Hallowed Ground

In the Harbors

WINTER 2023 • Vol. 24 No. 4

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE. | WWW.BATTLEFIELDS.ORG
LOVE OF READING has always been one of my defining personality traits, noted by everyone from my elementary school teachers to my parents to my own children. It likely comes as no surprise that works of history and biography are particular favorites, deepening my knowledge and understanding of a subject that everyone associated with the American Battlefield Trust holds dear.

From almost 25 years of interacting with members and from data gleaned on a number of surveys, I know I’m not the only bookworm in our ranks. I hear you trading recommendations on the bus at Trust events, and we can see how many Color Bearers click through to read the book review in each monthly e-newsletter. And I cannot help but conjecture that if Trust members are avid readers of history books, the corollary probably holds true, too. Folks out there with the same piles of “to be read” books on their nightstands, who just have not heard about this organization yet, would probably not be more likely than average to be excited about joining our ranks.

I was musing on this theme with a friend and generous supporter a while ago, and he added that he was sure most historians and authors with whom he had had some kind of Trust “seal of approval” to their work, an acknowledgment that an organization and our expertise and reputation considers theirs a meaningful and my understanding of a subject that everyone associated with our mission. Our donors expect and deserve transparency and fiscal responsibility from this organization.

A few days later, I got a phone call, “David, I have been thinking about our last conversation. You’re absolutely right to keep focus on our core mission. But what would you think of this. What if I underwrite the program so you don’t have to spend a penny of anyone else’s money on it? I know this is a bit of an experiment, but I really believe this has potential to raise our profile and find new members.”

And that is how the American Battlefield Trust Prize for History was born. This is certainly new ground for us, and I am grateful for the many introductions that friends and allies have made for us as the staff and Board have learned more about the publishing industry. But the more I have absorbed, the more excited I have become! There are incredible historians out there using the battlefields themselves as a primary source in their research — I demurred. You see, beyond just the financial award to a winner, there are also other costs associated with such a program — significant administrative strain and staff time certainly, but also probably things we would not foresee until we were deep into the process. And, even if it raised significant public awareness of our cause, I simply could not justify diverting the funds that members had entrusted to us for something that was less than laser-focused on our mission. Our donors expect and deserve transparency and fiscal responsibility from this organization.

A few historians worth their salt would be honored even to be a finalist and talk about it nonstop. A whole new group of people would probably be more excited about joining our ranks.

I invite you to learn more about the mechanics of the Prize for History in these pages and on our website and hope that in the years to come, when you see a book advertised as a “Recipient of the American Battlefield Trust Prize for History”, you will be able to congratulate the author on a job well done. And while I didn’t disagree with his vision whatsoever — frankly, I agree completely that it would help us find new members — I demurred. You see, beyond just the financial award to a winner, there are also other costs associated with such a program —
ADVOCACY UPDATES at Port Hudson, Manassas, the Wilderness, Bristoe Station and Wyse Fork

PORT HUDDON, HIGH-DENSITY POWER LINES
Preservation advocates in Louisiana celebrated recent news that Entergy will find an alternate route for high-density power lines that had threatened to cut through key portions of the Wilderness Battlefield. The Trust joins Bayou State preservationists in commending this move to ensure a strong and reliable power grid, while avoiding sensitive historic resources.

While significant areas have been preserved in the state park, thousands of acres remain vulnerable. The proposed power lines would have cut through the battlefield, adjacent to land preserved by the Trust and across an area that witnessed the advance of the Louisiana Guards, among the last actions of an all-Black regiment in the entire Civil War. The area already has industrial development, but this would have added 100-foot-tall transmission lines across the landscape.

MANASASSA BATTLEFIELD, PRINCE WILLIAM DIGITAL GATEWAY
A year ago, in an all-night hearing the Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a comprehensive plan amendment opening a vast swath of land between Manassas National Battlefield and Conway Robinson State Forest to data center development. As the vote went contrary to overwhelming public opinion — a National Parks Conservation Association petition with over 60,000 signatures and, as many 83 percent of residents were opposed to having this industry on the Wyse Fork Battlefield. Up to this point, the proposed industrial development, but this would have added 100-foot-tall transmission lines across the landscape.

BRISTOE STATION BATTLEFIELD, WAREHOUSE DISTRIBUTION COMPLEX
On October 10, the Trust and its allies hosted a town hall with local residents concerned about plans to build a 772,000-square-foot warehouse distribution complex adjacent to the existing battlefield park and in an area that likely contains Civil War military graves. Due to current land use regulations, no county approval is necessary for the project to proceed; however, impact on wetlands triggers a Section 106 review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is necessary and the Trust is among most urging the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to intervene. Despite the magnitude of this project, crucial details, like increased commuter and truck traffic — with its associated air, noise and sound pollution — viewed impacts and building heights have not been disclosed, a lack of transparency ranking among local residents. Extrapolating from an adjacent project already under construction, the build-out will include 175 dock doors for tractor trailers and 1,400 parking spaces for employees and contractors.

WYSE FORK BATTLEFIELD, HIGHWAY INTERCHANGE
By the time this notice is published, we have received a resolution from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) that has proposed a 21-mile Kinston Bypass corridor, a portion of which runs along Highway 70, and will include an interchange that would be built on the Wyse Fork Battlefield. Up to this point, the proposed interchange footprint has included 35 acres to 90 acres and yet still on ground crucial to telling the Wyse Fork story. The Army Corps of Engineers met with consulting parties in November, coinciding with the Trust closing on 80-acres of core battlefield at Wyse Fork. From this meeting, NCDOT agreed to study the possibility of moving the interchange to the east, which would preserve the endangered left flank of the Union defensive line of March 10, 1865, and steering clear of core battlefield. This move is expected to delay NCDOT mitigation, which will help preserve additional battlefield land.

The current plans for the Kinston Bypass protect the Cobb House, a Union headquarters that saw a concentrated Confederate attack on March 8, 1865, and afterwards served as a hospital.

FROM THE TRENCHE

PLAY YOUR PART. SPEAK OUT HERE.

WILDERNESS BATTLEFIELD, WILDERNESS CROSSING
In late May, the Trust — alongside our allies at the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, plus several private citizens — filed suit against Orange County, Virginia, alleging a host of failures of process and substance in the consideration and approval of a massive redevelop plan that will bring 5,000 residential units, vast quantities of industrial development and millions of square feet of data centers to a historically sensitive area. Moving through a series of procedural steps, the lawsuit has now entered the discovery phase, with our counsel filing legal documentation that requires disclosure of critical information that developers and officials have attempted to obscure.

In an all-night hearing the Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a comprehensive plan amendment opening a vast swath of land between Manassas National Battlefield and Conway Robinson State Forest to data center development. As the vote went contrary to overwhelming public opinion — a National Parks Conservation Association petition with over 60,000 signatures and, as many 83 percent of residents were opposed to having this industry on the Wyse Fork Battlefield. Up to this point, the proposed industrial development, but this would have added 100-foot-tall transmission lines across the landscape.

MANASASSA BATTLEFIELD, PRINCE WILLIAM DIGITAL GATEWAY
A year ago, in an all-night hearing the Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a comprehensive plan amendment opening a vast swath of land between Manassas National Battlefield and Conway Robinson State Forest to data center development. As the vote went contrary to overwhelming public opinion — a National Parks Conservation Association petition with over 60,000 signatures and, as many 83 percent of residents were opposed to having this industry on the Wyse Fork Battlefield. Up to this point, the proposed industrial development, but this would have added 100-foot-tall transmission lines across the landscape.

MANASASSA BATTLEFIELD, PRINCE WILLIAM DIGITAL GATEWAY
A year ago, in an all-night hearing the Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a comprehensive plan amendment opening a vast swath of land between Manassas National Battlefield and Conway Robinson State Forest to data center development. As the vote went contrary to overwhelming public opinion — a National Parks Conservation Association petition with over 60,000 signatures and, as many 83 percent of residents were opposed to having this industry on the Wyse Fork Battlefield. Up to this point, the proposed industrial development, but this would have added 100-foot-tall transmission lines across the landscape.

MANASASSA BATTLEFIELD, PRINCE WILLIAM DIGITAL GATEWAY
A year ago, in an all-night hearing the Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a comprehensive plan amendment opening a vast swath of land between Manassas National Battlefield and Conway Robinson State Forest to data center development. As the vote went contrary to overwhelming public opinion — a National Parks Conservation Association petition with over 60,000 signatures and, as many 83 percent of residents were opposed to having this industry on the Wyse Fork Battlefield. Up to this point, the proposed industrial development, but this would have added 100-foot-tall transmission lines across the landscape.

MANASASSA BATTLEFIELD, PRINCE WILLIAM DIGITAL GATEWAY
A year ago, in an all-night hearing the Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a comprehensive plan amendment opening a vast swath of land between Manassas National Battlefield and Conway Robinson State Forest to data center development. As the vote went contrary to overwhelming public opinion — a National Parks Conservation Association petition with over 60,000 signatures and, as many 83 percent of residents were opposed to having this industry on the Wyse Fork Battlefield. Up to this point, the proposed industrial development, but this would have added 100-foot-tall transmission lines across the landscape.

MANASASSA BATTLEFIELD, PRINCE WILLIAM DIGITAL GATEWAY
A year ago, in an all-night hearing the Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a comprehensive plan amendment opening a vast swath of land between Manassas National Battlefield and Conway Robinson State Forest to data center development. As the vote went contrary to overwhelming public opinion — a National Parks Conservation Association petition with over 60,000 signatures and, as many 83 percent of residents were opposed to having this industry on the Wyse Fork Battlefield. Up to this point, the proposed industrial development, but this would have added 100-foot-tall transmission lines across the landscape.

