Hallowed Ground

Honoring the Fallen
From the Revolution to Today’s National Cemeteries
TUNE IN TO A TRADITION OF MEMORY

Curious about how national cemeteries came to be after the Civil War? Join Don Pfanz, a founder of the American Battlefield Trust, as he discusses the fascinating origins of some of the nation’s most historic locations. Learn about the various “burial corps” who came from many walks of life and worked for the Union to both identify and transport the thousands of bodies left behind after some of our country’s bloodiest battles. Discover this history on the Trust’s YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/americancemeterystrust.

UNEARHING SOLDIER STORIES

Stepping onto battlefields and visiting cemeteries allow us to grasp with history on the surface. Historians and archaeologists have often dived — figuratively and literally — beyond the surface to uncover even more stories buried beneath. As records and reports were staged during the Civil War and the Revolutionary War, battlefield archaeology can illuminate information essential to understanding early soldiers’ experiences. Dive into the past yourself at www.battlefields.org/journey/battlefield-archaeology.

ENRICHING EXPERIENCES WITH TRUST APPS

Millions of battlefield visitors have tried to comprehend the sheer amount of loss resulting from the Battle of Gettysburg. While one can reference photos and soldier accounts, the Trust’s free, augmented reality app, the Gettysburg AR Experience, can bring to light the poignant aftermath of battle with scenes of the Union dead being buried in the Soldiers National Cemetery. Or users can be inspired by President Abraham Lincoln’s delivery of the Gettysburg Address at the dedication of that very cemetery.

And if you’re exploring Virginia, you may also find memories of past hardships and triumphs along the Road to Freedom. A physical map and digital tour app, it connects audiences with what is now a place of healing and triumph, deep in the heart of the Old Dominion. Discover the site on the Trust’s YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/gettysburg AR experience.

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This is, of course, often a logistical necessity, whether due to the outcome of the engagement, distance from home or, as was tragically the case in both the 19th and 20th centuries, a scale of mortality that overwhelmed all previous infrastructures to address it. But the task of honoring the fallen is so fundamental to the human condition that new systems were originated and, though they have evolved, remain to this day.

Vast, sweeping military cemeteries tied geographically to the fields of battle can and should stop us in our tracks with their significance and their meaning. Row upon row of identical stones with names etched upon them. Each represents a life left behind, a body left behind in battle. These cemeteries allow us to grapple with history on the surface. Historians and archaeologists have often dived — figuratively and literally — beyond the surface to uncover even more stories buried beneath. As records and reports were staged during our nascent country’s early conflicts like the Revolutionary War, battlefield archaeology can illuminate information essential to understanding early soldiers’ experiences. Dive into the past yourself at www.battlefields.org/journey/battlefield-archaeology.

What respect is due to a cemetery? To a sanctified place of memory? Far more than being hemmed in by data centers or strip malls along the Road to Freedom. A physical map and digital tour app, it connects audiences with what is now a place of healing and triumph, deep in the heart of the Old Dominion. Discover the site on the Trust’s YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/gettysburg AR experience.

EXPLORING THE TRADITION OF MEMORY

Are you interested in learning more about how national cemeteries came to be after the Civil War? Join Don Pfanz, a founder of the American Battlefield Trust, as he discusses the fascinating origins of some of the nation’s most historic locations. Learn about the various “burial corps” who came from many walks of life and worked for the Union to both identify and transport the thousands of bodies left behind after some of our country’s bloodiest battles. Discover this history on the Trust’s YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/americancemeterystrust.

The next time you visit a battlefield, especially one with an associated cemetery, I wonder if you might join me in a personal ritual. Pause among or before those headstones and quietly reflect on the individuals who rest beside them. What respect is due to a cemetery? To a sanctified place of memory? Far more than being hemmed in by data centers or strip malls along the Road to Freedom. A physical map and digital tour app, it connects audiences with what is now a place of healing and triumph, deep in the heart of the Old Dominion. Discover the site on the Trust’s YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/gettysburg AR experience.

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ECOLOGISTS HAVE RECOGNIZED his decades of work on behalf of this nation’s history, the American Battlefield Trust has presented steadfast preservationist and park advocate John Liston Nau III, with its Lifetime Achievement Award, further taking the exceptional step of naming him a member of the organization’s Board of Trustees for life. Moreover, emphasizing the transformative nature of his contributions to the battlefield preservation movement through his advocacy, the organization renamed its exiting national leadership award for federal officials in Nau’s honor. A permanent testament to this profound legacy will be a stone marker with bronze plaque placed on his beloved Vicksburg Battlefield in Mississippi.

In summarizing his personal commitment to battlefield preservation, Nau cites not only the hallowed nature of this ground and its impact on American history, but points to the unique perspective of many early preservationists. “The veterans themselves initiated the original battlefield preservation movement and spearheaded the creation of parks at Chickamauga and Shiloh, Gettysburg and Antietam, which has since become a larger effort,” said Nau. “They themselves knew it was important, not only for the soldiers, this was its first chance to protect land and heritage land protection organization, having representation in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and seven foreign countries. By supporting the American Battlefield Preservation Act, it gives us that historic events unfolded in the U.S. Congress the opportunity for achieving historic events unfolded in these places, we are ensuring that generations yet to come can enjoy that same profound experience. It is an honor to do work born in equal parts out of deep respect for the past and aspiration for the future.”

The project that put the Trust over the top was first announced in Spring 2022 and closed over the winter. While the Trust has saved numerous sites associated with the service of Buckeye soldiers, this was its first chance to protect land in the state. The Ohio acreage, adjacent to the existing Buffington Island Battlefield Memorial Park, was purchased with assistance from the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation. Although it has now taken ownership of the property, the project steps remain, including the placement of perpetual conservation easements and ultimate disbursement of grant funding.

A number of significant improvements to National Park Service (NPS) infrastructure with regard to battlefields and military history units have taken place since Nau’s tenure with the organization began. These include the expansion of the successful American Battlefield Protection Program matching grants to cover interpretation and restoration efforts, as well as the acquisition of landscapes at Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites, plus the acquisition of lands at the Wilderness Battlefield where it would impact adjacent core battlefield land and loom over theCongressionally authorized boundary of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. At stake is the rezoning of more than 2,600 acres that could result in: more than 5,000 residential units, 200,000 square feet of mixed-use commercial development, 5 million square feet of data centers and distribution warehouses, plus spaces for additional light industrial use.

It isn’t just the battlefield that stands to suffer. If this mega-development is allowed to move forward, growth will come at the cost of current residents’ quality of life. Already congested roadways will be utterly overwhelmed by nearly 50,000 new vehicle trips along the area’s major arteries each day. Resident services will be stretched to the breaking point and beyond.

Worse still, the current controversy is centered on an area we’ve fought for before: nearby, Walmart had once proposed a supercenter that, in a win-win solution, was ultimately moved a short distance away, with the original 50-acres donated to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Now, once again, we ask local residents and preservationist advocates to take a stand against this massive development project near the Wilderness Battlefield.

The remarkable growth and success of this organization and the broader battlefield preservation movement are a testament to the power of the American Battlefield Trust. It isn’t just the battlefield that stands to suffer. If this mega-development is allowed to move forward, growth will come at the cost of current residents’ quality of life. Already congested roadways will be utterly overwhelmed by nearly 50,000 new vehicle trips along the area’s major arteries each day. Resident services will be stretched to the breaking point and beyond.

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AMERICAN REVOLUTION EXPERIENCE wins Anthem Awards bronze

FROM the TRENCHES
BREAKING PRESERVATION NEWS

N ONLINE EXHIBIT designed to showcase the lives of ordinary people during the U.S. War of Independence, has received a Bronze Award in the Education, Art & Culture division of the second annual Anthem Awards!

The American Revolution Experience was created through a collaboration between the American Battlefield Trust and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), with technical support from the digital development team at Interactive Knowledge. At launch last July, it told the story of 13 ordinary men and women, from drummer boys to mapmakers to nurses, who witnessed the dawn of a new nation. Its growing roster of biographies brings to life diverse viewpoints and experiences, touching on the fates of Patriots and Loyalists, men and women, Black and Native populations and even international allies.

Users watch the physical journeys of the Revolution’s participants unfold across the map, discover thematic connections between the lives of subjects and explore contemporary connections via name-sakes, descendants and other mechanisms. The exhibit links throughout to the Trust’s industry-leading battle content and makes use of incredible documents and artifacts in DAR’s collections, as well as impecably researched custom illustrations by South Carolina artist Dale Watson.

