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AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

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Revolutionary

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O MANY HISTORY LOVERS, invoking the Peach Tree State conjures mental images of the 1860s, soldiers in blue and gray, the moving stories behind the national parks at Kennesaw Mountain and Andersonville. But after you've read this issue of Hallowed Ground, the next time someone mentions Georgia and civil war, you may find yourself

asking, "Which one?"

The British "southern strategy" in the Revolutionary War was designed to exploit deep-seated animosity among local residents. Moreover, community violence might tip citizens between Patriot and loyalist camps. And there was so much division within the Patriot cause that two feuding leaders of that community outright dueled, killing a signer of the Declaration of Independence!

If you're anything like me, layers and complexity are what make history so interesting. It's important to know where tragic events unfolded at Kettle

Creek — and fascinating that we established that through the innovative use of cadaver-sniffing dogs, like those more often employed in search and rescue operations.

Perhaps it should come as no surprise that there's more to the story when it comes to Georgia battlefields. For instance, one of the state's longtime champions for battlefield preservation was a household name that virtually no one associated with this passion project. Vince Dooley — known affectionately to most everyone as "Coach" — was the legendary mastermind behind the Georgia Bulldogs football team (and, later, the entire University of Georgia (UGA) athletic department. But the former Marine Corps officer was also a scholar with a master's degree in history and a wellresearched volume on the life of UGA faculty member William Gaston Deloney, whom he dubbed the "Legion's fighting bulldog," a reference that combines the Georgia Legion with the UGA mascot.

Coach Dooley was a longtime member of American Battlefield Trust's Board of Trustees, completing a third term shortly before his death in October 2022. Few have earned the title of "Renaissance man" as fully as he did — as at home on the gridiron as he was on the battlefield, never mind the garden. The man also earned a "master gardener" designation — he's had a camellia and a hydrangea named

after him, for goodness sake!

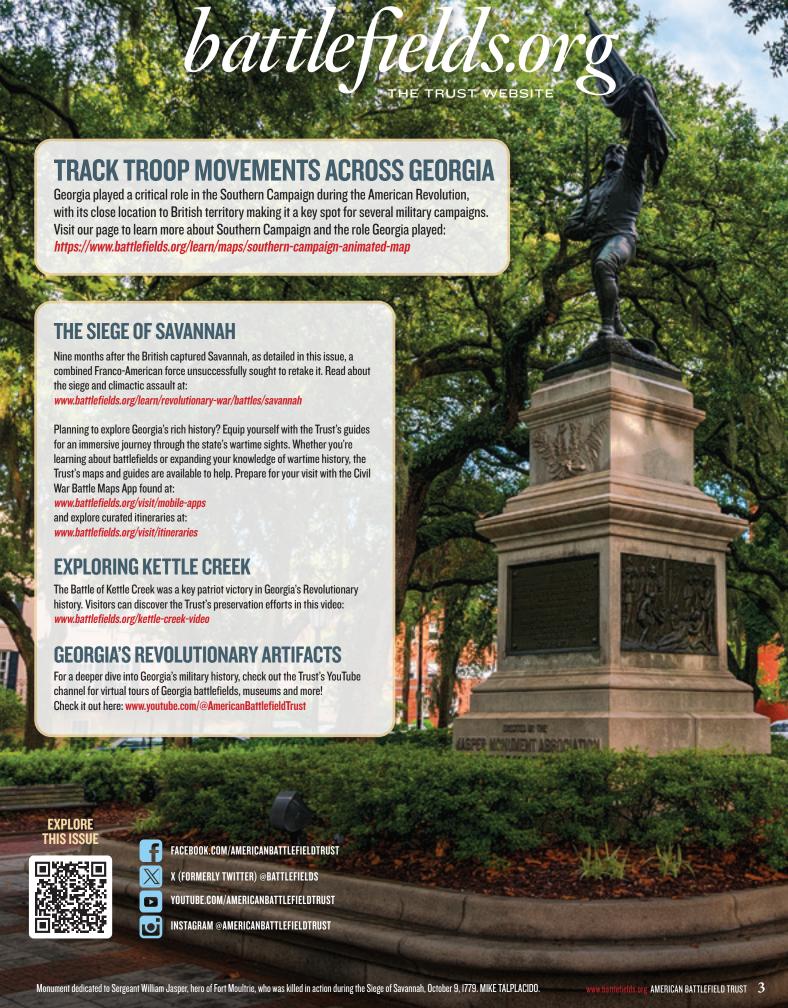
It was because of Coach's passion that we became involved in land preservation at Kettle Creek, expanding the existing park by 233 percent in a single transaction. Working with exceptional partners, like the Georgia Battlefields Association and Georgia Piedmont Land Trust, I know that we will be able to achieve many further preservation victories, setting hallowed ground aside for posterity.

There are so many exceptional stories still to be told, on the battlefields, using the landscape itself as a key component of how we bring the narrative to life. This

work is vital and only possible because of the support of a network of passionate Americans — visionary elected officials, creative partner organizations, generous donors. Together, we can come together in a public-private partnership to achieve far more than we ever could independently.

I hope that this issue of *Hallowed Ground* introduces you to new sites and new stories — and that in the months and years to come, we'll have the opportunity to save land associated with them.

David N. Dune DAVID N. DUNCAN President, American Battlefield Trust



# LIBERTY TRAIL EXPANDS PHYSICAL, DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

#### LIBERTY TRAIL NEW JERSEY LAUNCHES

F YOU'RE LOOKING to visit Princeton Battlefield State Park in 2025, you're in for a treat, with new interpretive signs, innovative "battle windows" and topographical maps and even a "pocket historian"

The tourist-friendly in-ground signage unveiled in November 2024 is part of a collaboration between the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (State Parks, Forests & Historic Sites), the American Battlefield Trust, and the Princeton Battlefield Society. The full suite includes 10 traditional waysides with historical content, a bronze patina topographical map table and two "battle windows" that apply extracted elements from a well-known James Peale painting and a newly commissioned depiction onto acrylic panels, allowing visitors to better grasp how battle action unfolded on the landscape. Their installation was a key milestone in ongoing efforts at the park.

Mark Texel, administrator of State Historic Sites for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, noted: "On January 3, 1777, the cause of American independence hung in the balance at Princeton, and that pivotal moment in history deserves to be captured through the very best in 21st-century interpretive techniques. This new signage will immediately enhance the experience of visitors and excite the community for the work still in progress."

That work continued with the debut of a new app from the Trust and RevolutionNJ — a partnership between the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC), a division of the New Jersey Department of State, and the nonprofit Crossroads of the American Revolution Association. The Liberty Trail NJ app marks the expansion of the Trust's successful multimedia, tourism-



focused interpretive project outside of South Carolina, where it began in 2019 as a way to highlight Revolutionary War history. As the nation's Semiquincentennial anniversary dawns, further states will join the network, a testimony to the many outstanding partnerships and collaborations present in the history community.

Liberty Trail NJ can now be downloaded for free through Google Play and the Apple Store, or used an online web app. Four tour options explore the game-changing events of the Ten Crucial Days Campaign — beginning with the Christmas crossing of the Delaware River and culminating at Princeton. Future additions to the app will tell far more of New Jersey's Revolutionary story, starting with the Battle

"As The Liberty Trail NJ grows, it will demonstrate how the cause of American independence touched upon the many elements and influences of New Jersey's landscape and society," said Carrie Fellows, executive director of Crossroads of the American Revolution.

"We will also seek to infuse varied perspectives into the app, emphasizing that this nation-forming conflict was seen through many eyes — British and loyalists, American Patriots, women, the enslaved, indigenous peoples, children and more," added Sara Cureton, executive director of the New Jersey Historical Commission.

An essential tool for any history lover exploring New Jersey, hallmarks of the app include engaging narrative text, modern photography and 360-degree virtual tours, historical illustrations, original artwork, battle maps and videos with experts. Driving and walking tours will both be included. The app connects with Princeton's new in-ground interpretation in an exciting way: An augmented reality display of troop movement can be projected onto the topographical map table.★

## AUGMENTED REALITY EXPERIENCES IN SOUTH CAROLINA



**OUTH CAROLINA** Revolutionary War sites now come to life like never before with The Liberty Trail Augmented Reality Experience app, which faithfully reconstructs key events and landmarks in 3D. Beyond the enjoy-anywhere capability of the app, accessible augmented reality "binoculars" can also be

found at Charleston's Marion Square and two other key battle sites. Although visually similar to traditional tower viewers, these innovative, long-lasting binoculars are believed to be the first of their kind installed anywhere in the United States and allow visitors to peer through and experience the AR scenes without the need for a personal device or app download.

Created by UK-based augmented reality company Zubr, The Liberty Trail AR suite of digital content goes beyond basic facts to



create an interactive and immersive glimpse into history. It showcases military maneuvers and siege tactics from both British and Patriot forces, with four different battlefield locations brought to life. From Eutaw Springs and Fort Watson to Fort Fair Lawn and the Siege of Charleston, the experience reveals the pivotal battles and their aftermath during the Southern Campaign, as well as military life outside battle.

"The past has never felt closer than through this dynamic AR experience, which allows visitors to wander around and inside long-lost battlefield structures," said Trust President David Duncan. Zubr Director Jack Norris highlighted the effort's technical achievements, like custom musket reload animations, 1:1 scale virtual environments and the innovative AR binoculars. "We're honoured that our cutting-edge tech will be used to increase awareness of these significant moments in U.S. history."

The remarkable collaboration between U.S. and U.K. teams in portraying both British and Patriot soldiers on the eve of the American Revolution's 250th anniversary also caught the attention of the British Embassy in Washington, D.C., which hosted a preview event before launch. "It was great to meet with the team from Zubr and experience their exciting new tech," said Col. Matt Churchward, Royal Marines Attaché to the United States. "I can see real value in the military community for both wargaming and joint professional military education."★







ARK MY WORDS - this fight has only just begun." said American Battlefield Trust President David Duncan, in wake of Prince William Circuit Court ruling in favor of developers seeking to put the World's largest data center campus on battlefield land immediately

adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park. "We anticipated the local court would be sympathetic to the county, and have always expected to have to appeal the ruling."

On December 5, it became official, as attorney and former State Senator Chap Petersen, who represents the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, filed our appeal. "There is no question that the Prince William County Board of Supervisors violated state law and its own code in approving these rezonings," he said. "I am confident the Court of Appeals will recognize the merit of our case and order the board to reconsider its shortsighted decision."

The case centers on the rezoning votes for 2,100 acres made by the lame-duck Prince William County Board of Supervisors in December 2023 and an array of legal violations in that approval process. These range from the lack of required information about the proposed development; inadequate public notice and hearings; unlawful waivers of key analyses, submissions and approvals; failure to consider key environmental and historical facts; and unlawful delegation of rezoning power to the data center developers by not requiring they identify which portions would be put to what uses.

"The Trust has been fighting this ill-conceived proposal for years and is determined to see this battle through," said Duncan. "Just as we will continue our fight at the Wilderness and other battlefields that stand to be forever marred by inappropriately sited data centers and other developments."

Just a few days later, the Virginia Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee (JLARC) released a landmark study analyzing the impact of the data centers across the state. Unfortunately, while this yearlong research effort made powerful points about energy and water consumption and how infrastructure costs will be passed along to utility ratepayers rather than the industry driving the demand, it all but ignored an evaluation of impact on historic resources — one of the topics it was explicitly charged with tackling.

"While the American Battlefield Trust encourages the General Assembly to adopt the JLARC recommendation that all companies be required to conduct a historic resource study to qualify for a tax exemption, we urge further steps be taken to save Virginia's battlefields and historic landscapes," said Duncan, highlighting on the local news how few municipalities were positioned to critically evaluate the results of a survey provided by the developers themselves.

"Time and again, we have seen the disastrous effect data centers and similar large-scale developments have on historic resources in Virginia and around the country, and there are currently few legal protections in place to stop this impact. The Trust will continue to advocate for preservation of our nation's history, as hallowed ground cannot be replaced once it is gone."★

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## **VETERANS TO UNCOVER CAMDEN'S HISTORY**

through an archaeology field school



HE AMERICAN Battlefield Trust is collaborating with the Historic Camden Foundation to bring the veteran-led nonprofit American Veterans Archaeological Recovery (AVAR) to an unexplored section of the Camden Battlefield. Veterans will study the Revolutionary War battlefield and colonial settlement through an innovative "conflict archaeology field

school," advancing our understanding of the past and aiding the veterans' reintegration into civilian society.