MANASASSA BATTLEFIELD, PRINCE WILLIAM DIGITAL GATEWAY
A year ago, in an all-night hearing the Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a comprehensive plan amendment opening a vast swath of land between Manassas National Battlefield and Conway Robinson State Forest to data center development. As the vote went contrary to overwhelming public opinion — a National Parks Conservation Association petition with over 60,000 signatures and, as many 83 percent of residents were opposed to having this industry on the Wyse Fork Battlefield. Up to this point, the proposed industrial development, but this would have added 100-foot-tall transmission lines across the landscape.

MANASASSA BATTLEFIELD, PRINCE WILLIAM DIGITAL GATEWAY
A year ago, in an all-night hearing the Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a comprehensive plan amendment opening a vast swath of land between Manassas National Battlefield and Conway Robinson State Forest to data center development. As the vote went contrary to overwhelming public opinion — a National Parks Conservation Association petition with over 60,000 signatures and, as many 83 percent of residents were opposed to having this industry on the Wyse Fork Battlefield. Up to this point, the proposed industrial development, but this would have added 100-foot-tall transmission lines across the landscape.

MANASASSA BATTLEFIELD, PRINCE WILLIAM DIGITAL GATEWAY
A year ago, in an all-night hearing the Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a comprehensive plan amendment opening a vast swath of land between Manassas National Battlefield and Conway Robinson State Forest to data center development. As the vote went contrary to overwhelming public opinion — a National Parks Conservation Association petition with over 60,000 signatures and, as many 83 percent of residents were opposed to having this industry on the Wyse Fork Battlefield. Up to this point, the proposed industrial development, but this would have added 100-foot-tall transmission lines across the landscape.

MANASASSA BATTLEFIELD, PRINCE WILLIAM DIGITAL GATEWAY
A year ago, in an all-night hearing the Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a comprehensive plan amendment opening a vast swath of land between Manassas National Battlefield and Conway Robinson State Forest to data center development. As the vote went contrary to overwhelming public opinion — a National Parks Conservation Association petition with over 60,000 signatures and, as many 83 percent of residents were opposed to having this industry on the Wyse Fork Battlefield. Up to this point, the proposed industrial development, but this would have added 100-foot-tall transmission lines across the landscape.
FROM THE TRENCHES
BREAKING PRESERVATION NEWS

HISTORY TAKES A ROAD TRIP WITH AMERICAN REVOLUTION EXPERIENCE

DAR co-sponsored traveling exhibit begins its nationwide journey in January

ET READY for the American Battlefield Trust to arrive in your community! Our award-winning American Revolution Experience website, created in partnership with the Daughters of the American Revolution, is hitting the road as a traveling exhibit in 2024, counting down to the 250th anniversary of the war for independence by visiting 45 different locations through April 2025.

This multimedia exhibition captures the spirit of both our organizations by showcasing lasting connections to the people and places indelibly linked to that conflict. Combining DAR’s incredible archive of documents and artifacts with the Trust’s industry-leading digital content, we created an award-winning interactive online exhibit that shares the experiences of ordinary people who witnessed the dawn of a new nation.

Thanks to federal matching funds from the Congressional Battlefield Caucus, the Trust would like to thank House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerfield—on behalf of the thousands of members and supporters around the world, as well as the millions of visitors to our nation’s battlefields, we thank Congress for taking steps to ensure this program continues to thrive through our nation’s 250th birthday and beyond,” said David Duncan, President of the American Battlefield Trust. “The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) that has been used to preserve, restore and interpret thousands of acres of endangered battlefield land from America’s Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War. “On behalf of the thousands of members and supporters around the world, as well as the millions of visitors to our nation’s battlefields, we thank Congress for taking steps to ensure this program continues to thrive through our nation’s 250th birthday and beyond,” said David Duncan, President of the American Battlefield Trust. “The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) that has been used to preserve, restore and interpret thousands of acres of endangered battlefield land from America’s Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War. “On behalf of the thousands of members and supporters around the world, as well as the millions of visitors to our nation’s battlefields, we thank Congress for taking steps to ensure this program continues to thrive through our nation’s 250th birthday and beyond,” said David Duncan, President of the American Battlefield Trust. “The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) that has been used to preserve, restore and interpret thousands of acres of endangered battlefield land from America’s Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War. “On behalf of the thousands of members and supporters around the world, as well as the millions of visitors to our nation’s battlefields, we thank Congress for taking steps to ensure this program continues to thrive through our nation’s 250th birthday and beyond,” said David Duncan, President of the American Battlefield Trust. “The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) that has been used to preserve, restore and interpret thousands of acres of endangered battlefield land from America’s Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War. “On behalf of the thousands of members and supporters around the world, as well as the millions of visitors to our nation’s battlefields, we thank Congress for taking steps to ensure this program continues to thrive through our nation’s 250th birthday and beyond,” said David Duncan, President of the American Battlefield Trust. “The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) that has been used to preserve, restore and interpret thousands of acres of endangered battlefield land from America’s Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War.

In the intermin, explore the American Revolution Experience digitally through its website at https://american-revolution-experience.battlefields.org.

In the winter, 15 acres of the Princeton Battlefield at Maxwell’s Field, where George Washington rallied his troops and led a game-changing counterattack, the Trust began contemplating how that land could best be incorporated into the existing state park. Thus, a collaborative plan—deemed “Washington’s Legacy”—was created to reinvigorate the interpretive and educational experience at the National Historic Landmark site and integrate the newly protected areas into the existing parkland in time for the 250th anniversary of the battle.

Putting “Washington’s Legacy” into motion will transport future visitors to the 1777 wartime landscape. The Trust is working alongside New Jersey State Historic Sites and Parks and the Princeton Battlefield Society toward impactful enhancements, including the installation of a walking path, replanting of an orchard near where the Williams Clarke House once stood, the restoration of historical tree lines, the removal of 20th-century intrusions and more. Additionally, a new suite of digital tools and engaging interpretive signage will complement restored acreage. Learn more at www.battlefields.org/washington legacy.

The preservation opportunities attached to the fundraising campaign consist of a roughly 260-acre property at the Newtown Battlefield in Elmina, N.Y., and two small parcels totaling just over one acre at the Hobkirk Hill Battlefield in Camden, S.C. While the hallowed ground in New York provides insight into Iroquois involvement in the Revolutionary War, the southern parcels speak to the unrelenting Patriot spirit that started to turn the tide of the conflict in the south. Both efforts are being supported by federal and state assistance. Find more at www.battlefields.org/261RevWarAcres.

The Preservation Opportunities

The American Revolution Experience will feature stories of ordinary people who witnessed the dawn of a new nation. The exhibit will also include Trust-produced animated maps that offer an accessible translation of the panel text will help make the exhibit accessible to a greater number of viewers.

The exhibit is proving extremely popular, with many DAR chapters booking engagements to coordinate with events in their communities. However, a limited number of booking windows remain, and Trust-allied organizations are invited to register their interest in hosting at www.battlefields.org/ontour.

The bill would take key steps to improve the existing program, including allowing nonprofits and tribes to apply directly for land preservation grants, which will greatly speed the preservation process. It will also clarify the scope of the program, ensuring the program is used for the most significant battlefields sites, and will give the National Park Service a mechanism to update battlefield boundaries when new research and information allows. “This bill builds on the hugely successful American Battlefield Protection Program and will allow us to better protect the history and legacy of battlefields across the country,” emphasizes Representative Connolly.

In addition to Representatives Stefanik and Connolly, who also co-chair the bipartisan Congressional Battlefield Caucus, the Trust would like to thank House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman and Ranking Member Raul Grijalva for their leadership on this legislation.

Help bring ‘Washington’s Legacy’ to life!

Check out the American Revolution Experience Online!

In the interim, explore the American Revolution Experience digitally through its website at https://american-revolution-experience.battlefields.org.

The preservation opportunities attached to the fundraising campaign consist of a roughly 260-acre property at the Newtown Battlefield in Elmina, N.Y., and two small parcels totaling just over one acre at the Hobkirk Hill Battlefield in Camden, S.C. While the hallowed ground in New York provides insight into Iroquois involvement in the Revolutionary War, the southern parcels speak to the unrelenting Patriot spirit that started to turn the tide of the conflict in the south. Both efforts are being supported by federal and state assistance. Find more at www.battlefields.org/261RevWarAcres.

Help bring ‘Washington’s Legacy’ to life!
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AWARDS BATTLEFIELD INTERPRETATION GRANTS

Trust is among recipients of $117,383 in matching funds

The National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program has announced its third cohort of recipients for Battlefield Interpretation Grants—and we’re thrilled to be among them! These one-to-one matching funds empower recipients to modernize and enhance battlefield education and interpretation—to inspire wonder, understanding and empathy at the places that witnessed some of our nation’s most challenging events. This grant program encourages the use of technology to connect with visitors through videos, mobile apps, interactive signs, augmented reality and more.

“Today’s grants provided through American Battlefield Protection Programs help our preservation partners enhance our understanding of the spark that set off the American Revolutionary War and our way forward to democracy almost 250 years ago,” said NPS Director Chuck Sams. “By supporting these localized efforts, all Americans gain the opportunity to learn about this conflict from more than history books and understand their impact on the foundation of how we created a free and democratic nation.”

The NPS award includes $74,308 for the American Battlefield Trust’s “New York’s Revolutionary War Battlefields” project, which aims to interpret three of New York’s state-managed Revolutionary War battlefields in Oneida, Rensselaer and Chemung Counties. The Trust will collaborate with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to create a mobile application dedicated to the Oriskany, Bennington and New Town battlefields. The project will bring extensive digital interpretation to New York State’s battlefield parks for the first time and share new historical narratives related to Native Americans, women and individual soldiers, in addition to the associated military history. The content presented will encourage visitors to deepen their understanding of the American Revolution by considering new information about participants and impacts on local populations.