The Anthem Awards were launched in response to the prevalence social good has taken within the national conversation and cultural zeitgeist in recent years. In its second year, this initiative of the Webby Awards — hailed as the “Internet’s highest honor” by the New York Times — received nearly 2,000 entries from 43 countries. Other honorees in the Trust’s category included the National Geographic Society, the Pulitzer Center, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

The sheer number, breadth and overall quality of the entries shared with us in the 2nd Annual Awards is a testament to the strength of this growing movement and demonstrates an enduring commitment to the work that is both humbling and inspiring to see,” said Anthem Awards Managing Director Jessica Lauretti.

EDUCATORS INVITED TO BALTIMORE for 2023 National Teacher Institute

Subsequent, Virtual Teacher Institute will explore intersection of technology and history

AT CHUT OUT, BALTIMORE — the teachers are coming! The Trust’s annual National Teacher Institute will descend on Charm City July 13–16, building on a two-decade tradition of excellence in continuing education. For three and a half days, educators will have the opportunity to acquire skills and innovative methods while networking with other like-minded professionals.

As part of the 2023 theme “What’s Past Is Prologue: Making History Relatable in Today’s Classrooms,” event organizers will take part in lectures and workshops to learn about historical topics from experts in both the education and history fields.

“Our National Teacher Institute is more than just methodology; it’s about making you a better, more well-educated educator,” said Trust Deputy Director of Education Kris White. “We hope you will leave the Institute with a better understanding of your subject matter, a passion for history education and lifelong friendships.”

Per Trust tradition, the event is free for educators, but requires a $100 refundable deposit to reserve your spot. At the conclusion of the event, educators can apply for continuing education credits provided by St. Bonaventure University and paid for by the Trust.

Following the in-person event, the American Battlefield Trust will also host a Virtual Teacher Institute July 24–26 this year. With the theme of “Technology and History in the Classroom,” participating educators will explore the diverse ways technology is woven into history and education. The virtual platform is perfect for those unable to attend the in-person Institute, but can also be a great supplement for the Baltimore experience. Registration for both events is now open.

TRUST WORKS TO RALLY “Allies for Battlefield Preservation”

THIS WINTER, we launched the first edition of our Allies for Battlefield Preservation newsletter. This new communication mechanism highlights the power of advocacy to encourage peer-to-peer education and empower local preservationists in their work alongside park leaders and government officials. Included within future iterations will be information regarding advocacy efforts that will be helpful to those committed to saving historic battlefields. Alongside the Trust’s “Speak Out” campaigns, the Allies for Battlefield Preservation newsletter will prove a robust companion to any preservation-minded individual or group, as well as new recruits curious about ways to get involved. Looking ahead, we plan to convene virtual gatherings to offer training and foster dialogue among friend groups, round tables and other history affinity organizations across the country.

Those wishing to receive the Allies for Battlefield Preservation newsletter can visit http://www.battlefields.org/email-signup, where they can find and join numerous other email lists covering assorted topics related to history and conservation. Readers can also visit www.battlefields.org/ preserve/speak-out to learn of other opportunities to contact their representatives about pressing preservation issues.

NEW STATE GRANT PROGRAM saves Mississippi battlefields

THE MAGNOLIA STATE has joined the roster of states proactively working to foster public-private partnerships to protect battlefield landscapes through state matching grants. In February, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) announced the second round of recipients for the Mississippi Historic Site Preservation Grants (MHSPG), a matching grants program established in 2020 with the strong support of Gov. Tate Reeves and the Mississippi legislature. Like other grants the Trust receives, selected projects must provide a one-to-one match in funds from other nonstate sources, encouraging collaborative investment in these historic sites.

This year’s awards totaled more than $1.2 million and benefited four battlefields in the state: Briet’s Crossroads, Corinth, Champion Hill and Chickasaw Bayou. Mississippi’s state grant program differs from predecessors in Virginia and Tennessee in that it can also apply to sites of Native American archaeology and places with civil rights history.

Although the Trust has long done work at three of these battlefields, these grants are also funding our first-ever projects at Chickasaw Bayou, part of an initiative by long-time Trustee Don Barrett that has protected several small parcels from which a future battlefield park is emerging. Chickasaw Bayou was an important engagement in the Vicksburg Campaign that saw initial Union gains collapse in the face of heavy casualties.

HE MAGNOLIA STATE

RECOGNIZING the Trust’s ongoing work in the Old Dominion, the Historic Virginia Land Conservancy (HVLC) bestowed its 2022 HVLC Conservation to Commitment Award on the organization. The honor is meant to highlight the Trust’s acquisition of historically significant tracts of the Williamsburg Battlefield in York County, where 343 acres have been saved thus far.

Most recent and, perhaps, most notable is the Trust’s 2021 purchase of the James Custis Farm. The property was purchased, in part, with a record-setting $4.6 million matching grant from the federal American Battlefield Protection Program. Beyond the May 1862 battle during the Peninsula Campaign, the property carries historical associations dating to the colonial period.

At Williamsburg and beyond, the Trust is honored to embody a “Commitment to Conservation” of critical and endangered cultural landscapes. We will continue to work with allies in the preservation and conservation communities to set aside these special places in Virginia and nationwide.

WILLIAMSBURG EFFORTS RECOGNIZED with statewide award

HALLLOWED GROUND SPRING 2023

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www.battlefields.org AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST
More than Two Decades of Park Day
Tending to the Places That Make Up Our American Story

ACH SPRING, thousands of volunteers gather at battlefields and historic sites across the nation to participate in the Trust’s Park Day clean-up effort. For 27 years, Boy and Girl Scouts, Rotarians, Lions Club members, church groups, ROTC units, youth groups and many others have participated in projects large and small to keep our nation’s heritage not only preserved, but pristine. This event allows the Trust to cast a spotlight on beloved American landscapes, from Texas to Massachusetts. Projects will include historic sites and battlefields for the clean, open and accessible enjoyment of all people. Bringing that the spirit of Park Day has always been about more than a single date on the calendar, please keep in mind that sites may seek alternative dates.

We thank the following sites for registering to participate in this year’s Park Day activities, taking place largely on April 15, 2023. To see the most up-to-date list of locations and learn more about this cherished tradition, please visit www.battlefields.org/parkday.*

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Sustainability conference preview

ATTENDING the 2023 CWRT Congress Conference August 25-27, 2023 should prove to be as much a turning point for your Civil War round table as the battle that occurred on the battlefield it borders — Gettysburg. The theme for this year’s conference, “Membership Expansion and Retention,” will focus on several key elements necessary to sustain and grow your round table in this post-pandemic era. Panel discussions conducted by leaders in the Civil War community will strongly encourage audience member participation. Coming Out Of The Pandemic will highlight the challenges round tables faced and how they overcame them. Community Partnerships: The Hidden ValueSeeking new ways to build stronger communities?

2023 Civil War Institute Summer Conference
at Gettysburg College

The American Battlefield Trust is proud to be a sponsor of the Civil War Institute (CWI) 2023 Summer Conference, hosted this year from June 9-14 at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. Attendees will have the opportunity to listen to lectures from Civil War scholars and take part in tours of nearby battlefields. Although the Civil War Institute has held conferences for nearly 40 years, it continues to add new and exciting elements to the programming in its week-long schedule. Offered for the first time this year is an “Active Track” package, providing access to two walking-intensive tours around the Gettysburg battlefield led by the Trust’s Chief Historian, Garry Adelman.

Those who take part in the tours will experience “The First Day at Gettysburg, Off the Beatent Path,” where Adelman, a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg since 1985, will take them through the initial advances of Confederate forces. The following day, Adelman will lead “The Union Fishhook,” following a battle by a nationally-known speaker to be announced at a later date. The day-long conference is set at the new home of the Adams County Historical Society, located near the first day battlefield. Following the conference, dinner and entertainment will be provided in the NPS Visitors’ Center. On Sunday, participants will have the opportunity to attend a guided tour of the George Spangler Farm Field Hospital before heading home.

The CWRT Congress is grateful for the collaborative efforts of the Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center, the Adams County Historical Society, the Gettysburg Foundation, the CWI 2023 Summer Conference, and the visitors at Gettysburg College. Vendors are welcome but will need prior approval from the Adams County Historical Society. Come to learn. Come to share. And come to be a part of making the study of the Civil War an important part of your community.*
SUCCESS STORIES
LAND SAVED FOREVER

PRESEVATION VICTORY MILESTONES
25th state tops Trust’s list of recent triumphs

CHANTANOOGA, Tenn.
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.

This past fall, the Trust acquired an acre of land at Lookout Mountain in Chattanooga – the site of a significant route entrance for Union forces – with support of committed donors. The Trust has now saved 405 acres at Chattanooga.

