website: www.battlefields.org
preserves our nation’s hallowed battlegrounds and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters today. We permanently protect these battlefields as a lasting and tangible memorial to the brave soldiers who fought in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Thanks to the contributions of more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide, we have preserved more than 57,000 acres, more than 155 sites in 25 states.

For more information, call 800-298-7878.
COLORS ABOVE THE BATTLEFIELD

To distinguish Confederate from Union and one unit from another, regiments carried their colors into battle. The task of carrying these flags was a heavy one, literally and figuratively. The colors stood out as targets on the battlefield as the colors and regiments carried their colors into battle. The task of carrying these flags was a heavy one, literally and figuratively. The colors stood out as targets on the battlefield as 

PIECES OF HISTORY

Examine artifacts and letters is one of the ways we can be made about events from the past. Civil War soldiers left behind millions of artifacts and letters to their families that can help us understand pivotal moments in American history today. The Trust is in a unique position to provide these items, with more than 200,000 artifacts and letters to the possession when the acquired Robert E. Lee’s Headquarters at Gettysburg. However, these artifacts and letters like these can be found everywhere, even in your own home.

The Trees That Witnessed History

Curious about the last living witnesses to the Battle of Gettysburg? Witness trees have been around for generations and help tell the stories of what happened on the battlefields and historic sites they inhabited. To learn about a few choices, check out the Trust’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/americanbattlefieldtrust.

The Protection of Battlefields as Tangible and Inspirational Links to Our National Past

T HE American Battlefield Trust, we like to say that we’re in the “forever business.” By that we mean we recognize how we have been entrusted with these hallowed grounds by previous generations. And we believe it is our responsibility to preserve, protect and defend them, adding to them as we can and then passing them whole and intact to future generations. And if we do that, we have performed a solemn duty.

The protection of battlefields as tangible and inspiri

But, certainly, the battlefields themselves are not the only survivors from the tumultuous times of the Revolutionary War or Civil War. There are meaningful artifacts on display in museums. There are original documents filled with information priceless to researchers. Period structures remain on some battlefields as do a far smaller number of living “witnesses” — trees still standing a century and more later.

The care of all such items requires both passion and specialized skill. Curators, conservators, artisans trained in heritage crafts and even arborists play roles in extending the lifespans of these physical objects. A hard truth understood by such professionals is that they cannot completely stop the passage of time; organic compounds break down, exposure to light and air will make colors deteriorate, and sentiment will be lost. And if we do that, we have performed a solemn duty.

happily with even more advanced techniques and technologies — can do the same.

As a battlefield preservationist, I deeply appreciate the code that textile conservator Gwen Spicer articulates — ensure no harm is done. It strikes me as similar to our own creed, finding ways for history and development to coexist without obliterating the historic landscape. Because although pavement can be torn up and the battlefield restored, as has been done at Franklin and as we are doing at Gettysburg, it makes the job a whole lot harder! Just as she wishes that particularly noxious adhesives hadn’t been used in the first place.

All of these survivors of the past — the landscapes, the artifacts and documents, the structures and sentinel trees — help us feel connected to those who came before, and who did so much to give the nation we are privileged to live in today. They offer us the chance to touch the same textures, experience the same view, enjoy the same shady respite. To me, they humanize those generations long past and make me feel closer to them. I hope that my work with the Trust, which your generosity enables, will help extend that bridge so our grandchildren and great-grandchildren can enjoy the same experiences. You and I may not have training in the care of centuries-old manuscripts and textiles, or know how to repair vintage masonry using antique handtools, but you are a critical part of this process.

The work we do matters greatly — whether it’s purchasing key properties at Gettysburg and Fort Negley or advocating to stop rampant development at the Wilderness — and I thank you for joining me in it.

DAVID N. DUNCAN
President, American Battlefield Trust
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HE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST has launched a $3 million national fund-raising campaign to acquire the remainder of the former Gettysburg Country Club and remove modern structures, continu-
ing a preservation process begun nearly 15 years ago in partnership with The Con-
servation Fund and National Park Service. Thanks to a generous major donor and other considerations extending the window for payment, the Trust must raise $375,000 in private gifts by No-

vember 20, to take ownership of the property. Located along the Chambersburg Pike between McPherson Ridge and Herr's Ridge, and just past Willoughby's Run, this 15-

acre property saw intense fighting in the opening phase of battle on July 1, 1863. Last summer, this vestige of the Emmanuel Har-

man Farm was proposed for intensive residential development, but won a reprieve following significant local advocacy to save the site. Denied permits for a sprawling apartment complex, the land-

owner appealed the decision but the door remained open for the Trust to negotiate preservation scenarios.

“Recognizing the community support for the addition of this acreage to the battlefield footprint, I am pleased that we were able to reach an agreement with the landowner, a regional develop-

ment firm,” said Trust President David Duncan. “This is a signific-

ant milestone, but much remains to be done before we can de-

clare ‘victory’ and deem the entirety of the former Country Club property protected forever.”

This preservation journey began in mid-2008, when the Gettysburg Country Club declared bankruptcy after decades of op-
erations, and the site immediately became a top acquisition priority for the park and preservationists. Not only was it the scene of sig-
nificant combat, but after the fighting moved east, a field hospital was established on the banks of Willoughby’s Run, and at least 23 combatants were buried on what became the Country Club.

An initial sheriff’s sale failed to find a buyer, and the entire site was secured by a housing developer. However, preservation-

ists continued to negotiate behind the scenes and, in March 2011, the Conserva-
tion Fund, assisted by the Trust and other allied organ-

izations, successfully transferred 95 acres of former golf course to the National Park Service during an event headlined by then

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

However, the portion of the property fronting the road, includ-
ing modern clubhouses, tennis courts and a swimming pool had been subdivided out and was not included in the acquisition. While

they were used for various recreational purposes, the ongoing

decade, these amenities had gone unused for several years, and the site remained vulnerable to development. The looming threat came to a head last summer, when Cumberland Township considered development plans for a large-scale apartment complex. Local res-
idents and preservation advocates came out in force to oppose the plan, and the local Board of Supervisors denied approval.