Kean University was also awarded nearly $43,000 for their project “Battles of Connecticut Farms and Springfield” in Union and Morris Counties, New Jersey. In collaboration with Monmouth University, the university will enhance the interpretation of battlefield sites through archaeological research, georeferencing and wayfinding maps, multilingual interpretative signage, and an audio tour.

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park: Chickamauga Battlefield, Lookout Mountain Battlefield, Missionary Ridge, Moccasin Bend National Archæological District, Orchard Knob and Signal Point.

The original Brown’s Tavern, a log-construction building dating to 1803, still stands on its original site and its story far precedes the Civil War. It, along with the nearby ferry and more than 600 acres, was owned by Cherokee businessman John Brown, who served as a private in Col. Gideon Morgan’s command of Cherokees fighting for the United States in the War of 1812. The Brown family was forced to leave their home in 1861, as a part of the Cherokee Removal in Chattanooga, a phase of the Trail of Tears, although they later received federal permission to return to their home. In recognition of this significance, Brown’s Tavern is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is included as a stop on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

EXT SUMMER, the American Battlefield Trust’s National Teacher Institute will take on the Big Easy, with educators meeting in New Orleans on July 11-14, 2024. Registration for this acclaimed opportunity opens on January 24, 2024, as does the application window for travel scholarships. The event will bring together educators from all over the world for three and a half days for breakout sessions, workshops, lectures and tours from some of the leading experts in the history and education fields. Our theme is “How the Leaders of the Past Shape the Leaders of Tomorrow.” Tour sites will include Chalmette Battlefield, Confederate Memorial Hall Museum, the National World War II Museum, the Cabildo, and Metairie Cemetery.

This event is free to active educators but requires a $175 refundable deposit to reserve your spot. Space is limited. At the conclusion of the event, educators can apply for continuing education certificates provided by St. Bonaventure University and paid for by the American Battlefield Trust and can request a refund of their deposit if they attended the event.

Thanks to generous donors, scholarships are available to reimburse up to $1,000 in travel expenses for items like gas and tolls, plane or train tickets and hotel accommodations. Applications must be received March 1, with notifications made by March 17. Full eligibility details are available online.
FROM the TRENCHES
BREAKING PRESERVATION NEWS

STONO FERRY RECEIVES
“Two For The Trails” Grant

THE AMERICAN Battlefield Trust is proud to announce we’ve been chosen as a recipient of Athletic Brewing Company’s Two For The Trails grant program! Launched in 2018, this outstanding initiative invests up to $2 million each year to benefit the great outdoors by preserving, protecting, and maintaining local trails. It’s the largest annual environmental grant program in the craft beer industry and pays homage to Athletic Brewing co-founder and CEO Bill Shurtleff’s family practice of toasting post-trail adventures with two brews. The Trust will be using these funds to create a new trail system at the Stono Ferry Battlefield, located in Hollywood, S.C., to teach history and increase community recreation.

“Since 2018, we’ve donated $4.3 million to projects across 45 states, the United Kingdom, and Canada,” said Athletic Brewing B Corp & Two For The Trails Manager, Cara Wilson. “The Two For The Trails program allows us to provide essential funding to projects aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of outdoor spaces in the communities where our customers live, work, and adventure.”

Land at Stono Ferry was preserved through The Liberty Trail initiative, which now creates the first opportunity to interpret the June 1778 fighting within a multidimensional community park featuring outdoor recreation like picnicking, fishing and bird watching. Situated on a bluff along the Stono River that overlooks an area known as “Church Flats,” the project aims to create a walking trail that conveys perspectives in early American history: from Native American tribes, early colonists and later planters who utilized the labor of enslaved Africans and African Americans. Although the Revolutionary War Battle of Stono Ferry was a Patriot defeat, it helped push the British out of South Carolina. American forces included both Continental troops and militia units, plus a company of Catoaba warriors. African American troops and Polish and French soldiers serving with the American army. Their diverse stories are integral to understanding our nation’s origins.

Athletic Brewing, founded in 2017 by Bill Shurtleff and John Walker, is the 12th largest craft brewer in America and the leading producer of nonalcoholic craft beer in 2023. Athletic was ranked as the fourth fastest-growing company in the Americas by Financial Times. Athletic was also named one of TIME’s “100 Most Influential.” The company has won more than 75 prestigious brewing awards and has earned the title of North American Brewer of the Year in the last four International Beer Challenge competitions. The company’s root beer and Two-Infused sparkling waters are available on www.athleticbrewing.com.

ALUMNI BOARD MEMBER JEFF RODEK continues to honor soldier sacrifice through battlefield preservation

JEFF RODEK will never forget the time he took his son to Gettysburg and watched as the then eight-year-old stood atop Little Round Top and realized— with awe—that he was in the same location as was displayed via historical photograph on a nearby plaque. Rodek never said a word as his son “watched and felt.”

A few years and several battlefields later, Rodek’s son suggested giving back to the battlefields, which fueled an online search that led the elder Rodek to the Trust. Soon after, he sent in a donation and received a phone call from past Trust President Jim Lightner.

Since that first donation, Rodek has seen the organization expand its scope to include the preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites, in addition to Civil War roots. He also bore witness to an expanded mission statement — relaying WHY preservation matters, increasing stewardship and restoration efforts, and providing a myriad of educational content.

With a family history of service, Rodek sees preservation efforts as a lesson from those who fought there and opportunities to educate the public about the significant actions that are woven into the tapestry of American history. After serving on the American Battlefield Trust’s Alumni Board, Rodek continues to proudly demonstrate his support on the Alumni Board.

THE TRUST had the pleasure of joining Capital One’s military business resource group, Salute and the Friends of Cedar Mountain for a volunteer clean-up at the Cedar Mountain Battlefield in Culpeper County, Va., on November 3. Approximately 20 Capital One associates joined the Trust and the Friends through guided trail maintenance activities and the taming of invasive species on-site, making a huge difference in the condition of the battlefield. What made the event even more profound is the excitement that attendees expressed in helping to prepare the battlefield for its upcoming state park status — as acreage here will soon join 70,000 acres of land at the nearby Brandy Station Battlefield for the creation of Culpeper Battlefield State Park, set to launch in June 2024.

HALLLOWED GROUND WINTER 2023

Doug Bostick photo by SARAH NELL BLACKWELL.

www.battlefields.org AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

SAVE THE DATE
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR PARK DAY 2024!
Volunteers will gather nationwide on April 6

GET READY. Boy and Girl Scouts, ROTC units and motivated citizens: On April 6, 2024, volunteers will muster at battlefields, museums, cemeteries and historical sites for the 25th annual Park Day!

Since 1999, community-minded citizens at Park Day events across the country have contributed hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours as they built trails, raked leaves, painted signs, erected fences and much more. While the spirit of Park Day is national and the Trust provides promotional support, service projects are locally driven, meeting the needs and goals of each individual site.

We hope to make this our biggest Park Day yet, as we approach the 250th anniversary of America’s founding. Both longtime stalwarts and new sites are invited to register online at www.battlefields.org/parkday. To maximize our ability to market Park Day sites, we ask that managers complete registration by February 1, 2024. As the event grows closer, specific details for individual locations will be posted so that volunteers can identify an opportunity near them.★

PREPARE FOR PARK DAY 2024, TODAY!

N OCTOBER 24, the battlefield preserva-

ation community suffered a devastat-

ing blow with the passing of Douglas W. Bostick following a brief but characteris-

tically bold battle with cancer. An iconic figure in the South Carolina history and preservation community, Bostick was the longtime leader of the South Carolina Battlefield Preservation Trust (SCBPT) and a beloved collaborator and colleague to many at the Trust.

“It is impossible to overstate the impact that Doug Bostick made on South Carolina history over the course of decades—or the impact that history had upon him. A native of the Palmetto State—descendant of her Sons of Liberty in the tumultuous days before the Revolution—he made safe-guarding its legacy and imparting it to new generations his life’s work,” said Trust President David Duncan.

“Doug’s vibrant leadership at SCBPT propelled forward our joint work to create The Liberty Trail, an initiative that seeks to protect the state’s Revolutionary War battlefields and unite those disparate sites from the Lowcountry to the backcountry, in a collaborative approach,” Duncan continued. “This work will continue, honoring his memory and building upon his legacy. As we soon mark the 250th anniversary of America’s independence, a commemoration for which he served on the state commission, millions of people will have a deeper understanding of that past because of Doug’s contributions to the field as author, interpreter and storyteller extraordinary.”

An eighth generation South Carolinian, Bostick earned a bachelor’s degree from the College of Charleston and mas-
ter’s degree from the University of South Carolina. In his long career, he served on the faculty of the University of South Carolina and the University of Maryland and authored some 26 books of nonfiction, covering topics as diverse as Revolutionary War history, South Carolina horse racing and Lowcountry foodways. Before his dozen years at the helm of SCBPT, Bostick impacted many other leading Charleston institutions through staff work, including Patriot’s Point Naval & Maritime Museum and Save the Light, Inc., as well as numerous others for which he volunteered and served in an advisory capacity.★

IN MEMORIAM:
Douglas W. Bostick, community legend

THE TRUST had the pleasure of joining Capital One’s military business resource group, Salute and the Friends of Cedar Mountain for a volunteer clean-up at the Cedar Mountain Battlefield in Culpeper County, Va., on November 3. Approximately 20 Capital One associates joined the Trust and the Friends through guided trail maintenance activities and the taming of invasive species on-site, making a huge difference in the condition of the battlefield. What made the event even more profound is the excitement that attendees expressed in helping to prepare the battlefield for its upcoming state park status — as acreage here will soon join 70,000 acres of land at the nearby Brandy Station Battlefield for the creation of Culpeper Battlefield State Park, set to launch in June 2024.★
BULLDOZERS ON BATTLEFIELDS
Trust restores hallowed ground at Gettysburg, Eutaw Springs and Lookout Mountain

ULFILLING the Trust’s mission to use saved battlefield land as a teaching tool sometimes requires the restoration of the landscape. We can’t just acquire lands that have been compromised and corrupted by decades of neglect and development and leave them as they are. We have to restore hallowed ground. In the autumn of 2023, the Trust announced the successful demolition of several structures and restoration of landscapes at Gettysburg, Pa., Lookout Mountain, Tenn., and Eutaw Springs, S.C.