AVAR uses rehabilitation archaeology to support veterans experiencing service-related physical or mental health disabilities, positioning them alongside professional archaeologists. Together, they work on research projects, leading to discoveries that help interpret the battles and warriors of centuries past. The Trust has supported several AVAR projects, including work at Saratoga and Minute Man National Historical Parks, but this will be the first time it welcomes the group to land it has directly protected or utilizes the field school format.

"The Trust has long been proud to support AVAR's important mission, which demonstrates multiple ways in which preserved battlefields remain impactful: as a means for us to deepen our understanding of the past through tangible exploration and as a venue for the betterment of the mental and physical well-being of veterans," said Trust

President David Duncan. "Bringing AVAR to Trust-protected land for the first time, instead of helping support their work alongside the National Park Service, as we have done previously, is especially fulfilling."

The Camden field school will impart technical skills that allow veterans to carry out professional fieldwork, while also providing training on the transition from the military to the archaeological work environment. In addition to AVAR staff, the field school will be supported by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA). While the high costs of field schools often present a barrier to entry, this partnership

> is absorbing the cost for veterans participating in the field school at Camden.

> "The military has a long history of contributing to the field of archaeology, and we have found that work on battlefields, where our veterans can find a profound connection to the subject matter on hallowed ground, is particularly meaningful to our participants," said AVAR CEO Stephen Humphreys. "We are so grateful that our long and fruitful relationship with the Trust will now bring us to Camden for this first-of-its kind program."

> Researchers believe that Camden's long lack of attention as a major Patriot loss has kept the Trust-owned property relatively untouched by relic hunters, making it an ideal opportunity to engage in archaeological research. The session in Camden will run for approximately four weeks, beginning in late January.\*



# **VIRGINIA INVESTS IN PRESERVATION**

Announces nearly \$4 million in grant money



N OCTOBER, Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin announced that \$1.267 million in grants were awarded to the American Battlefield Trust through the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund (VBPF). The grant money goes toward protecting 97.8 acres at four historically significant battlefields in the Commonwealth — the Breakthrough

at Petersburg, Chancellorsville, Kernstown and Chaffin's Farm at New Market Heights. Two other nonprofits were also awarded grants, for a total of \$3.9 million in state grants to save 620 acres

"We are deeply grateful to Gov. Glenn Youngkin and the Commonwealth of Virginia for ensuring that future generations of Americans can be inspired by these landscapes and their stories," said Trust President David Duncan, celebrating the news. "Grants funded through VBPF enable nonprofits like the Trust to compensate willing sellers for acquisition of their historic properties. This latest round further cements the Old Dominion's status as the leader in heritage land conser-



vation, accelerating their efforts to coincide with the nation's 250th anniversary."

"Virginia has played a pivotal role in the history of our nation, and it is incumbent upon us to ensure that we preserve that history," Governor Youngkin said in a release announcing the grants. "By investing in these historic lands and making them accessible to the public, we are making sure the opportunity to experience Virginia's rich history is available for generations to come."

More than \$20 million in competitive matching grants has been allocated by the Virginia General Assembly and awarded by the Department of Historic Resources across nearly two decades, preserving more than II,000 acres of battlefield land. These grants enable nonprofit organizations like the Trust to participate in Virginia's highly competitive private real estate market to save our nation's historic landscape.

## TRUST GROWS NATIONAL PARKS

at Saratoga, Mill Springs



HILE OUR ACQUISITION of a piece of hallowed ground is always worth celebrating, for some properties, the process is still far from over, as we seek to

see them ultimately integrated into a national park unit. This fall, we were able to celebrate the growth of both Saratoga National Historical Park in New York and Mill Springs National Monument in Kentucky.

From initial discussions with landowners until final federal ownership, preservation can be a lengthy process - and in both of these cases involved acts of Congress. When we acquired the Mill Springs property in 2016, the battlefield was still years away from becoming a unit of the national park system. Saratoga also required a boundary adjustment in order to be able to take ownership of the land we purchased in 2018 and have since stewarded.

Amid commemorations of the 247th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga in October, Trust officials gathered with Park leadership at a transfer ceremony for the 25.6 historic acres overlooking the Fish Kill. The site contained a majority of the American artillery emplacements and represented the central segment of the siege line following the fighting for Bemis Heights. It also served as the staging area for the October 11 attempt to attack British positions, although the American attack force was recalled while crossing the river. Saratoga is widely considered to be a turning point of the Revolutionary War. The first-ever surrender of a British field army sealed the alliance between the new American nation and France in spring 1778.

"As we approach the 250th anniversary of the American Revolutionary War, we must never forget the pivotal role Saratoga played in the fight for our nation's freedom and independence," Congressman Paul Tonko said. "The hallowed ground in Saratoga acts as a permanent reminder of that rich history. I'm thrilled to celebrate this land transfer, and I thank American Battlefield Trust and Saratoga National Historical Park for their continued work that fosters a deep sense of place and connection to the story of our nation."

The Trust has worked closely with local advocates and Congressman Hal Rogers to preserve land at Kentucky's Mill Springs Battlefield for many years, including the 2020 legislation to establish it as a National Park System unit. "Our joint work to save this hallowed ground has resulted in the preservation of more than 550 acres of historic Kentucky battlefield land. The acquisition of the final 92.86 acres of the core battlefield is a testament to the joint perseverance of the MSBA and the Trust," Rogers said at the time of the October transfer of 93 acres.







# A NEW VIEW OF NORTH CAROLINA

with an innovative animated battle map





**ROM THE MOUNTAINS** to the coast, North Carolina's history is woven with complex tales of loyalty, division, rebellion and courage. The American Battlefield Trust's newest animated map, North Carolina at War, delves into this intricate legacy, where Patriots fought for in-

dependence, loyalists defended the Crown and Blue and Gray clashed during the Civil War. Produced by the award-winning Wide Awake Films, the newest addition to the Trust's growing video arsenal was made possible with the generous support of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

"Thanks to the American Battlefield Trust, we now have a valuable resource visitors can access to explore the often-overlooked engagements of North Carolina. For battlefields like Bentonville, this resource lays the groundwork and provides clarity to the complicated Carolinas Campaign," said Colby Stevens, the site manager at Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site. "This is more than an illustrated map, it's an interpretive tool showcasing our state's strategic military role in the broader context of the American Civil War."

The 23-minute production skillfully blends motion graphics, engaging narration and battle reenactment footage, transporting viewers through nearly a hundred years of history. Divided into key eras, the film begins during the Regulator Movement in colonial North Carolina and follows the state through its influential role in the American Revolution, including important action at Moore's Creek Bridge and Guilford Courthouse. The Tar Heel State's importance takes center stage during the Civil War, from the conflict's first joint Army-Navy operations at Hatteras Inlet to the fierce fighting for Fort Fisher to the largest Confederate surrender at Bennett Place during the war's waning days. Parks, museums and historic sites may request permission to make use of the film to orient visitors. The full video is available on the Trust's website and YouTube channel.\*

# Federal Legislative Victory

**HE HOLIDAYS** became a

preservation community on December 19, when the U.S. Senate passed the American **Battlefield Protection Program** Enhancement Act (H.R. 3448) as part of the broader

Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act (EXPLORE Act - H.R. 6492). This bipartisan reform bill, sponsored by 67 Senators and Members of Congress, refines an already successful grant program, going even further to ensure the preservation, restoration and interpretation of our nation's most hallowed battlegrounds. It was signed into law by President Joe Biden on January 4, 2025.

"The ABPP Enhancement Act includes important reforms that will make battlefield preservation efforts throughout the nation faster and more efficient." remarked Trust President David N. Duncan. "With the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution beginning in 2025, there is no better time to enact this important legislation to safeguard these historic treasures for future generations."

Duncan was also quick to thank the lawmakers and committee chairs who championed the bill: "We applaud bill sponsors U.S. Representatives Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) and Gerry Connolly (D-Va.), U.S. Senators Tim Kaine (D-Va.) and Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), along with House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) and Ranking Member John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), for their hard work on behalf of this successful

Since the ABPP land acquisition grant program was first funded in 1999, its matching grant awards have been used to protect more than 35,000 acres of hallowed ground in 20 states, compensating willing sellers for acquisition of their land on Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War

This legislation strengthens the ABPP through several practical modifications: (1) allows nonprofits and tribes to directly apply for ABPP grants, in addition to state and local governments; (2) expands eligibility of Battlefield

Restoration Grants so they may be used to restore battlefield lands protected by state, local and tribal governments; (3) clarifies eligibility of identified Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefield lands for acquisition matching grants; and (4) creates a process for utilizing recent archaeological findings, technological advancements and authoritative research to determine the historic scope of battlefields, and help preserve battlefield lands currently considered ineligible for funding.

The House version of the bill was first introduced in May 2023 by Reps. Stefanik and Connolly, co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Battlefield Caucus. It was unanimously passed in the House of Representatives in November 2023, before it was incorporated into the EXPLORE Act, which was also unanimously passed by the House in April 2024. The House Committee on Natural Resources, chaired by Rep. Westerman, and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, chaired by Sen. Manchin, were instrumental in the passage of the ABPP Enhancement Act.★

#### FIELD REPORTS DISPATCHES FROM THE BATTLEFIELD

# PARK DAY 2025

Register your site for April 26



ET READY! Park Day 2025 is approaching, and sites from coast to coast are invited to join the American Battlefield Trust's 29th annual volunteer clean up event for historic sites. In 2025, we will gather on Saturday, April 26,

to celebrate the power of place — and we invite your site to register and participate!

Park Day helps battlefields and historic venues shine their brightest. Through this beloved program, battlefield parks, museums, cemeteries and other venues have benefited from more than 450,000 hours of volunteer work. Each site chooses its own project, ensuring that the added bandwidth that Park Day brings is directed exactly where it is needed most. Perpetually popular

activities include routine groundskeeping, trail maintenance and trash removal, but more unique efforts to give cannons a fresh coat of paint, clean historic headstones or erect fence lines crop up every year, too.

Site registration is in process, and our national map of volunteer opportunities will reflect that process. Potential volunteers should check regularly to determine the best pairing for them in terms of proximity and activities offered.

In response to feedback from our network of participating sites, Park Day is taking place later in the month than in past years. This is to allow event managers to better align their project with a number of related opportunities in late April — Earth Day, National Park Week and National Volunteer Week, among them.

We're also sensitive to the fact that many partners need volunteer assistance throughout the year, and will soon be launching a broader support infrastructure to elevate those workdays outside the official Park Day calendar date. Especially as we begin to mark the Semiquincentennial of the Revolutionary War — and the nation itself — these types of projects will take on increased importance, and the Trust stands ready to help history-loving find ways they can assist and make a difference. Register at www.battlefields.org/parkday!★



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# FIELD REPORTS DISPATCHES FROM THE BATTLEFIELD

# PRESERVING AMERICA CONFERENCE WOWS

Inaugural event wins participant raves

HE INAUGURAL Preserving America Conference, co-hosted by Americana Corner and the Trust, November I3–I4, 2024, was a resounding success. Representatives from 2I nonprofit organizations gathered for the two-day conference, which was designed to share best practices for local groups that preserve, interpret and steward America's history. Speakers represented groups associated with thriving historic sites like Washington Crossing Historic Park; Fort Ligonier, a French and Indian War site; Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign; and the Conocoheague Institute, an I8th-century living history museum in Pennsylvania. A keynote address was offered by Beth Hill, CEO of Fort Ticonderoga.

Attendees listened to 45-minute panels loaded with tips and best practices in marketing, fundraising and programming. Matthew Wedd of the Conococheague Institute shared how a new emphasis on ensuring visitors utilize all five senses during their time exploring replica buildings creates a rich and memorable experience. There was also lively discussion about special events and seasonal attractions that can draw both new visitors and encourage repeat traffic among locals. For example, every fall Fort Ticonderoga creates a corn maze in the shape of the fort that visitors navigate by correctly answering a series of questions about the Revolutionary War.

During a popular panel, the Trust's Chief Digital Officer Larry Swiader offered practical suggestions to improve sites' digital marketing. His presentation did more than ease any lingering trepidation about marriage of technology and history, it set off lightbulbs as the audience began to ponder promotional opportunities through social media outreach. They also learned about Google and Microsoft grants for online advertising and previewed straightforward platforms for improving digital content, like VEED for videos and MURF for voiceovers.