Although the developer appealed that ruling and worked to address the specific issues raised in the process, the door was open for preservation discussions. After months of good-faith negotia-
tions, the Trust was able to secure a purchase contract and launch a $3 million campaign to secure the property. After tak-
ing ownership of the property in November, the Trust will also be-

envisaging landscape restoration plan that balances removal of modern structures and stewardship of historical resources dat-
ing to periods after the battle.

Over the past two-plus decades, the Trust has helped protect, restore and interpret nearly 1,240 acres across the Gettysburg Bat-
tlefield. Learn more about these projects and initiatives at www.

battlefields.org/learnaboutgettysburg.

FROM HOUSING SUBDIVISIONS to industrial-scale solar

centers, the Trust is monitoring acute threats to scores of

battlefields at any given time. Our goal is always to ad-

vocate for win-win outcomes that balance preservation

with progress, and we often reach amicable resolutions

by working behind the scenes with local officials and developers directly. Other situations, however, require us to prepare for a more public battle.

As shared in the last issue of Hallowed Ground, this spring the Ameri-
can Battlefield Trust filed a lawsuit against Orange County, Va., in response to its approval of a 2,000-acre development project featuring millions of square feet of data centers at the gateway to the Wilderness Battlefield, near the intersection of state routes 3 and 20 -- the same area where pres-
ervationists successfully dissuaded Walmart from building a decade ago.

Although the County’s August responsive filing does not set any time-

line for necessary court actions, we have not been idle, strategizing with our traditional partners and meeting organizations fighting other ill-con-

sidered data center developments across the state.

One of the county’s troubling moves seeks to question the standing of both preservation organizations and private citizens who filed the suit -- alleg-
ing that the board’s authority is unlimited and no entity has the legal standing to question their decision. We disagree vehemently with both this and their

assertion that only the land inside the national park qualifies as “battlefield.” As both a landowner in the immediate vicinity of the Wilderness Crossing project and as an organization dedicated to remembering and honoring America’s past, we be-
lieve that the Trust has a moral responsibility to stand up for the fallen. Moreover, we are troubled by how an after-the-fact attempt to manufacture minutes from what had previously been an unplanned gathering seeming-ly constitutes an ad-

mission that the Board met in violation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

A short distance away, we are working with residents to oppose construction of a gas station and commercial strip on a forested stretch of road at the heart of the Chancellorsville Battlefield – just 1,500 feet from the site of the Chancellor-

Mansion that leant the engagement its name. At the first public discussion about the project, concerned citizens and preservationists overflowed the room, send-
ing a strong signal to developers.

Meanwhile, the Trust is seeking to engage officials and developers to find a compromise plan at Bristoe Station, where a massive warehouse distribution center is slated to obliterate core battlefield and fundamentally change the ex-
p-erience at the neighboring county run battlefield park. Hundreds of truck b-rays would welcome tractor trailers at all hours of the day and night and local roads would be overwhelmed by fleets of delivery vehicles.

Please visit www.battlefields.org/SpeakOut to keep abreast of the latest happenings in these and other evolving situations. From petitions to donations that will be allocated to our advocacy fund, we need your help.
HEN WE EMBRACE technology to learn more about the places where history happened, there is no end to what new discoveries await.

For years preservationists have studied aerial photography to identify the character and conditions of battlefield lands throughout their evolution. Often, areas identified for more detailed study calls for the review of U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps or detailed site topographic surveys. Enter Dixon-Mounted LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) Mapping.

This cutting-edge technology is a game-changing application now employed in the American Battlefield Trust's battlefield rehabilitation efforts at the Princeton Battlefield, the New Jersey state park most notably attributed to George Washington's January 1777 victory over British forces. Together with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Princeton Battlefield Society, analysis and planning is under way to rehabilitate and restore the character-defining features of this National Historic Landmark.

The team of operators met in late August to launch the drone-mounted LiDAR modules, and, in the process, commence a new era of battlefield landscape analysis. "The use of drones and low-altitude LiDAR analyses provides unprecedented detail at a scale previously unattainable," said preservation landscape architect Glenn Stach, the lead preservation planner overseeing the Trust's rehabilitation efforts at the Princeton Battlefield.

The drones took flight mid-morning, covering a pre-programmed flight path that spanned more than 85 acres of battlefield land, including the Trust's landmark acquisition at Maxwell's Field, where Washington once rode into the midst of battle to rally his troops and led a counterattack that drove the British from the field. Despite windy conditions that day, the flight — which took place at an altitude of 150-200 feet above the ground — was a success, and the data is now being translated to produce a detailed aerial and survey of existing topographic conditions.

LiDAR technology uses remote sensing techniques that depend on laser pulses to capture distance-to-ground measurements that, when combined, allow for the creation of detailed 3D surface modeling maps, as well as topographic maps. In the same stroke, the survey also provides a detailed aerial photo of existing conditions.

This ground-breaking analysis is just one component of a comprehensive analysis of the cultural landscape at the Princeton Battlefield. Combined, its discoveries will influence the battlefield's rehabilitation in preparation for the nation's semiquincentennial commemoration. The 250th anniversary of the Battle of Princeton will take place on January 3, 2027.

N AUGUST 1, Nashville Metro Council approved a $3-million contribution toward the American Battlefield Trust's $9.25-million campaign to acquire 2.36 acres adjacent to Fort Negley Park, a critical step toward reintegrating this land into the popular park and landmark and advancing the city's ambitious Master Plan for Fort Negley.

In addition to member donations, the Trust is already applying for significant federal and state matching grants to cover the remainder of the transaction cost.

"This is a community that has embraced the historic resources that set it apart, and we are exceptionally grateful for the vision of Mayor John Cooper and the commitment of Nashville's Metro Council as they have ushered in an exciting new era for Fort Negley," said Trust President David Duncan. "Their eager participation in this project from the outset — philosophically, logistically and financially — has been its driving force, and the Trust is thrilled to facilitate this game-changing acquisition."