GETTYSBURG, Pa.
ENTERING Gettysburg National Military Park from the east, visitors have for years driven past glimpses of the abandoned and overgrown Mulligan MacDuffers Adventure Golf & Ice Cream Parlor. With the help of our members and donors, this autumn we began removing the adventure park structures, hauling away old concrete and grading the land to lay down soil and grass seed at the site of an important position on the Union right flank during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Two artillery pieces of the 1st New York Light Artillery Battery M, commanded by Lt. Charles E. Winegar, were positioned on the edge of the property, split between there and Power’s Hill — directly across Baltimore Pike. On the afternoon of July 2, 1863, 14 cannons were placed on Power’s Hill. In conjunction with 10 more nearby artillery pieces to the north along Baltimore Pike, the two cannons on this land were positioned to cover the Union right — specifically the low ground to the south of Culp’s Hill known as Spangler’s Spring and Spangler’s Meadow. Collectively, the Union cannons in the area unleashed such a destructive fire during the seven-hour battle near Culp’s Hill on July 3rd that Confederate Gen. George Steuart called his position near Spangler’s Spring “artillery hell.”

When the restoration work is completed here, visitors to the battlefield can once again envision cannons and caissons located on the ground and Lieutenant Winegar commanding “Fire!” rather than “Fore!”

EUTAW SPRINGS, S.C.
UPON a roughly four-acre tract of land saved by the American Battlefield Trust — in collaboration with our partner on The Liberty Trail, the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust (SCBPT) — stands a spectacular, centuries-old oak tree that was witness to the Battle of Eutaw Springs on September 8, 1781. It was the last major engagement of the Revolutionary War in the Carolinas.

While fighting initially erupted a little over three miles west of the site on the morning of September 8 — when General Nathanael Greene’s column surprised a British patrol and foraging party — significant maneuvers and combat unfolded upon this land later in the day. All the while, the young oak stood as witness to a well-fought battle, after which the Continental Congress recognized Greene’s exceptional service with one of only seven gold medals given during the war.

The now-imposing tree then saw the nation and its people transform, including its surroundings, which until this summer included modern features like a house, car port and chain link fence. Thanks to the generous help of our members, donors and partners, its surrounding landscape has been restored to a grassy field reminiscent of September 1781.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, Tenn.
FOR DECADES, a 1940s travel motel blemished approximately an acre of land next to the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park — hallowed ground that played an important role in the Battle of Lookout Mountain. In June 2023, with the unwavering support of our members and donors, the Trust was able to demolish the motel and lay down sod to restore the field.

Overlooking the Tennessee River, Lookout Mountain boasted a seemingly strong position for Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg and his Army of Tennessee as they kept the Union army pinned at Chattanooga. On November 24, 1863, after the successful Union capture of Orchard Knob the day prior, Gen. Joseph Hooker ordered his three divisions to attack the Confederate left at Lookout Mountain. The Wauhatchie Pike, the main road over the mountain during the time of the battle, runs by and through this field, the route of Confederate retreat. Some Union soldiers also crossed over the tract as they began their ascension of the mountain, helping lead to Union success at Missionary Ridge the following day on November 25.

The preservation — and now restoration — of this tract will ensure it continues to tell the story of the Battle of Lookout Mountain for generations to come.
Consequences of the French and Indian War

by WILLIAM R. GRIFFITH IV

The skirmish

1754 was a spark that soon became a global conflagration. Long-simmering tensions between Britain and France boiled over in the Americas, Europe, West Africa, India and the Philippines. Prussian and Hanoverian forces were drawn into the fight on the side of Britain, Spain, Austria, Saxony, Sweden and Russia took up arms allied with France. When the Treaty of Paris was finally signed on February 10, 1763, the future trajectory of North America had fundamentally shifted.

Fighting in the theater of conflict known globally as the Seven Years’ War and locally as the French and Indian War (although various Native American groups took up arms on both sides), concluded with the surrender of Montreal on September 8, 1760, but it continued in Europe until late 1762, with Britain emerging triumphant. Imperialist members of Parliament did not want to yield the territories gained during the war, but another faction believed that it was necessary to return a number of France's antebellum holdings to maintain a balance of power in Europe. This latter measure would not, however, include France's North American territories and Spanish Florida. In the words of 19th-century historian Francis Parkman, "All of the continent had changed hands at the scratch of a pen," and France's North American empire had vanished.

The treaty granted Britain Canada and all of France's claims east of the Mississippi River, excepting the city of New Orleans, which France was allowed to retain. The Louisiana Territory beginning on the opposite bank was ceded to Spain, although British subjects were guaranteed free rights of navigation on the river. Spain extended Britain's King George III’s North American empire in the form of Florida, transferred in exchange for the return of Havana and Málaga. This gave Britain total control of the Atlantic Seaboard from New York along the way down to the Mississippi Delta. Further, the conquered Caribbean islands of Saint Vincent, Dominica, Tobago, Grenada and the Grenadines remained in British hands.

The loss of Canada, economically, did not greatly harm France. It had proved to be a money hole that cost the country more to maintain than it actually returned in profit. The sugar islands in the West Indies were much more lucrative, and to France's pleasure, Britain returned Martinique and Guadeloupe. Although France kept Christian Majesty King Louis XV’s influence in North America had receded, France did retain a tiny foothold in Newfoundland for fishing rights.

The inhabitants of the British colonies in North America were jubilant upon hearing the results of the Treaty of Paris. For nearly a century, they had lived in fear of the French colonists and their Native American allies to the north and west. Now France's influence on the continent had been nearly extinguished, and they could hope to live out their lives in peace and autonomy without relying on Britain’s protection.

But the war’s aftermath drove a profound wedge between Britain and her colonists. The global conflict had ballooned Britain’s national debt nearly twofold, and the colonies were asked to shoulder a good portion of the burden of paying it off via taxes imposed on necessities that the colonists considered part of everyday life. Proud English folk, the colonists viewed themselves as partners in the British Empire, not subjects of it. King George III did not see it this way. Another major point of contention was the land west of the Appalachian Mountains, which had been heavily fought over during the war. Many in the British military and the colonies viewed “conquered” land as His Majesty’s dominion. To them, the territory west of the Appalachians was not shared or native land — it was rightfully open for British trade and settlement. Disputes soon erupted with the Native Americans, who had previously allied with the French, inhabiting the region.

What transpired next has gone down in history as Pontiac’s Rebellion (1763–1764), after a regionally powerful Odawa war chief, and involved members of the Sene- ca, Ottawa, Huron, Delaware and Miami tribes. Various uprisings and uncoordinated attacks against British forts, outposts and settlements in the Ohio River Valley and along the Great Lakes ravaged the frontier. Although a handful of forts fell, two key strongholds, Forts Detroit and Pitt, did not capitulate. In an attempt to quell the rebellion against British authority, the Proclamation of 1767 was issued. The French settlements north of New York and New England were consolidated into the colony of Quebec, and Florida was divided into two separate colonies. Any land that did not fall within the boundaries of these colonies, which would be governed by English law, was granted to the Native Americans.

The Royal Proclamation of 1763 further alienated the British colonists. Many sought to settle the west, and Pennsylvania and Virginia had even already claimed lands in the region. The proclamation prohibited the colonies from further issuing any grants. Only representatives of the Crown could negotiate land purchases with the Native Americans. Just as France had boxed the colonies into a stretch along the East Coast, now George III was doing the same.

The French and Indian War had initially been a major success for the 13 British North American colonies, but its consequences soured the victory. Acrimony over taxes imposed to pay war debt, constant struggle with Native Americans over borders and territories and the prohibition of expansion to the west fueled an ever-increasing “American” identity as the colonists — already 3,000 miles away from Britain — grew philosophically and emotionally further apart from the mother country. 

William R. Griffith IV received his bache- lor’s degree in history from Shepherd Uni- versity and master’s degree in military his- tory from Norwich University. A published historian, Griffith has written for the U.S. Navy Cruiser Sailors Association, Emerg- ing Civil War and the Journal of Civil War Medicine. He is also a Gettyburg Licensed Battlefield Guide.

Cartoon LEFT and Map RIGHT, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.
WHO WERE THE SONS OF LIBERTY?

by Mark Maloy

AMONG THE SOCIAL and political fallout of the French and Indian War, the Sons of Liberty was the rise of a secret society that set the stage for revolution. The British Parliament rationalized that the fighting in North America had been to protect the colonists and their interests, and thus, they should pay their share in taxes to help pay off their war debt. First, the Sugar Act taxed the transport and sale of raw sugar, molasses and rum throughout the colonies, spawning smuggling operations. Meanwhile, the Quartering Act, Crown soldiers were forcefully housed with American colonists, who had to feed them out of pocket.

A secret group called the Loyal Nine gathered crowds around the Liberty Tree on Boston Common and provoked them to riot, targeting taxable goods and tax collectors, which put colonial officials at risk of being tarred and feathered or even killed. Raiding the home of Lieutenant Governor Thomas Hutchinson, they made off with an estimated £250,000 worth of his possessions. The Loyal Nine, having sparked resistance, turned to publishing patriotic ideas in the Boston Gazette, eventually signing their missives of political dissent as “The Sons of Liberty.”