But two days wasn't enough to share all the amazing ideas — and there are many more organizations out there that would also benefit from them! So the Trust and Americana Corner are already planning the 2025 event, and we are looking to host it outside the Washington, D.C., area. Once again, non-profit organizations passionate about preserving American history from the Founding Era to the Civil War will be eligible to apply. Look for further details and deadlines in the spring.



# IN MEMORIAM:

Russ Smith & Woody Harrell



**ECENT MONTHS** have seen the passing of two National Park Service alumni of the "cannonball circuit" who were instrumental in Trust preservation successes. We join the entire history community in mourning the loss of Russell Paul "Russ" Smith, longtime superintendent of Fred-

ericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, and Haywood "Woody" Stephen Harrell, who was long at

**Smith** passed away on August 21, 2024, following a two-year battle with pancreatic cancer. Following graduation from the University of Delaware with a degree in American history, he immediately joined the National Park Service — the start of a 42-year career. During his

time with NPS. Smith worked at a number

the helm at Shiloh National Military Park.



of historical parks, including Fort Sumter
National Monument, Independence National Historic Park and
Washington's Birthplace National Monument, as well as a stint as
Chief of Interpretation for the Northeast Region, based out of Philadelphia. Beginning in 2003 as superintendent of Fredericksburg
and Spotsylvania National Military Park, he was instrumental in
the Trust's work to protect the First Day at Chancellorsville site and
Slaughter Pen Farm at the Fredericksburg Battlefield. Only the call
of home could take him away from those beloved battlefields; he
was offered the position of superintendent at First State National
Historical Park in Delaware when it was established in 2013.

Harrell likewise spent four decades with the Park Service,

earning a reputation as a historian, a storyteller and a preserver of legacies. The North Carolina native met his wife of 49 years, Cynthia, when they were both stationed at Wright Brothers National Memorial in the Outer Banks. Even before the advent of the internet, he envisioned a searchable database that has blossomed into the 6.2 million digital records of the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System. On the occasion of his retirement, U.S. Senator



Thad Cochran read into the *Congressional Record* praise of Harrell's work as "the visionary force in planning and constructing the award-winning Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center" following the addition of those Mississippi sites to Shiloh National Military Park in 2004. In the aftermath of September 11, he personally designed the moving water feature outside the building, *The Stream of American History, 1770–1870.* A longtime marathoner, immediately after retiring, he and Cynthia hiked the Appalachian Trail.

Both Russ and Woody were profound leaders in their field and within their communities. Thanks to them, our ability to preserve and interpret Civil War history was immeasurably enriched. Their fingerprints and footsteps will forever be imprinted onto the trails of their parks. \*

#### **ANCESTRY**

HISTORIC CONNECTIONS IN YOUR FAMILY TREE

## THE CASE OF CHARLES 'CASE' BACON

He not only survived Andersonville, he escaped



T IS NO SECRET that ancestors can inspire the pursuit of preservation. It's a special connection to forge — standing upon sacred soil that you helped to protect and imagining the

range of emotions that raced through your ancestor's mind as they once stood on this same ground in the heat of battle.

Andrew and Tad Druart are Trust members who have answered the call to uplift ancestral memory, with research and battlefield visits galore to fuel their passion and learn about the case of... Charles "Case" Bacon, an ancestor who fought for the Union 1862–1865. While the Druarts have retraced his footsteps and made discoveries of their own, access to Ancestry, Fold3 and Newspapers.com — in combination with a handful of other public databases — can also provide detailed insight into this fascinating soldier's life.

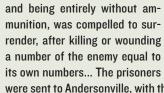
With a search for a "Case Bacon" (born in Ohio, lived in Iowa) in Ancestry.com's military records, an entry for the soldier in the "U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861–1865" collection appears. This profile starts with the 18-year-old's enlistment as a private on February 28, 1862, with the Union's 16th Iowa, Company F. Referring to the National Park Service's Soldiers and Sailors Database, you can learn that the 16th Iowa was organized in Davenport, Iowa, between December 10, 1861, and March 1862. The regiment later fought in Tennessee at Shiloh; in Mississippi at Corinth,

Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hill, Big Black River and Vicksburg; and in Georgia at Kennesaw Mountain and Atlanta.

Back to the profile on Ancestry.com, it's seen that Bacon's time as a soldier was far from easy — as he found himself imprisoned at the infamous Andersonville Prison (also known as Camp Sumter) following capture on July 22, 1864, as a result of the Battle of

While a Union victory that led to the capture of a critical Confederate city, the Battle of Atlanta spelled trouble for the I6th Iowa. On Fold3, details on the I6th Iowa's actions at Atlanta are provided via an excerpt from *The Union Army: A History of Military Affairs in the Loyal States*, 1861-65, Volume IV (1908):

"... [the 16th lowa] charged the batteries and lost 65 men, then held its position until completely surrounded



Andersonville Prison in

Andersonville, Ga., was considered

one of the worst POW camps



were sent to Andersonville, with the exception of the officers, who were sent to Macon, thence to Charleston and later to Columbia. The men were exchanged on Sept. 22, but the officers remained in prison much longer. A few escaped..."

Private Bacon was at Andersonville for two months, which was noted in an Enrollment of Ex-Soldiers and Sailors that he completed in 1889 while living in Kansas (Ancestry.com, via the Kansas State Historical Society). The Druarts' research also uncovered a copy of the General Affidavit that Bacon completed as part of his pension appli-

cation, where within he wrote about his being taken to Andersonville and stripped of his coat and blanket. Further, a Civil War Prisoner of War (POW) record on Ancestry.com states that Bacon escaped on September 29.

Tad Druart expanded on Bacon's supposed escape, saying that during a visit to Andersonville National Historic Site, a park ranger made it clear that he didn't technically escape from the prison. A book titled Reminiscences of Andersonville and Other Rebel Prisons. A Story of Suffering, Starvation and

Death spoke of a planned prisoner exchange that provided release to a few hundred federal POWs but forced a remaining 500 men to march back to the Confederate prison. The book's chapter on Bacon's escape claims that a thickly wooded bend in the road gave him and several others the opportunity to flee.

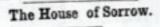
It is unclear how and where Bacon reconnected with Union troops, but newspaper clippings indicate that he fell in step with Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's troops. The Druart family also has letters from

Bacon — one notes his standing guard at Sherman's Savannah headquarters.

Private Bacon's service continued in the Carolinas Campaign, and he even marched in Washington's Grand Review upon the war's end. But his time as a soldier carried a lifelong impact.

After mustering out on August 26, 1865, Bacon married Hannah Jane Stephenson and had seven children, whom they raised in McPherson County, Kansas. When Hannah's death was reported in the McPherson Weekly Republican in December 1886, the paper also claimed that Bacon was "a helpless invalid from his service in the Atlanta and Carolina campaigns with Sherman."

Bacon forever carried the war with him, and now his descendants persevere in protecting his story.★



Died, Monday, December 17, 1886, Jane Stephenson, wife of Case Bacon, formerly of Co. F. 16th Iowa Infantry. When in the coffin her three year

old girl got on a chair and rapped on the glass of the coffin and called, "ma, ma, wake up, breakfast is ready." The man that took the child away says he acted the squaw. Her death was caused by a cold rain storm two years ago while going home from McPherson. She left seven children, five too young to know their great loss. Bacon is a helpless invalid from his service in the Atlanta and Carolina campaigns with Sherman.





**OR MORE THAN 240 YEARS**, slain Patriot and British soldiers lay in unmarked, makeshift, shallow graves in the backcountry of Georgia—all but forgotten casualties of a battle all but overlooked. That is, until the spring of 2015, when 24 trained cadaver dogs went to work on the Kettle Creek Bat-

tlefield near Washington, Georgia. Today — on the strength of their sniffing, plus collaborative work between the American Battlefield Trust, local partners and elected officials — the far-larger parkland is an officially affiliated site of the National Park System.

While the British met initial success during the 1776 New York Campaign and Philadelphia Campaign of 1777, the stunning loss at Saratoga that engendered the alliance between the Americans and French forced the British to reconsider their strategy. Pivoting to the south in hopes of subduing the Revolution below the Mason-Dixon Line, the British intended to pacify the colonies of Georgia, Virginia and the Carolinas by separating them from the rebellion in the middle and northern colonies. And after the British took Savannah on December 29, 1778, fear spread among Patriot colonists that red coats would begin to win favor in the rural areas of the southern colonies, persuading loyalist sympathizers to become active participants in the war.

On Cupid's Day, 1779, those fears were quelled with the overwhelming victory of Patriot forces at Kettle Creek.

As British Colonel John Boyd set out through the Georgian woods with his newly raised regiment of 800 Tories, his ultimate destination was Augusta, which had just been successfully captured by British General Archibald Campbell. After suffering nearly 100 casualties during their march south due to Patriot partisans, Boyd ordered his men to rest and make camp on the north side of Kettle Creek in Wilkes County. He was unaware that 350 Patriots, under the overall command of Colonel Andrew Pickens, were preparing to strike.

The ensuing melee lasted four hours and, despite outnumbering the Patriots roughly two-to-one and commanding the higher ground, the surviving Tories began to break and run — abandoning horses and supplies as they fled across the creek. Suffering 115 casualties in the battle, in addition to the 100 lost on the way to Kettle Creek, the once 800-strong Tory regiment was left with fewer than 600 battered and beleaguered men.

Controversially, approximately 50 loyalist prisoners were subsequently refused prisoner of war status and convicted of treason at the behest of Patriot General Andrew Williamson. He wrote:

"Our eyes are now opened and not with standing the lenity hitherto shown them they have at this crisis given convincing proofs, and that no faith should or ought be placed in their most solumn assurance and a severe example must certainly be made for the benefit of the State, and as a terror to others."

Of the 50 prisoners captured, 20 were sentenced to death, although only five were ultimately hanged.

While the general location of the battle was long widely

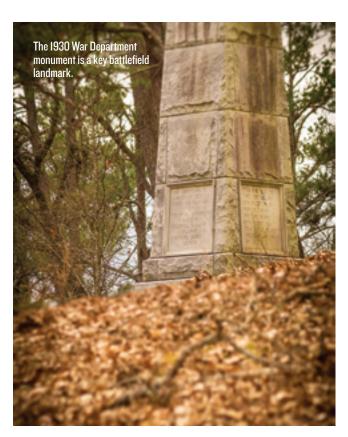
12 HALLOWED GROUND | WINTER 2024–2025

# SUCCESS STORIES LAND SAVED FOREVER

accepted — the Daughters of the American Revolution acquired a property in 1900 and the U.S. War Department erected a monument in 1930, plus a 1975 listing on the National Register of Historic Places — the first systematic archaeological search wasn't conducted until 2008, an astounding 229 years after the battle's final salvo. The Kettle Creek Battlefield Association formed in 2011 and purchased a significant 60-acre tract two years later.

Still, Kettle Creek garnered little attention and few headlines. Then came the innovative use of cadaver dogs, a new approach to archaeological fieldwork. According to the project's official report, Dan Bigman of Bigman Geophysical LLC was brought onto the battlefield to "direct a remote sensing survey that consisted of using human remains detecting [HRD] dogs." K9 Search & Rescue Specialists, Inc., surveyed three key areas of the battlefield and located 10 locations of possible human remains scent — alerting to locations and geophysical and soil anomalies that suggested individual burials.

While the report notes that the dogs "found no clear, indisputable evidence of burials at any of the five targets. That is, no human remains, personal artifacts, bullets, or grave shafts were revealed"; it also states that the archaeologists "believe that it is more likely than not that the shallow, poorly defined depression that contained a greater-than-normal amount of rock in Priority Target 7 was a Revolutionary War field burial." A May 2018 lab result supported these findings, with human mitochondrial DNA extracted from four out of six target zones.