Tennessee is a leader among state governments when it comes to assisting in conservation of historic landscapes through the Tennessee Historical Commission's Civil War Sites Preservation Fund, administered by the Tennessee Wars Commission. Fort Negley is eligible for federal Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants, but the success of a project of this magnitude hinged on Metro Nashville's involvement from the outset, and the final vote was the result of months spent in constant communication and successful passage of the city's FY24 budget.

Built by Union forces during the Civil War, Fort Negley may not have played a decisive role in control of the city, but it has become a major Nashville touchpoint in the decades since. It has faced 21st-century battles that pitted conflicting visions for a growing city against an iconic place integral to its past. In just the last five years, large-scale mixed-use development and an arboretum connected to the neighboring Adventure Science Center were proposed on portions of the historic park property.

Many regional and national organizations rallied to Fort Negley's defense, citing its unique story and status as the first American site nominated for the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Slave Route Project. During the 2019 mayoral election, Cooper pledged to champion Fort Negley, a campaign promise he fulfilled and for which the Trust recognized him with its prestigious 2023 Preservation Legacy Award. All told, the Metro Council has approved a budget that includes $18.5 million for repair, interpretation and expansion of Fort Negley Park under his leadership.
In September 1774, the 161st anniversary of the Battle of Antietam, the American Battlefield Trust claimed victory on nearly 150 acres of battlefield land associated with the 1862 Maryland Campaign, including the Jacob Avey Farm, some of Antietam’s most hallowed ground. A few short miles to the north, the Trust appealed to members to help save the key 20-acre portion of the Avey Farm, where some of the fiercest fighting of the Battle of Antietam took place and where Confederate soldiers were buried after the battle, according to the recently discovered Elliot Burial Map. The land also includes the historic Avey farmhouse, where the Avey family lived.

Like many civilians in Sharpsburg, Jacob Avey Sr. suffered great financial loss due to the battle. He was born in 1795 in Maryland and lived and worked on the Jacob Avey Farm. After the battle, he continued working on the farm and supporting his family.

The nearly hour-long production joins the Trust’s broader series of about two dozen focused animated map videos, which have collectively been viewed more than 20 million times. It uses a combination of dramatic narration, historical and modern images, motion graphics, reenactment footage and music to share the mesmerizing stories of more than a dozen individual battles and engagements that shaped America over the course of two centuries, from the beginning of the French and Indian War in 1754 to the end of World War II in 1945.

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Like all the Trust’s award-winning educational content, the American’s Wars 1754–1945 Animated Map is available free of charge for anyone to watch, including the thousands of students in schools that already use Trust animated maps and other short videos in their classrooms. The full production is organized into chapters for individual conflicts to assist those who many prefer to utilize selected segments.

This Fall the American Battlefield Trust launched its most ambitious animated battle map to date: America’s Wars 1754–1945. Produced by the award-winning Wide Awake Films, the stunning visuals and compelling storytelling bring to life the events and military engagements that shaped America over the course of two centuries, from the beginning of the French and Indian War in 1754 to the end of World War II in 1945.

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CONGRATULATIONS to the organizations and entities that have received federal Preservation Planning Grants through the American Battlefield Protection Program, administered through the National Park Service! In total, 8 grants received $1,460,816.00 in funding to help preserve sites of armed conflict stretching from the East Coast to Alaska’s Aleutian Islands. Grants will go toward conducting archeological site surveys, interpretive planning, and community outreach.

This year, the Trust received a grant that will help us conduct advance mapping of American Indian battlefields of the Great Sioux War of 1876-1877 across Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. Recognizing that accurate maps are at the heart of preservation and interpretation work undertaken by countless organizations, we have previously supported similar projects for French and Indian War and Mexican War sites.

Other recipients include: Ships of Exploration and Discovery for their underwater archaeology project “Capturing the Caimage of War” in the Aleutian Islands; Alaska Ridgefield Historical Society for a Phase II archaeology study of the Revolutionary War Battle of Ridgefield in Fairfield County, Conn.; the Gulf Archaeology Research Institute for their project researching the Seminole War Battle of Miccosukee in Alachua County, Fla.; Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum for interpretation of America’s WWII aviation battlefield in Honolulu, Hawaii; the Maryland Historical Trust toward reconstructing the Revolution-Era cultural landscapes of the Washington-Rochambeau military encampments in Cecil and Harford Counties; the Trustees of Dartmouth College for archaeological investigations at coastal sites in Lincoln County, Maine, that witnessed 17th century clashes between English settlers and the native Abenaki population; North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for a study to support work in pursuit of a National Heritage Corridor recognition sites tied to the I77 “Race to the Dan;” the Fort Ticonderoga Association for archaeological research shedding light on camp life during the Revolutionary War at Liberty Hill in Essex County, N.Y.; East Pikeland Township for study of Continental powder works at French Creek in Chester County, Pa.★★★★

SUCCESS STORIES

BENTONVILLE, N.C.
In March 1865, Maj. Gen. William S. Sherman divided his force as he marched north into the Carolinas. Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston confronted an isolated wing on March 19, experiencing success until Union reinforcements arrived late in the day. On March 21, the Confederates attempted a final, desperate counterattack before retreating. At Bentonville, the Trust acquired 139 acres that bore witness to a Federal rout of Southern cavalry. Thanks to funding by the American Battlefield Protection Program and the North Carolina State Capital Infrastructure Fund, the Trust has preserved this land in perpetuity and in June donated this property along with another 15 acres to the State of North Carolina for incorporation into the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site. The Trust has now saved 2,063 acres at Bentonville.

CHICKASAW BAYOU, Miss.
Between December 26 and 29, 1862, Union Maj. Gen. William S. Sherman failed in his bid to compromise Vicksburg’s Confederate defenses at Chickasaw Bayou. The outnumbered Confederates stood strong while Sherman’s Federals suffered eight times as many losses. While the defeat diverted the Union’s first attempt at capturing Vicksburg, the tide turned in July 1863.

The Trust successfully acquired nine properties at Chickasaw Bayou, marking a first-time preservation success at the Mississippi battlefield. The acquisitions were made possible thanks to funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Mississippi Historic Site Preservation Fund. The Trust has now saved 10 acres at Chickasaw Bayou.