The group quickly snowballed into a larger network of resistance. Through coordinated work among various chapters, the Sons of Liberty forced the British Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act within the year. But victory came at a price. Parliament then passed the Declaratory Act, stating unequivocally that the British king and Parliament had the power to enact any and all legislation onto the colonies. This gave new relevance to the rallying cry of “No taxation without representation!”

Parliament, still desperate for revenue, subsequently passed the Townshend Acts, which raised taxes and tariffs on British imports as diverse as lead, paint, salt, porcelain, glass and tea. Additionally, the act functioned as a general search warrant, allowing British soldiers to enter any colonist’s home to find and take smuggled goods. Under the direction of the Sons of Liberty, Boston colonists organized a boycott of all British goods, anyone who dared sell British goods risked vandalism and physical violence. The situation came to a head on the night of March 5, 1770, when eight British soldiers guarding the Custom House were provoked into opening fire on an angry mob. When the smoke cleared, five colonists were dead and another six wounded.

Despite complete uncertainty about how the incident escalated, Paul Revere, a Boston silversmith, engraver and Sons of Liberty member, created an image of this “massacre” that fueled anti-Crown sentiment by depicting the “complete brutality” and “barbarism” of the British Army.

Resistance efforts saw many duties on the colonies eased, but the high tax on tea remained, sparking Sons of Liberty-led tea parties in Boston, Charleston and elsewhere.

In retaliation, the British government passed the Intolerable Acts, alternately the Coercive Acts, which, among other retaliations, closed Boston Harbor, suspended trial by jury and prohibited elections and the meeting of the state assembly. Armed conflict felt increasingly inevitable as the situation across the colonies grew more and more volatile. When delegates of the Second Virginia Convention gathered in Richmond in 1775, Sons of Liberty member Patrick Henry gave voice to the sentiment, exclaiming “Give me liberty or give me death!”

THE DAUGHTERS OF LIBERTY?

by Kate Gruber

ALTHOUGH women were not permitted to serve as elected officials in governing bodies or the growing number of extra-legal committees organizing resistance to British policy, they voiced their political opinions in other ways. Formed during the Stamp Act crisis in 1766, the Daughters of Liberty formalized female political agency with famous Patriot Sam Adams famously declaring, “With ladies on our side, we can make every Tory tremble.”

Daughters of Liberty chapters became widespread and mobilized critical social and economic support for the patriotic cause. Given the Stamp Act’s tax on liquor licenses, female tavern owners pressed for its repeal. The 1767 Townshend Acts had massive impact on household consumer goods, and the Daughters of Liberty organized widespread nonimportation agreements and circular letters, some of which survive, bearing the names and marks of many women signers.

Participation gave women a political arena in which to support patriotic movements without stepping outside their typical gender roles. Spinning bees are perhaps the most widely known and famous example of this gendered action, with women banding together to manufacture textile goods rather than import them. On December 24, 1767, the Massachusetts Gazette Extraordinary reported, “We hear that there was held two or three evenings ago, an assembly of Ladies of the first quality … who … have made spinning their only employment.” Others took up the effort through their traditional tasks and daily work. One lady “did the morning work of a large family, made her cheese, etc., and then rode more than two miles, and carried her own wheel, and sat down to spin at nine in the morning … and went home to milk.”

Daughters of Liberty were adamant against drinking British-imported tea, especially at gatherings where they came together to spin, so as “to render their conduct consistent.” Women found substitutions in locally sourced herbs and other libations, with one group found to “drink nothing at their meetings but New England Rum.”

By their dress, consumption and purchasing power, women could translate their participation in the local and global economies into political action. Women who identified as Daughters of Liberty were noted in newspapers for simple, homespun frocks that lacked the adornment of British imports like ribbons or lace. In December 1769, the Virginia Gazette reported that patriotism “manifested in the dress of the ladies,” who wore homespun gowns to a high society ball and expressed that “all assemblages of American Ladies [should] exhibit a like example of public virtue and private economy, so amiable united.” Some Daughters of Liberty stated that they “would not even admit the addresses of any gentlemen” who did not also oppose British taxation without representation.

THE LIBERTY TREE IN LEAF

HE Liberty Tree was a large elm — planted in 1646, it was already a venerable specimen on the eve of the American Revolution — near the Boston Common that became a popular meeting place for the Sons of Liberty, a secret society advocating for the rights of colonists against British taxation and rule. Later, other towns across colonial America began designating their own liberty trees.

The first large protest at Boston’s Liberty Tree was held in 1765, when an effigy of stamp collector Andrew Oliver was hung from the branches alongside a green painted boot with a devil holding a paper reading “what greater joy did ever New England see than a stampman hanging on a tree!” A crowd of protesters took the effigy of Oliver to his house, where they proceeded to behead and burn the likeness before assaulting his home. Oliver resigned as the stamp collector in response.

When the Stamp Act was repealed, lanterns were hung in the Liberty Tree’s branches, and many other protests and public displays took place throughout the 1760s and 1770s. However, in 1775, during the Siege of Boston, Boston Loyalists and British soldiers cut the stately elm down and burned it, after Patriots regained control of Boston in 1776, a liberty pole was erected over the stump. Today, the site is marked by a small plaza and commemorative plaque.
The Boston Tea Party

When a group of men dumped 340 chests of tea into Boston Harbor on December 16, 1773, they ignited a revolution that ultimately formed a new nation.

by ROB ORRISON

PHOTO by ROBERT TARDIO
parliamentary laws, or acts, passed to raise revenue for the British Crown. It was one of many acts that made the colonists more loyal to Parliament, and thus making them more loyal to Parliament and the British Crown. Due to colonial opposition and resistance, many of these acts were repealed, like its predecessors, the Tea Act sparked an immediate response throughout the colonies.

The Tea Act was also seen as a mode for saving a British-held company, the British East India Company. Before 1773, the company had to sell its tea in London and was subject to duties. It had collected large quantities of tea in London warehouses and was looking for a way to dispense with it cheaply. The Tea Act allowed the company to sell directly to American ports without paying duties. This also forced American buyers to purchase their tea, which was subject to a tax from the East India Company. The good news was the price of tea was reduced because the company no longer had to pay the duties in London, but colonists resisted the notion that Parliament could force them to buy tea from one supplier (many made a good living off smuggled tea sales) and that they were also required to pay a tax on it.

The popular refrain of “taxation without representation” had been around since the 1760s, during opposition to the Stamp Act, as colonial Whigs (anti-royal leaders) had used them to protest British decisions facing the city or colony. Royal authorities had watched these meetings more closely since the 1760s, during opposition to the Stamp Act, as colonial Whigs (anti-royal leaders) had used them to protest British policies they saw as threats to their liberties.

This town meeting was a follow-up assembly to previous meetings held in November and was meant to occur in Faneuil Hall. The large turnout, however, required the crowd to move to the more spacious Old South Meeting House. Nearly 5,000 came to the meeting, which had happened in other American cities, who acted as the tea consignees (autho- rized to receive the tea and see to its distribution) for Boston, also refused to back down and resign their positions, which had happened in other American ports. Soon, two more ships, the Beaver and the Eleanor, arrived with more unwanted tea. Unable to return the tea to the English government, and unable to unload the tea due to the threats of local groups such as the Sons of Liberty, the captains of the ships were in a tight and dangerous spot.

When the public gathered at the Old South Meeting House that December evening in 1773, they were regaled with speeches by Sam Adams, John Hancock, Joseph Warren and other Boston Whig leaders, calling for a return of the tea to England. Later in the evening, word came that a last-minute plea to Governor Hutchinson to let the ships return was refused. Sam Adams announced publicly, “This meeting can do nothing further to save the country.”

The events that happened next have been debated since 1773. Soon after Adam’s announcement, men outside the meeting house disguised as Mohawk Indians. Whether or not these men were signaled to move toward the ships with tea is unknown. As they marched down Milk Street to Griffin’s Wharf, where the three ships holding tea were docked, the thousands gathered inside the Old South Meeting House that December evening, were docked, the thousands gathered in side the Old South Meeting House began to pour out of the building. Chants of “Boston a teapot tonight!” and “Hurrah for Griffin’s Wharf,” ran through the streets, and before long the men in disguise; others continued to protest in the streets, while still others headed home, believing that a confrontation was about to take place.

Many details remain unknown about exactly who really were the Mohawks who were supposed to Griffin’s Wharf. The men used lamp soot and red ochre to disguise their faces and carried a wide assortment of weapons. As they made their way to the wharf, they yelled and whopped, attempting to imitate Native Americans in a war party. If they had coordinated with leaders in the Old South Meeting House, it is still unknown. The identities of most of these men either were never recorded or are lost to history; that is how tight their veil of secrecy was, coupled with sophisticated organization. As they made their way to the ships, the Whig leaders inside the Old South Meeting House stayed behind and were never directly part of what happened next.

The men, with a crowd behind them, approached the wharf. There they divided into three groups, one each for the Dartmouth, Beaver and Eleanor. Having lived and worked in a port city, most of the men knew where to find the cargo they were looking for and how to operate on a ship. Thus, most of the other cargo and private property on the ships was not touched. They were only after the tea. After the chests were hauled onto the deck, they were broken open and dumped into the harbor. Some of the men watched to make sure no one tried to steal any of the tea being dumped. The approximately 150 men worked quickly as the crowd of spectators grew.

Ultimately, some 340 chests of tea weighing 92,000 pounds were destroyed that December night. The British East India Company reported the lost cargo was worth £6,659 — the equivalent of $1,700,000 in today’s dollars. A fourth tea ship bound for Boston that had run aground near Cape Cod had its cargo salvaged, taxed and sold privately. When the Sons of Liberty discovered the warehouse where that tea was being stored the following March, they destroyed it too. Learning that some was already for sale at a Boston shop, they again donated their Mohawk garb to break in and dump the last vestiges of the shipment in the harbor. Meanwhile, the ships bound for New York and Philadelphia returned to London without offloading their cargo, although the tea ship that arrived in Charleston met its own dramatic fate.