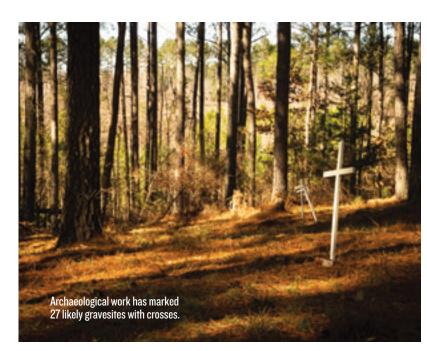


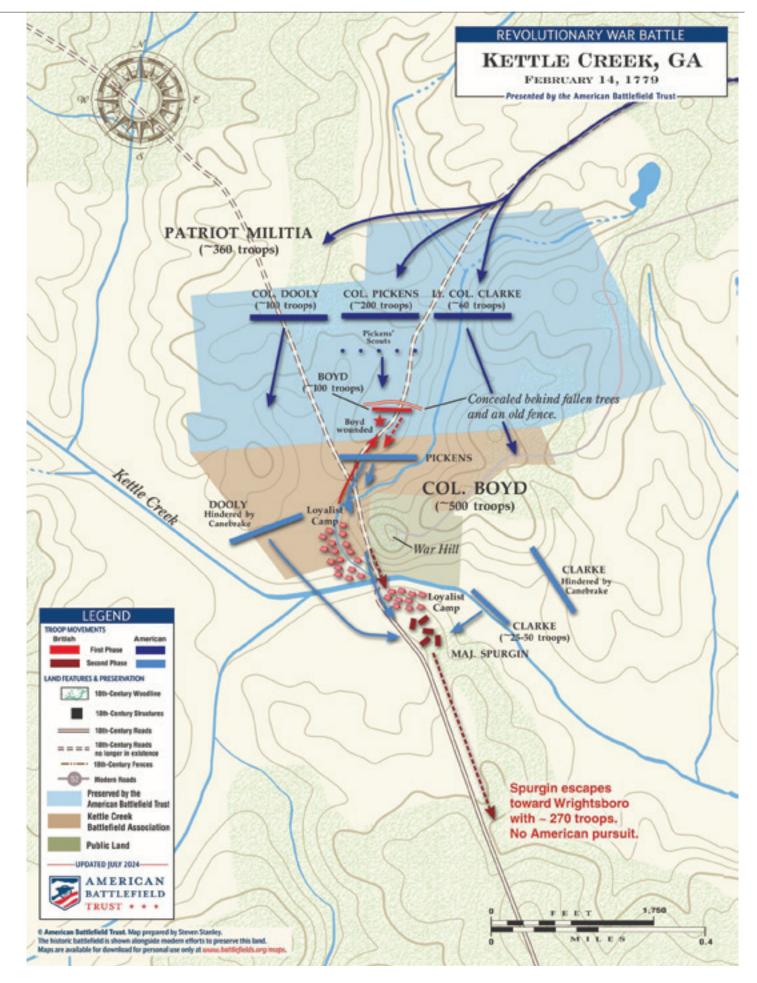


In 2017, Kettle Creek was one of just 32 battlefield sites across the country to receive a federal matching grant for additional land protection. That grant, with subsequent contributions from the Trust and the Watson-Brown Foundation, plus the outstanding stewardship and advocacy of the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, allowed for the expansion of the park's borders, adding 180 acres, including the area with the newly identified graves

"It's a place that needs to be recognized. Very few people know about it," said Vince Dooley, famed University of Georgia football coach and ardent battlefield preservationist at the 2018 event celebrating the success. "Preserving the battlefield is like a laboratory classroom, particularly as to our history in Georgia."

Efforts to steward, interpret and improve the Kettle Creek Battlefield have continued. In January 2021, then U.S. Rep. Jody Hice announced it had been officially named an affiliated site of the National Park System. In 2024, the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust issued a \$1.4-million grant to acquire additional land; this will be administered by Wilkes County, which is expected to add another \$500,000 in in-kind services and stewardship.





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# GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESERVES

the pistols, bones, hair and legacy of state beroes



**S ONE OF** the original 13 colonies, Georgia's place in American history is varied, complex — and downright engrossing. The Georgia Historical Society (GHS), founded in 1839, is responsible for housing this centuries-old history.

GHS believes in the power of history — that "an unflinching examination of our nation's successes, as well as our failures, is crucial to maintaining our democratic republic and encourages us to live up to our ideals and aspirations." And tangible connections to the past are integral to this. As one of the premier independent educational and research institutions in the nation, the Society boasts one of the oldest archives in the United States. According to the Society, its collections hold more than five million items, including 100,000 photographs, 30,000 architectural drawings, 20,000 rare and common books and thousands of maps, portraits and artifacts. Within that is the Button Gwinnett Collection, which holds materials related to one of only eight Founders born in Britain who signed the Declaration of Independence.

Gwinnett experienced professional highs and lows: running an unsuccessful mercantile business in Savannah, Georgia, in the 1760s transitioned into running an unsuccessful small plantation. He found more success in politics, first as a member of Georgia's General Assembly and then as one of the 56 men who risked his life by signing his name to the Declaration of Independence. But this Founding Father's tragic end came from a different quarter.

When war broke out in the colonies, Gwinnett sought to use his public stature to receive command of a Georgia battalion. His attempts were thwarted by Scottish-American, Lachlan McIntosh, who represented an opposing faction in Georgia's deeply divided Patriot movement, igniting a bitter

In 1777, the animosity reached a fever pitch when Gwinnett accused McIntosh's brother, George, of treason and ordered his arrest. The Georgia Assembly compounded the "situation after investigating a failed patriot offensive into British-held East Florida, but laying the blame for the expedition on McIntosh."

personal feud.

An infuriated McIntosh proclaimed Gwinnett "a scoundrel and a lying rascal" in front of the Assembly, resulting in Gwinnett issuing the challenge of a duel.

The pair met on May 16, 1777, outside of Savannah, with pistols loaded. Both were struck in the leg in the ensuing duel. McIntosh survived, but Gwinnett succumbed to infection and died three days later.

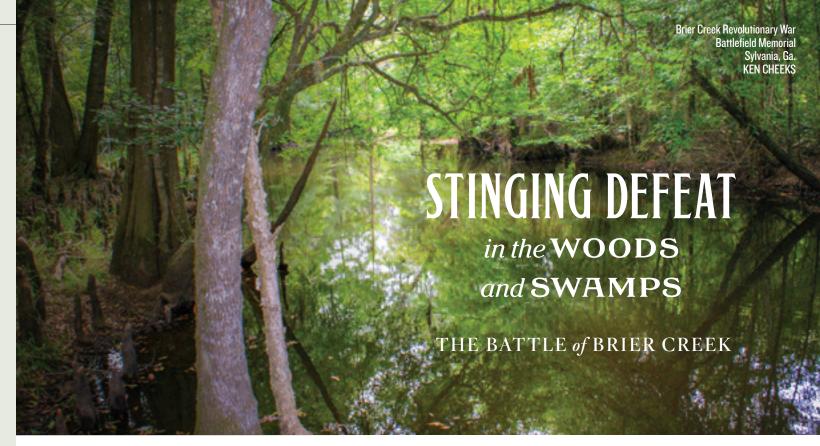


Incredibly, the Georgia Historical Society is in possession of not only the dueling pistols from that fateful day, but also a thigh bone, locks of hair and bone fragments, allegedly removed from Gwinnett's gravesite!

The Society aims to make the "past relevant to the present... and use the power of our shared story to offer all Americans new and deeper perspectives on the past and present. GHS is committed to teaching the full story of American history. Understanding the past is crucial to maintaining our democratic republic and encourages us to live up to our ideals and aspirations."

The bones of Gwinnett do just that. And although few Georgians encounter the relics on a daily basis, a million or more live with his legacy: The suburban-Atlanta Gwinnett County, the state's second most populous, is named in his honor.★







**OUGHT ALONG** the banks of Brier Creek, where it meets the Savannah River, near Sylvania, Georgia, the Battle of Brier Creek was an early British victory in the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution. The change in British strategy to focus their attention on the war in the South was twofold:

to gain the upper hand before France could bring her full weight to bear as an American ally and to tap into strong loyalist sentiment in the region.

Augusta, Georgia, was the first objective for the British, and it fell to British forces on December 29, 1778. British troops dispatched from New York and Saint Augustine in East Florida coordinated with one another to secure Augusta's capitulation. In January 1779, Brigadier General Augustine Prevost was appointed the British commander of Augusta and directed Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell to begin organizing loyalist militia units.

On February I4, Patriot forces had secured a splendid victory at Kettle Creek, near Augusta, although the significant number of American casualties undermined the boost in Patriot morale. Those losses stood in stark contrast to Cambell, who had lost only a single soldier during his occupation of Savannah, albeit a death shrouded in controversy. One of his regulars sought sanctuary under the warfare terms of "safeguard" in a private home, a status that, in Europe, would have rendered him off-limits. But in America, he was killed by militia, and their commanders refused to press charges, sparking outrage.

Campbell pulled his troops back and headed south. When his forces reached Ebenezer, they put the bridge across Brier Creek to the torch. Hot on their heels were the Americans, led by General John Ashe of North Carolina. Upon reaching Ebenezer, he put his men to work repairing the bridge and went into encampment on the banks of Brier Creek. His arrangement of troops was costly and haphazard as they had their backs to the creek and against a swamp.

At this juncture, Campbell, having determined to return to Britian, turned command of his detachment over to Lieutenant Colonel Mark Prevost, the younger brother of General Prevost. Before Campbell's departure, the pair had devised a plan of attack, which Prevost executed flawlessly on the afternoon of March 3, 1779. They feinted at the bridge site but swung the bulk of their forces north and west of the bridge. They planned to exploit Ashe's position, which was arranged in a triangle at the confluence of the creek and the river.

Ashe had been warned about the British troops bearing down on his position, but his battle lines were disorganized, and the troops confused: Cartridge boxes were short, and the men had muskets of different calibers. While the American left formed against the creek, their right did not reach the river and was left exposed.

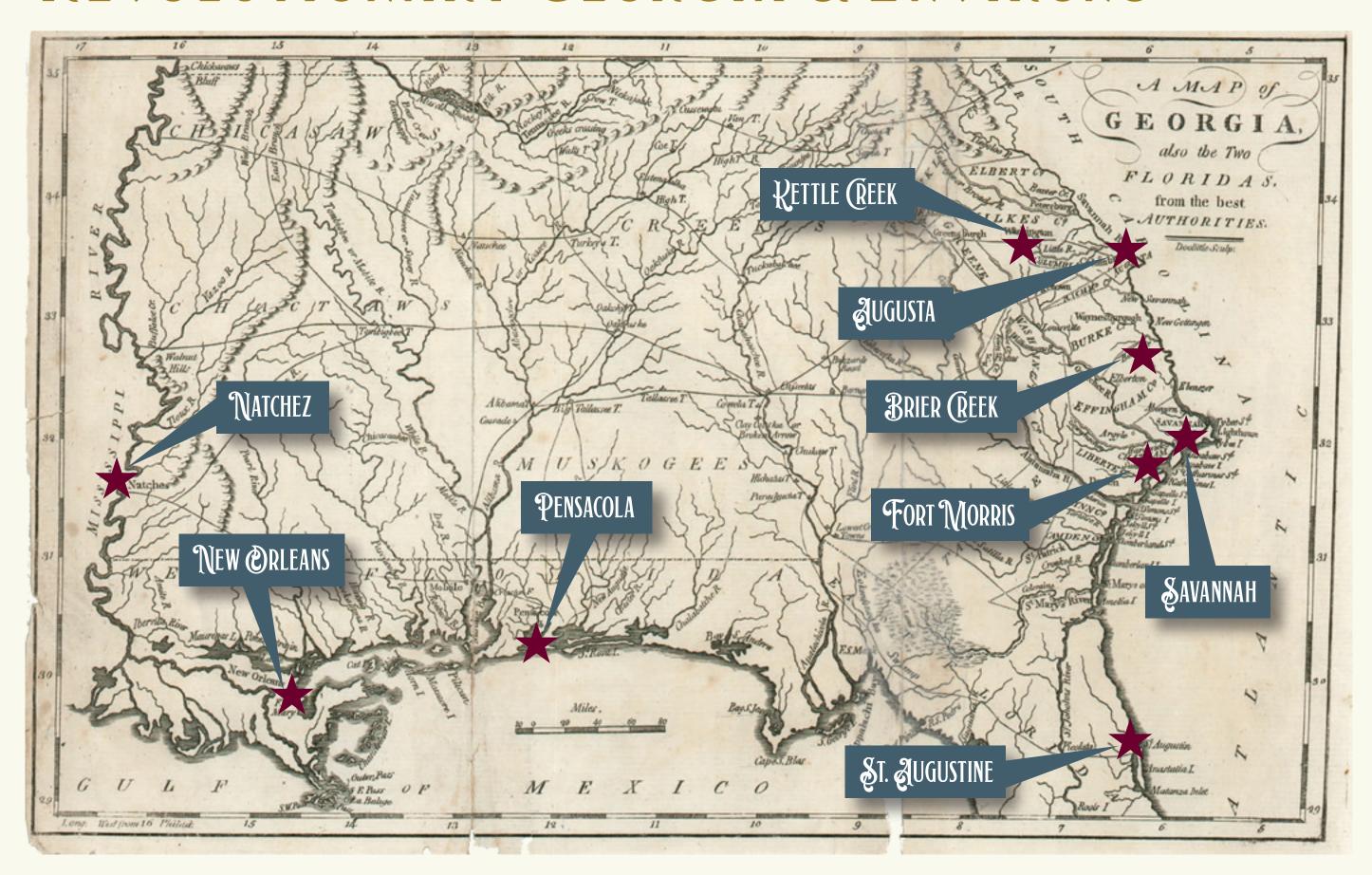
The British three-pronged attack was also supported by light artillery. As the fighting ensued, another gap appeared in American lines in the confusion. British cavalry exploited the gap on the American right and British Regulars with fixed bayonets plunged into breach.