CORINTH, Miss.
After the September 19, 1862, Battle of Iuka, the Confederate armies in the area moved toward Corinth, hoping to seize the city and then sweep into Middle Tennessee. Since the siege of the previous spring, Union forces had erected various fortifications, which they manned upon the approach of the Confederates. The Southern attack was initially successful, pushing the Federals back to their inner defenses, but after a period of desperate hand-to-hand fighting, their gains were entirely reversed, leading to a general retreat.

In partnership with the National Park Service and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Trust acquired 29 acres at Corinth Battlefield. The Trust, along with the National Park Service, will monitor the property until its transfer to the Shiloh National Military Park. The Trust has now saved 820 acres at Corinth.

CUMBERLAND CHURCH, Va.
Fought on April 7, 1865, the Battle of Cumberland Church was one of the last battles before the surrender at Appomattox Court House. In its aftermath Lt. Gen. U.S. Grant wrote to Gen. Robert E. Lee, speaking of the “hopelessness of further resistance,” and “asking of you the surrender of that portion of the C.S. Army known as the Army of Northern Virginia.”

The recent acquisition at Cumberland Church was aided by the anticipated grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The property will be transferred to the Appomattox-Petersburg Preservation Society for interpretation and stewardship. These 46 acres represent the Trust’s first acquisition at Cumberland Church.

EUTAW SPRINGS, S.C.
After a string of defeats in the spring of 1781, Continental Major General Nathanael Greene described his efforts to end the British threat in South Carolina succinctly: “We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again.” He led 2,100 troops on a 22-day, 120-mile march that ended near the British camp at Eutaw Springs. On September 8, the Americans attacked at first light. Although he could not fully dislodge the British, Greene kept pushing them back to Charles Town.

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

Morgan escaped but was captured eight days later.

In partnership with the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation, the Trust was able to secure 108 acres at Buffington Island, near the Ohio-West Virginia border. A matching grant from the federal American Battlefield Protection Program is also anticipated. This is the Trust’s first acquisition at Buffington Island and its first project in Ohio.

CEDAR MOUNTAIN, Va.
The Battle of Cedar Mountain occurred on August 9, 1862. Fighting was particularly intense in the area known as Crittenden’s Gate, where Union casualties reached 30 percent and Lt. Gen. “Stone-wall” Jackson personally rallied his faltering command to final victory.

Aided by the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, the Trust acquired 45 acres at Cedar Mountain. The property will be incorporated into a future state park. The Trust has now saved 629 acres at Cedar Mountain.

CHAMPION HILL, Miss.
The May 16, 1863, Battle of Champion Hill has rightly been called the most decisive battle of one of the most decisive campaigns of the Civil War. After a fierce, seesaw struggle, Federal soldiers seized the Jackson Road, and the Confederates were driven from Champion Hill, setting the stage for the siege and surrender of Vicksburg.

With the support of the American Battlefield Protection Program, the State of Mississippi and the HTR Foundation, the Trust acquired 354 acres at Champion Hill. The tract is instrumental to the understanding of the Vicksburg Campaign. The Trust has now saved 1,222 acres at Champion Hill.

CHANCELORSVILLE, Va.
The Battle of Chancellorsville, fought April 30-May 6, 1863, was a resounding Confederate victory, but it came at a great cost. After his triumphant flank attack on May 2, Jackson was shot by his own troops and died eight days later.

The Trust secured two properties totaling 44 acres at Chancellorsville with the support of the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, the National Park Service and the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. The acquisition of the two properties is a significant step toward completing the Flank Attack portion of the Chancellorsville Battlefield. The Trust has now saved 1,365 acres at Chancellorsville.

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

Supported by the South Carolina Conservation Bank and South Carolina American Revolution Sesquicentennial Commission, the Trust aided the acquisition of four acres at Eutaw Springs. The property will be owned and stewarded by the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust. The Trust has now saved 18 acres at Eutaw Springs.

FORT TICONDEROGA, N.Y.
Located at the southern tip of Lake Champlain, Fort Ticonderoga is associated with multiple battles in both the French and Indian War and Revolutionary War. In the latter, it was the scene of an American victory over the British in 1775, and a British victory in 1777.

Last fall, the Trust – aided by an anticipated American Battlefield Protection Program grant and a contribution from the Fort Ticonderoga Association – acquired its first acre at Fort Ticonderoga. The Trust will transfer the property to the Fort Ticonderoga Association. The Trust has now saved an acre at Fort Ticonderoga.

Buffington Island, Ohio
In July 1863, against the backdrop of Confederate losses at Vicksburg and Gettysburg, a daring cavalry raid ventured into Ohio. At Buffington Island, Maj. Gen. John Hunt Morgan encountered 3,000 Union artillery, infantry and cavalry accompanied by U.S. Navy gunboats. The fighting ended with 700 Confederates surrendering above and beyond the killed and wounded.

Four acres at Fort Ticonderoga

In partnership with the American Battlefield Protection Program and the American Battlefield Trust, the Trust has acquired an acre at Fort Ticonderoga. The Trust will transfer the property to the Fort Ticonderoga Association.
known as Pickett’s Charge failed. This past year, the Trust secured the preservation of two critical properties in Gettysburg. Thanks to support from the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and HTR Foundation, the Trust acquired the 4.1-acre Battlefield Military Museum site. Then in late 2022, the Trust secured a significant half-acre donation of land. The property will

HOBBIRK HILL, S.C.

In April 1781, Continental Army Major General Nathanael Greene began a campaign to drive the British from South Carolina, starting with British Lieutenant Colonel Francis Rawdon’s garrison in Camden. Due to string British defenses, Greene assumed a position atop Hob Kirk Hill. Rawdon launched an attack on the Continentals, and Greene subsequently disengaged and conducted a withdrawal. Despite the victory, Hob Kirk Hill was soon abandoned by Camden soon after.

Funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the South Carolina Conservation Bank aided the acquisition of 22 acres at Hob Kirk Hill, property now held by the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust. The Trust has now saved 22 acres at Hob Kirk Hill.

MANASSAS, Va.

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

At Second Manassas, the Trust acquired two properties throughout the year for a total of nine acres. In late August, the Trust purchased a site containing the American Battlefield Protection Program grant and the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation — acquired three acres. Then in late December, the Trust acquired a stree-acre donation of land. The property will eventually be transferred to the Manassas National Battlefield. The Trust has now saved 385 acres at Manassas.

HOBIRK HILL, S.C. 

HALLOWED GROUND SPRING 2023

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MILL SPRINGS, Ky.

The Battle of Mill Springs, fought on January 19, 1862, was one of the first significant Union victories of the Civil War, as Brig. Gen. George H. Thomas defeated Confederate forces under the command of Maj. Gen. George B. Crittenden and Brig. Gen. Felix Zollicoffer. Zollicoffer conducting a reconnaissance in front of his forces, was shot and killed by Union soldiers during the battle. The Federal victory at Mill Springs not only helped bolster sagging Northern morale but also helped keep Kentucky solidly within Union control.

In Kentucky, the Trust acquired 83 acres at Mill Springs with the support of the National Park Service and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The property, situated on the 1863 Confederate encampment, has been transferred to the National Park Service for incorporation into the Mill Springs National Monument. The Trust has now saved 709 acres at Mill Springs.

PETERSBURG, Va.

Following the battle at Cold Harbor, Maj. Gen. George Meade’s Army of the Potomac attacked Petersburg on June 15, 1864, driving the defenders, led by Confederates Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, from their encampments. As the Union advanced, Beauregard fell back to defend the city, while Gen. Robert E. Lee rushed in reinforce-

ments. Their timely arrival halted the Union attack and signaled the start of the 10-month siege of Petersburg. When the defenders’ lines finally cracked on April 2, 1865, it was only a matter of hours until the Southern capital at Richmond was abandoned. Then the weary Confederates turned west toward Appomattox.

Aided by the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, the Trust acquired eight acres at Petersburg. The property, witness to battle action during June 1864, was transferred to the Petersburg National Battlefield. The Trust has now saved 130 acres at Petersburg.

SHEPHERSTOWN, W.Va.

The Battle of Shepherdstown was the most significant engagement of the contested Civil War at Shepherdstown. On September 19, Union forces pushed across the Potomac River at Boteler’s Ford, attacking the Confederate rear guard, but were ultimately discouraged by a powerful counterattack the next day.

Supported by funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program, the West Virginia Outdoor Heritage Conservation Fund, HTR Foundation, Save Historic Antietam Foundation and the Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, the Trust successfully acquired 122 acres of the historic Ohioenv Farm at Shepherdstown. The Trust will transfer the property to the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission, in the near future. The Trust has now saved 743 acres at Shepherdstown.