FORT DERUSSY, La.
Some called Fort DeRussy impregnable, and when the Union expedition known as the Red River Campaign entered Louisiana, it was all that stood between Union troops and Shreveport. When Union forces arrived at its gates on March 14, 1864, they were hit by a barrage of fire. Determined to take the fort and open the Red River for the advance of the Union brown-water navy, Brig. Gen. A.J. Smith ordered the XVI Army Corps forward. After a 20-minute battle, Brig. Gen. Joseph Wheeler’s division stormed the parapet, and the Confederate defenders surrendered, leaving the Union free to move up the river. Mower, a volunteer soldier, received a brevet in the regular army for his actions.

Aided by the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Red River Water Commission, the Trust successfully acquired 22 acres at Fort DeRussy in early February. The property, which includes the fort, earthworks, the fort’s cemetery and part of the battlefield, will be stewarded by the Trust until its incorporation into the Fort DeRussy State Historic Site. The Trust has now saved 80 acres at Fort DeRussy.

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 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, it also helped keep Kentucky solidly within Union control.

With a grant from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Trust was able to acquire 65 acres at Mill Springs associated with Confederate earthworks and cannon emplacements during the battle. This property will be stewarded by the Trust until its transfer to the National Park Service for incorporation into the Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument. The Trust has now saved 832 acres at Mill Springs.

MINE RUN, Va.
Payne’s Farm was the first and largest clash of the Mine Run Campaign. In late November 1863, Union Maj. Gen. George G. Meade attempted to march through the Wilderness and strike the right flank of the Confederate army south of the Rapidan River. Confederate Maj. Gen. Jubal A. Early met this advance near Payne’s Farm. The Union attacked twice, and an attempted Confederate counterattack was scattered by heavy fire and broken terrain. After dark, the Southerners withdrew to prepared field fortifications along Mine Run. The next day, skirmishing was heavy, but a major attack did not materialize. Meade concluded that the

RECENTLY PROTECTED PROPERTIES include land in six states:

- **BENTONVILLE, N.C.**
- **CHICKASAW BAYOU, Miss.**
- **FORT DERUSSY, La.**
- **MILL SPRINGS, Ky.**
- **MINE RUN, Va.**

The Prichard Family Foundation, Thomas and Susan Langley, and the James William and Virginia Jo Prichard Foundation have awarded a special grant for projects along Mine Run and Mill Springs.

Selected projects span centuries...
Confederate line was too strong to attack and retired for the night of December 1.

In a significant preservation victory in Virginia, the Trust helped preserve 703 acres of hallowed ground at Mine Run that was threatened by a utility-scale solar farm. This large conservation easement protects land that saw short cavalry skirmishes as both sides were hesitant to commit to a full battle. The Trust has now saved 1,392 acres at Mine Run.

NEW MARKET, Va.

Ending the first phase of the Union presence in the Shenandoah Valley, the Battle of New Market on May 15, 1864, saw Confederate Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge defend against Maj. Gen. Franz Sigel and his attempts to sever Confederate supply lines. Rain and thunder caused confusion and created holes within the Confederate line, forcing Breckinridge to fill them with cadets from the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) under his command; these cadets later joined a desperate charge across a muddy field toward Federal positions. The Confederates were successful in forcing the Union troops to retreat and in protecting the Shenandoah Valley for a time.

At New Market, the Trust provided funding for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation’s acquisition of 22 acres. The tract is associated with the famous charge by VMI cadets on the historic Bushong Farm and will be preserved under stewardship of the Foundation. The Trust has now saved 41 acres at New Market.

REAMS STATION, Va.

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

The Trust acquired a key 96-acre tract at Reams Station, adding to its long-time preservation success at the battlefield. This property, which saw Union troops occupy earthworks during attempts to sever supply lines to Petersburg, will be stewarded by the Trust until its transfer to the National Park Service for incorporation into the Petersburg National Battlefield. The Trust has now saved 389 acres at Reams Station.

SHILOH, Tenn.

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

The Trust successfully acquired two acres of land that saw both Federal and Confederate movements for two days at Shiloh, Tennessee. The Trust will steward the property until it is transferred to the National Park Service for incorporation into the Shiloh National Military Park. The Trust has now saved 1,401 acres at Shiloh.

SPOTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE, Va.

Following the vicious Battle of the Wilderness, Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant continued his march “by the left flank” toward Richmond, setting his next target as Spotsylvania Court House. As both armies snaked south, parallel to each other, they finally met in battle on May 8. This was the opening of a two-week contest that would see some of the fiercest fighting of the war. Grant’s assault on the Confederate salient was the scene of more than 20 hours of continuous fighting through torrential downpours of both rain and bullets. Union troops captured more than 3,000 prisoners during this fight, but the Federals were unable to break the Confederate lines and fighting continued until the 19th. The outcome was inconclusive, and each army continued its march south toward Richmond.

In March, the Trust acquired five acres at Spotsylvania Court House that saw slight Federal gains in this stalemate of a battle. The property will eventually be transferred to the National Park Service for incorporation into the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. The Trust has now saved 151 acres at Spotsylvania Court House.
**SERVICE ACROSS CENTURIES**

**HALLOWED GROUND**

**FALL 2023**

**How campaign streamers show the journey of a nation**

**N CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS**, the United States Army flag is accompanied by nearly two hundred campaign streamers, each marking a different moment of the nation’s military history. To the initiated, the different colors and designs speak volumes, conveying information at a glance. Moreover, the streamers represent 17 conflicts stretching from the Revolutionary War to the 21st century. As wars waged and conflict ebbed and flowed, this form of recognition and honor became an extension of the country’s story.

These battle honors came to prominence during one of the nation’s most challenging outbreaks of the war. Maj. Gen. John E. Fremont was appointed by President Lincoln to command the Department of the West. Less than five months later, Fremont led troops from Iowa, Kansas and Missouri during the Battle of Wilson’s Creek. The 1861 battle, perhaps the most significant west of the Mississippi, was a resounding Confederate victory and gave them control of southwestern Missouri. Nonetheless, to recognize the extraordinary service of his Union soldiers during the arduous battle, Fremont ordered for the word “Springfield” to be embossed upon the colors or guidons that partook in the battle.