Panic engulfed the Americans, who did not have bayonets, and many broke and ran. A rout was underway. The American militia from North Carolina and Georgia failed to perform, while the Continental units posted in the center held firm until their position became threatened and they were forced to surrender as the militiamen melted into the forests and swamps, fleeing for their lives.

It was a stinging defeat for the Americans, who lost both men and material. While the British lost only five men killed and II wounded, American casualties were close to 400, with a fair number of them drowning in the swamps as they fled. More than 200 of the Continentals were captured. Witnesses claim that Ashe fled on horseback; although a court-martial acquitted him of cowardice, he was convicted for failing to make his camp secure.

Writing after the war, Patriot leader William Moultrie argued that the American defeat prolonged the war by at least a year and opened the floodgates for a British invasion of the Carolinas.\*

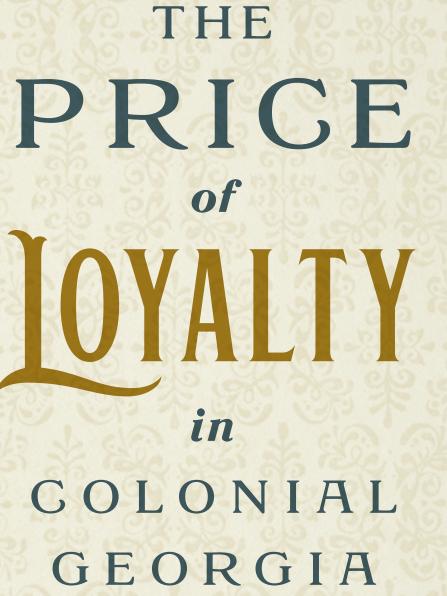
# REVOLUTIONARY GEORGIA & ENVIRONS



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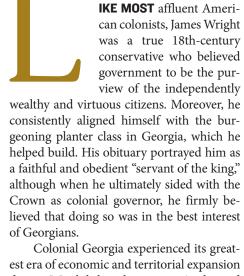
ALLOWED GROUND WINTER 2024–2025



by GREG BROOKING, Ph.D.

Sir James Wright, last royal governor of Georgia, presided over a tumultuous time that saw loyalists pay significant financial and physical costs amid an increasingly ardent revolutionary spirit.

Excerpted and adapted from bis book, From Empire to Republic: Sir James Wright and the Price of Loyalty in Georgia, by kind permission of the University of Georgia Press.



during Wright's lengthy tenure. At the end of the 1760s, Wright saved Georgia from a backcountry movement similar to the "regulator movement" in North Carolina. To prevent unrest in Georgia's backcountry, he advocated for the establishment of frontier courts and sought to purchase additional Native lands for settlement.

Utterly pragmatic, James Wright understood the 18th-century world in which he lived and focused his boundless energies on making the most of the opportunities presented him. His lifelong quest for familial redemption, private wealth and, perhaps most importantly, personal respect was grounded in a deep conservatism that left him ill-equipped to understand the moral passions driving the burgeoning rebellion and his rigid, distant, and aloof personality handicapped his ability to navigate the crisis and chaos that soon enveloped and ultimately destroyed him. Although Wright empathized with colonists who had become angry about Parliamentary encroachments, he thoroughly believed in the British system of governance and insisted that the system could only be challenged through proper legal channels and not riotous behavior. Such acts threatened to overturn the entire social, economic and political foundation on which his world was based. During the clamorous Tea Party days of 1773, Wright addressed the Georgia Assembly to explain the inherent contradiction of his position as a royal official and a citizen of Georgia. "I ever [always] meant to discharge my duty as a Faithful Servant of the Crown," he insisted, "and can with the greatest truth declare I also meant at the same time to promote to the utmost of my



power and abilities the true interest of the people."

Two years later, as the imperial crisis reached a boiling point, the governor delivered an impassioned speech in which he reminisced about his nearly 15 years in the colony and expressed his affection for the people of Georgia. "I have a real and affectionate regard for the people," he exclaimed, "and it grieves me that a province that I have been so long in ... should, by imprudence and rashness of some inconsiderate people, be plunged into a state of distress and ruin." Until the end of his life in 1785, he steadfastly maintained his allegiance to king, country and colony, believing that many of the colonists, his people, had been led astray by a fractious minority. And here was the crux for a man like Wright: How does one serve two separate entities with occasionally divergent goals, wants and needs?

The shedding of blood on Lexington Green in Massachusetts proved to be the fulcrum on which colonial Georgia's future would pivot — and it swung toward civil war. It took several weeks for news of that event to reach Savannah via Charleston on May 10, but when it did, Georgia's Liberty Boys [Georgia's version of the Sons of Liberty] broke into the public powder magazine and "robbed ... 600 pounds of gun powder." The governor issued a proclamation offering a reward for information about the theft but did not "expect or suppose it will have any effect." Georgia's radicals further wasted no time in creating a propaganda war that Wright would never successfully counter.

Wright now realized the momentum had shifted yet again at the end of May and predicted "nothing but a prospect of a general rebellion throughout America." This seemed especially likely following a rumor emanating from Charleston that the British planned "to liberate the slaves & encourage them to attack their masters." One Georgia delegate to the Continental Congress fearfully predicted the British would be able to quickly reconquer Georgia and South Carolina once the enslaved flew joined them. Georgians' fears were not merely hypothetical. In early December 1774, half a dozen escaped slaves killed at least four white colonists and wounded several others before being captured and killed. This event raised the anxieties of white Georgians and played no small role in Georgia's revolutionary movement, although in reality, the British were quite reluctant to fully engage Blacks as weapons in their war against the Rebels.

These events compelled the Liberty Boys to further action, and Wright, fearful for his safety, complained to officials in London that Georgia's loyalists believed the Crown had left them "to fall a sacrifice to the resentment of the people." By the summer of 1775, the revolutionary fervor in Georgia had placed royal governance of the colony in deep peril. Discouraged, exasperated, yet painfully lucid and insightful, Governor Wright scrawled a lengthy epis-

and if none was soon offered, he cried, "every officer .... must submit to a worse fate."

At the end of June 1775, Wright mailed several letters to British officials advising them of the deplorable situation in Georgia, but South Carolina's Rebels intercepted them and replaced them with very different missives. The original note urged Gage to send "five times" the troops Wright had previously requested, because too few would "only inflame the whole province" and suggested that colonial governors be relocated to England, lest they be left "naked and exposed to the resentment of an enraged people." The Rebels replaced this



W

# AND FEATHERED, WHICH WRIGHT DESCRIBED AS THE "MOST HORRID SPECTAGLE EVER."

tle to the Secretary of State for the American colonies, William Legge, Second Earl of Dartmouth, which vividly illustrates the rebellious inclinations. In his extraordinary letter, Wright predicts America was on the path to independence if Parliament failed to concede that it did not possess the right to tax the colonists directly. He also understood America's promise. It was growing at an incredible rate, and governing such a land would soon prove problematic, even under the best of circumstances.

Dejected and hopeless, Wright repeated his request to return to England. "I begin to think," he wrote in July, that "a King's governor has little or no business here." The Governor's Council unanimously protested to the ministry that the "powers of government are at present totally unhinged, ... prosecutions [for any offenses] would be useless." The royal government could no longer enforce the law—in the summer of 1775, a full year before the Declaration of Independence.

Rebel authorities arrested John Hume, newly appointed to the Governor's Council, the next month, presumably to be "torn to pieces," according to Wright. "However ... as a matter of great humanity and tenderness, they condescended to order him out of the province." Wright continued that loyalists were in great need of assistance,

petition with one that asserted "Georgia [has] not suffered," and that "no danger is to be apprehended from" the Rebels, nor are troops needed there or in South Carolina. Moreover, the forged letter sought to offset correspondence from other sources that described the true situation, hand-waving away how recently arrived South Carolina Governor William Campbell was "inexperienced in affairs of government" and may "express apprehensions." How did Gage, who had corresponded with Wright for years and was familiar his constant harping for more soldiers, interpret this letter as genuine? Even if he had caught the deception, he was preoccupied in Boston and may not have been able to send relief in any event. On the same day, Governor Wright also penned a letter to Admiral Graves. He inquired about the whereabouts of the vessel Graves was supposed to have sent to Georgia and stated that there were then "four or five boats from [South Carolina], full of armed men" off the coast of Savannah. These men, according to Wright, have blocked the port and "have it in their power to plunder any thing that arrives here, and do just what they please." Therefore, he maintained, we need "immediate assistance." Unfortunately for the governor, this letter was also intercepted and a new one forged; the counterfeit instead stated that Wright had no "occasion for any vessel of war." So, as far as the British military command in America knew, Georgia and South Carolina remained reasonably peaceful, especially regarding the dangerous situation in Massachusetts.

The next six months proved increasingly miserable for Wright and his fellow loyalists, who daily faced insults from the Liberty Boys. Failure to sign the Rebel oath could result in banishment or worse. River pilot John Hopkins was tarred and feathered in July 1775, which Wright described as the "most horrid spectacle I ever saw." Even Wright's minister at Christ Church, the Reverend Haddon Smith, had been forced to "flee from the violence of the people ... [after having] been continually persecuted."

In early August, Georgia's Rebel congress penned a letter to the governor suggesting unity "in times like present," which Wright and his Council wisely understood as an attempt to "wrest the command of the militia out of the hands of the [Royal] government." Later in the fall, Wright grieved that his "government [has been] totally annihilated;" the tyranny, oppression and insults he faced so dreadful that rumors circulated throughout the British Atlantic world that he had been "made prisoner by the people." Not yet.

The second half of 1775 proved painfully confused and contingent. Both loyal-

ists and Rebels often believed themselves to be losing ground in the battle for hearts and minds. Part of this was a result of ever-shifting alliances. In December, Wright learned that the King had finally approved his request for leave. The governor informed William Legge, Lord Dartmouth, that "all the King's officers and friends to government write for my continuance amongst them [and] I am well informed and have [even] been told by several of the Liberty people that they [also] express great concern and uneasiness at my intention of leaving the province at present." But fate intervened the following month.

A special Rebel Council of Safety session convened in Savannah on the chilly evening of January 18, 1776. Their meeting at Peter Tondee's Tavern at the northwest corner of Broughton and Whitaker Streets focused on the recent arrival of two British men-of-war at Tybee Island. At this moment, Georgia's Rebel Council of Safety resolved to plunge Britain's youngest colony deep into the maelstrom of rebellion by ordering the arrest of Wright and three members of his Council — Josiah Tattnall, John Mulryne and Anthony Stokes.

Major Joseph Habersham, the son of Wright's best friend, volunteered to execute the orders from this extralegal assembly. Simultaneously and mere blocks away, the governor greeted dinner guests at Gov-

Loyalists believed they, and not the Rebels, were beacons of liberty because they defended constitutional government in the face of a violent mobocracy. Thomas Brown, an Augustan who sought neutrality, but whose torture at the hands of Rebels turned him into an aggressive militia leader, is one of the stories profiled on the Trust's website and in its traveling exhibit, The American Revolution Experience.



ernment House on St. James's Square. But this was no ordinary dinner party. It was a meeting of the highest-ranking provincial officials, and the discussion focused on the town's ever-growing mobocracy. While seated at Wright's mahogany dining table under the reassuring gaze from a portrait of King George II, a scuffle at the front door startled the dinner guests.

