11, 1777. The Trust-sponsored team wore Continental blue, with Chief Historian Garry Adelman taking on the mantle of George Washington, alongside trusted lieutenants John Sullivan/the Marquis de Lafayette and Nathanael Green (alternately known as Eric Gimbee and Dave Raymond of Bobblehead George, a YouTube channel that creates exciting, history-focused virtual field trips for students). British figures were embodied by a trio of seasoned gamers from Little Wars TV, and both sides played with the rules of the game “Live Free or Die.”

The kayak/canoa launch is a timber-framed concrete staircase, with a wooden slide for hand-launch of non-motorized vessels. It was built in July by representatives of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, Fauquier County Parks and Recreation, the Piedmont Environmental Council and resident volunteers.

One of the identified priorities for addressing the need to connect more communities to nature and open space is creating public access to clean rivers and streams. The Piedmont region is blessed with numerous rivers and tributary streams, but there are few places where it is easy to get on the water. Creating public access on the Rappahannock, especially in Remington, is an opportunity we have been steadily working on for years with partners in Remington, Fauquier County, Friends of the Rappahannock, the American Battlefield Trust and state agencies and funders,” said PEC President Chris Miller.

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CELEBRATING NEW RECREATIONAL ACCESS to the historic Rappahannock River

Until now, the only water access point with a boat launch along that entire distance was at Kelly’s Ford in Culpeper County; the nearest take-out location was 32 miles downstream in Spotsylvania County. The new boat launch is part of a broader goal to create an upper Rappahannock River water trail system.

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources will maintain the launch, with assistance from Fauquier County Parks & Recreation, PEC, Virginia Department of Forestry and John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District planted native trees and shrubs to help with erosion control and add beauty to the park.

Serving as project lead and provided technical assistance, labor and volunteer coordination. Funding for construction was provided by the Virginia Environmental Endowment, an independent nonprofit grant-making foundation, and PEC, alongside an in-kind donation by Vulcan Materials Company. The PATH Foundation and Friends of the Rappahannock donated toward archaeological study of the historic site and the erection of signage. Volunteers from Fauquier County Parks & Recreation, PEC, Virginia Department of Forestry and John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District planted native trees and shrubs to help with erosion control and add beauty to the park.

President Emeritus Honored by Major National History Organization

In leading the American Battlefield Trust for 21 years, Jim Lighthizer made quite an impression on the history community. The more than 50,000 acres saved with Lighthizer at the organization’s helm are a testament to his dedication to ensure that American history can be taught upon the fields where it unfolded and shared for generations. For his efforts and impact, he was selected as a 2021 recipient of the American Association for State and Local History’s (AASLH) Award of Excellence. The award was presented during the AASLH Annual Meeting held in Little Rock, Ark., in late September. “For more than 80 years, AASLH has connected all those who are dedicated to protecting and interpreting the American story through its advocacy work and conferences, and a slew of growth-oriented programs, research and publications,” said Lighthizer. “It is an honor to be recognized by an organization that strives to highlight the resonance of the past in practical and thoughtful ways.”

The Trust draws upon many AASLH values, especially regarding its concern for community impact. Preserved land often translates into sought-after, open green spaces; outdoor classrooms for students who travel near and far to learn about the places where our nation’s formative conflicts unfolded; or identity builders for American towns seeking to showcase their unique history and preserved past. History creates bonds that unite cities, towns, states and regions. The Trust’s members demonstrate the unifying power that history holds as they give generously to see it preserved.

Hallowed Ground Fall 2021
LEGISLATION now moving through Congress would provide America’s heroes with unfettered access to the nation’s most special places. The Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act was introduced by U.S. Reps. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) and Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa)—plus 133 original bipartisan cosponsors—in mid-July and was passed in that chamber in August. A Senate version has been introduced but not yet acted on.

The act would allow all American Battlefield Trust members to visit more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including our national parks, national forests and wildlife refuges. Although the pass was made free to veterans and Gold Star families for 2020, the VIP Act codifies and perpetuates that move.

“By answering the call to service, our active-duty military and veterans have proven a willingness to sacrifice on behalf of this nation, demonstrating their commitment to its highest ideals,” said Trust President David Duncan. “Welcoming them eagerly to America's treasures with unfettered access to the nation's most special places is the right thing to do.”

The American Battlefield Trust is proud to support this meaningful legislation, along with scores of other like-minded organizations, including: Paralyzed Veterans of America, American Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Cultural Resources Association, VoteVets, The Mission Continues, American Trails, Backcountry Discovery Trail, Audubon, U.S. Forest Service, National Wildlife Federation, ConservAmerica, Southeast Tourism Society, REI Co-op, Audubon, Sierra Club, U.S. Travel Association, National Wildlife Federation, American Conservation Coalition, America Outdoors, Student Conservation Association and Wildlife Management Institute.

Deluca and Hudspeth Retire after Decades spent on Trust Staff

Longtime fixtures of the organization remembered fondly

Within the past year, the American Battlefield Trust witnessed the retirement of two longtime employees, Frank Deluca and Ruth Hudspeth. Combined, the duo accumulated more than 36 years at the organization and played pivotal roles in the preservation of more than 53,000 acres of historic battlefield land.

Frank joined the Trust in March of 2007 and quickly jumped into the role of philanthropic advisor, building relationships with those devoted to saving American history. Through his efforts, significant gifts bolstered countless preservation campaigns, facilitating matching donations to bring opportunities across the finish line. While his presence is missed at the Trust, he’s now enjoying time with his wife, kids, grandchildren and beloved Baltimore Orioles.