TRACING THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAMUEL CLYDE

“A true Whig and a brave officer who has made great sacrifices for his country”

OMETIMES it is exhilarating to think of whom we descend from. For U.S. Rep. Andrew S. Clyde, family stories steered him toward an awareness that an ancestor with his surname stood as a soldier in the conflict that forged the United States of America. And even with a centuries’ age difference, Clyde very likely experienced many of the same emotions faced by his Revolutionary ancestor, as he too served — as an officer in the U.S. Navy for 29 years, including combat in Iraq and Kuwait. Today, his service looks different, as he represents Georgia’s 9th Congressional District on Capitol Hill.

But who was this brave Patriot ancestor of Clyde’s?

To unveil that, one must sift through generations of Clydes — six generations before Representative Clyde, to be exact. In doing so, we find his four-times great grand-father Hugh Clyde, born ca. 1724 in Ireland to Esther [of Tyrone, Ireland] and Daniel Clyde [of Clydesdale, Scotland]. Between 1730 and 1732, the young family migrated to the American colonies and settled in New Hampshire. It was then that Hugh Clyde’s brother — Representative Clyde’s four-times great grand-uncle — Samuel Clyde was born in 1732.

During the French and Indian War, Samuel Clyde served with the British in New Hampshire. D. Hamilton Hurd’s 1678 History of Otsego County, New York claims that Clyde was appointed captain in a company led by General James Abercombie in 1758 and was involved in the taking of Fort Frontenac and the 1759 Battle of Tatterson. Before ending his service in 1761, he became familiar with Dr. Matthew Thornton, the uncle of Catherine Wasson and later signer of the Declaration of Independence. Clyde went on to marry Catherine and, together, they moved to the Mohawk Valley region of New York.

But the Mohawk Valley quickly turned into a battlefield in the fight for American independence, and Samuel Clyde again answered the call to serve. A look in the National Archives and Records Administration’s compiled service records for Patriot forces confirms this. Accounting for the service of regular soldiers, militia and volunteers, these files differ from

soldier to soldier — some have brilliant detail while others provide just a hint of history.

Fold’s military service records for Samuel Clyde consist of two sets of index cards — one noting his service as a lieutenant colonel turned-colonel in Clyde’s New York Regiment, and the other documenting his time as a colonel in Hamilton’s Regiment New York, which accounts for his service in 1780. The file for Clyde’s Regiment merits particular attention, as his surname is front and center. The record provides clarity to the curiosity, explaining that “Colonel Campbell’s Regt. Of Tryon County Militia in the Service of the United States of America, [was] now Commanded by U. Col. Samuel Clyde, being on duty during many times from the 15th day of June, 1779, until the 1st Jan’y, 1782.” So, not only did this ancestor serve — he LED.

While these records account for the years 1779-1793, the aforementioned History of Otsego County, New York notes Clyde’s early involvement in the Mohawk Valley’s resistance against the Crown, having been part of Tryon County’s Committee of Safety from the beginning of the conflict. He is also said to have fought at the Battle of Oriskany in August 1777, where his superior, General Herkimer, was killed and he himself was knocked down by a British musket, and later saved by a man named John Flock. By March 1778, he was one of a party of three who met with the Marquis de Lafayette to request assistance in building a fort and manning it; General Washington later sent orders to proceed with this request.

But tragedy struck on November 11, 1778, when a combined force of Loyalists and Native struck Patriot forces in today’s Otsego County. Snow-covered ground turned red, with more than 40 Patriots killed and apparently 70 taken prisoner. Throughout this attack, Clyde took up a defensive position, while his wife and children fled to the woods for protection.

General Washington visited the Mohawk Valley in 1783, where he found Colonel Clyde in command of Fort Plain. According to the History of the Mohawk Valley, Gateway to the West, 1614–1925, this meeting went very well for Clyde. Governor George Clinton is said to have remarked, “General Washington received Colonel Clyde, a true Whig and a brave officer who has made great sacrifices for his country” — to which Washington answered, “Then, sir, you should remember him in your appointments.” Clinton certainly did, later appointing Clyde sheriff of Tryon County and sheriff of Montgomery County.

ANCESTRY HISTORIC CONNECTIONS IN YOUR FAMILY TREE
Hallowed Ground  Spring 2023

TANGIBLE LINKS TO HISTORY

PAGE from the PAST

RED BANK DISCOVERY

Hessian burial site offers opportunity for new historic interpretation

“A S LONG AS I HAVE SERVED, I have not left a battlefield in such deep sorrow.”

Captain Johann Ewald, an officer in the Hessian Field Jäger Corps, wrote this in his diary after the Battle of Red Bank, New Jersey. On that October day in 1777, Ewald had lost five of his closest friends, including a family member, in their assault on American forces at Fort Mercer. Four more friends were seriously wounded.

A recent archaeological discovery at Gloucester County’s Red Bank Battlefield Park has led to a stunning revelation regarding the violence Ewald describes. Last summer, the park staff recovered the remains of at least 15 individuals believed to be Hessian soldiers, or troops from German states hired by the British Empire to support its forces. The remains include skull and leg bone fragments that show these individuals may have suffered multiple wounds or dismemberment. Musket balls, canister shot and grape shot were all found nearby. While these finds are common on the battlefield, “to see it [all] in association with a person changes the way you understand that piece of material culture,” said Dr. Jennifer Janofsky, director of Red Bank Battlefield Park and the Megan Giordano Fellow in Public History at Rowan University.

Guided tours, trails and special programs at the park give visitors a thorough understanding of the battle, but Janofsky believes this moment could be an opportunity for the 44-acre historic site to interpret the brutal nature of the war — a point Revolutionary War battlefields don’t often dwell on. “I think the discovery really prompts us to reconsider the stories that we are telling and to really share that battlefields don’t often dwell on,” she said.

The work began as a public archaeology project intended to investigate a quarter-acre property the county added to the park in 2020, demonstrating the critical role of battlefield preservation in making these discoveries possible.

“It seemed like such a small acquisition when you stand on the lot,” Dr. Janofsky said, “but what we found out was that it was extremely valuable.” Hundreds of volunteers worked alongside professional teams to uncover the tract’s mysteries. One of the volunteers even discovered a 1766 King George III guinea coin — about the equivalent of a soldier’s pay for a month — while using an archaeology sifting screen for the first time. This coin — about the equivalent of a soldier’s pay for month — is an incredibly rare find that Janofsky said may have itself been the major story of the project.

But then came what Janofsky characterized as “a complete shock”: a volunteer found a human bone. This changed the major story of the project, as it became not just an archaeological excavation but an investigation. The Park team worked with forensic anthropologists with the New Jersey State Park Forensic Unit to ensure that human remains were all treated with appropriate care. Additional remains were excavated by professional teams to uncover the tract’s mysteries.

While most of the work in the trench required careful manual labor with hand tools, the team also used a metal detector with ground penetrating radar and key artifacts in the Red Bank Battlefield Archaeology Project.

The park was aware of the potential for mass graves on the lot, “but what we found out was that it was extremely valuable,” said Janofsky. “It seemed like such a small acquisition when you stand on the lot, Dr. Janofsky said, “but what we found out was that it was extremely valuable.” Hundreds of volunteers worked alongside professional teams to uncover the tract’s mysteries. One of the volunteers even discovered a 1766 King George III guinea coin — about the equivalent of a soldier’s pay for month — while using an archaeology sifting screen for the first time. This coin — about the equivalent of a soldier’s pay for month — is an incredibly rare find that Janofsky said may have itself been the major story of the project.

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As a historian, I’ve always been drawn to the stories that haven’t been told,” she said, and she wondered what brought him to the war and who might have mourned his loss. State forensic anthropologists hope DNA analysis will be able to identify individuals and their descendants, but that possibility continues to be, as Dr. Janofsky says, the “million-dollar question.” She is optimistic the team may be able to create a facial reconstruction of one of the recovered individuals, which would truly help her team bring these soldiers to life at the park.

“I think most people, when you say, ‘the Hessians in the Revolution, the first word to come to mind is ‘mercenary,’ and ‘mercenary has this very negative connotation,’ said Janofsky. “The opportunity here is to share their stories and really have them be individuals in the public mind and to really talk about the complexities of who these individuals were,” she said.

Thanks to funding from the New Jersey Humanities Council, the park will be working with several additional experts to develop new interpretation that highlights these stories. Janofsky, co-director Wade Catts of South River Heritage Consulting and their team are also working on plans to memorialize these individuals on the battlefield, and the County is exploring appropriate options for the reinternment of the remains.