Amid the cacophony of voices and boots scuffling on the hardwood floors, Major Habersham entered the dining room and, with apparent grace and dignity, bowed to the assembled guests and marched to the head of the table. Placing his left arm on the governor's right shoulder, he stated: "Sir James, you are my prisoner." The Council of Safety reconvened a few hours later. It resolved that each of those arrested be permitted to return "to their respective homes upon their parole assuring that they will attend his Excellency the Governor's house" the following morning. Wright's personal parole had come upon the additional promise that the "peace of the town shall not be disturbed by any persons from the ships of war."

But the promised safety of parole seemed more dubious with each passing day. On more than one occasion, shots were fired into the governor's home. Three weeks later, and fearing for his life, James Wright secured his safety in the pre-dawn hours of February 11. In a letter to Lord George Germain, the Secretary of State for the American Department, he wrote: "[I]n order to avoid the rage and violence of the Rebels ..., [I] was reduced to the necessity of leaving the town of Savannah in the night." Thus it was for Georgia's most popular and successful colonial governor, whose efforts doubled the colony's territory and enriched many a parvenu. Patriotism to King and Crown had a steep price tag indeed. If only, as Wright had written time and time again, Georgia's loyalists "could have got any support or assistance [we] should have kept [Georgia] out of the rebellion." Right or wrong, he clung to this position for the remainder of his life.★

Greg Brooking is a social studies teacher at North Springs High School who took his Ph.D. from Georgia State University. He has published articles in the Georgia Historical Quarterly and the Journal of the American Revolution. He lives and writes in the Atlanta suburbs.

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Above engraving: SHUTTERSTOCK

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# THE CAPTURE of SAVAINIAH

Establishing a base of operations in Georgia was the key first step to the British Southern Strategy. Fortunes rose and fell elsewhere, but their hold on Savannah withheld siege and direct assault alike.

by RICARDO A. HERRERA, Ph.D.

PHOTO by ROB SHENK WIDE AWAKE FILMS



**RMED WITH ORDERS** from General Sir Henry Clinton, commander in chief of the British Army in America, and backed by just over

3,000 tough British and

German regulars and American loyalists, Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell, commander of the Second Battalion, 71st Regiment of Foot (Fraser's Highlanders), set forth on an "Enterprize against the Rebels in Georgia." Along the way, he penned a remarkable journal of his quest to seize and subdue the southernmost rebel colony.

Campbell's larger mission was to inaugurate Britain's more ambitious Southern strategy to return the "deluded Colonies" of Georgia and the Carolinas to the imperial fold. The 1778 Franco-American alliance had turned the American War for Independence from a colonial rebellion into a European war. Despite this, Secretary of State for the Colonies George Germain, as well as Clinton and George III, believed there was an opportunity to rescue British fortunes - reports swirled of loyalists awaiting the King's army.

Armed with a local commission as brigadier general, Campbell departed the New York area with his invasion flotilla on November 26. The transports, estimated to have been anywhere between 20 and 56 boats, sailed with an escort under the command of Commodore Hyde Parker: the Phoenix (44 guns), Vigilant (24 guns), Foy (20 guns), Keppel (16 guns), Greenwich (12 guns) and Alert (8 guns), and the row galley Comet. The transports carried eight battalions of infantry but just "36 Men [and eight guns] of the [4th Battalion] Royal Artillery (a miserable Proportion for so many Regiments of Foot)." In total, it made 3,041 rank and file.

Unknown to Campbell or Clinton, Brigadier General Augustine Prévost at St. Augustine, East Florida, had ordered forces toward Sunbury, Georgia, to forage and, if possible, capture Fort Morris, some 26 miles south-southwest of Savannah; the fort guarded the seaward approach on the Medway River. On October 20, Clinton had ordered Prévost to invade from the south, in conjunction with Campbell's descent from New York. The orders, however, did not arrive until November 27, a week after Prévost's foragers had departed and the day after Campbell had sailed. While at sea, Campbell

wrote to Governor Patrick Tonyn of East Florida and to General Prévost, informing them of his mission. Campbell requested Tonyn work with Superintendent of Indian Affairs Colonel John Stuart to "make a Diversion in ... the Back Woods of Georgia ... as far as the Frontiers of South Carolina." Campbell requested that Prévost advance to the Altamaha River, about 52 miles south-southwest of Savannah, to divert attention from Campbell's attack.

The voyage south was difficult; the transports and escorts were "repeatedly dispersed by hard Weather," but by December 22, they were "off Charles Town ... and the Weather easy and favourable." Most of the fleet anchored off Ossabaw Island on December 23, about 20 miles south-southeast of the mouth of the Savannah River. "One Transport and two Horse Sloops," however, were missing. With most of his forces concentrated, Campbell was poised to advance.

Campbell and Parker conferred, and on Christmas Eve the flotilla "stood in for the Mouth of the Savanah River." An unexpected gift greeted them: the missing transport Dorothy, carrying 200 Highlanders of the First Battalion. Most of the fleet entered the river on Christmas Eve, and Campbell issued landing orders. Warships would "cover the Disembarkation," as the 71st's two light infantry companies secured the beachhead. Soldiers were ordered to carry 60 rounds, two spare flints, a blanket, three days' rations and one day's rum. Rather than firing from their "Flat Bottomed Boats," Campbell ordered his troops to exercise patience and then close with the enemy using their bayonets.

Before proceeding upriver, Campbell sought out intelligence on his enemy. The two light infantry companies from the 71st, under the command of Captain Sir James Baird and Captain Charles Cameron, landed on Tybee Island to "stretch their Limbs, and ... search for Intelligence, Horses and fresh Stock." They found nothing but some wild horses. That evening, Baird's company boarded flat boats, made its way westward through Tybee Creek to Wilmington River and landed within a few miles of Savannah.

The next morning, Baird returned with two local prisoners, from whom Campbell learned of the American troop dispositions: Major General Robert Howe of North Carolina commanded two brigades of South Carolina and Georgia Continentals and militia. But the estimate of American troops was double the actual strength of 854 soldiers and around nine artillery pieces. Campbell also learned of a potential landing site at Sheridoe's [Girardeau's] Plantation, some 12 Miles above Tybee Island, and just one mile, along an excellent road, from Savannah.

After considering this information, Campbell proposed that the force "should push on Shore in the middle of the Night" at the plantation with "1000 Men, and establish a Footing" before dawn, with the rest of the invasion force following. He planned on taking the "Town by Surpsize." Parker agreed, but storms and high winds delayed the attack until Monday morning, December 28. Transports carrying the soldiers followed and a two-hour cannonade commenced, although the shots initially fell short. Ultimately, the British drove off their opponents.

By 4:00 p.m., the tide was out, and the transports were grounded six miles short of their target, so Campbell put off landing until the next morning. Flow tide began at 10:09 p.m., with full flood at 3:35 a.m. Campbell would have a limited window to act. The cannon fire and easily visible masts of the British vessels erased any chances of surprise, but Campbell was not dissuaded. Orders went out for a first landing wave to board boats and concentrate that night under the stern of *Vigilant* for an immediate landing the next morning. Baird's light infantry company was delayed, its transports having run aground two miles downriver.

When the sun rose at 7:25 a.m., the tide was fast ebbing, but the First Division was ready and "Baird's Company, which was then ... 500 Yards in the Rear, [was] pulling at oars briskly to the Rendezvous." While Campbell and Parker were doing what little they could to speed along Baird's approach, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Innes fretted over the tide and ordered the boats to make for the shore immediately. Campbell returned in time to halt the redirection, then made for Cameron's light infantry, stopping its advance.

Captain John Carraway Smith and 40 outnumbered soldiers of the Third South Carolina faced the British from atop Brewton's Hill, the heights that rose above Girardeau's Plantation. Smith's Continentals commanded a "new and extremely irregular" road with a "deep Ditch on each

# A COMPANY OF HIGHLANDERS ENTERED SAVANNAH'S FORTIFICATION AND "GAVE THREE CHEERS." SAVANNAH HAD FALLEN.

side" running from the river. Rice swamps extended to the east and west, with the hill ahead of the landing rising about 40 feet. Smith's South Carolinians had taken position in the houses and outbuildings of the plantation, and the surrounding terrain gave them advantage: The narrow road and surrounding rice fields prevented dispersal and rapid movement, and the heights gave Smith good observation opportunities. With limited options available, Campbell relied on a "forlorn Hope ... [of] A Corporal and four Highlanders" to lead the assault. About 50 yards to their rear, a "Sergeant and 12 Highlanders" trailed. Campbell "led the Remainder ... in person at a slow pace towards the Bluff." This enabled Cameron to observe and command and gave time for the follow-on forces to flow onto the beachhead as the assault force advanced.

Five hundred British soldiers now occupied the beachhead. It was time to advance and "dislodge the Enemy." Campbell ordered the "forlorn Hope to move Briskly" forward; they alone would return American fire, while the main body was to assault and seize the position.

Fortunately for Campbell, the Americans fired early, and few rounds struck the British from the 100-yard range. The light infantry charged as Smith's company "retreated with precipitation by the Back Doors and Windows." In less than three minutes, Campbell had seized the high ground, losing Captain Cameron and three Highlanders killed, with five more wounded. But Campbell was fortunate, and he knew it, recording in his journal: "Had the Rebels stationed Four Pieces of Cannon on this Bluff with 500 Men for its Defence, it is more than probable, they would have destroyed the greatest part of this Division."

Colonel Samuel Elbert of the Second Georgia Continentals had suggested posting 200 soldiers on the bluff, but General Howe had thought that a landing at Girardeau's Plantation would be a deception. When the landing commenced, Captain Smith sent a messenger to Howe, who never received it and had no idea of the landing until the firing began.

After seizing Brewton's Bluff, the light infantry advanced, and the rest of the invasion force landed. They sent out patrols to reconnoiter the woods bordering the plantation, and the roads beyond to scout for the enemy. Once Campbell was satisfied, he advanced south. The light companies led the advance, followed by the First Battalion of Highlanders, all the while taking ineffective fire from American naval forces on the river.

Campbell learned that the Americans were "forming in Line about half a Mile South" of Savannah. But because of the lack of transport, it took until about noon for the rest of his army to land. As they advanced southward, each battalion sent out flankers left and right for security. Roughly one mile onward, "they fell in with the Great Road leading from Thunder Bolt Bluff to the Town of Savannah" and left one Hessian regiment as rear security.

By about 2:00 p.m., the British reached a point about 800 yards from the American defenses, where they formed a line along a fence on Governor Sir James Wright's plantation. To the west, the Americans had four field pieces, which opened fire on the light infantry. Campbell ordered Captain Baird to avoid exposing his soldiers to enemy fire. The main body was to the east, covered and concealed by the descending ground. While this took place, Campbell climbed a tree on the left of the light infantry, observed the American lines and considered his next move.

The Americans had formed in a level area facing east; their left extended north toward the rice fields, while their right tied in on a thick wood that extended well to the south. Howe had formed the South Carolinians under Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Huger to the south of the road, and Elbert and the Georgians to the north in a shallow V, with the arms presented eastward. To the west, Georgia militia faced

southeast, perpendicular to the Ogeechee Road "near to the New Barracks," with the left resting on the road. They had some artillery and stood behind breastworks.

in the fall of 1779 attempted to re-capture Savannah

Polish cavalry mastermind Casimir Pulaski was mortally wounded on in the climactic assault on October 9.

Quamino, an enslaved man from Wright's plantation, gave Campbell intelligence about the American movements and offered to "lead the Troops ... through the Swamp upon the Enemy's Right." Based upon this information and his observations, Campbell formulated his final plan: He would send the light infantry against the American right, the southern position, to "make an Impression," and himself would lead the attack against the South Carolinians and Georgians to his front.

Campbell began by deceiving the Americans. He marched the light infantry and First Battalion of Highlanders north toward the river, but then doubled back and used "A happy Fall of Ground" to the east of the line to march south, out of view. Led by the Quamino through the swamps, Baird and the light infantry followed.

Campbell posted an officer in a "high Tree to watch the Motions of the Light Infantry" and signal when firing commenced from the southern American positions.

Campbell next deployed his artillery, "concealed by a Swell of Ground in the Front." Once the engagement began, the artillery would push forward and fire on the American line. South of the artillery, a Hessian regiment formed. Throughout the deployment, the Americans fired a "loose Cannonade, without any Return on our part." Not long after, Campbell received the signal: The light infantry had made contact.

JIEGE DE JAVANNAH

fait par les Tronpesfrancoisaaux Ordrer du General D'Estaing Vice-timiral de France. en 7.10, et 8.1079.