Meanwhile, Ruth’s connection to the organization predates even that of President Emeritus Jim Lighthizer. She started in 1998 with one of the groups that later merged in 1999 to become the Trust we now know. As chief financial officer, Ruth helmed the management of the funds that drive our preservation and education work. Not only that, but she also oversaw the operations of our former Hagerstown, Md., office. This Pittsburgh native will now be taking time to relish in some well-deserved R&R in her Hagerstown home.

As both these Trust staples step away from the organization, President David Duncan fondly remembers their contributions. “The years I spent working alongside Frank and Ruth were an honor,” said Trust President David Duncan. “Their commitment to our cause was exceptional and their camaraderie was valued by the entire staff. They indelibly shaped the organization we have become.”
AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

HALLOWED GROUND FALL 2021

LOCAL PARTNERS AND ALLIES

The Carolina backcountry. It was strategic to both the Revolutionary War, and South Carolina's significant role in disrupting the momentum of the British. "Our first purchase ever in 1996 involved the Civil War Trust," Van Winkle said. "It was Willis Hill on Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg. We donated $20,000. That was our first save and our first-ever partnership with the Trust."

The CVBT, like other preservation organizations, taps into the federal grant program administered by the American Battlefield Protection Program, as well as state funding, in this case the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund managed by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. "We make up the rest with public appeals and donations," Van Winkle said.

"CVBT's approach is to work in cooperation with local governments rather than as an adversary. Per this approach, it has partnered with local governments and developers on several projects. "We're all in the business of saving history, and it doesn't matter who gets the credit," he said.

The Fredericksburg-based nonprofit, which has a paid staff of two, celebrated its 25th anniversary with an annual meet- ing announcement in October that demonstrated it was business as usual for this regional preservation organization during its benchmark year.

The CVBT announced the completion of three new battlefield land acquisitions—one at the Wilderness, another at Chickahominy and the third at Spotsylvania. For an organization whose motto is "Preserving dirt and grass," it was a fitting way to honor a quarter century of work.

The three acquisitions brought the CVBT's 25-year catalog of acquisitions to a total of 1,567 acres in 38 different purchases at the three battlefields, as well as at Fredericksburg and Brandy Station.

The organization was created by a group of preservation-minded history devotees in the Fredericksburg area. "It was a congregation of battlefields, as well as at Fredericksburg and Brandy Station.

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AVERASBORO, N.C.

On the afternoon of March 15, 1865, Brig. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick’s cavalry came up against Lt. Gen. William Hardee’s Corps. By the main Confederate line and a counterattack. Mid-morning, the Federals renewed their advance with strong reinforcements of the XX Corps arrived to confront the Confederates. Kilpatrick withdrew fearing out the Confederate defenses, Kilpatrick withdrew and called for infantry support. During the night, four divisions of the XX Corps arrived to confront the Confederates. At dawn, March 16, the Federals advanced but were stopped by the main Confederate line and a counterattack. Mid-morning, the Federals renewed their advance with strong reinforcements and drove the Confederates from two lines of works, but were repulsed at a third line. The Union XIV Corps began to arrive on the field in the late afternoon but was unable to deploy before dark. Hardee retreated during the night after holding up the Union advance for nearly two days.

BENTONVILLE, N.C.

In March 1865, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman divided his force as he marched north into the Carolinas. Confederate Gen. Joseph 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.

BRANDYWINE, PA.

Fought on September 11, 1777, the Battle of Brandywine pitted the Americans, led by George Washington and rising stars Nathanael Greene and the Marquis de Lafayette, against British forces under General Howe and Wilhelm von Knyphausen. The battle had already been raging for hours when Howe’s men appeared undetected on the Continental right flank, and despite stiff resistance, the Continentals were eventually overrun. A pivotal British victory, Brandywine cleared the way for the Redcoats to capture and occupy Philadelphia, forcing the Continental Congress to flee.

This spring, the Trust helped the North American Land Trust (NALT) preserve 72 acres at the Brandywine Battlefield. Previously identified as one of the most important unprotected tracts on the battlefield, this land will be protected forever under a conservation easement held by Chad and Ford Township, which — along with the Trust, NALT, Delaware County’s Open Space and Recreation Grant Program, Mt. Cuba Center, the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources — provided financial support. The tract will eventually host visitors as part of the Brandywine Run Preserve. The Trust has now saved 187 acres at Brandywine.

GETTYSBURG, PA.

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

The Trust acquired 0.63 acres at Gettysburg in January and another 6.25 acres in May, with the assistance of the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Gettysburg Foundation, and a landowner donation. The smaller property is situated on the slopes of East Cemetery Hill, abutting the Baltimore Pike; meanwhile, the larger tract will provide a simple way to connect the Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center with National Park Service land around Culps Hill. The Trust has now saved 1,238 acres at Gettysburg.

MANSFIELD, LA.

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

In February, the Trust acquired 14.49 acres at the Mansfield Battlefield by facilitating the donation of a critical property owned by Celco Power LLC to the State of Louisiana. This is the first ever land saved at the third and last phase of the battle. The tract, which represents the first regroupment of the 1864 battle, will be incorporated into the Mansfield State Historic Site. The Trust has now saved 436 acres at Mansfield.

PARKER’S FERRY, S.C.

Just 33 miles west of Charleston, Parker’s Ferry was a major

LAND SAVED & PRESERVED

Projects completed between January and June 2021
SUCCESS STORIES
LAND SAVED FOREVER

at Parker’s Ferry. The Trust’s first preservation success at Parker’s Ferry, this acreage also represents the most significant portions of the battlefield and will serve as a key stop along The Liberty Trail.

