

SPRING 2025 ★ Vol. 26 No. 1

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

# HALLOWED GROUND

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## WHERE IT ALL BEGAN!

LEXINGTON | CONCORD | BUNKER HILL





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250

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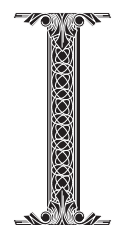
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### T'S HERE!

For years, those of us at the Trust and many other history and preservation organizations have been laying groundwork and making plans to mark the Semiquincentennial — the formal name for a 250th anniversary. And this April, as we remembered the first engagement of the Revolutionary War at Lexington and Concord, the big event got underway.

While most eyes may be fixed on July 4, 2026, as a singular date, I know that you, as a supporter of the Trust and its work, join me in taking this broader view. We understand that while Independence may have been declared in Philadelphia by 56 statesmen, that didn't decide the issue. Our freedom was won on hundreds of battlefields by tens of thousands of ordinary people willing to sacrifice for the promise of liberty.

Now, as the United States marks its 250th anniversary, is the perfect moment to pause and reflect on the places to which this remarkable nation traces its origins. Major engagements of the Revolutionary War were fought in each of the 13 original colonies, plus the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Tennessee and Vermont, as well as in Canada and — via alliances between France, Spain and the Netherlands — around the globe.

Some battlefields like Bunker Hill and Brooklyn were all but swallowed by growing cities long ago; elsewhere, hallowed ground is still being lost to housing developments, strip malls, airports, distribution warehouses, data centers and industrial-scale solar facilities. If we are to save what remains, now is the time to act.

Two years ago, we announced an ambitious goal to protect 2,500 acres of Revolutionary War battlefield land during the

anniversary. We are making steady progress and making critical additions to these historic landscapes — like the two acres of the farm targeted by the British raid that sparked the Revolution, a success we celebrated during the anniversary week.

But now, I can share our even more audacious effort: a \$125-million capital campaign that will revolutionize the battlefield preservation movement. *Our Enduring Legacy: The Campaign to Preserve, Educate, and Inspire* will enable the Trust to safeguard our nation's historic battlefields for future generations by providing the critical resources needed to expand preservation efforts, meet today's challenges, and seize tomorrow's opportunities.

The money raised in this campaign will power the Trust's first-ever Battlefield Readiness Fund, which will give us the power to act quickly and compete effectively against deep-pocketed developers. It will also dramatically increase our ability to be proactive in pursuing potential transactions and tackle ever-more ambitious restoration and rehabilitation projects

On a deeper level, the campaign will help us bring battlefields to life with high-quality physical and digital interpretation unique to each site. And it will allow us to give 10 million students the magic of a battlefield visit, either through our History Field Trip Grant Program or our award-winning Virtual Field Trips.

Raising \$125 million by July 4, 2026, is an ambitious goal, but I believe that, thanks to the generous donors who answered the call in our earliest phases, we are already more than 80 percent of the way there.

*David N. Duncan*

DAVID N. DUNCAN  
President, American Battlefield Trust



Portrait by BUDDY SECOR

# *battlefields.org*

THE TRUST WEBSITE

## STEP INTO REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY

Experience the first day of the American Revolution like never before with *Shots Heard 'Round the World*, a 12-minute virtual reality production transporting viewers to the first day of the Revolutionary War in Lexington and Concord. Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/theshot>

## REVOLUTIONARY WAR ANIMATED MAP

See the Revolutionary War unfold, from Lexington to Yorktown and beyond. Through a combination of dramatic narration, reenactments and motion graphics, watch the mesmerizing stories of the war that made America here: <https://youtu.be/revwarmap>

## TAKE A VIRTUAL TRIP TO BOSTON

Step into the historic city of Boston via a virtual field trip that highlights the city's iconic landmarks with a lineup of subject matter experts and living history interpreters — no travel required. Watch the field trip here: [www.battlefields.org/Boston](http://www.battlefields.org/Boston)

## AMERICAN REVOLUTION EXPERIENCE

From an award-winning website to an in-demand pop-up exhibition, this collaborative project between the Trust and the Daughters of the American Revolution connects modern audiences to the remarkable people and places of the past. [www.battlefields.org/ontour](http://www.battlefields.org/ontour)

EXPLORE  
THIS ISSUE



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*Paul Revere, 1768*, by JOHN SINGLETON COPLEY, Oil on canvas,  
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON. Gift of Joseph W. Revere, William B. Revere and Edward H. R. Revere.





Trust Chairman of the Board Bill Hupp with Minute Man National Historical Park Superintendent Simone Monteleone and Friends of Minute Man President Paul O'Shaughnessy. NPS PHOTO

## PORTION OF FARM THAT SPARKED THE REVOLUTION ADDED TO MINUTE MAN NHP

*Marking latest phase of years-long process at the Col. James Barrett Farm*



**S EVENTS TO CELEBRATE** the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord commenced, preservationists gathered to celebrate the integration of two acres into Minute Man National Historical Park. In April 1775, British forces advanced from Boston, seeking to seize a stockpile of artillery, gunpowder and ammunition stored by colonists at the farm of Patriot leader Colonel James Barrett. Ultimately, they found nothing — but their march on Concord attracted minutemen and militia from the surrounding communities, leading to the “shot heard ’round the world” and sparking a conflict that led to American independence.