Acknowledging Fremont’s action, the War Department announced General Order No. 19 on February 22, 1862. The General Order directed for the names of battles to be inscribed upon the colors or guidons of all regiments and batteries that performed admirably. Emphasizing its privilege, the Order explained: “it is expected that troops so distinguished will regard their colors as representing the honor of their corps.”

Battle honors depicted on regimental colors or guidons continued from 1862 to 1890, when the convention was discontinued. In its place, silver bands engraved with the names of battles were placed around the staffs of their organizational colors. And while this new style continued the tradition of honoring soldiers’ bravery, it did not last long. During World War I, because they were unable to obtain silver bands due to war rationing, the War Department authorized pendants. Gen. John J. Pershing in 1917 attempted to instead obtain ribbons as a substitute. The ribbons now would bear the names of all wartime operations by the American Expeditionary Forces. Shortly after the end of the war, Army organizations were approved to use large campaign streamers. And now — for more than a century — these streamers have remained.

Today, each streamer — hanging four feet long and 2.75 inches wide — is embroidered with a campaign and the year it occurred. The colors adorning the streamers correspond to the campaign ribbons authorized for service during the respective conflict. For example, the 17 Revolutionary Campaigns are scarlet with a white stripe at the center, while the 25 from the Civil War are blue and gray. The 13 World War I streamers are double rainbows, and the 10 from the Korean War are light blue with a white stripe. Currently, 190 streamers have been authorized for display on the Army flag, representing engagements from 1775 to 2015.

With a total of 47 streamers, the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War streamers mark some of the most poignant moments in our nation’s story. From the shot heard ‘round the world at Lexington and the British surrender at Yorktown to the attack on Fort Sumter and the surrender at Appomattox Court House, they chronicle the reality and sacrifice it took to shape the nation we know today. As such, the Army Flag is always presented with all campaign streamers attached, a constant reminder of where we came from and where we are.★

**Trust Chief Historian Garry Adelman, who has given hundreds of battlefield tours, agreed, “What you need to do as a battlefield guide is to drag the past forward. We know that technology provides all sorts of windows to allow enlivening of the senses so you can get a little closer to the past. And the Gettysburg AR Experience is one of the closest things to time travel I have yet encountered.”**

More and more, the Trust has worked to pull the models out of the app and offer them on a web-based platform, allowing for their use in wider applications and settings. “What began in the app as multiple augmented models, bringing scenes to life and giving people a reason to visit various parts of the Gettysburg Battlefield, can now be taken out of the app and viewed separately from it using only a web browser. “More and more we’ll be making our content available through a simple web browser, with no app download required,” says the Trust’s Chief Digital Officer Lawrence Swieder.

An AR model for Cold Harbor Tavern works the same, Swieder says. “Scan the QR code on the site’s sign, and we drop the full-size tavern on the ground where it was. You can walk through the building’s furnished rooms and see the rooms where travelers to the area would have gotten a cold drink, slept for the night or voted in a local election.”

Although touring historic sites with a guide remains the gold standard, AR can augment the experience, especially by demonstrating matters of scale. At Fort Watson in South Carolina, the Trust will be offering a new AR experience, deviceless, through binoculars installed at the battlefield. Additional AR experiences and models are planned for Gettysburg, Franklin, Brandy Station and more, including for those battlefields and preservation opportunities that no longer exist. “But a lot of times, we’ll talk about a battlefield that’s been lost, no longer available for us to preserve,” said Swieder. “Augmented reality gives us the ability to go there and still represent that battle. It’s a way of recovering history even when land preservation can’t do that.”★

**AUGMENTED REALITY: Preserving lost stories**
Symbolically, a flag is far more than a colorful banner and that meaning is not subject to physical deterioration. But the cloth itself can fray, stain, stretch and fade with time. Skilled artisans are necessary to extend the life of these objects that connect us to the past.

by Bob Zeller

Photography by Douglas Bachman
The American Battle Flag is arguably the most significant of our national symbols. Even our national anthem is devoted to the flag in a military context, telling the story of how it still flew high above the ramparts of Fort McHenry after the battle there during the War of 1812. Such historic banners visibly bear the signs of conflict — bullet holes, vestiges of dirt and smoke accumulated in the field — as well as the ravages of time, and they resonate with us because we can conjure in our own hearts the devotion our forefathers had for them.

If anyone can be said to be intimately familiar with historic military flags, it is textile conservator Gwen Spicer, who owns and operates Spicer Art Conservation, LLC from her farmstead in upstate New York. Over the course of her career, Spicer has known more than 300 such flags — dating from 1770 through the Vietnam War and even September 11 — down to their individual stitches.

During the Trust’s recent trip to her studio, Spicer had a trio of flags on her workbenches from the collection of the West Point Museum, each representing vastly different eras and challenges. The oldest belonged to the 1832 Corps of Cadets and had significant damage to its unique base fabric. The flag of the 20th U.S. Colored Troops (USCT), carried in battle at Fort Blakely, Ala., the same day in April 1865 that the Army of Northern Virginia surrendered, was largely intact but with scattered vertical tears, especially among its field of painted stars. The heavily embroidered World War II flag that came from Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces experienced significant fading from light exposure during a past exhibition and required specialized mounting to ensure its future stability.

“Flags do tell stories, especially the older ones,” she says. “Flags of the 20th century are mass produced whereas flags from the 18th and 19th centuries are very individual. So, each one represents a story, and with each one there is an emotional connection to the people who owned them or have a connection to them.”

For example, among the cherished, historical artifacts at the Maryland Historical Society is a regimental flag of the 4th USCT. The double-sided red, white, blue and gold flag was presented to the regiment by the African American women of Baltimore. On September 29, 1864, the banner was at the fore as the unit charged Confederate lines at the Battle of New Market Heights. When the colors went down, Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton of Co. H. didn’t hesitate. He seized both the national and regimental flags and carried them forward to the inner line of the Confederate defenses until he, too, fell. His shattered lower right leg was amputated, but the wound proved mortal, and Hilton died at Fort Monroe about three weeks later.