RAYMOND, MISS.
On orders from Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, Maj. Gen. John G. Schumaker marched to Raymond to meet Confederate forces on May 12, 1863, and by 10:00 a.m. his troops were three miles outside the town. As the Confederates approached, an initial Union volley caused heavy casualties, but the Confederate assault buckled the Union line in places. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan rallied a force to hold the line, and heavy fighting continued for six hours before Union forces successfully turned the Confederate flank, forcing the Confederates to withdraw to Jackson through Raymond. The battle triggered a vast shift in Grant’s scheme of maneuver

VICKSBURG, MISS.
To complete his vision of cutting the Confederacy in two, Union Maj. Gen. Ulysses Grant had to capture the fortress city of Vicksburg, built high on bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River. In the spring of 1863, Grant’s victories over the Confederates at Champion Hill and Big Black River Bridge forced Lt. Gen. John Pemberton’s army to retreat into Vicksburg. After Union assaults on May 19 and 22 were repulsed with significant losses, Grant began a siege of the city that lasted 47 grueling days. Pemberton finally surrendered on the afternoon of July 4, 1863, a day after the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg.

With funding from Trust members and, the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Trust preserved approximately 33 acres at the Vicksburg Battlefield in March — a landmark achievement that completes the crucial Railroad Redoubt section of the battlefield and will transform interpretation at the park. With plans to eventually transfer the land to the National Park Service, the Trust will award this property with local assistance from the Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign... The Trust has now saved 46 acres at Vicksburg.

SECOND WINCHESTER, VA.
Under orders from Gen. Robert E. Lee, Confederate forces under Gen. Richard Ewell were sent to clear the northern Shenandoah Valley of Union opposition — in June of 1863. Union-held Winchester became a target for the Confederates in the battle that unfolded June 13–15. First taking the high ground at Pritchard’s Hill, Union forces under Maj. Gen. Robert H. Milroy repelled the Confederate attack on June 13. However, the Federals were left in a precarious position and pulled closer to Winchester. The following day, Confederates shocked Milroy with an artillery barrage, followed by an infantry charge — actions that led to the Union decision to abandon the city. In the early morning hours of June 15, the evacuation began, but Confederates forces intercepted. The Confederate victory created an opening for Lee’s northward march.

In April, the Trust provided a grant that enabled the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation to save 151.6 acres at the Second Winchester Battlefield. The effort was also aided by a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program and a landowner donation. This was the Trust’s first opportunity to protect battleground land at Second Winchester.

HALLIE B. STRAVINSKY

Vicksburg National Military Park
Vicksburg, Miss.
MIKE TALPLACIDO

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The Trust, along with the Friends of Raymond and the American Battlefield Protection Program, provided funding to secure just short of 44 acres at Raymond in March, a substantial addition to the total preserved battlefield land at this crucial site. The site of a major portion of the Union advance, the tract will be transferred to Friends of Raymond after a conservation easement is put into place. The Trust has now saved 107 acres at Raymond.

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WILLIAM L. WILKIE

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VICKSBURG, MISS.
To complete his vision of cutting the Confederacy in two, Union Maj. Gen. Ulysses Grant had to capture the fortress city of Vicksburg, built high on bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River. In the spring of 1863, Grant’s victories over the Confederates at Champion Hill and Big Black River Bridge forced Lt. Gen. John Pemberton’s army to retreat into Vicksburg. After Union assaults on May 19 and 22 were repulsed with significant losses, Grant began a siege of the city that lasted 47 grueling days. Pemberton finally surrendered on the afternoon of July 4, 1863, a day after the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg.

With funding from Trust members and, the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Trust preserved approximately 33 acres at the Vicksburg Battlefield in March — a landmark achievement that completes the crucial Railroad Redoubt section of the battlefield and will transform interpretation at the park. With plans to eventually transfer the land to the National Park Service, the Trust will award this property with local assistance from the Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign... The Trust has now saved 46 acres at Vicksburg.
As the Civil War tore the country apart, men were also united by common causes — one of such being the drive for friendly competition to pass time in camp. It wasn’t long before soldiers, regardless of rank, embraced the quickly evolving sport. In Gettysburg, an annual festival brings the 1864 version of “base ball” to players and spectators alike to consider the history behind the great American pastime.

Photography by MATT BRANT & NOEL KLINE

A striker (or batter) for Flemington Neshanock by NOEL KLINE

By COLLEEN CHESLAK
Phoenix BBC of East Nashville scores.

Players on December 9, 1863. And, as time often spurs change, players were set forth by the National Association of Base-Ball

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In 1864, THE SPORT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT BEING A GENTLEMAN.

while serving alongside soldiers from New York and Philadelphia, the Elton Club — says Leith — is one of several at the festival that can trace its beginnings to the nation’s defining conflict. The teams’ forebears and their traditions have not been forgotten, as Justin Deemer reminds us: 

"In 1864, the sport was supposed to be about being a gentleman. So, there was no spitting, no swearing; you shook hands, you congratulated an opposing player if they made a great play."

But one element of the old-time game that today’s vintage ball players still find to be a vast challenge: "No gloves — that’s the hardest part," says Deemer. "You’ve really got to be careful — I’ve dislocated fingers, damaged tendons." The Allegheny Iron Sides’ Tabitha "Beer Tab" Leech advises you should "catch it like you’re catching an egg."

The ball in question looks much different than what you’ll find at a modern-day ballpark. Covered in one piece of dark leather, the ball’s seams meet in an x configuration — unlike today’s ball, which is typically formed by the stitching together of two peanut-shaped pieces of white leather.