Visitors will soon be able to see this site for themselves. The park will conduct public tours to the property April through October 2023, and visitors will have the opportunity to speak to those involved in the discovery. The park is also planning to offer more public archaeology opportunities soon. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Dr. Janofsky at lawrencej@rowan.edu.

History professor Jennifer Janofsky holds a 1754 King George II gold guinea, the equivalent of a soldier’s wages for a month, found during the excavation.

An impacted musket ball from the Fort Mercer trench excavation.

Hessian Illustration: public domain  Archeological photos: Courtesy of Rowan University
UNEARTHING BRAVE SOULS IN CAMDEN, S.C.

An illuminating — and emotional — effort provides permanent dignity to hastily buried battle casualties and further insight into a pivotal battle.

BY JENNIFER HOWARD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SARAH NELL BLACKWELL
The battle of course ended up being a total disaster,” commented James Legg, public archaeologist for the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA). “The American Army was destroyed for the second time in four months.” Legg has spent decades researching the battle and thousands of hours on the battlefield. He described a setting where musket fire at close range continued for 45 minutes or more before the British outflanked the Patriots and claimed victory.

We may never know how many soldiers lost their lives at Camden. When faced with charging bayonets, many Patriot soldiers fled to the north and west. Some were captured. Others were left dead or wounded where they fell. Burials were unceremonious affairs in shallow single or mass graves. Historical records indicate that many others remained on the surface, their remains removed by wolves and other scavengers. Legg continues, “No one was ever removed. They didn’t get up and go home. They are still right where they fell.”

In the years following the battle, the landscape remained remarkably intact. The site was not developed or paved over; however, shallow graves left the soldiers’ remains vulnerable to the impacts of logging and agriculture. The Hobblin Hill chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, that preserved the first two acres, moved to have the battlefield listed on the National Register of Historic Places in January 1961. The Palmetto Conservation Foundation acquired a large portion of the battlefield and provided the initial light interpretation. In 2017, ownership of the battlefield was transferred to the Historic Camden Foundation. In 2018, the American Battlefield Trust and the South Carolina Battleground Trust, through their Liberty Trail initiative, acquired and preserved an additional 294 acres of the battlefield. All 770 acres of the battlefield are now protected under a conservation easement held by the Catawba Valley Land Trust and enjoyed by visitors using the “The Liberty Trail app.”

Legg describes Camden as a “featureless battlefield.” The site is a pine forest with no structures such as fortifications or trenches—the only evidence comes in the form of artifacts. Much of the early research conducted by Dr. Steven Smith, a research professor affiliated with SCIAA since 1986, involved the identification of artifacts, located either by interviewing relic hunters or utilizing systematic metal detecting. Research conducted throughout the early 2000s yielded dense concentrations of arm-related artifacts such as lead shot and musket balls, and clothing artifacts such as buttons and clothing claps, all within six to 18 inches of the surface. The artifacts were catalogued, and the locations were mapped for later work. In 2020, Legg finally confirmed that the

Sample collection also plays a role in the project.

In 2019, a team from the University of Delaware excavated the site to determine the location and extent of the battle. The site is a pine forest with no structures such as fortifications or trenches—the only evidence comes in the form of artifacts. Much of the early research conducted by Dr. Steven Smith, a research professor affiliated with SCIAA since 1986, involved the identification of artifacts, located either by interviewing relic hunters or utilizing systematic metal detecting. Research conducted throughout the early 2000s yielded dense concentrations of arm-related artifacts such as lead shot and musket balls, and clothing artifacts such as buttons and clothing claps, all within six to 18 inches of the surface. The artifacts were catalogued, and the locations were mapped for later work. In 2020, Legg finally confirmed that the
collections of buttons marked burials. South Carolina Battleground Trust CEO, Doug Bostick worked closely with Legg and Smith over the years. He knew that the remains were vulnerable, felt strong about the conditions of burial and his experience in the recovery of remains.

A cross-disciplinary team of archaeologists from SCIAA and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and biological pathologists from the Richland County Coroner’s Office under the leadership of Smith and Legg began the work to recover the soldiers over an estimated timeline of four weeks. As the archaeological units were opened, however, graves believed to hold one individual were found to hold several, and the timeline extended from four weeks to eight.

John Michael Fisher, an archaeologist for SCIAA, has personal connections to Camden and served his country in the U.S. Army Reserve. “My grandfather used to take me on rides through the state to see battlefields or historic sites. Camden was always important to him. We had a family member who fought in the Revolution and disappeared at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.” He continued, “As a veteran, I felt humbled to be there. I’m a combat veteran, so seeing these guys who marched throughout Maryland exhausted, and then died and were thrown into mass graves, made me personally attached to the site.”

Fisher and his colleagues worked with excavating care to remove soil from the remains with a collection of wooden spoons, chopsticks and small brushes. They relied on the biological pathologists from the Richland County Coroner’s Office to lead the final removal in a manner that would not cause additional harm to the fragile bones. Deputy Coroner Dr. Bill Stevens has extensive experience in the recovery of remains. “We treat remains with dignity, especially those who have died in a conflict. That was the case for me working in Guatemala, and later in Cyprus, in the Mediterranean, and here at Richland County, where we provide services for homeless veterans, dealing directly with Fort Jackson, to provide them burial with full military honors.”

The recovery of Revolutionary War soldier remains is rare. The manner of their burial, coupled with human or animal disturbance, weather, and soil chemistry, often results in the loss of material culture artifacts, knowledge about the individual’s personal stories, and the numbers 7-1. The careful excavation also provided insight on the manner of death for many of the soldiers: a musket ball lodged in the spine or in the skull paints a clear picture.

The manner of burial was one of the most emotionally challenging finds for those who worked daily on the battlefield. While the Fraser’s Highlander was presumed to be care- fully and respectfully buried, face up with his arms across his chest, the Continentals were found in a much different condition. Four graves were single burials, and there were multiple burials. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Archaeologist Tareq Gaffar described his experience. “I’ve done disinterment before both of large cemeteries and individuals, but this would be different because this is the first time I’ve dealt with individuals who have died by violent means.” He continued, “There was a tremendously callous and brutal treatment of their bodies. They were not carefully or lovingly buried. They weren’t marked. I feel as though my role here is not so much as a doctor or healer, but as a rescuer. I’m glad that they are being respectfully buried. Human remains are very important to everyone and to their families, and they have deserved to be respectfully buried in a manner that would not cause additional harm to the fragile bones. Deputy Coroner, Richland County prepares to carry the remains to the coroner’s van. SCIAA Archaeologist and veteran Sara Rogers (LEFT) draped the remains of a British loyalist with the King’s Colors, while Dr. Bill Stevens, deputy coroner, Richland County prepare to carry the remains to the coroner’s van.

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The opportunity to respectfully bury these soldiers who did not have the opportunity to be respectfully buried in 1780, Bostick reflected. “We invite you to come to Camden and immerse yourself in the Revolutionary War. This is going to be a ceremony that none of us will see in our lifetime again. To do so, with full military honors is what these soldiers deserve.”

That sentiment was common among the team, resulting in the creation of a short informal ceremony before and during the final removal of the soldiers. Bostick described those moments, “They were carefully removed. Each body was wrapped, boxed. Someone would say a few words. Another would offer a prayer. The flag-draped box of remains was then carried to the coroner’s van by a member of the team who was also a veteran.”

The Richland County Coroner’s Office is studying the soldiers’ remains to learn more about where they came from, their diets, their ages and stature. DNA samples are also being collected, and once this work is complete, staff will prepare the remains to be placed in handcrafted replica 18th-century coffins and to be returned to Camden for two days of reinterment ceremonies. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, the coffins will be placed in sealed vaults, in the precise location where the remains were initially recovered, and the graves will be marked.

“This will be a one-of-a-kind event. The opportunity to respectfully bury these soldiers who did not have the opportunity to be respectfully buried in 1780,” Bostick reflected. “We invite you to come to Camden and immerse yourself in the Revolutionary War. This is going to be a ceremony that none of us will see in our lifetime again. To do so, with full military honors is what these soldiers deserve.”

Camden archaeology and reburials in depth

Camden

Jennifer Howard is the principal of Steward Terra Communications, a firm specializing in conservation issues and the challenges faced by natural resource-based organizations. She worked on the Trust’s Liberty Trail initiative since its public launch in 2019.
THE CREATION OF
NATIONAL CEMETERIES
AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

Tasked with reburying the Union dead in the southern
cstates, U.S. Army officer Edmund Burke Whitman
literally mapped out the plan for this massive
undertaking. Accountability and honoring the nation’s
military dead took on a new meaning and lasting vision.