The citation for Hilton’s Medal of Honor — like four others awarded that day to Black soldiers — is explicit in its connection and devotion to the flag. But after more than a century and a half, the regimental flag was missing a large portion of the right side. And the rest of it was in extremely fragile condition, woven as it was of silk, with hand-painted lettering on the fabric. “It...
“Vacuuming is a pretty standard first step,” Spicer said. “It is a small, hand-held vacuum with a range of suction, but most things need to be vacuumed with a low suction. And I use a vacuum with a HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filter, so that the dust doesn’t get redissolved or circulated within the studio. And therein a technique in the vacuuming. You want a motion that goes up and down versus side to side because you don’t want to add surface abrasion while you’re vacuuming.”

If necessary and if the flag won’t be harmed, it also receives a wet cleaning, often with nothing more than pure, distilled water. “Over the time that I’ve been treating things, I have tended to use less and less detergent and soap already in them that hasn’t been fully washed out.”

Over her many years of experience, Spicer has helped develop techniques and strategies that have become standard in art conservation, if only because the field was in its early stages when she first became interested in it in the 1980s. As now understood and practiced, conservation contrasts with restoration, which might seamlessly re-create elements that have been lost. Instead, while Spicer may make small repairs when appropriate, she focuses on preserving what still remains, presenting it in the best possible light and maximizing its longevity.

But the number one rule is this: Do nothing that cannot be reversed.

Despite best intentions at the time, the damage done by past treatments can be dramatic. Another USCT flag Spicer conserved — a small, framed silk flag of the 26th USCT owned by a small library in western upstate New York — had been adhered to a laminated board with an excessive amount of glue. Spicer had to carefully remove several layers of the paperboard them between two shear layers. And the stitching to hold the layers together goes along the seams and in the areas of loss,” she said. The flag is then secured behind the Plexiglas in an aluminum frame. Custom frames showcase unique attributes of individual flags; the 4th USCT flag with the double-sided canton necessitated a mount with a Plexiglas window on the reverse so both sides can be seen.

Spicer’s love of textiles began in childhood with a beloved grandmother who taught her to sew and quilt. It was married to art and artifacts during a high school job in a gallery when, occasionally, a piece or object would arrive broken. “Somebody was hired to fix it, and I was like, ‘Wow! That’s the job I want. You can actually handle the art!’

Although her technical expertise extends to all kinds of fabrics, from tapestries to uniforms to linens, flags have become an increasing specialty and passion because of how she begins a new project or watches a visitor encounter her tangible type of history. Although she spends her days examining individual threads with a magnifying glass, she finds time to step back and wonder at how those fragile fibers can be bound into something that can last for generations — and carry such symbolic might.

“I may not be able to stop time,” she says, acknowledging that fabrics will and must deteriorate. “But I want to slow down what it does.”

Bob Zeller is one of the country’s leading authorities on Civil War photography and is co-founder and president of the nonprofit Center for Civil War Photography. He has published 20 books, including Fighting the Second Civil War: A History of Battlefield Preservation and the Emergence of the Civil War Trust.
NOT ALL WITNESSES to the past are made of flesh and blood. Some are rooted in the ground, with hulking trunks and crowns consisting not of gold and jewels but of branches and leaves.

Witness Tree
Cedar Mountain
Battlefield
Culpeper County, Va.

JENNIFER MICHAEL
22
HALLOWED GROUND  FALL 2023
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WITNESS TREES ARE THOSE FLORA that have withstood the test of time — persisting amidst moments that forever changed the trajectory of a nation and its people. Often, they are associated with tragedy and hardship, as silent sentinels that stood by soldiers in the whirl of conflict or provided them cover and shade when a fairly serene second could be sought.

Many of these time-honored trees remain scattered across historic landscapes, providing context for the life-altering events that flitted across the soil they are tied to. And while trees cannot be firmly dated until the rings of their core are counted, foresters can also estimate the age of a tree by considering the average growth factor of its particular species, which are defined and accessible figures. The formula, developed by the International Society of Arboriculture, is simple: multiply the tree’s diameter* by its species’ growth factor. For example, if you wanted to approximate the age of a white oak tree with a 20-inch diameter, you’d multiply 20 by the average growth factor of white oaks, which is five. You’d find that your white oak is roughly 100 years old.

Today’s preserved battlefields, varying in the types and degrees of flora and fauna that cover their ground, create opportunities for the public to admire and learn from wartime witness trees. While the world around these towering guards moved fast and furious, they stood still, soaking it all in.

by COLLEEN CHESLAK POULTON
BRANDY STATION, Va.

These two tall trees stand upon Fleetwood Hill — the most contested, camped upon and trekked about hallowed ground in the nation. Now, at more than 150 years old, these wooden witnesses on the hill’s northern terminus saw the strategic location covered with soldiers in blue and gray as early as the spring of 1862, when Confederate Gen. Joseph Johnston’s men passed over and camped on its slopes. Several other soldiers followed suit — the grounds experienced a near constant flow of hard-fought actions and dense troop occupation as armies vied for control of the “Rappahannock River Line.” Situated three miles southwest of the river and touching the Orange and Alexandria Railroad on its southern base, Fleetwood Hill was a magnet for wartime activity.

Of the activities that unfurled across the land, mounted combat was frequent. In fact, Fleetwood’s southern end saw more of it than anywhere else in the country. During the June 1863 Battle of Brandy Station, more than 7,000 troopers fought for control of this portion of land in the largest cavalry engagement fought on American soil and beginning of the Gettysburg Campaign. The history of Fleetwood Hill and beyond will be a primary focus as the American Battlefield Trust works alongside the Commonwealth of Virginia to establish Culpeper Battlefields State Park, set to open in June 2024.

CEDAR MOUNTAIN, Va.