And when this ball is hit, it can truly sail. So much so that it easily sent fielders beyond spectators’ sight, as they scurried behind the rolling halls of the outfield to capture the leather-bound projectile and freeze base runners in their tracks. Unlike the level terrain of today’s ball fields, 19th-century ball fields were a product of convenience — determined by the availability of ample, accessible space, regardless of variations in topography. Mirroring the ball players who came before them, those at the current-day festival took the fields in stride, simply overjoyed to be playing alongside old and new friends.

Vintage baseball doesn’t attract one particular age bracket or gender. For Gettysburg native and general manager of the hometown Gettysburg Generals, Rodney Helwig stresses, "All kinds, all forms. There is no age limit.... A couple of us are a little older, but most of my team is young. I’m related to a lot of the younger guys, and some of their friends have joined in, too."

Tabitha "Beer Tab" Leech came to the Allegheny Iron Sides by chance when an open spot called for her talents, after years of playing baseball and softball. "I don’t mind being a female wearing this uniform. I respect everything that’s come from baseball — it’s taught me a lot, on and off the field." It’s a matter of what you put on you and the heart you have for the game. Quite a few teams show that this passion starts early, with sluggers in the making serving as pint-size bat boys and girls, at times struggling to hoist the weight of the bat off the ground and back to the team bench.

According to the Vintage Base Ball Association, there are currently some 400 active clubs in a hobby that traces its existence to 1879 demonstrations at Old Bethpage Village Restoration on Long Island. These players are a living reminder of the past. No matter the July heat, the players and their equipment must get back to Gettysburg to bask in an experience like no other. While the 1863 soldiers came to these fields with a much different purpose, chances are they would have also found solace in the game we now proudly call “America’s pastime.”

Colleen Cheslak is the communications associate at the American Battlefield Trust and a huge baseball fan. She received her BA in history from Stone Brook University and her MA in public history from American University.
In the time before radio, film, television and the internet, the theater inhabited a larger role in public entertainment than it does today. A 1919 study deemed *The History of Theatre in America* identifies 1752 as the year that professional thespians first took to the stage in the 13 colonies, with the arrival of a troupe from London. They were preceded by some two years by a more amateur production of *Richard III* in New York City. Despite the passage of laws forbidding the performance of stage productions on moral grounds by several northeastern colonies in the 1750s, American theatrical traditions soon took hold in earnest. In 1767, Thomas Godfrey’s *The Prince of Parthia* became the first professionally produced play in Britain’s American colonies written by a native-born author. The previous year, Robert Rogers, a colorful figure of the French and Indian War, had published in London a stage play called *Ponteach [Pontiac]: or the Savages of America*, widely reputed as the first drama to tackle topics from a uniquely North American perspective — notably a sympathetic portrayal of Native Americans.

But no playwright was more widely read or produced for the stage than the “Bard of Avon,” William Shakespeare. During the Revolution, his plays lent the Patriots and the British a common popular language. In Corpus Christi, Texas, during the Mexican-American War, soldiers who would later make a name for themselves in the Civil War were cast in a U.S. Army production of *Othello* in 1846. While the six-foot James Longstreet was originally cast to play Desdemona in the production, it was decided that he was too tall to play the female character, opening the door for the 5’6”, 135-pound Ulysses S. Grant to take his place.

Soldiers in camps and actors on stages both North and South performed Shakespeare’s works during the Civil War. As Chicago newspaperman Elias Colbert said in 1864, “It is of the heart that Shakespeare speaks,” and his heart-drawn words were borrowed by not only soldiers and actors, but also cartoonists, writers and President Lincoln himself to emote the chaos of the world around them. And what’s more fascinating is how this era of American history was recorded like none other before, through new media like photography and chromolithography. Images of Shakespearean actors in costume and broadsides and posters brought Shakespeare’s words to audiences far and wide.

Shakespeare has inspired and confounded for hundreds of years, but his words found an added layer of complexity when mixed with the drear conflict of the Civil War. As many were familiar with his work, Shakespeare became a comfort in...
...no playwriting was more widely read or produced for the stage than the “Bard of Avon,” William Shakespeare. During the Revolution, his plays lent the Patriots and the British a common popular language.

Edward Booth as Hamlet. From the Library of Congress.

HILE SHAKESPEARE’S WORKS were well-known to 19th-century audiences, it was hardly the only fare for which American theatergoers were treated during the Civil War. In fact, Shakespeare’s plays were often only a part of a typical night at the theater in the mid-1860s.

Before the war, many contemporary audiences accustomed to seeing a single performance, perhaps King Lear or Oklahoma!, and calling it a night. Nineteenth-century patrons, however, would have considered this a swindle — especially at today’s prices! Ne, the average night at the theater included a variety of acts, and 1860s audiences typically consisted of two or three plays, often a drama or tragedy, followed by a farce or some other sort of lighter fare designed to send audiences home happy. Various acts (singing, ballet numbers, acrobatics) filled out an evening that one actor of the period called a “horrifying mixture of amusements.” It was, therefore, quite common to see actors who had made a name for themselves as tragedians in Shakespeare’s works trapping the boards in broad comic turns — sometimes on the same night. And all for 25 cents!

One popular comedy of the period was The Toodles, a “laughable farce,” according to one newspaper. Principal characters were two men named Timothy Toodles, with the only distinction between the two being that one Toodles was “the less,” while the other was “the last.” The role of Timothy the Less had been originated in the United States by well-known actor and playwright William E. Burton and was apparently a showpiece for popular comedians of the day. According to various accounts, the play — which ran for an entire week — was a “drunken scene” that provided “the actor who undertakes the part of Timothy Toodles [the Less]” his only “opportunity for the display of ability.”

For forces like The Toodles did not always satisfy a more discerning crowd. Commenting on a recently transferred production, one London critic decried its “rambling, incoherent and wholly uninteresting plot of the melodramatic order” and concluded that the whole piece was “beneath contempt.” (Even then theater critics seemed incapable of having a good time.) Such criticism aside, The Toodles was popular wherever it played.