BY SARA AMY LEACH
Senior Historian, National Cemetery Administration,
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

With millions of government-issued veteran headstones, including those
dating as far back as 1873, perpetually altered by their natural environment
and the passage of time, the need for upkeep is constant. Each headstone
requires regular cleaning by contractors, staff or volunteers — as is the case
at many cemetery sites that participate in the Trust’s Park Day program.

Stones River National Cemetery, Murfreesboro, Tenn.
MIKE TALPLACIDO
**FINDING THE DEAD**

The U.S. Army had begun to bury its dead at major battle sites in Tennessee before Whitman’s posting there in December 1865 under Major General George H. Thomas, commander of the Department of the Cumberland. Whitman, however, was tasked with the broader scope of “visiting battle-fields, cemeteries, and places where Union dead are interred” throughout the military division, which included Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee.

He oversaw three major expeditions in addition to numerous shorter trips to map the fallen. His findings populated into “definite cemeterial districts ranked around some central spot, convenient and appropriate,” where a national cemetery was established. The two dozen or so districts were eventually drafted separately by Charles “Chas.” F. Smith, inked on heavy stock in black and filled in with vivid pastel pink, green and blue watercolor washes. The elegant, very small drawings — most scaled at 3:1 miles per inch — show geographic features and, in red ink, a flag for the cemetery. Their cheery appearance belies the human mortality they illustrate.

Whitman personally visited “the most interesting places and … most important routes.” He first set out on March 1, 1866, with officers, soldiers and clerks and equipped with “a field note-book and a pocket compass.” That May, some of his findings were used to brief a U.S. congressional committee visiting Memphis about the reinterment effort. Before the group left Tennessee, the essence of the 1867 legislation “with many of its details were … agreed upon,” Whitman later reflected. He was promoted to brevet major the following month and ordered to the “duty of locating, purchasing, and establishing National Cemeteries, and preparing Mortuary Records in the Military Division of the Tennessee.” Disenment began in October 1866, and in January 1867, Whitman was named superintendent of national cemeteries, though technically it was only for the Department of the Tennessee.

To foster consistency, as early as June 1866, Whitman identified four “principles which should govern in the selection of national cemetery sites.” Major battle sites met the first criteria as “distinguished localities, of great historical interest” to honor the Union’s sacrifice. These included three Tennessee cemeteries Thomas authorized in 1866 — first at Chattanooga (five weeks after Lincoln spoke at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania), then Stones River and Nashville. Army chaplains Thomas B. Van Horne and Williams Earnshaw were at work there when Whitman arrived, and he wrote that they...
All quoted material is from...
Since 1923, the American Battle Monuments Commission has been tasked with honoring American armed forces where they serve overseas by establishing and maintaining monuments and markers and providing a final resting place for the fallen in military cemeteries on foreign soil. It's their mission. They honor it ... forever.

by ASHLEIGH BYRNE
The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) is commemorating its centennial anniversary throughout 2023, reflecting on 100 years as the guardian of America’s overseas commemorative cemeteries and military memorials worldwide. Though a century has passed since the agency’s formation, its history is ever present.

For instance, U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. William J. McGowan was laid to rest in France this past July under the care of ABMC, nearly 80 years after he was killed during operations in World War II.

The 23-year-old Minnesota native perished on D-Day — June 6, 1944 — when the P-47 Thunderbolt he was piloting crashed while on a mission near the city of Moon-sur-Elle, France. Though the crash site was initially investigated in 1947, his remains were declared non-recoverable. He was not officially accounted for until 2019, after the site was excavated and his remains were forensically identified.

McGowan’s family chose a burial at Normandy American Cemetery, alongside more than 9,300 other Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice. Though interments there are infrequent, as the cemetery was declared closed to new burials in 1996, individuals who are later recovered and identified can be laid to rest there at the family’s request.

“When we were asked where we wanted the final resting place of our uncle to be, we did not hesitate,” said Paul Stouffer, McGowan’s nephew.

As the organization commemorates its centennial anniversary, stories like McGowan’s showcase ABMC’s important legacy and continuous role in honoring those who fought and died in the name of freedom — even decades after their deaths.

“It is our mission to care for those individuals who gave their lives in service to our nation, no matter how many years have passed since they made the ultimate sacrifice,” said Scott DesJardins, Normandy American Cemetery superintendent. “It is our solemn honor to provide Lieutenant McGowan a final resting place among those he served beside.”

ABMC’s role was already solidified and solemnified during McGowan’s lifetime, having been created in the aftermath of what was then known as the Great War. Following World War I, the U.S. government recognized a need for a burial and repatriation policy for America’s war dead. Over the course of the conflict, more than 116,000 Americans lost their lives in Europe. Understanding the need to acknowledge America’s contribution to the war in Europe through commemorative cemeteries and memorials overseas, the government also respected the desires of many Americans to have their fallen family members returned to the United States. Under provisions of the law, families were entitled to select permanent interment of a loved one’s remains in an American military cemetery on foreign soil, repatriation of the remains to the United States for interment in a national or private cemetery or repatriation to the individual’s homeland. A majority of families chose repatriation, but approximately 40 percent opted for permanent interment overseas.

Recognizing the need for a federal agency responsible for honoring American armed forces where they had served overseas and for controlling the establishment of military cemeteries, monuments and markers on foreign soil, Congress created the American Battle Monuments Commission in March
In 1919, ABMC was charged with maintaining American cemeteries and memorials abroad that honor fallen and missing U.S. service members of WWI, and eight permanent cemeteries were established to fulfill the mission. Within a decade, ABMC’s role grew through tragedy as a new generation of Americans answered their nation’s call to service in another global conflict. By the end of World War II, several hundred temporary burial grounds had been established by the United States Army on battlefields around the world. In 1947, 14 overseas sites were selected to become permanent cemeteries by the secretary of the Army and ABMC. Twelve overseas monuments and three stateside memorials were also established.

“ABMC has proudly honored America’s fallen heroes for a century,” said ABMC Secretary Charles K. Djou. “Our promise is to carry forward the legacy of Lieutenant McGowan and all those buried or memorialized within our sites for the next one hundred years and for generations to come.”

The centennial anniversary highlights this evolution of ABMC’s mission. Its cemeteries include nonsectarian chapels, sculptures, battle maps and narratives depicting the course of the war in a region, as well as visitor reception facilities. Thus, not only is the agency focused on commemoration, but also on embracing the art, architecture and horticulture that together create the tranquil sites entrusted to its care.

These unique facets — the culmination of art as a commemorative tool — can be a bridge for new audiences to experience ABMC. For most of the agency’s existence, it has welcomed to its sites the family members and friends of the fallen — as well as local residents who share in the wartime history — to pay their respects to those who fought and those who were lost. With each passing decade and with such direct ties becoming fewer, it becomes more important to welcome new generations of visitors and develop ways of establishing a connection to the sacrifices that were made.

Today, ABMC operates and maintains 26 permanent American burial grounds and 32 separate memorials, monuments and markers on foreign soil and in the U.S. There are 124,000 American war dead interred in these cemeteries, of which 30,973 are from World War I and 92,958 from World War II. Additionally, the names of more than 8,200 individuals listed as missing from the Korean War and more than 2,500 individuals from the Vietnam War are memorialized at ABMC’s Honolulu Memorial. Elsewhere, more than 15,000 American veterans and others are interred in the Mexico City National Cemetery — which includes 790 unidentified dead from the Mexican-American War. All told, ABMC keeps more than 200,000 legacies alive at its sites spread across 17 foreign countries and the United States. Each of these sites is a tribute to service and sacrifice that must never be forgotten.

“The American Battle Monuments Commission is an agency of the American people,” said Djou. “This is our history and heritage, and connecting our past to the future and engaging with the next generations will help ensure the true cost of preserving our values and the American way of life continues to be shared and understood.”

At the time of its founding, General of the Armies John J. Pershing was appointed to ABMC’s board of commissioners and subsequently elected chairman. He served in that capacity until his death in 1948, when he was succeeded by Gen. George C. Marshall. All 11 veterans — 10 of them generals — to have held the post have lived out and perpetuated the vision articulated by Pershing: “Time will not dim the glory of their deeds.”

Learn more about ABMC, its history and centennial at www.abmc.gov.

Ashleigh Byrnes is the American Battle Monuments Commission media operations manager. She is a U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran, deploying to Afghanistan where she established and led the American Forces Network Kandahar. Between her honorable discharge and joining ABMC, she spent a decade working in communications for Disabled American Veterans.
1. Before the Civil War, fallen American soldiers were buried beneath a round-top wooden board that would bear a registration number or small inscription. In 1873, Secretary of War William W. Belknap adopted the first standardized design for stones made of long-lasting marble or another durable stone to be erected in national cemeteries.