With the light infantry demonstrating against the southern defenses, the main effort commenced. Artillery "broke the Enemy's Line" even before the infantry advanced, and the American "Retreat was rapid beyond Conception." Campbell's infantry gained the high ground from the southeast.

Soon, "a Body of the Rebel Militia appeared" in front of the Highlanders. Campbell was prepared for a fight, but instead received the surrender of Savannah's militia, which "grounded their Arms." A company of Highlanders entered Savannah's fortifications and "gave three Cheers." The city had fallen, and Campbell's troops pursued the remaining militia through Savannah.

Events on the south side were much the same. Baird's light infantry routed the

Georgia militia in time to strike the Georgians and South Carolinians who fled from Campbell in the flank. This attack drove the shattered brigades past the Yamacraw Bluffs on the town's west side and into the marshes below.

Savannah fell to the British on December 29, 1778. In early January, Sunbury, the last American-held post on the Georgia coast, was captured by Prévost coming north from East Florida. On March 8, Governor Sir James Wright received orders from Lord George Germain, the colonial secretary, to prepare for his return to office as royal governor of Georgia. The first phase in Britain's reconquest of the southern colonies had been a success.\*

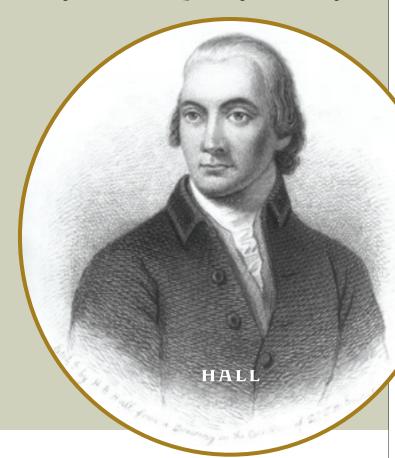
Ricardo A. Herrera, Ph.D., is professor of military history at the US Army War College and the author of many articles and books, including Feeding Washington's Army: Surviving the Valley Forge Winter of 1778 and For Liberty and the Republic: The American Citizen as Soldier, 1775–1861. He is a graduate of Marquette University and UCLA., and a U.S. Army veteran.

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# CAMP of INSTRUCTION STUDENTS OF PRESERVATION

# **REVOLUTIONARY GEORGIANS**

Civilian and Soldier, Patriot and Loyalist, each shaped a dynamic story





OU'VE ALREADY BEEN INTRODUCED to some of the fascinating Georgians, loyalist and Patriot, who shaped the course of the American War for Independence, but there are many more. Founders and everyday folk alike contributed to the youngest colony's unique role in the Revolution

Lyman Hall and George Walton served alongside Button Gwinnet at the Second Continental Congress, also signing the Declaration of Independence. Interestingly, none of the three were born in the new state they represented: Gwinnet was born in Britian, Hall in Connecticut and Walton in Virginia. Three contiguous counties in northeast Georgia are named after this trio.

Walton, who had been an ally of Lachlan

MacIntosh, initially apprenticed as a carpenter, but went on to become one of the most successful lawyers in Georgia. He led a battalion at the Battle of Savannah, where he was wounded and captured. After spending nearly a year in Sunbury Prison, he was released in a prisoner exchange in October 1779 and almost immediately elected governor of Georgia. Later in life, he again served as governor and in the U.S. Senate, and helped found what is now the University of Georgia.

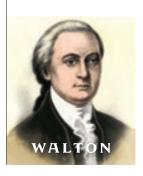
Hall was a Yale University-educated minister and doctor who first moved to Dorchester, South Carolina, near Charleston, and subsequently, with a large Congregationalist community, to what is now Liberty County, Georgia. Hall was a prominent citizen in the new town of Sunbury, which was solidly Patriot in sentiment, despite being surrounded by loyalist communities. Although

Georgia had not been represented in the First Continental Congress, Hall's was one of the voices that encouraged parishes to send representatives to the Second. He himself was selected for this role and arrived in 1775, ultimately one of four physicians to sign the Declaration. Later he served as governor of Georgia for a short time, advocating for the creation of a state university, and when his term expired, he resumed his medical practice.

Archibald Bulloch
was an early delegate
to the Continental Congress and close ally of
John Adams, known to express strong sentiments like
"This is no time to talk of moderation; in the present instance
it ceases to be a virtue." But he
had voluntarily left Philadelphia
to return to Georgia and fight
in the ranks. He took part in
the Battle of the Rice Boats and



the Battle of Tybee Island, and in June 1776 was named "President and Commander-in-Chief of Georgia" under the temporary republican government. On February 20, 1777, he signed the state constitution, and two days later, according to the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, in the face of an invasion by the British from Florida, Georgia's Council of Safety requested that Bulloch "take upon himself



the whole Executive Powers of Government." The powers offered were nearly dictatorial, but two days later, Bulloch was dead in circumstances never fully known — some speculate poison. But Bulloch had married in 1764, and among his notable descendants was great-great-grandson President Theodore Roosevelt.



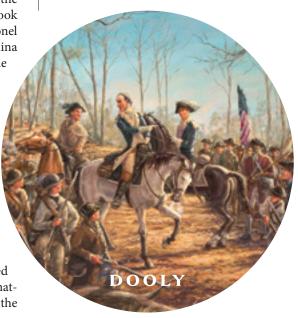
Several generations of the Glascock family of Augusta played prominent roles in the Revolution and early republic. Colonel William Glascock, a veteran of the French and Indian War, served as chairman of the executive counsel of Georgia and was labeled as a "Rebel Counselor" in the Disqualifying Act of 1780 while the state was under British occupation. His son, Brigadier General Thomas Glascock, was twice captured by the British, but is credited with rescuing the wounded General Casmir Pulaski from the British. His courage was such that George Washington declared Glascock "Marshal of Georgia," a title that is still treasured by his descendants, including two sons who also rose to the rank of general, serving in the War of 1812 and Seminole Wars.

Ann Morgan "Nancy" Hart was a cousin of General Daniel Morgan and a patriot spy in the backcountry Broad River Valley. According to legend, British soldiers came to Nancy's home to question her about assisting an escaped Patriot. When they demanded food and drink, Nancy obliged with unusual hospitality, all the while discreetly removing the soldiers' muskets from the stack they had formed in a corner. Nancy had passed two of the guns to her 12-year-old daughter Sukey through a gap in the wall before the soldiers noticed. Nancy then instructed the soldiers to remain where they were — when one rose to

approach her, she shot him dead, wounded another and took the remaining four hostage. Sukey ran to tell her father, who returned to the cabin. The Harts and their neighbors decided to hang the soldiers from a nearby tree. In 1912, an archaeological excavation of the land near the Harts' cabin unearthed six skeletons, suggesting that some version of the myth was true.

Merchant, surveyor and land developer John Dooly was among many Georgians who initially opposed the revolution, but was later swayed by its opportunity for social, economic and political progress on the southern frontier, which the British had largely ignored, and he took up arms. On February 14, 1779, Colonel Andrew Pickens of the South Carolina militia and Dooly attacked at Kettle Creek and routed roughly 600 Carolina Tories, who were attempting to connect with British forces in Augusta. Ongoing Patriot opposition in America's backcountry pushed the British back to the coast, and Dooly - acting as the highest-ranking military officer, as a member of the dominant legislative body in Georgia and as state's attorney - began to arrest, chain, try and even execute loyalists as traitors. In June 1779, he assembled some 400 militiamen for an uncoordinated attempt to take back Savannah as the

British garrison dwindled. He participated in the Franco-American siege that September and another failed October 9 attack. In May 1780, with the Georgia interior overrun, Dooly was one of many militiamen who surrendered but were allowed home on parole. Soon thereafter, the Patriot hero was murdered, supposedly in front of his family. However, whether it was an example of the cynical "Georgia parole" that claimed the lives of prisoners in the Southern Campaigns when the fortunes of war shifted, revenge exacted by pre-war creditors or another grievance from his enemies is uncertain. \*\*



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Hart Painting by Louis S. Glanzman; Dooly Painting by DALE WATSON; other images Alamy.com

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# CAMP of INSTRUCTION STUDENTS OF PRESERVATION

# THE FORGOTTEN FRONT OF FLORIDA

How General Washington's southern ambitions fell short



CHOOLCHILDREN learn about the 13 colonies that declared independence in 1776, but in the 1760s, Great Britian acquired other strategic possessions on mainland North America, in addition to its Caribbean holdings. The treaty that ended the Seven Years' War stripped France of its territory in what is now Canada, and Spain gave the British

Florida in exchange for reclaiming Havana, Cuba, which had fallen to siege in 1762.

The vast majority of North America's Spanish population relocated to Cuba, and Britain divided its new territory into East Florida and West Florida, which was soon inhabited by colonists who relocated from South Carolina, Georgia and Bermuda. Others came from

England, including veterans of the Seven Years' War who'd been given land grants for their service. With such a demographic, it remained solidly loyalist during the Revolution, and although both Floridas were invited to send delegates to the First Continental Congress, they declined. Later, using Georgia as a staging ground, the Continental Army launched multiple attempts to capture East Florida.

With the colonies to the north rebelling, Florida was crucial to the British war effort, keeping open a supply chain from the British Caribbean colonies. The port at St. Augustine was especially vital, and

this hub for stockpiling goods, troops and weaponry was a tempting target for Continental forces.

General Washington authorized five attempts to capture Florida, though only three were carried out. The first major invasion occurred in August of 1776 when Major General Charles Lee and Major General Robert Howe attempted to capture St. Augustine. Lee and Howe marched south from Savannah, Georgia, with 2,500 men. But mass desertions due to lack of supplies and poor planning caused the mission to be aborted.

The Battle of Thomas Creek marked another failed attempt by the Continental Army to gain control of East Florida. In May 1777,

Continental forces crossed out of Georgia to gain a foothold on the far side of the St. Mary's River. However, loyalist Thomas Brown with his East Florida Rangers, Native American allies and British troops launched a surprise attack on the Continentals campsite at Thomas Creek. Outnumbered and ill-prepared, the Continental forces retreated, leaving Brown and his Rangers free to continue raiding into south Georgia.

In January 1778, Major General Howe planned a third East Florida invasion, hoping to rely on Continental regulars. But when he was forced to proceed with the Georgia militia, Thomas Brown and his Rangers took advantage with a surprise attack at Fort Barrington that forced the Patriots' surrender

Despite the setback, in May, Howe continued his efforts chasing Brown's forces into Florida. On June 28, Howe sent Colonel James Screvin to attack Brown and the British at Fort Toyn. However, a combined British force of nearly 1,000 soldiers, loyalist militia and Native Americans overwhelmed the American forces at the Battle of Alligator Creek Bridge. Again outmatched, Screven retreated. Although Washington sought further expeditions to invade East Florida in late 1778 and 1780, blocking St. Augustine's role as hub for British operations, they went unexecuted, leaving East Florida under British control for the rest of the war.

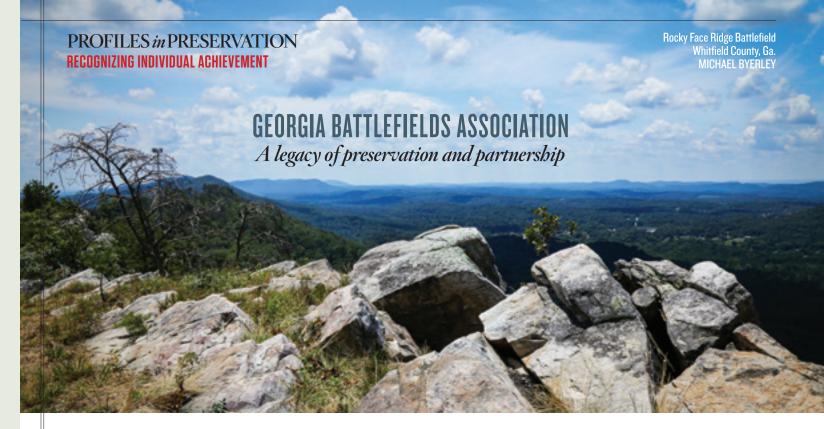
Being farther from the population centers in Georgia, West Florida — which stretched along the Gulf Coast as far as the Mississippi River and included coastal portions of what is now Alabama and Mississippi, as far as Baton Rouge — faced fewer early invasions. The notable exception was the Willing Expedition, beginning in the winter of 1778. Continental Naval Captain James Willing was sent as an emissary by Congress to invite West Florida to become the l4th state. Although more sympathetic than their eastern equivalents to the American cause, local leaders were more concerned by the threat posed by New Orleans and Spanish Louisiana.