Shakespeare’s plays were brought to the army camps through a variety of means. Some parts of the Union armies had private theater companies hire a troupe at the request of a general or a colonel, while others received visiting companies from off the battlefield. A regular theater company that performed for the Union Army was the Point Dramatic Club. The troupe was organized in 1863 when some members of the 1st New York Engineers arrived at the war’s end. According to a letter written by Capt. Henry Gurney to the library’s curator, the troupe performed for the Army of the Potomac in 1864. What’s more, it was the kind of theatrical performance 19th-century Americans expected.

While a majority of Civil War soldiers’ drama clubs are difficult to document, the Essayons Dramatic Club has an interesting and well-documented legacy. After closing shop at Brandy Station just before the Overland Campaign, the troupe seems to have been inactive for the remainder of the war. This is not surprising, as the engineers were quite busy with the siege operations outside Petersburg.

After the war, however, the Engineers revived the drama club at the Engineer School at Willets Point, New York. Now branded as the Willets Point Dramatic Club, the group produced plays until the end of the century. The Engineer School moved to the Washington, DC, area at the beginning of the 20th century, first to present-day Fort Meade in Baltimore, Va., then again to Camp Humphreys — now known as Fort Belvoir.

The Essayons Dramatic Club officially reconstituted itself in 1923, and again from a hiatus during World War II, continued to stage theatrical productions for nearly 45 years. During that time, the troupe’s productions included a variety of plays, some of them relatively obscure works, like A Taste of Honey, whereas others were 20th-century classics like George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart’s You Can’t Take It With You. Interestingly enough, the Essayons’ 1945 staging of the latter was produced by an engineer officer with his own unique lineage: Lt. Col. George E. Pickett, the grandson of the Confederate general.

When the troupe permanently disbanded in the 1960s, the Essayons Dramatic Club was one of the oldest amateur theatrical organizations in the United States.

Douglas Ullman, Jr., is a professional actor who has performed throughout the United States and internationally. He is also a long-time supporter of battlefield preservation, a former staff member of the American Battlefield Trust and an independent consultant. The work has been seen in Hallowed Ground, at Emerging Civil War, and on numerous videos for the Trust.
From Revolution to Civil War, music has provided an outlet for American soldiers in camp and propelled them forward in battle. Lyrics were often emotionally charged and reflected the sentiments of turbulent times, serving to both unite and motivate men to continue in their causes. And while political and ideological debates persisted, it was music that provided a universal language that enabled warring people to bridge the divide.

**By Dan Welch**

With a population of nearly 1.5 million and growing, the 13 colonies had expanded rapidly by the late 1760s. The Industrial Revolution was dawning, and an influx of immigrants arrived from Ireland, Scotland, Italy and England, even as an ideological shift away from the motherland and toward independence emerged. Against this backdrop was a rich and diverse musical landscape composed of influences from numerous countries and traditions. And, as the individual colonies moved toward becoming a single country, so too did this uniquely American soundscape. This period of immense change in the colonies was also seen in the world of music, which saw an increasing divide between the religious and popular realms. The very composition of ensembles shifted and grew, and the Classical Period of western art music was born. Although the new era spread across Europe and England, reaching larger audiences of more social classes, these popular musical trends were far less accessible to those living in the American colonies. Despite the small growth of larger concert halls in the northern colonies, most performances saw one or several musicians gather in churches or at taverns and personal or community spaces. Colonists often wrote and performed music that spoke to their daily lives, utilizing common household instruments of this period such as harpsichords, violins and flutes, small gatherings allowed for the sharing of music among friends and family. As frustrations grew between the colonies and the Crown, music gave voice to the audience’s grievances through songs like “A Taxing We Will Go,” which included the lyrics “The power supreme of Parliament our purpose / To project in person supreme / Its power supreme of Parliament our purpose / In full force to project supreme.”

As war settled across the colonies, the role of music in the daily lives of soldiers and civilians only increased. Music was a way to provide calls and commands while on the march, in camp or on the battlefield, signaling both marching cadence and tactical orders. Drummers were one of the most important musical positions that could be held within a military band or unit. After enlistment, drummers were required to learn and memorize numerous rudiments, or beats, to utilize throughout each day in camp, while on the march and in battle. One of the most well-known rudiments from the American Revolution is “Reveille.” It was to be played each day at daybreak to alert soldiers to “rise and comb his hair and clean his hands and face and be ready for the duties of the day,” as well as the cessation of challenging by the guard. The fife was also a key instrument during the American Revolution. With its loud projecting capabilities, the troops were able to hear this instrument over the sounds of an army on the march or the cacophony of battle. A popular song of the era that prominently featured this instrument was “Yankee Doodle.” Still widely known today, it gained its familiarity in the American musical consciousness during the American Revolution. Originally, this tune was sung by British military officers to mock the sad state of the colonists and their army. The colonists embraced this mockery, and the tune provided them with a sense of camaraderie and patriotism. To the surprise of many British officers and enlisted men, Washington’s men turned the derogatory implications of this song around and used it as a song of defiance and pride. Thus, “Yankee Doodle” rose to be a song of not just colonial, but also national acclaim.