At Cedar Mountain, you can find oak trees that are estimated to predate the birth of the nation. Two oaks are located near the road heading northwest from General Winder Road near the Crittenden Gate. Another, a chestnut oak, is situated near the old homesite of the Throckmorton family. With a diameter of 14 inches, it is estimated the tree could be around the likes of 300 years old. Meanwhile, a pin oak near the Stonewall Brigade Monument is larger in diameter but younger in age than the chestnut oak... all thanks to the different species’ growth factors!
PON A ROUGHLY four-acre tract of land saved by the American Battlefield Trust — in collabora-
tion with its partner on The Liberty Trail, the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust (SCBPT) — stands a rather spectacular, centuries-old oak tree. Surrounded by modern features, the impos-
ing tree saw the nation and its people transform through circumstances ranging from shifting ide-
ologies to economic rollercoasters to the unease of warfare. In fact, the oak witnessed soldiers toil over the fate of a new nation during the Battle of Eutaw Springs on September 8, 1781.

After defeat at Camden, S.C., in August 1780, General George Washington appointed Nathanael Greene his new southern commander that follow-
ing October; and, as it turns out, Greene was just what the doctor ordered. He delivered hefty doses of strategy, tiring General Charles Lord Cornwal-
lis’ forces into North Carolina, leaving Greene to reconquer the South Carolina backcountry. While driving the British from the backcountry and toward the Carolinas coast in 1781, Greene’s pursuit of British Lieutenant Colonel Alex-
ander Stewart led to the September clash at Eutaw Springs.

While fighting initially erupted a little over three miles west of the Trust-saved tract during the morning of September 8 — when Greene’s column surprised a British patrol and foraging party — significant maneuvers and combat unfurled upon this land later in the day. All the while, a young oak tree stood as witness to a well-fought battle, after which the Continental Congress recognized Gen-
eral Greene’s exceptional service with one of only seven gold medals given during the war. From a quick glance at the towering flora, one would never know!

With the SCBPT as the owner and stew-
ard of the land, this witness tree is in the pro-
cess of standing within a restored landscape — one free of modern structures and instead reminiscent of September 1781.

Colleen Cheslak-Poulton serves as senior communications associate and an assistant editor of Hallowed Ground at the Trust. She holds a master’s degree in public history from American University.

OTHER WELL-KNOWN WITNESSES

“MAXWELL SYCAMORE” at VALLEY FORGE, Pa. As sycamore trees made very poor firewood, troops often left them standing in favor of other arboreal options. This sycamore tree is located off the beaten path near the home that was used for Henry Knox’s headquarters.

“LAFAYETTE SYCAMORE” at BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD, Pa. Approximately 100 years old during the battle, legend grew that the Marquis de Lafayette’s battle wounds were treated under this specimen. It is confirmed that the tree witnessed a Hessian advance and a colonial retreat. After the battle’s conclusion, British forces camped here.

“MANASSAS WHITE OAK” at MANASSAS BATTLEFIELD, Va. This tree sits near Stone Bridge and witnessed both the First and Second Battles of Manassas. A photo taken by George N. Barnard in March 1862 shows the tree and the decimated landscape, including the ruins of the bridge.

“BURNSIDE SYCAMORE” at ANTIETAM BATTLEFIELD, Md. This is perhaps the most recognized witness tree at Antietam, and more than 150 years later, remains an important feature in the interpretation of the site. The tree has survived hurricanes and interference from the bridge itself, but it remains a prominent photographic landmark.

“SICKLES OAK” at GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD, Pa. Adjacent to the Trostle Farm at Gettysburg stands a swamp white oak that is said to have witnessed Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Sickles, commander of the Union 3rd Corps, being struck in the leg by a cannonball on July 2, 1863.

This summertime demolition of a modern home and associated outbuildings from the newly preserved site now affords this unique living artifact the chance to shine.

EUTAW SPRINGS, S.C.

ORANGE COUNTY, S.C.

SARAH NELL BLACKWELL
Death by Fire

As Federal and Confederate troops converged on Sharpsburg, Jacob Reel settled in Sharpsburg, Md., and purchased the Samuel Reel farms on what was known as Green Hill. Nancy and her husband farmed a corner of the land bordering Samuel and David’s main property, which was divided among the remaining siblings. Samuel Reel took over a 90-plus-acre parcel north of the family homestead, and David, the eldest brother, the remainder. Nancy and her husband farmed a corner of the land bordering Samuel and David’s farms on what was known as Green Hill. As Federal and Confederate troops converged on Sharpsburg, the families of Samuel and David Reel and their sister Nancy likely fled to safety at their brother Henry’s home. By 7:30 a.m. on September 17, Rebels from Stonewall Jackson’s division under the command of Gen. John R. Jones had fallen back across the Reel Farm to regroup. David’s barn was used as a first aid station and evacuation site to move Confederate wounded to before transport to hospitals. Sharpsburg resident and historian John P. Smith was 17 at the time of the battle. He remembered a gruesome scene. “While staying at Mr. Reels I saw a number of wounded and dead Confederates brought into the yard, some were having their limbs amputated, others horribly mangled were dying. One man in particular I shall never forget. His entire abdomen had been torn and mangled with a piece of exploded shell. He uttered piercing and heart rending cries and besought those who stood by for God’s sake to kill him and thus end his sufferings. Death came to his relief in a short time and I finally got off some hundred of yards to find a Barn, I think of brick, where were numbers of our wounded were burned to death,” Addison wrote.

The Trust hired a company to evaluate the buildings and create a plan for restoration, but the one-million-dollar price tag was prohibitive. Instead, we purchased the builder’s plans and worked with a preservation-minded, family-owned company that specializes in this very sort of work. The family also opted to lease the land for use as a working farm for five years after restoration. “We re-planked the entire barn and re-placed portions of the roof that needed it,” George says. “The corner of the northeast- ern wall had to be basically rebuilt because it had collapsed.”

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The Trust is able to source stone very similar to the original foundation from a local company, and “today you can hardly tell where they rebuilt the stone corner,” George says. “That’s the best part of this job.”

The house on the Reel Farm property was about 80 percent original but had very little work done to it since an addition was constructed in the 1920s. Major renova- tions were required to make it a livable structure. Most of that work was completed by 2020, but some is still ongoing.