The American Revolution did not just “happen.” It was the culmination of various events and acts that individually did not guarantee separation, but one can retroactively see how they led to the inevitable. The Boston Tea Party was one of these events; it gave the tinder box of revolution in America more fuel and many believe this small inci- dent lit the fuse leading to open war between colonies and mother country, because this time Great Britain would respond in a way it never had before. The spark came 16 months later, on Lexington Green.

Rob Orrison serves as division manager for the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division. He also sits on the board of directors for both the Mosby Heritage Area Association and Virginia Civil War Trails. Of his four published works, his latest is To Hazard All: The Guide to the 1862 Maryland Campaign (2018).
IN OCTOBER 1773, seven ships set sail for the American colonies loaded with cargoes of taxed tea from Great Britain’s East India Company. Not all of them went to Boston.
As debates continued for months. According to some accounts, the issue was hotly debated in the meeting, but Peter Timothy, publisher of the South Carolina Gazette, reported that "After some time spent in calm deliberation, it appeared to be the sense of the people, that the gentlemen in trade should be requested to enter immediately into a written agreement, not to import any more teas, that would pay duties, laid for the UNCONSTITUTIONAL purpose of raising a revenue upon us, WITHOUT OUR CONSENT."

The East India Company consignees were asked to come forward, and according to Lieutenant Governor William Bull, they were, by "threats and flatteries," convinced to give up their shipment. The account in the Gazette was a bit milder, noting that after being advised that their receipt of this and future East India tea "would be exceedingly disagreeable to their fellow-citizens, and the body of inhabitants of this province," the merchants agreed, with one of them even claiming to an appreciative crowd that he had already decided weeks before its arrival to refuse the cargo. The ship's master, Captain Alexander Curling, also appeared at the meeting. He was in such a bind, as he was obliged by law to satisfy the customs officer by paying duties and unloading its cargo within 20 days, since the ship had technically docked, and he was also engaged to take on another cargo in Charleston before departing. He told by the inhabitants that, nonetheless, he should sail out of Charleston with his ship full of tea and return to England.

At the conclusion of the meeting on December 3, a select committee was established that included planters Charles Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney and Thomas Ferguson, as well as mechanics (artisans) Christopher Gaddden and Daniel Cannon. They were charged with contacting the merchants around town to secure their signatures on a petition agreeing not to import or sell any teas subject to the Tea Act duties. The Gazette reported that within a few days they had received the signatures of 50 merchants. The codified petition read:

WE the undersigned, inhabitants of this province, being now fully convinced, that we have vainly flattered ourselves, with hopes of the repeal of an act of parliament of Great-Britain, passed in the year 1767, imposing a duty on tea imported from thence, for the purpose of raising a revenue upon us, in America, without our consent, DO hereby solemnly promise and agree, for the honor of our country, and our posterity, that we will not, either directly or indirectly import, buy or sell, or in any way encourage or countenance the importation, buying or selling, any teas that will pay the aforesaid duty: And that we will not purchase any goods of any person or persons whatsoever, that shall hereafter import, buy or sell any such teas: And this we do, because we conceive, that the payment of such duties, will be acknowledging a revenue upon us, in America, without our consent, and which we deny them to have under our excellent constitution, "to tax us against our consent."

While the committee was made up of planters and mechanics, the town's merchants were not included, and as a somewhat conservative group, they were concerned about recent events regarding commerce and trade. On December 9, "a General Meeting of the Gentlemen in 'Trade'" was held at Mrs. Swallow's Tavern at the northeast corner of Church and Broad Streets, just a short walk from the Exchange Building. This meeting was the formation of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce. Known today as the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, it is the oldest city commercial chamber in the country, and its formation speaks to the complicated nature of business and politics at this pivotal time. The meeting adjourned until December 22, when the customs clock expired. By law, Collector of Customs Robert Halliday was required to seize the tea if no duties had been paid within 21 days after a ship's arrival. This was done quickly and efficiently, and all 257 chests of tea were confiscated and stored in the basement of the Exchange Building. This mild response embarrassed some of Charleston's more ardent patriots, especially once news of Boston's energetic December 16 Tea Party reached South Carolina. However, as the Earl of Dartmouth commented in a letter to Lieutenant Governor Bull, "What passed at Charles Town in consequence of the arrival of Captain Curling, Altho' not equal in criminality to the Proceedings in other Colonies, can yet be considered in no other light than that of a most unwarrantable Insult to the authority of this Kingdom." Another insult for Britain was to come, as several years later, in September 1776, the stored tea was sold to raise funds for the American cause for independence.

Katherine Pemberton is the museum director of The Powder Magazine in Charleston, S.C., and a board member of SC Charleston County. She has also spent time with the Historic Charleston Foundation, the Charleston Museum and on the South Carolina State Review Board for the National Register of Historic Places.

IN SEPTEMBER 1776, THE STORED TEA WAS SOLD TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE AMERICAN CAUSE FOR INDEPENDENCE.

The baseplate where the 1773 tea was stored at the Old Exchange. ROB SHEINK

TEA ACT OF 1773, passed by the British Parliament in May of that year, was one of several taxes and duties imposed on the American colonies in the lead-up to the Revolution, as the British government tried to recoup serious financial losses resulting from the French and Indian War. In 1765, the British government had passed the Stamp Act, the first direct tax on the 13 colonies, but it was repealed after colonists strongly objected, labeling it "taxation without representation."

In 1765, the British government had passed the Stamp Act, the first direct tax on the 13 colonies, and duties imposed on the American colonies in the lead-up to the Revolution, as the British government tried to recoup serious financial losses resulting from the French and Indian War. In 1765, the British government had passed the Stamp Act, the first direct tax on the 13 colonies, but it was repealed after colonists strongly objected, labeling it "taxation without representation."

East India tea was en route to Charleston and was expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

Roger Smith, Peter Leger and William Greenwood. The next day, concerned residents of Charleston posted notices and circulated handbills inviting all inhabitants to assemble in the Great Hall of the Exchange Building at 3:00 in the afternoon of December 3. Colonel George Gabriel Powell, a fair-minded and respected member of the colonial assembly from the South Carolina backcountry, was selected to chair the community meeting and the ones to come,
URING the Boston Tea Party, about 150 patriots took nearly three and a half hours to dump all the tea aboard the three vessels docked in Boston Harbor. But what did they actually dump? According to historians at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, the patriots used anything they could get their hands on, including their own hats and shoes, to scoop densely packed loose tea from 340 wooden chests on board the ships.

Five different types of tea were thrown overboard. The bulk of those teas were black teas, including 240 chests of Bohea, 15 of Congou and 10 of Souchong. Bohea, pronounced boo-hee, was the most commonly consumed tea by the colonists and was so popular that its name became synonymous with the word “tea.” In his December 17, 1773, diary entry, John Adams wrote, “Last Night 3 Cargoes of Bohea Tea were emptied into the Sea. This is the most magnificent Movement of all. There is a Dignity, a Majesty, a Sublimity, in this last Effort of the Patriots, that I greatly admire.”

Congou black tea is a finer quality black tea with a strong and pleasant bitter flavor. It was often served with milk. Souchong is a classic black tea known for its distinctive smoky aroma. The remainder of the tea tossed overboard in Boston Harbor was green tea, which made up 22 percent of the vessels’ shipments, including 60 chests of Singlo and 15 of Hyson, which was favored by colonists including both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

With 60 chests of Singlo on board, you might think it was a popular seller in the colonies, but it was, in fact, largely unknown. According to tea expert Bruce Richardson, Singlo green tea was picked later in the season and spoiled sooner than other teas. “It was only included in the ill-fated shipment because the East India Company had quite a bit of stock that needed to be liquidated before it became undrinkable,” Richardson says. “They wanted to introduce the tea to the colonies in the hope that Americans would develop a taste for it.”

Hard to say whether they ever did, since this tea never made it to the pot or their tables.

EA PROTESTS weren’t confined to a handful of urban centers in the winter of 1773, but extended from Maine to the Carolinas and lasted until the outbreak of armed hostilities in the spring of 1775. Some were purely nonviolent incidents, like in Philadelphia in late December 1773, where the ship returned to London without offloading. Or Edenton, N.C., in October 1774, when local women organized a protest.

Others closely followed the Boston model, tossing tea overboard from the ships before it could be offloaded and the tax collected, as done in New York in April 1774; Chestertown, Md., in May 1774; and Yorktown, Va., in November 1774. But Annapolis, Md., seemingly could not choose between fire and water, burning an entire ship with its cargo of tea still aboard in October 1774.
CAMP of INSTRUCTION
STUDENTS OF PRESERVATION

THE ACTS THAT FUELED REBELLION
Legal measures imposed by the British led to revolt and ultimately, independence

IN THE DECLARATION of Independence, Thomas Jefferson spelled out the rationale by which it had become necessary for the colonists to dispose of English rule, describing a “long train of abuses and usurpations” enacted upon the fledgling colonies by the British crown. This maltreatment was derived from a litany of legal measures and acts imposed by the British in the lead-up to independence.

October 7, 1763
ROYAL PROCLAMATION OF 1763
To tackle debts incurred during the Seven Years’ War, the British government reduced the tax on sugar and molasses but strengthened collection enforcement. The royal crackdown on profitable smuggling prompted nonimportation campaigns, or boycotts, of British goods.

April 5, 1764
SUGAR ACT
Faced with recession, Parliament required all paper products, including legal and trade documents, playing cards, dice and newspapers, to possess a taxed stamp. Immediately, the law was met by protests, riots, boycotts, harassment of collectors and a meeting of colonial representatives at the Stamp Act Congress in October, which denounced taxation without parliamentary representation.