By the 1860s, western art music had entered the Romantic Era. Closer to home, musical styles such as sacred music, brass bands and minstrel shows were popular in both the North and South. Although divided by conflict, the universal language of music often stretched across the great chasm the war produced. Brass bands and community bands had grown into popularity before the Civil War, and once armies were in the field, the music of military life and drum corps became popular there and on the home front. Music provided a sense of comfort and allowed men on both sides to transcend the great political and ideological divide that separated their country. Popular tunes were accessible and familiar to the common man from both the North and South, as many soldiers did not have the opportunities to immerse themselves in live music found in metropolitan cities. Thus, bandsmen played popular tunes such as “Eatin’ Goober Peas” and “When Johnny Comes Marching Home,” as well as others, including “Battle Cry of Freedom,” that might have alternate lyrics applied depending on which army was singing along. These songs were known for their steady beats and motivational words, which helped the soldiers press on during tough times and long marches.

Singing, playing and hearing music allowed troops to reminisce about peaceful times at home with family and loved ones, to bond and to temporarily escape from the horrors of battle. Author Kenneth Bernard wrote, “In camp and hospital they sang — sentimental songs and ballads, comic songs and patriotic numbers … The songs were better than rations or medicine.” Military bandsmen were not the only ones to provide music, though. Some soldiers brought their own banjos, fiddles and guitars. Out of these instruments came many popular camp tunes of the era, including: “Lorena,” “Tenting on the Old Camp Ground,” “Vacant Chair” and “The Yellow Rose of Texas,” to name a few. The musical world around soldiers and civilians during the antebellum and war years provided support, guidance, escape and entertainment. Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, agreed, stating, “I don’t believe we can have an army without music.” In a sense, then, we cannot understand one of the most important moments in our history without understanding its popular musical stylings.

Dan Welch is a primary and secondary educator in northeast Ohio and a seasonal national park ranger who previously served as education programs coordinator for the Gettysburg Foundation, the nonprofit partner of Gettysburg National Military Park. He received his BA in instrumental music education from Youngstown State University and a MA in military history with a Civil War era concentration at American Military University.
The Life of a Soldier

in camp was one of endless hours of military routine, roll call, drilling, walking a post or picket duty, work details and eating the same food every day. The excitement of battle, for most soldiers, came only after months of sitting in camp, fighting off intense boredom, especially during the winter months. Writing letters home, talking about how much they wished they could be there, discussing family finances or sharing anecdotes from camp staved off the tedium.

But for many, that wasn’t sufficient, and more was needed to while away the lonely hours. A wide variety of games emerged to fill the void, as soldiers were very creative in finding ways to compete among each other.

Far from home, in that time between performing military duties and the exhaustion of a soldier in camp, officers and men looked for ways to occupy their time. Gambling fit the bill. Considered a vice and often forbidden by commanders, men were still drawn to gambling for several reasons. The chance to make some money might entice soldiers, but many could ill afford to lose funds desperately needed back home. Others with no such responsibilities gambled to fight the monotony.

Card play was a popular form of gambling, and cards were easily obtained for an impromptu game. Many young soldiers broke their promise not to gamble when temptation and peer pressure set in. Broken promises littered the roads to hundreds of battlefields in the form of many cards dropped along the way. Soldiers feared disappointing their families by having playing cards found among their returned possessions should they die in battle. Other soldiers mocked morality by having their photos taken proudly playing cards, drinking and smoking cigars.

Talented soldiers didn’t waste time gambling but would sentimentally carve jewelry from bone for a distant loved one. These talents were practical, too. Soldiers with real skill would carve rings and other trinkets at a price for fellow soldiers, adding to their meager wages. Carved smoking pipes were very popular and may still be found in museums and on display in the homes of soldiers’ descendants.

Most soldiers were singularly focused on surviving and going home. Still, mustering out and peace were met with mixed emotions. Men were elated to be going home, while at the same time, they were sad to say goodbye to their comrades who had become like brothers. As brothers, they shared comradery and the quiet camp life forged in war. Practical jokes, gambling and tests of strength and daring were numerous. Racing lice across a tin dinner plate and riding at breakneck speed on horseback to win a one-day pass. The days of grown men playing like schoolboys had come to an end. Soon they would have to readjust to civilian life.

The National Civil War Museum has created a temporary exhibit that examines life in camp during the American Civil War. This exhibit shares how the life of a soldier in camp was one of endless hours of military routine and boredom, and how soldiers found the time and the talent to break through that downtime. “War Games: Pastimes of Soldiers in the Civil War,” is now on display through June 5, 2022. Entrance to the exhibit is included in the cost of regular admission.
DISCOVERING that our ancestors were present at pivotal moments of American history is thrilling. It provides a tangible connection to the past to help spread a newfound or deepened interest in families and acquaintances. Through our collaboration with Ancestry and Fold3, the Trust is helping more of our members find their own personal windows into the past. Gary Gildersleeve, a longtime American Battlefield Trust member, has always been proud to know that ancestors of his fought in the Battle of Monmouth and Valley Forge. It provides a tangible connection to the past to help spread a newfound or deepened interest in families and acquaintances. Through our collaboration with Ancestry and Fold3, the Trust is helping more of our members find their own personal windows into the past.

The Gildersleeves From Valley Forge to Trust Supporter

Gary Gildersleeve, a longtime American Battlefield Trust member, has always been proud to know that ancestors of his fought in the Battle of Monmouth and Valley Forge. It provides a tangible connection to the past to help spread a newfound or deepened interest in families and acquaintances. Through our collaboration with Ancestry and Fold3, the Trust is helping more of our members find their own personal windows into the past.

While portions of the regiment were sent home for the winter, the regiment had fought in the unsuccessful defense of Philadelphia. When it entered winter quarters, the regiment had 231 men assigned and 72 fit for duty. Unfortunately, Daniel was among those who perished at Valley Forge, succumbing to illness on March 15, 1779.