2. Until 1903, unknown burials might receive a six-by-six block rather than a vertical headstone. A more detailed design with a recessed shield motif began to appear in the 1890s, and in the event that a Confederate burial was marked, it would receive a vertical stone with a slightly pointed top rather than a gently rounded one.

3. While the secretary of the Army was originally in charge of grave marker allocation, that responsibility was transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1973. Since then, more than 14 million headstones have been furnished.

4. Today, a standard headstone will be made of either Georgia or Vermont marble, weigh about 250 pounds and measure four inches deep, 13 inches wide and 42 inches tall. The design has remained almost identical since World War II and denotes the dates of birth and death, the highest service rank attained, a religious symbol if desired and any wars in which the deceased participated as an active-duty service member. Other options include a flat marble grave marker, a flat bronze grave marker and small bronze niche markers.

5. While the Veterans Administration no longer allows unique headstones upon graves, families can choose from 50 symbols associated with religious beliefs, a tradition that began in 1822. The most recent to be approved was a wiccan symbol in 2007.

1. All ABMC headstones are either presented as a Latin Cross or the Star of David. Due to the unprecedented scale of conflict during World Wars I and II, some Jewish soldiers were mistakenly buried under crosses, a situation not unique to the United States. International nonprofit organization Operation Benjamin — inspired by the story of Pvt. Benjamin Garadetsky — works with cemetery administrators and families to correct this oversight.

2. In World War I, servicemembers who could not be identified received a gravestone annotation: “Here Rests in Honored Glory an American Soldier Known but to God.” A similar practice was followed for World War II, but the words “American Soldier” were changed to “Comrade in Arms.”

3. Although ABMC facilities are owned by the U.S. government, local residents have strong emotional connections to the sites and those they honor, who fell liberating their communities. At several cemeteries in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, the individual graves have been “adopted” by families who serve as caretakers and memory keepers. It is not unusual for the responsibility to be passed down through generations, nor to name a child for the family’s soldier-charge.

4. Upon request, ABMC will provide a family with a photograph of their loved one’s resting place, typically after placing flags of both the host nation and the United States at the graveside. To make the inscription legible, staff reverently rub wet sand into the lettering and carefully sponge away the excess. For European ABMC cemeteries, the sand is brought from the D-Day landing beaches in Normandy.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Ira Hayes, a Native American Marine from Sacaton, Arizona, fought in the Pacific Theater of World War II at Bougainville and Iwo Jima. He became famous as one of the six flag-raisers on Mount Suribachi, but suffered from PTSD and ultimately died from exposure to cold and alcohol poisoning. He was buried with full military honors in Section 34, Grave 479A at Arlington National Cemetery on February 2, 1955.

James E. Huntsberger, from Sunburst, Montana was on a bombing run in a B-17 over Austria and Yugoslavia when his plane collided with another in the squadron. He was one of 10 crew members killed. Four others became POWs. He was 19-years-old and survived by his parents and two older siblings. Huntsberger is buried in Plot K, Row 28, Grave 24 at Lorraine American Cemetery, St Auvril, France.

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

HOW TO READ A HEADSTONE

Grave marker inscriptions and iconography for our fallen heroes must meet specific guidelines, but they reveal the distinct individual stories of the soldiers buried beneath the sacred soil.
NATION’S CARETAKER
Some of our oldest burying grounds are tended by National Park Service

While the vast majority of cemeteries dedicated to the memory of America’s soldiers, sailors, and marines fall under the auspices of either the Department of Veterans Affairs or the American Battle Monuments Commission, a relatively small number of highly significant sites remain under the management of the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service (NPS).

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the sites that fall into this category are among the oldest national cemeteries, established during or immediately following the Civil War, excepting Custer National Cemetery in Montana, which relates to the 1876 Battle of the Little Big Horn. Accordingly, of the 14 national cemeteries overseen by the green and gray, only one remains open to new burials – Andersonville National Cemetery at Andersonville National Historic Site in Georgia. Based on their location, two facilities, Yorktown National Cemetery in Virginia and Chalmette National Cemetery outside Louisiana, might seem likely to hold a large number of burials related to pre-Civil War conflicts. But the former has no Revolutionary War dead, and while the latter has four War of 1812 veterans, only one of them fought in the Battle of New Orleans.

The only true outlier to that pattern of origin is Andrew Johnson National Cemetery at Andrew Johnson National Historic Site in Tennessee, which didn’t see veteran burials until 1909. It had been owned by the Johnson Family until 1906 and used as a family resting place until the will of Martha Johnson Patterson, who had served as her father’s White House hostess, requested that the hill become a burial ground for veterans in a “park-like” setting. New burials took place until 2019, and the more than 2,000 interments represent veterans from the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Gulf War, and the War on Terror.

Many of the NPS-led national cemeteries contain spectacular sculptures and statuary. Dominating the layout of Antietam National Cemetery in Maryland, the Private Soldier Monument, affectionately known as Old Simon, towers over about 9,000 burials. At Gettysburg’s Soldiers’ National Cemetery, the central Soldiers’ National Monument is more famous, but an urn standing watch over the dead of the First Minnesota – 52 of the 75 men killed or mortally wounded are buried there – is widely recognized as the first monument placed on the battlefield. While the Victorian era cemeteries were designed to be beautiful places for surviving families to find solace, and elements of that landscaping philosophy are still readily visible in the undulating curves of Stones River National Cemetery in Tennessee.

The Park Service’s cemeteries vary greatly in size. Battleground National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., is the most petite, covering one acre and containing just 41 burials – 40 soldiers who fell in the Battle of Fort Stevens and one veteran who died in 1936 and requested to be interred there. At the other end of the spectrum, the 40-acre Vicksburg National Cemetery in Mississippi holds the remains of 117,000 Union soldiers, plus about 3,500 veterans of later wars.

Civil War-era national cemeteries were not all neatly collected in centrally located national cemeteries from the outset, and rebirth details had to locate, exhume and rebury soldiers who had been buried relatively near where they fell. To populate Peoplar Grove National Cemetery in Petersburg, National Battlefield, crews relocated 6,718 remains from nearly 100 individual burial sites across nine Virginia counties, stretching as far as Lynchburg. While fallen warriors being buried as unknowns remains a sad fact of warfare, the scenario was much more common during the Civil War, before soldiers carried government-issued identification. Only about 20 percent of burials at Fredericksburg National Cemetery, which includes some 12,000 individuals from the four major battles around Fredericksburg, as well as the Mine Run and North Anna campaigns, are identified. The ratio is even worse at Shiloh National Cemetery, where 2,359 of the almost 3,600 Civil War burials are unknown. Interestingly, the cemetery includes both a memorial to a soldier killed in the Gulf War and the grave of George Ross, a Continental Army private.

Regulations for these national cemeteries during the 19th century were highly specific and limited to “soldiers who shall die in the service of the country.” That provision initially meant only to Union war dead, although the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 burials noted above demonstrate that it was imperfectly applied. But in broad terms, it does mean that no Confederate soldiers are buried in these cemeteries, excepting a handful of known cases of mistaken or overlooked interment and whatever number might be obscured in the vast quantity of wholly unidentified remains. Instead, Confederates who were not returned to their homes might be buried in churchyards near the battlefield, such as the massive Blandford Cemetery, near Petersburg, or left on the battlefield, as was the case at Shiloh.

Both for their incredible symbolism, being hallowed ground in the truest sense, and their intrinsic historical value, upkeep of these cemeteries is a priority for the National Park Service. The 2020 passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, a massive federal investment in conservation and public-land stewardship, created an influx of $9.5 billion over five years to address infrastructure and maintenance backlog. And the National Park Service has articulated that upkeep and capital improvements for its national cemeteries is a targeted program through the Legacy Restoration Fund.

Already, masons from the National Park Service Historic Preservation Training Center have descended on Peoplar Grove National Cemetery at Petersburg to address failing brick walls enclosing the burial area. They repaired, rehabilitated, and stabilized 30 double wythe masonry recessed panels, used specialized cleaning tech-niques to remove a century and a half of pollutants, repointed some 1,100 linear feet of deteriorated masonry and replaced unrecoverable bricks. The Park Service is also investigating how these mechanisms can best be used to repair damage caused by flooding at Vicksburg National Cemetery and to systematically address the underlying infra-structure problems that may cause recurrences.
By December 1920, Hamilton Fish, Jr., a New York Congressman and WWI veteran, had proposed legislation to inter one of America’s unknown soldiers at a tomb to be constructed in Arlington National Cemetery. He remarked that the tomb was intended “to bring home the body of an unknown American warrior who in himself represents no section, creed, or race in the late war and who typifies, moreover, the soul of America and the supreme sacrifice of her heroic dead.” Congress approved the legislation on March 4, 1921, and on Memorial Day 1921, the bodies of four unknown American soldiers killed in combat were exhumed from American military cemeteries across France.