Rebuffed, Congress then authorized Willing to lead troops into the region so that the population would swear an oath of neutrality. He plundered plantations in West Florida and indicated that General George Rogers Clark and some 5.000 militia would follow in his wake, securing oaths from the citizens of Natchez and other areas. Eventually, a loyalist force defeated Willing's raiders, and he sought protection in New Orleans, from which the Spanish had allowed his operations. Ultimately, his vessel was intercepted during a return Atlantic voyage to Philadelphia, and he was held on a prison ship in New York for at least a year.

Then, in May 1779, Spain entered the war indirectly — as an ally of France

rather than the United States — dramatically shifting the balance of power on the Gulf Coast. With colonial governors authorized to engage in direct hostilities with the British, Bernardo de Galvez in Spanish Louisiana moved quickly, setting out from New Orleans in August with a diverse force that grew to include Spanish regulars, militia, free Blacks, Anglo-American volunteers, Native Americans and Acadians — colonists from New France (now the Maritime Provinces of Canada and parts of Maine) who had been forcibly relocated to Louisiana after the British took control of the region in the same post-war shuffle that had given them control of Florida. By May 1781, they had captured Baton Rouge, Mobile and Pensacola, prompting the surrender of all West Florida by the British.\*





**INCE ITS FOUNDING** in 1995, the Georgia Battlefields Association (GBA) has been a cornerstone of historic preservation in the state, working tirelessly to acquire, protect, and promote Georgia's Civil War battlefields. As a nonprofit organization, GBA is dedicat-

ed not only to preserving land but also to fostering public understanding of the historical events that shaped Georgia and the United States. Through its efforts, GBA ensures that these places remain relevant to current and future generations.

At the heart of GBA's mission is its commitment to community engagement and education. GBA promotes monthly Civil War Round Tables in Dalton, Cobb County, Atlanta and Northeast Georgia, creating forums where historians and citizens can discuss and deepen their understanding of Civil War history. Additionally, GBA publishes a monthly newsletter, offering insights into historical events, updates on preservation efforts and information about upcoming activities.

A highlight of GBA's outreach is its annual historical tour, which has been a staple for more than 20 years. These tours provide participants with an immersive experience of Georgia's history, combining expert-led discussions with onsite exploration. This year's tour will focus on Chickamauga, one of the most significant battlefields of the Civil War. Past tours have included a visit to Savannah, dedicated to its Revolutionary War history, and a journey from Crawfordville to Augusta, which incorporated the Revolutionary War battlefield at Kettle Creek.

While GBA's primary focus is on the Civil War, its contributions to preserving sites from the Revolutionary War are equally noteworthy. The Kettle Creek Battlefield, spanning 220 acres, stands as a testament to GBA's preservation

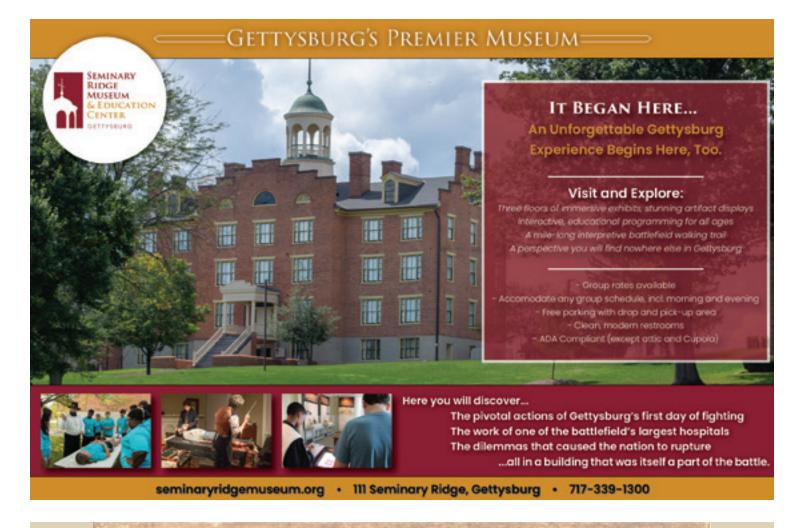
efforts. This site, significant for the Patriot victory over loyalist forces on Valentine's Day 1779, was the first major Patriot victory in Georgia's backcountry during the Revolutionary War. Partnering with the Trust and other organizations, in 2019, 180 additional acres were transferred to the park, tripling its size and ensuring the battlefield's preservation for public access and education. This achievement reflects the power of collaboration and underscores GBA's commitment to protecting Georgia's revolutionary past.

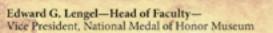
The partnership between GBA and the American Battlefield Trust spans decades, with both organizations sharing a deep commitment to preserving historic battlefields and educating the public about their significance. While we operate on a national scale, GBA specializes in Georgia's unique historical landscape, making the partnership mutually beneficial and highly effective.

This collaborative journey began in 1997 with the acquisition of 17 acres at Griswoldville, the site of the only pitched battle faced by General William T. Sherman's troops during their march from Atlanta to Savannah. Today, Griswoldville features interpretive historical markers and a kiosk, allowing visitors to learn about the site's importance while enjoying a preserved and accessible environment managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. GBA and the Trust have worked together to preserve land at some of Georgia's most important Civil War sites, including Chickamauga, Resaca, and Rocky Face Ridge. These sites, integral to understanding the strategies and outcomes of the Civil War, now stand as preserved monuments to the sacrifices made during one of America's most tumultuous periods.

As the American Battlefield Trust continues its work nation-wide, Georgia remains a focal point for its preservation efforts, and we are poised to continue our shared mission of protecting and promoting Georgia's historic battlefields. Our combined efforts ensure that these sites remain preserved not only as physical spaces but also as invaluable resources for education, reflection and inspiration.

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Mark R. Anderson-"Down the Warpath to the Cedars: Indians' First Battles in the Revolution"

Friederike Baer—"Incomprehensible Friends and Rebellious Enemies: German Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War"

Brooke Barbier-"King Hancock: The Radical Influence of a Moderate Founding Father"

Stephen Brumwell-"Turncoat: A Fresh Interpretation of Benedict Arnold and the Crisis of American Liberty"

Iris De Rode - "A New Perspective on the Yorktown Campaign: Revelations of the Unpublished Private Papers of François-Jean de Chastellux"

William Anthony Hay — "We Live on Victory': British Military Strategy and Decision-Making in the American Revolution, 1774-

Ricardo "Rick" Herrera-"Projecting Power Continental Army Style: George Washington and the Armed Camp at Valley Forge

Paul Lockhart — "Drillmaster of the Revolution: The Baron de Steuben and the Making of the American Army'

Daniel Murphy-"The Revolutionary War's Other Cavalryman: William Washington, America's Light Dragoon and the Myths of Hobkirk's Hill"

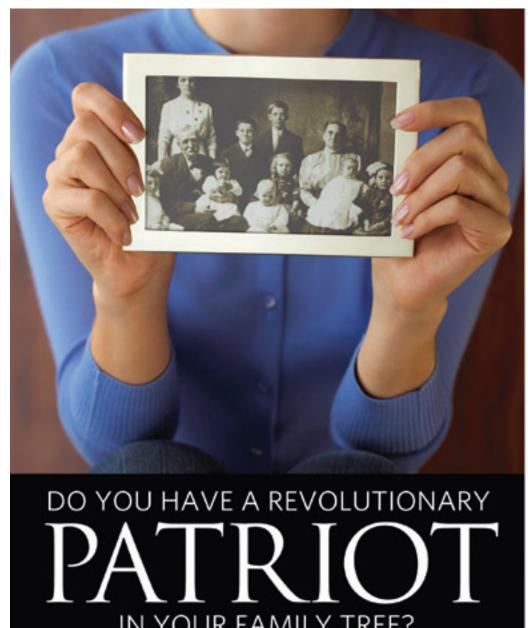
Kevin J. Weddle - "America's Turning Point: Leadership in the Saratoga Campaign of 1777.

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Consider membership in the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), a volunteer women's service organization that honors and preserves the legacy of our Patriot ancestors. Nearly 250 years ago, American Patriots fought and sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy today.

As a member of the DAR, you can continue this legacy by actively promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education for children.

> Preserving the American Spirit www.dar.org (202)879 - 3224

# IN YOUR FAMILY TREE?

### Who is eligible for membership?

Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. DAR volunteers are willing to provide guidance and assistance with your first step into the world of genealogy.

#### How is Patriot defined?

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

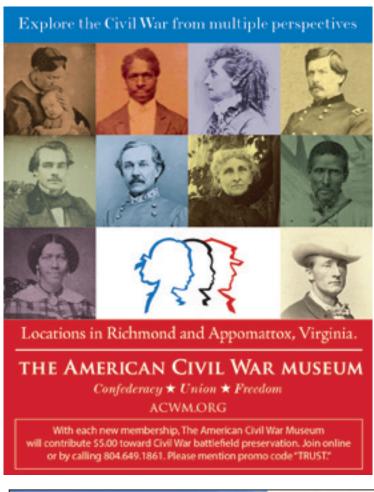
#### How many members does the National Society have?

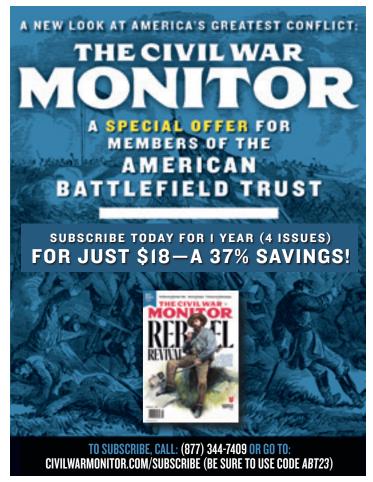
DAR has nearly 190,000 members in nearly 3,000 chapters worldwide, including chapters in 14 foreign countries and one territory. Since its founding in 1890, DAR has admitted more than 1 million members.

#### How can I find out more?

Go to www.dar.org and click on "Membership." There you'll find helpful instructions, advice on finding your lineage and a Prospective Member Information Request Form. Or call (202) 879-3224 for more information on joining this vital, service-minded organization.

42 HALLOWED GROUND WINTER 2024-2025 www.battlefields.org AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST 43







The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR or SAR) was founded in 1889. SAR is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education for our future generations. SAR members volunteer untold hours of service each year in their local communities. SAR is very active in assisting veterans. We proudly assist teachers with living history interpreters, lesson planning materials, and reenactment events for school-aged youth to attend.

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

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



Join the SAR | SAR.org







**OCATED ON THE BANKS** of Georgia's Medway River, Fort Morris State Historic Site offers visitors the chance to view the preserved land that helped defend the young nation in the American Revolution and the War of 1812. The site also offers a look into the

defense of Port Sunbury, where British forces made repeated attempts to take its shores.

Connected to both history and nature, Fort Morris's location invites visitors to explore the site's 66 acres, allowing guests to imagine the lives of soldiers stationed there to fend off British forces. Visitors can explore the remaining earthly remnants of the original fort and look over the river that served as a crucial defense in 1778, when British forces demanded surrender and Colonel John McIntosh replied, "Come and take it!"

The site offers a visitor center gift shop, leisurely walking trails that weave through coastal forests and a picnic area for those looking to relax in the park's peaceful surroundings.

Birdwatching enthusiasts can borrow binoculars and a field guide from the visitor center to spot local wildlife, like woodpeckers, great egrets and goldfinches. Bus parking is available for larger groups, making it a perfect spot for school tours and educational programs.

Fort Morris hosts various public history programs throughout the year, including reenactments that bring military and colonial history to life. The park also features a museum, containing various exhibits

The grounds are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., though holidays may affect operating hours. The museum is open Friday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  $\star$ 

#### FORT MORRIS STATE HISTORIC SITE

2559 Fort Morris Road Midway, GA 31320 (912) 884-5999 https://gastateparks.org/FortMorris

44 HALLOWED GROUND | WINTER 2024–2025 Photo: GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES www.battlefields.org American Battlefield trust 45



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# THE FIRST-EVER surrender of a British field army after the Battle of Saratoga turned the tide of the Revolutionary War, clearing the way for a groundbreaking alliance with France. Our latest animated map traces the campaign that led to this Patriot triumph. See the free animated map here Saratoga Mattorial Historical Park, Stillwater, N.Y., GLEN RIEGEL