Another of Gildersleeve’s ancestors, his fourth great grandfather, John Stephenson, was also right in the thick of America’s Revolutionary War. Born in Ireland in 1758, Stephenson moved to the colonies sometime before the Revolutionary War and volunteered to serve in the 1st Virginia Militia under Colonel George Gibson. He first appears on a payroll in November 1777, and his last payroll entry is November 1779, also putting him at Valley Forge. Stephenson may have seen action with his regiment at Germantown and Monmouth Court House.

After the war, John married Nancy Ewing and had several children. They owned a large amount of land in Virginia, as well as enslaved laborers to work it. But as he aged, Stephenson developed a deep aversion to slavery, freed his slaves and moved his family to Jackson County, Ohio. His son James Ira Stephenson, Gary Gildersleeve’s third great grandfather, lived out his life there, serving as an associate judge. Through this line descended Gary Gildersleeve’s mother Mary Helen North Gildersleeve, who was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution and passed a strong love of history on to her son.

John Edwards, a third Gildersleeve ancestor who fought in the Revolutionary War, enlisted on March 8, 1778, in the 2nd New Jersey Regiment and was paid $6 and 2/3 dollars a month until he left the service in August of 1778. In 1779, the regiment took part in the Battle of Monmouth and the following year campaigned against British-allied Native American elements in upstate New York. They were stationed and fought across New Jersey in 1780, including the debilitating heat of the Battle of Connecticut Farms. While portions of the regiment were sent to Virginia along with the Marquis de Lafayette in early 1780, the entire regiment was reunited for the war’s final campaign and elements participated in the climactic assaults of October 14. They spent the next year in cantonments near Morristown, N.J., and at Newburgh, N.Y. As this period was after Cornwallis’s surrender at Yorktown, but before the war officially ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783, the regiment would not have participated in any major battles.

During the Civil War, Gildersleeve’s great grandfather, John Cring, enlisted in Company C of the 5th Indiana Cavalry, but was captured and spent years in Confederate prison camps, including Andersonville and Belle Isle, while his comrades went on to fight across Georgia. Another great grandfather, Isaac H. Gildersleeve, registered for the Union draft but was not called up to serve. His claim to fame was inventing an improvement in base-burning stoves in 1868, which subsequently led him to apply for a patent.

Appreciating the Human Stories of War

Duke R. Ligon’s Journey from Vietnam to American Battlefield Trust Alumni Board

Ligon is a retired attorney who served on the Board of Trustees of the American Battlefield Trust from 2012 to 2018. He was awarded the Bronze Star during his service in the Vietnam War from 1969 to 1971, but not in combat, the usual way soldiers earned such honors. “I had a really different experience in Vietnam,” he said.

Ligon was an Army captain and an intelligence briefer for Gen. Creighton Abrams, the top commander of United States forces at the height of the Vietnam War. His Bronze Star was for his intelligence work that proved that China was directly and clearly involved in supporting the North Vietnamese Army. Chinese Army soldiers were moving men and supplies on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and Ligon had the photos to prove it, taken by teams secretly sent into Laos. The proof of Chinese involvement and its implications were a troubling new reality, both in Vietnam and at home.

Although Ligon’s family had a rich military history, he was not eager to go to Vietnam. But young men of modest means from rural Oldahoma in the late 1960s were all but guaranteed to get drafted into the Army, and Ligon saw nothing good in dodging the draft. He joined the ROTC in school and, while enrolled, earned his law degree at the University of Texas School of Law to have more service options. He eventually ended up in military intelligence.

Though not a combat infantryman, Ligon saw the waste of war up close. “When I did briefings for Gen. Abrams and his staff, I used to go-out to the tarmac at Tan Son Nhat Air Base and look at the caskets, which were stacked up 10 or 20 feet tall, waiting for transport back to Dover [Del.] Air Base in the United States,” he recalled. “I mean, it was just a stark reality.”

To Ligon, a visit to an American battlefield is a deeply meaningful experience, whether it is from the Civil War, the Revolutionary War or any of our country’s other conflicts.

“There are human stories that developed there that in many cases ended there,” he said. “And that’s very impactful. There was a reason why people died there, whether you like the reason or not. It was history, but it’s very different than historical places that are not battlefields. And very sacred. It’s this ‘hallowed ground’ feeling of so many ghosts and so many spirits of the soldiers who were there.”

battlegrounds through the eyes of a soldier. “I looked at it in a much deeper, emotional way than I did when I was so fascinated by the battlefield when I was younger and I didn’t have this life-sobering experience,” he said.

“It was different. I cannot think about it and not think about the people who were there and their lives and the fact that so many died and were wounded there,” he said. “That’s why I have so much respect for Gettysburg and other battlefields and why I think it’s so important to preserve them.”

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WARRIOR LEGACY SERVICE ACROSS CENTURIES

Duke R. Ligon was raised in a family of modest means in rural Oldahoma. They took a single vacation during his childhood.

But memories of that one vacation are seared into Ligon’s memory. He was a 12-year-old enthralled with history and the destinations were Civil War battlefields. “I would just fall in love with the generals who would give the lectures about the battlefields,” he said.

A decade later, after serving in the Vietnam War, Ligon returned to the Civil War battlefields of his youth and saw them through different eyes. He had seen the harsh reality of war with his own eyes. He had shared in the intense camaraderie between soldiers at war and the unique bond it creates.

As a veteran, Ligon now saw Gettysburg and other
Honor Guard Legacy Society Member

Lorna Hainesworth

ANY PATHS have brought our supporters to their connection to history and battlefield preservation — whether it be researching an ancestor’s military service, touring a battlefield for the first time, participating in reenactments or even studying under a passionate grade school history teacher. Lorna Hainesworth of Randallstown, Md., took, quite literally, the road less traveled in discovering the American Battlefield Trust.