May 15, 1765
QUARTERING ACT
Acting on complaints from military leadership in North America, Parliament required colonial governments to provide public lodging and provisions for British troops.

March 18, 1766
REPEAL ACT/DECLARATORY ACT
At the behest of British merchants suffering from colonial boycotts, Parliament repealed the Stamp Act while simultaneously declaring its right to “make laws and statutes” over America “in all cases whatsoever.”

June 1767 – July 1768
TOWNSEND ACTS
Consisting of the Suspending Act, Revenue Act, Indemnity Act, Commissioners of Customs Act and Vice Admiralty Court Act, the legislation championed by Chancellor of the Exchequer Charles Townshend sought to fund governance of North America, pay Britain’s war debt and punish her obstinate subjects. The laws increased duties on goods predominantly imported into the colonies, while streamlining collections and authorizing controversial enforcement methods such as writs of assistance and military vice admiralty courts for smugglers. Colonists responded with protests, additional nonimportation campaigns and rhetorical condemnations.

May 10, 1773
TEA ACT
Seeking to reduce tensions, the British government repealed all Townshend duties except the tea tax. Parliament, however, awarded the floundering East India Company a monopoly on the tea trade, leading to large-scale protests.

March – June 1774
INDEFATIGABLE (COERCIVE) ACTS
In retaliation for the Boston Tea Party, Prime Minister Lord North urged Parliament to punish Boston. The Boston Port Act closed the city to all ocean-borne trade and the Massachusetts Government Act and Imperial Administration of Justice Act restricted local authority and judicial sovereignty. Additionally, the 1774 Quartering Act extended the previous mandate to private residences, while the Quebec Act antagonized the English colonies by granting political and religious protections to French Canadians and expanding the province’s borders. Britain’s escalating restrictions increased colonial solidarity, culminating in the first Continental Congress in fall 1774.

March 22, 1765
STAMP ACT
Faced with recession, Parliament required all paper products, including legal and trade documents, playing cards, dice and newspapers, to possess a taxed stamp. Immediately, the law was met by protests, riots, boycotts, harassment of collectors and a meeting of colonial representatives at the Stamp Act Congress in October, which denounced taxation without parliamentary representation.

August 12, 1768
QUARTERING ACT
Acting on complaints from military leadership in North America, Parliament required colonial governments to provide public lodging and provisions for British troops.

March 18, 1766
REPEAL ACT/DECLARATORY ACT
At the behest of British merchants suffering from colonial boycotts, Parliament repealed the Stamp Act while simultaneously declaring its right to “make laws and statutes” over America “in all cases whatsoever.”

June 1767 – July 1768
TOWNSEND ACTS
Consisting of the Suspending Act, Revenue Act, Indemnity Act, Commissioners of Customs Act and Vice Admiralty Court Act, the legislation championed by Chancellor of the Exchequer Charles Townshend sought to fund governance of North America, pay Britain’s war debt and punish her obstinate subjects. The laws increased duties on goods predominantly imported into the colonies, while streamlining collections and authorizing controversial enforcement methods such as writs of assistance and military vice admiralty courts for smugglers. Colonists responded with protests, additional nonimportation campaigns and rhetorical condemnations.

May 10, 1773
TEA ACT
Seeking to reduce tensions, the British government repealed all Townshend duties except the tea tax. Parliament, however, awarded the floundering East India Company a monopoly on the tea trade, leading to large-scale protests.

March – June 1774
INDEFATIGABLE (COERCIVE) ACTS
In retaliation for the Boston Tea Party, Prime Minister Lord North urged Parliament to punish Boston. The Boston Port Act closed the city to all ocean-borne trade and the Massachusetts Government Act and Imperial Administration of Justice Act restricted local authority and judicial sovereignty. Additionally, the 1774 Quartering Act extended the previous mandate to private residences, while the Quebec Act antagonized the English colonies by granting political and religious protections to French Canadians and expanding the province’s borders. Britain’s escalating restrictions increased colonial solidarity, culminating in the first Continental Congress in fall 1774.

March 22, 1765
STAMP ACT
Faced with recession, Parliament required all paper products, including legal and trade documents, playing cards, dice and newspapers, to possess a taxed stamp. Immediately, the law was met by protests, riots, boycotts, harassment of collectors and a meeting of colonial representatives at the Stamp Act Congress in October, which denounced taxation without parliamentary representation.

May 15, 1765
QUARTERING ACT
Acting on complaints from military leadership in North America, Parliament required colonial governments to provide public lodging and provisions for British troops.

March 18, 1766
REPEAL ACT/DECLARATORY ACT
At the behest of British merchants suffering from colonial boycotts, Parliament repealed the Stamp Act while simultaneously declaring its right to “make laws and statutes” over America “in all cases whatsoever.”

June 1767 – July 1768
TOWNSEND ACTS
Consisting of the Suspending Act, Revenue Act, Indemnity Act, Commissioners of Customs Act and Vice Admiralty Court Act, the legislation championed by Chancellor of the Exchequer Charles Townshend sought to fund governance of North America, pay Britain’s war debt and punish her obstinate subjects. The laws increased duties on goods predominantly imported into the colonies, while streamlining collections and authorizing controversial enforcement methods such as writs of assistance and military vice admiralty courts for smugglers. Colonists responded with protests, additional nonimportation campaigns and rhetorical condemnations.

May 10, 1773
TEA ACT
Seeking to reduce tensions, the British government repealed all Townshend duties except the tea tax. Parliament, however, awarded the floundering East India Company a monopoly on the tea trade, leading to large-scale protests.

March – June 1774
INDEFATIGABLE (COERCIVE) ACTS
In retaliation for the Boston Tea Party, Prime Minister Lord North urged Parliament to punish Boston. The Boston Port Act closed the city to all ocean-borne trade and the Massachusetts Government Act and Imperial Administration of Justice Act restricted local authority and judicial sovereignty. Additionally, the 1774 Quartering Act extended the previous mandate to private residences, while the Quebec Act antagonized the English colonies by granting political and religious protections to French Canadians and expanding the province’s borders. Britain’s escalating restrictions increased colonial solidarity, culminating in the first Continental Congress in fall 1774.

March 22, 1765
STAMP ACT
Faced with recession, Parliament required all paper products, including legal and trade documents, playing cards, dice and newspapers, to possess a taxed stamp. Immediately, the law was met by protests, riots, boycotts, harassment of collectors and a meeting of colonial representatives at the Stamp Act Congress in October, which denounced taxation without parliamentary representation.

May 15, 1765
QUARTERING ACT
Acting on complaints from military leadership in North America, Parliament required colonial governments to provide public lodging and provisions for British troops.

March 18, 1766
REPEAL ACT/DECLARATORY ACT
At the behest of British merchants suffering from colonial boycotts, Parliament repealed the Stamp Act while simultaneously declaring its right to “make laws and statutes” over America “in all cases whatsoever.”

June 1767 – July 1768
TOWNSEND ACTS
Consisting of the Suspending Act, Revenue Act, Indemnity Act, Commissioners of Customs Act and Vice Admiralty Court Act, the legislation championed by Chancellor of the Exchequer Charles Townshend sought to fund governance of North America, pay Britain’s war debt and punish her obstinate subjects. The laws increased duties on goods predominantly imported into the colonies, while streamlining collections and authorizing controversial enforcement methods such as writs of assistance and military vice admiralty courts for smugglers. Colonists responded with protests, additional nonimportation campaigns and rhetorical condemnations.

May 10, 1773
TEA ACT
Seeking to reduce tensions, the British government repealed all Townshend duties except the tea tax. Parliament, however, awarded the floundering East India Company a monopoly on the tea trade, leading to large-scale protests.

March – June 1774
INDEFATIGABLE (COERCIVE) ACTS
In retaliation for the Boston Tea Party, Prime Minister Lord North urged Parliament to punish Boston. The Boston Port Act closed the city to all ocean-borne trade and the Massachusetts Government Act and Imperial Administration of Justice Act restricted local authority and judicial sovereignty. Additionally, the 1774 Quartering Act extended the previous mandate to private residences, while the Quebec Act antagonized the English colonies by granting political and religious protections to French Canadians and expanding the province’s borders. Britain’s escalating restrictions increased colonial solidarity, culminating in the first Continental Congress in fall 1774.

March 22, 1765
STAMP ACT
Faced with recession, Parliament required all paper products, including legal and trade documents, playing cards, dice and newspapers, to possess a taxed stamp. Immediately, the law was met by protests, riots, boycotts, harassment of collectors and a meeting of colonial representatives at the Stamp Act Congress in October, which denounced taxation without parliamentary representation.
HE TWIN PASSIONS for history and faith that drove my father, Rev. Jeff Miller, might not be surprising considering his family tree. Before entering seminary — and, ultimately, serving as rector of the oldest congregation in the United States south of Virginia, at St. Philip’s Church in Charleston, S.C. — Miller had a successful career in the National Park Service, leading tours of many battlefields, especially Antietam.

This longtime Trust supporter can trace patriarchal branches of his family tree back to outspo— German friar Martin Luther (1483–1546), who challenged the authority of the Catholic Church by posting the Ninety-five Theses, jumpstarting the Protestant Reformation. While the exact date of his birth is not known, Luther is believed to have been born in Eisleben, Saxony, around 1483. His father, Hans Luther, was a miner and the family was poor.

Luther became disillusioned with the Catholic Church’s practices and began to write and speak out against what he saw as its corruption. He eventually became a monk and later a priest. In 1517, he posted the Ninety-five Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, challenging the sale of indulgences within the Catholic Church and sparking the Reformation.

Born in 1841, the Miller family was shaped by European history, including German feudal economies suffering from inflation, high taxes, and social unrest due to the sale of indulgences by the Catholic Church. German princes and feudal lords were driven to seek refuge in the United States, where German immigrants sought new opportunities and freedom of religion, leading to the establishment of the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, and the founding of the salt-tolerant German Lutheran congregations.