On October 24, 1921, Sgt. Edward F. Younger of Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 50th Infantry, stood before the four unknowns — in identical caskets — at the city hall in Chalons-sur-Marne, France. Given the task of choosing who would be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Younger placed a spray of white roses on the third casket from the left. The casket was transported aboard the USS Olympia, which arrived at the Washington Navy Yard on November 9, 1921. Upon arrival, the Unknown lay in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, with about 90,000 visitors paying their respects during the public viewing on November 10, 1921.

On November 11, 1921, the Unknown was transported from the Capitol to Arlington National Cemetery by horse-drawn caisson. A state funeral, presided over by President Warren G. Harding, was held at the cemetery’s new Memorial Amphitheater. During the ceremony, President Harding placed the Medal of Honor on the casket, with subsequent foreign dignitaries presenting their nation’s highest honors, a reciprocity extended to similar symbolic interments across many allied nations. The Unknown soldier was interred later that day, with the Tomb then consisting of a simple marble slab.

After Congress approved legislation to incorporate a more detailed tomb design on July 3, 1926, a design competition was held. Ultimately, the winning design came from Lorimer Rich and Thomas Hudson Jones. Created from a slab of Colorado marble, the Tomb is designed in the Beaux Arts style, featuring three figures representing Peace, Victory and Valor on the east panel, sculpted wreaths on the north and south panels and an inscription on the west panel reading “HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD.”

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Throughout its 100-year existence, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier has stood as a symbol of all missing and unknown U.S. soldiers. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency remains dedicated to recovering and identifying lost soldiers from years’ past and from all conflicts the U.S. has had a role in. In the meantime, the Tomb provides comfort for those loved ones who may never find answers.

**The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** exemplifies “the soul of America and the supreme sacrifice of her heroic dead.”

The Tomb is guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in all but the most extreme of weather conditions — such as intense lightning or a hurricane that threatens the safety of the sentinel.

Guards do not wear a rank while performing their duty, ensuring they do not outrank the soldiers laid in the Tomb.

A guard’s patrol is precise: 21 steps; turn and face the Tomb for 21 seconds; about face, shift arms and hold for 21 seconds; 21 steps back to the starting point. The symbolic number is tied to the 21-gun salute, a centuries-old international military tradition signaling the highest of honors.

Every hour during the winter and every 30 minutes during the summer, a choreographed changing of the guard occurs. Each day, guest organizations lay wreaths before the Tomb in special ceremonies.
REMEMBERING REP. DONALD MCEACHIN
A boon to preservation and a force in public service

THE UNEXPECTED PASSING of Rep. Donald McEachin last November dealt a palpable blow to the historic preservation and land conservation communities, especially those working in the Mid-Atlantic region. More than 600 mourners crowded his Richmond funeral, bearing testament to his incredible stature — both physical and symbolic — in the community.

Effervescent and enthusiastic, McEachin had the type of personality that inspired both collegial interactions and deep personal friendships. He first met Sen. Tim Kaine when both were young lawyers in Richmond, and they remained personal friends for 40 years as both pursued lives of public service.

At his 1986 wedding, McEachin became acquainted with a South Carolina official (now a minority leader in the U.S. House of Representatives) named James Clyburn, whose wife had grown up with the mother of the bride. The pair were among the 46 members of Congress who journeyed to attend McEachin’s “homegoing” service, the senator moved to song during his eulogy.

McEachin was born in October 1951 while his Army officer father was posted in West Germany. The family also lived in Italy before settling permanently in Virginia. He received a bachelor’s degree in political history from American University, and, in 1986, his juris doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law. Later in life, he returned to his studies and received a master of divinity from Virginia Union University.

McEachin was a passionate public servant, winning his first election to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1996 and subsequently serving in the Virginia Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. He and his wife were both pioneers: his first African American nominated by a major party for Virginia attorney general and third African American elected to Congress from the state; she the first woman elected Richmond Commonwealth’s Attorney.

As a member of the House Natural Resources Committee, McEachin was ideally positioned to advocate for environmental and conservation causes close to his heart. The constituent organizations of the Virginia Conservation Network, including the Trust, experienced firsthand the strength of his resolve and the clarity of his vision. “Congressman McEachin’s life of public service will always be a tremendous source of inspiration for so many of us,” noted Tom Corrions, executive director of Appalachian Voices. “His kindness and generosity were always apparent, and he combined his deep humility and commitment to lifelong learning with his dedication to the practical work of making the world a better place — making him an incredible example of impactful, moral leadership.”

Representing an area of Virginia rich in historical and cultural resources, McEachin naturally understood the benefits of historic preservation and became a key advocate for battlefields on Capitol Hill. This commitment only deepened when his geological research revealed that he was descended from members of a free Black settlement that dates to the time of the American Revolution.

“Whenever I pass through Varina and the Gravel Hill community or visit the old Gravel Hill Baptist Church, my emotions are profound. ‘The sense of place is palpable,’ he wrote in a Richmond Times Dispatch op-ed in 2021 before going on to praise the Trust’s work in preserving and interpreting the actions of United States Colored Troops at New Market Heights, near Richmond. ‘These types of programs are crucial to a full understanding of these events and their significance. It is imperative that our conservation efforts are inclusive of all of America’s cultural heritage — and that we work to protect historic sites that represent the stories of all Americans.’

Although he had appeared victorious in his 2014 fight against colon cancer, effects of the disease lingered and ultimately took their toll. He passed away on November 28, 2022, less than three weeks after hardly winning a fourth term in Congress.

The American Battlefield Trust is indebted to Representative McEachin for the work he championed, helping communities safeguard the resources, whether historical or natural, that set them apart and give them a wholly unique identity. We have invited the McEachin family to join us at the Grand Review in October so that we may posthumously honor him with the Trust’s National Preservation Achievement Award in recognition of his leadership.

LEAVING A GIFT to the Trust through your estate is easier than you think — and may not even require a visit to a lawyer. We pledge to respect you throughout the 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.

More than 1,500 American Battlefield Trust members have made battlefield preservation and education their legacy through membership in our Honor Guard legacy giving society. If you are passionate about preserving hallowed ground, consider joining this special group today!
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Who is eligible for membership?
Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. DAR volunteers are willing to provide guidance and assistance with your first step into the world of genealogy.

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

How many members does the National Society have?
DAR has nearly 190,000 members in nearly 3,000 chapters worldwide, including chapters in 14 foreign countries and one territory. Since its founding in 1890, DAR has admitted more than 1 million members.

How can I find out more?
Go to www.dar.org and click on “Membership.” There you’ll find helpful instructions, advice on finding your lineage and a Prospective Member Information Request Form. Or call (202) 879-3224 for more information on joining this vital service-minded organization.
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

52 Hallowed Ground | SPRING 2023

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR or SAR) was founded in 1896. SAR is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education for our future generations. SAR members volunteer untold hours of service each year in their local communities. SAR is very active in assisting veterans. We proudly assist teachers with living history interpreters, lesson planning materials, and reconstruction events for school-aged youth to attend.

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

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

**The United States Army** runs two national cemeteries, both of which are found near our nation’s capital. The more famous, Arlington National Cemetery, sits just across the Potomac River. The Army first occupied the land in 1861, including the plantation home of Robert E. Lee that sat upon the sprawling estate. Its above-sea-level position kept it free from flooding and offered a dynamic view of the District of Columbia. In 1864, the U.S. Government purchased the property at public auction and Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs identified it as the ideal location for the burial of Union dead, including his own son, John. Meigs himself was buried at Arlington National Cemetery in 1892. The inspiring landscape of Arlington stands as a reminder of the service and sacrifice of all enshrined within its hallowed ground.

Since the Civil War, the national cemetery has grown considerably. On May 30, 1929, Herbert Hoover cemented its legacy by choosing the site to conduct America’s first national Memorial Day ceremony. Today, more than 639 acres of Arlington, Virginia, are dedicated to the 400,000 servicemen and women who devoted their lives to defending justice and liberty both within our nation and beyond. The cemetery still conducts between 27 and 30 funerals each weekday and continues to expand. Arlington National Cemetery is a testament to the struggles of our nation and to the ongoing process of living history.

Photo by ELIZABETH FRASER / ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

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