“How did someone who failed second semester American history as a college sophomore become such an avid fan of history today?” mused Hainesworth. “My answer is by chance, by continuum and by interconnectedness. I never made a conscious decision to study history, but I was led along the path of history by history itself. History has become my best friend.”

Her love of history has evolved over time and began with a love of old roads, an interest that formed during her childhood in rural Wisconsin. Fortunate enough to retire early from the Social Security Administration, Hainesworth began road tripping through the continental United States. Traversing old roads such as Highway 61, A1A, Route 66 and the National Road led her to explore other historical trails, like the Lewis and Clark Trail. Her experiences on the road and documenting her travels morphed into a study of land acquisition and its impact on our nation’s history, as well as the methods by which land is measured and mapped. A historian and seasoned lecturer in her own right, Hainesworth’s involvement in various War of 1812 battlefield preservation-focused projects and documentaries served as the match to the battlefield preservation fire.

For several years, she considered writing her will and designating an appropriate beneficiary for her retirement account. Having no heirs to whom she could leave her estate, she sought an organization whose mission matched her passion for preservation and conservation. Hainesworth found her answer through joining the American Battlefield Trust’s Honor Guard legacy giving society. The Trust’s demonstrated impact and success at saving War of 1812 and Revolutionary War sites is especially meaningful to Hainesworth. The organization’s passion in its cause, and its commitment to transparency and how it so effectively engages history students across the country made Hainesworth’s estate beneficiary decisions simple.

Through her estate plans, Hainesworth has ensured that her life’s passion — and the Trust’s mission — the preservation and interpretation of American battlefields — will continue for many generations to come. It is Honor Guard legacy society members like Lorna Hainesworth who put their faith and confidence in the Trust to safeguard our collective American history.

Are you inspired to support the Trust through your will or other estate plans? Join the Legacy Challenge today!

If you let us know that you have included the American Battlefield Trust in your will by December 31, 2021, you can unlock an immediate $1,000 donation toward preservation from a generous donor — in your name. Learn more at www.americانبattlefieldlegacy.org/legacychallenge2021.
**Gift Memberships**

**WANT TO INTRODUCE a budding historian to the importance of preservation or to empower an individual to take action on behalf of the places where the American experience unfolded? Consider a gift membership to the American Battlefield Trust! Your recipient will receive all standard membership benefits, including a subscription to Hallowed Ground, commemorates with the donation level you select, including Color Bearer status. Membership extensions are also available. www.battlefields.org/giftmembership.**

**MONTHLY GIVING**

**RATHER THAN making a single large membership donation each year, many Trust supporters have chosen to make monthly gifts via recurring credit card charges. This option can make seemingly modest gifts have a larger impact by giving the Trust a steady availability of cash to make important purchases. Without worrying about fluctuations in our purchasing power, we can work more proactively.**

Choose the level of giving you are comfortable with, starting at $10 per month — or receive all the benefits of our Color Bearer Society starting with monthly gifts of $84. www.battlefields.org/giftmembership.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Your used car, truck or RV can benefit battlefield preservation. www.battlefields.org/vehicle_donation.

**WORKPLACE GIVING**

**IF YOU ARE a federal employee, you can donate to the Trust directly from your paycheck through the Combined Federal Campaign. Many individual states have similar programs. www.battlefields.org/cfc.**

Many private companies, especially large ones, have formal programs to match employees’ charitable gifts. www.battlefields.org/matchinggifts.

**GIVING THROUGH YOUR IRA**

**IF YOU ARE over 70½, you can donate directly to the Trust through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA retirement account. Required minimum distributions (RMDs) have been waived for 2021 through the CARES Act, but you can still make a QCD gift from your IRA to support battlefield preservation. Gifts may be made from Traditional or Roth IRAs. https://www.battlefields.org/give/ira-qcd.”

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in Pennsylvania's capital city of Harrisburg, the National Civil War Museum opened its doors in 2001 with the mission to serve as a national center where visitors can learn of the American Civil War by way of preservation and presentation of the multifaceted struggle. The museum houses more than 4,400 artifacts and 21,000 archival pieces, highlighting the agony and bloodshed of the Civil War that took place from 1861 to 1865. Visitors can also learn more about the role of women in war, the causes of the conflict, Abraham Lincoln’s legacy, the abolition of slavery and the ghastly cost of war. Currently, the museum offers an exhibit titled “War Games: Pastimes of Soldiers in the Civil War,” that will be on display through June 5, 2022. “War Games” gives visitors an inside look at the day-to-day life of a Civil War soldier. Often, a soldier’s life was one of endless military routine, devoid of constant action. Roll calls, picket duty and drills took up the majority of a soldier’s time during the war — typically, the action of battle would come only after months in camp. When they weren’t writing letters home discussing finances or offering anecdotes of life in camp, soldiers would play old and new games and relish in healthy competition. Learn more about the different games these soldiers partook in to pass time and elicit joy amidst chaos with this playful exhibit!

No matter your connection to history, the museum aims to make itself a resource for history buffs, young students and families, military personnel and veterans and more! The Lessons in History Speaker Series connects audiences with enlightening Civil War scholars. Teachers will find that the museum and its knowledgeable staff can adapt to their lesson plan needs and bring history to life for their students. Meanwhile, military and civilian impression presentations are available upon request. Be sure to check out the museum’s website for resources, events and information about visiting!
GRAND RE-OPENING
of our store coming early November!

JOIN US to celebrate the new & improved shopping experience — and enjoy 20% off with the discount code WELCOMEBACK.*

shop.battlefields.org

*Valid through 12/15/2021. Cannot be combined with other offers.