Today, a different family rents the full property, using most of the land as pasture for some two dozen cattle and retaining about 80 acres to grow corn and sorghum. The Reel Farm property is not currently open to the public. While a portion of it lies within the authorized boundary of Antietam National Battlefield, the majority is not, and it would require an act of Congress to adjust that line so the Trust could pursue a transfer to the National Park Service.

Melissa A. Winn is a writer, editor, photo- grapher, and collector of Civil War phenomena. She is the Trust’s marketing manager and an assistant editor of Hallowed Ground.

www.battlefields.org AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

THE REBIRTH OF THE REEL FARM

“The barn had been fired, and some of our wounded were burned to death.”

The American Battlefield Trust began resto- ration on the Reel Farm property in 2014. “The barn was in bad, bad shape,” says Matt George, who spent 11 years as the Trust’s senior manager for land stewardship before retiring this autumn. “It was about 35 percent original and about to collapse.” The Trust hired a company to evaluate the buildings and create a plan for resto- ration, but the one-million-dollar price tag was prohibitive. Instead, we purchased the builder’s plans and worked with a preservation-minded, family-owned company that specializes in this very sort of work. The family also opted to lease the land for use as a working farm for five years after restoration. “We re-planked the entire barn and re-placed portions of the roof that needed it,” George says. “The corner of the northeast- ern wall had to be basically rebuilt because it had collapsed.”

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FACING SARAH OSBORN BENJAMIN
LIVING TO 114, THIS “REVOLUTIONARY” WOMAN WAS CAPTURED ON CAMERA

IN THE FOURTH GRADE, Kyle Freiberger went “a little overboard” on his family tree project. Over the phone, his maternal grandmother supplied a long list of names, then on his next visit, the matriarch pulled him aside and showed him family heirlooms that had been stored away in an old cedar chest. Via a tintype image, Kyle came face to face with his sixth great-grandmother, Sarah Benjamin, his Revolutionary-era ancestor who survived long enough to have her visage recorded on camera.

“Some people could say I got a little bit of an addiction after that first discovery with my grandparents,” says Kyle, who has cultivated an extensive ancestry profile for the ensuing 15 years. “At some point, I found an online copy of an 1850s or 1860s article about Sarah. It was one of the first times that I corroborated what my 1860s article about Sarah. It was one of the first times that I corroborated what my

In her testimony, Sarah recalled her wartime experiences at length, including two encounters with George Washington. The journey began shortly after she married Aaron Osborn in the winter of 1780 and followed him into service only after she was assured that he’d be placed on commissary guard. Her first encounter with the Continental Army and their French allies bombarded Yorktown. Witnessing soldiers suffering in the trenches there, she acted. Sarah led the women in camp to prepare beef, bread and coffee, and delivered it directly to the trenches...even amid British artillery fire. It was during one of these deliveries that Washington inquired if she was not afraid of the enemy fire. She supposedly replied, “The bullets will never cheat the gallows.”

Sarah eagerly recounted her experiences during the War for Independence throughout her long life. She was a ripe 87 years old when she testified on behalf of her pension application. And she did so convincingly, securing a pension reflecting the service of both her veteran husbands (she married again after Osborn left her and their children) — plus one for her own wartime service.

The accessible nature of these detailed sources has made Sarah an appealing subject for not only her family, but for historians as well. The American Battlefield Trust and Daughters of the American Revolution were polled toward Sarah’s story when creating the American Revolution Experience — a digital exhibit that examines the lives of men and women who witnessed the dawn of a new nation. [SCAN]

DIVE DEEPER INTO SARAH’S STORY HERE!
apprenticeship program, it has since grown to include identifying ways to increase access to the trades. The Campaign’s goals are to:

- Register apprenticeships with the U.S. Department of Labor and state labor offices.
- Create open education training resources available online in English and Spanish.
- Work with stakeholders to support preservation trades programs, associations and businesses.
- Develop statewide and national historic trades training opportunities that are accessible to all.
- Promote and recruit for the National Park Service’s preservation and trades programs.
- Advocate for historic trades training.
- Lead the national movement to strengthen and expand historic trades careers.

In 2021, the Campaign commissioned a landmark analysis of the historic trades labor force in the United States. This first-of-its-kind labor analysis sought to identify how many people are working in the field and how many jobs and how many new entrants into the field are needed.

“Number that is huge,” Redding says. “We need over 10,000 people a year entering the field of historic trades to keep at par nationally with where we are at right now.”

People think of historic trades when they go to a battlefield and see a historic structure, Redding says, “But it impacts places on main streets, too. It impacts the places where we go and eat while visiting Gettysburg or Antietam.”

He adds, “The structures on the battlefields are not only evocative to-day, but they also were landmarks upon which commanders made deci-sions and certainly landmarks upon which people remember the battlefield. They certainly remember the white house or the red barn. They are critically important.”

The National Park Service and the National Preservation Training Center work to train individuals at park units, like Gettysburg, Antietam and the C&O Canal, and through these training program they have worked on and touched numerous historic structures on these battlefields.

A really good example of that is the late Civil War author general, who made decisions and certainly landmarks upon which people remember the battlefield. They certainly remember the white house or the red barn. They are critically important.”

The preservation of the structures requires a lot of effort and long-term support and making sure the hands are there to do the work,” he says. “Restoration without the hands to do it is just good intentions.”
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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.
frieze that marches over 1,300 figures around the perimeter of the building. Sculpted by Caspar Buberl, it includes infantry, navy, artillery, cavalry, and medical components. Meigs insisted that a black teamster, who "must be a negro, a plantation slave, freed by war," be included on a quartermaster-themed panel. The figure stands in prominence over the building's west entrance.

In the 1920s the Pension Bureau merged into the Veterans Administration and the General Accounting Office took over the building in 1926, followed by a string of other federal agencies. In 1985 it became the permanent home of the National Building Museum, hosting exhibits about architecture and placemaking and home to an archive of architectural blueprints, models, and artifacts, including a tea set given to Meigs by some of his former staff, several old workers' shoes, and a portion of a wooden beam signed by Meigs.
Our overhauled search function will help you find the best Trust content and related articles like never before. Even if you can’t spell Totopotomoy right on the first try.