Father Prince Gallitzin, there is no record for Conrad’s baptism, leading one to question: Did family history guide his choice? His famed Ninety-five Theses, jumpstarting the Protestant Reformation.

In the General History of Cambria County, Pennsylvania, Conrad Luther was an enlisted German soldier hired by the British to help defeat the American Revolution. While casualties account for a portion of that number, thousands — Conrad Luther among them — chose to stay and fight for the American cause.

Regardless of Luther’s elusive case, many German soldiers were charmed by the political and social freedoms promised by the rising American nation. This was true of the Miller family. Father Prince Gallitzin, there is no record for Conrad’s baptism, leading one to question: Did family history guide his choice? His famed Ninety-five Theses, jumpstarting the Protestant Reformation.

In the General History of Cambria County, Pennsylvania, Conrad Luther was an enlisted German soldier hired by the British to help defeat the American Revolution. While casualties account for a portion of that number, thousands — Conrad Luther among them — chose to stay and fight for the American cause.

Regardless of Luther’s elusive case, many German soldiers were charmed by the political and social freedoms promised by the rising American nation. This was true of the Miller family. Father Prince Gallitzin, there is no record for Conrad’s baptism, leading one to question: Did family history guide his choice? His famed Ninety-five Theses, jumpstarting the Protestant Reformation.

In the General History of Cambria County, Pennsylvania, Conrad Luther was an enlisted German soldier hired by the British to help defeat the American Revolution. While casualties account for a portion of that number, thousands — Conrad Luther among them — chose to stay and fight for the American cause.

Regardless of Luther’s elusive case, many German soldiers were charmed by the political and social freedoms promised by the rising American nation. This was true of the Miller family. Father Prince Gallitzin, there is no record for Conrad’s baptism, leading one to question: Did family history guide his choice? His famed Ninety-five Theses, jumpstarting the Protestant Reformation.

In the General History of Cambria County, Pennsylvania, Conrad Luther was an enlisted German soldier hired by the British to help defeat the American Revolution. While casualties account for a portion of that number, thousands — Conrad Luther among them — chose to stay and fight for the American cause.

Regardless of Luther’s elusive case, many German soldiers were charmed by the political and social freedoms promised by the rising American nation. This was true of the Miller family. Father Prince Gallitzin, there is no record for Conrad’s baptism, leading one to question: Did family history guide his choice? His famed Ninety-five Theses, jumpstarting the Protestant Reformation.

In the General History of Cambria County, Pennsylvania, Conrad Luther was an enlisted German soldier hired by the British to help defeat the American Revolution. While casualties account for a portion of that number, thousands — Conrad Luther among them — chose to stay and fight for the American cause.

Regardless of Luther’s elusive case, many German soldiers were charmed by the political and social freedoms promised by the rising American nation. This was true of the Miller family. Father Prince Gallitzin, there is no record for Conrad’s baptism, leading one to question: Did family history guide his choice? His famed Ninety-five Theses, jumpstarting the Protestant Reformation.

In the General History of Cambria County, Pennsylvania, Conrad Luther was an enlisted German soldier hired by the British to help defeat the American Revolution. While casualties account for a portion of that number, thousands — Conrad Luther among them — chose to stay and fight for the American cause.

Regardless of Luther’s elusive case, many German soldiers were charmed by the political and social freedoms promised by the rising American nation. This was true of the Miller family. Father Prince Gallitzin, there is no record for Conrad’s baptism, leading one to question: Did family history guide his choice? His famed Ninety-five Theses, jumpstarting the Protestant Reformation.

In the General History of Cambria County, Pennsylvania, Conrad Luther was an enlisted German soldier hired by the British to help defeat the American Revolution. While casualties account for a portion of that number, thousands — Conrad Luther among them — chose to stay and fight for the American cause.

Regardless of Luther’s elusive case, many German soldiers were charmed by the political and social freedoms promised by the rising American nation. This was true of the Miller family. Father Prince Gallitzin, there is no record for Conrad’s baptism, leading one to question: Did family history guide his choice? His famed Ninety-five Theses, jumpstarting the Protestant Reformation.

In the General History of Cambria County, Pennsylvania, Conrad Luther was an enlisted German soldier hired by the British to help defeat the American Revolution. While casualties account for a portion of that number, thousands — Conrad Luther among them — chose to stay and fight for the American cause.

Regardless of Luther’s elusive case, many German soldiers were charmed by the political and social freedoms promised by the rising American nation. This was true of the Miller family. Father Prince Gallitzin, there is no record for Conrad’s baptism, leading one to question: Did family history guide his choice? His famed Ninety-five Theses, jumpstarting the Protestant Reformation.

In the General History of Cambria County, Pennsylvania, Conrad Luther was an enlisted German soldier hired by the British to help defeat the American Revolution. While casualties account for a portion of that number, thousands — Conrad Luther among them — chose to stay and fight for the American cause.

Regardless of Luther’s elusive case, many German soldiers were charmed by the political and social freedoms promised by the rising American nation. This was true of the Miller family. Father Prince Gallitzin, there is no record for Conrad’s baptism, leading one to question: Did family history guide his choice? His famed Ninety-five Theses, jumpstarting the Protestant Reformation.

In the General History of Cambria County, Pennsylvania, Conrad Luther was an enlisted German soldier hired by the British to help defeat the American Revolution. While casualties account for a portion of that number, thousands — Conrad Luther among them — chose to stay and fight for the American cause.

Regardless of Luther’s elusive case, many German soldiers were charmed by the political and social freedoms promised by the rising American nation. This was true of the Miller family. Father Prince Gallitzin, there is no record for Conrad’s baptism, leading one to question: Did family history guide his choice? His famed Ninety-five Theses, jumpstarting the Protestant Reformation.
GIVING THROUGH YOUR IRA

If you are over 70½, you can donate directly to the Trust through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA retirement account. Gifts may be made from Traditional or Roth IRAs. Simply complete the beneficiary form from your plan administrator and update the beneficiaries. This is easy and makes sense tax-wise (retirement plan distributions are taxable, so if you leave a retirement plan’s assets to your heirs, they may face double taxation). The Trust can also serve as a beneficiary on life insurance plans, checking, savings or brokerage accounts, as well as donor-advised fund residuals. Learn more at www.battlefields.org/give/ira-qcd

WORKPLACE GIVING

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

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

PARK DAY 2024


As 2023 draws to a close and you contemplate year-end giving, remember that there are many ways you can contribute to the American Battlefield Trust and meet your personal philanthropic goals.

A tax-deductible gift of cash made by check or credit card — whether to a particular acquisition effort or education programs — is just the beginning! Learn more at www.battlefields.org/give

CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR

MAKING A GIFT in honor of a friend, relative or colleague can be a touching gesture in recognition of their enduring interest in American military history. Likewise, a gift in memory of a departed loved one can be a powerful tribute to a passion for American history and contribute to a legacy of learning that will last for generations to come. You can choose who will receive notification of your gift and include a personalized message. www.battlefields.org/honorgift

MULTIPLE GIVING

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

Choose the level of giving you are comfortable with, starting at $5 per month — or receive all the benefits of our Color Bearer Society starting with monthly gifts of $84. www.battlefields.org/givementhree

Did you know?

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

AT THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST, we work hard to be a responsible steward of your donation dollars, earning coveted four-star ratings from the nonprofit watchdog group Charity Navigator in each of the last 14 years for our efforts.

As 2023 draws to a close and you contemplate year-end giving, remember that there are many ways you can contribute to the American Battlefield Trust and meet your personal philanthropic goals.

A tax-deductible gift of cash made by check or credit card — whether to a particular acquisition effort or education programs — is just the beginning! Learn more at www.battlefields.org/give

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

If you are over 70½, you can donate directly to the Trust through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA retirement account. Gifts may be made from Traditional or Roth IRAs. Simply complete the beneficiary form from your plan administrator and update the beneficiaries. This is easy and makes sense tax-wise (retirement plan distributions are taxable, so if you leave a retirement plan’s assets to your heirs, they may face double taxation). The Trust can also serve as a beneficiary on life insurance plans, checking, savings or brokerage accounts, as well as donor-advised fund residuals. Learn more at www.battlefields.org/give/ira-qcd

WORKPLACE GIVING

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

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

PARK DAY 2024

April 6, 2024: various locations nationwide

Join sites across the country for the Trust’s 20th annual Park Day and help our nation’s heritage pristine with preservation projects large and small.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024


As a time for all Trust members to gather and embrace their passion for battlefield preservation, the organization looks forward to providing a diverse round-up of experiences in this renowned location.

For more information, visit www.battlefields.org/events

THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST’S exceptional commitment to fiscal responsibility means you can give with confidence and pride.

This information is not intended as legal advice and you should consult your attorney or financial planner. References to estate and income tax include federal taxes only; individual state taxes vary and may have further impact on your result.
Plunge guests into this dramatic event. Holographs present the differing Patriot and Tory perspectives, while talking portraits allow King George III and Samuel Adams to engage in enthusiastic debate. Meanwhile, Abigail’s Tea Room is open to those who prefer to taste their history, as patrons can sample the five blends thrown overboard that historic night.

For the 250th commemoration of the Tea Party, the museum hosts a slew of special events and programs, including a genealogical project, a grave marker initiative and a large-scale reenactment on December 16, to augment its typical hour-long tours. Whether fascinated by the Revolution or looking to drink up some of Boston’s rich history, the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum is an essential stop.

Photo by MICHAEL BLANCHARD
www.battlefields.org  AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST
20% OFF STOREWIDE FOR HALLOWED GROUND READERS

www.battlefields.org/shop

Use code: HG20  |  Offer valid through 1/31/24; no minimum purchase required.