The newly preserved property sits just west of existing park holdings on Barrett Mill Road, bringing the Barrett Farm unit of Minute Man National Historical Park to a total of five acres. It was purchased by the National Park Service from private owners using \$1.86 million in federal funding championed by the American Battlefield Trust. The Trust also lent important real estate expertise to facilitate the acquisition in time for the 250th anniversary of the Battle at Concord.

“By preserving the sites of the American Revolution, we honor the

service and sacrifice of our nation’s first citizen soldiers,” said David Duncan, President of the American Battlefield Trust. “Protecting these hallowed places creates an enduring legacy that will benefit Americans long after the country’s 250th birthday has ended. Future generations will be able to walk in the footsteps of those early Patriots and gain a deeper understanding of our war for independence.”

Ahead of the nation’s 250th anniversary, the Trust is working toward an ambitious goal to permanently protect 2,500 acres of Revolutionary War battlefield land, including historic treasures like the home of Colonel Barrett, who commanded the Patriots at the North Bridge Farm.

Over the years, other sections of the Barrett Farm have been preserved by the National Park Service and its local partners. The historic farmhouse, built in 1705, remained in the Barrett family until the early 1900s; it was then stewarded by the McGraths for another century, until they sold it to Concord nonprofit Save Our Heritage in 2002. The home and 3.4 surrounding acres joined the park in 2012 following a \$1.5-million restoration campaign and a legislative push to expand the park’s authorized boundary.★

Chancellorsville Battlefield  
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park  
Spotsylvania County, Va.  
JENNIFER GOELLNITZ



## MARKING 250TH ANNIVERSARY *with a modern twist*



**S ALL EYES TURNED** to Massachusetts to mark the 250th anniversary of the engagements that ignited the Revolutionary War, the American Battlefield Trust launched two exciting digital products that leverage groundbreaking 21st-century technology to bring one of the most iconic stories in American history to life.

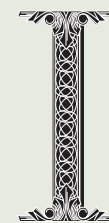
The *Liberty Trail Massachusetts*, our latest mobile app, is now available for free download through the Apple App Store and Google Play. It guides users across the Lexington and Concord Battlefields and beyond with six different tour options and curated routes, making use of engaging narrative text, modern photography, 360-degree virtual tours, historical illustrations, original artwork, battle maps and videos with experts. Future additions to the app will include more sites, such as Bunker Hill and the Knox Trail, expanding its in-depth and engaging historical offerings. In tandem with the app launch, the Trust expanded The Liberty Trail website with new content, including detailed guides to historic sites across the state, biographies of notable figures, educational videos and other resources designed to enrich the experience for travelers and lifelong learners alike.

Meanwhile, an exciting virtual reality production comes as close as possible to time travel, placing users at the center of the groundbreaking events of April 1775. *The Shot Heard 'Round the World* is a 12-minute journey in time, co-produced with the award-winning Wide Awake Films, that gives viewers a 360-degree vantage point as they step onto the misty fields of Lexington Green, march across the North Bridge at Concord and witness the birth of a new nation. To accompany the production, the Trust created a lesson plan companion piece with classroom materials and activities to maximize the educational value for students, and a traditional flat video version is also available for those without VR equipment or capability. We hope that semiquincentennial energy helps this production exceed our previous VR collaboration with Wide Awake Films, through which more than 39 million people have immersed themselves in Civil War combat.★



## CEMENTING OUR ENDURING LEGACY

*Trust announces \$125-million capital campaign*



**I N RECOGNITION** of the nation’s imminent 250th birthday, the American Battlefield Trust has launched the most ambitious effort in battlefield preservation history: a \$125-million capital campaign that will revolutionize our organization’s ability to proactively pursue its mission. Thanks to the generosity of early donors, *Our Enduring Legacy: The Campaign to Preserve, Educate and Inspire* is already more than 80 percent of the way to its comprehensive fundraising goal and looks to secure the balance by July 4, 2026.

The campaign’s centerpiece is the creation of a Battlefield Readiness Fund, which will enable the Trust to move quickly and compete effectively against deep-pocketed developers who can make compelling cash-forward offers. It will also allow us to proactively cultivate transactions that include ambitious restoration and rehabilitation projects, confident in the ability to complete work that returns properties to more closely resemble their wartime appearance without sacrificing future acquisition efforts. Although the campaign is timed to align with a national milestone and will materially advance a pledge to protect 2,500 acres of Revolutionary War battlefields during the 250th anniversary, War of 1812 and Civil War sites will also benefit.

The campaign will also supercharge programs that transform how people connect and interact with history. From traditional wayside signs and classroom lesson plans to innovative augmented and virtual reality productions, the Trust’s education materials are deeply rooted in the power of place. *Our Enduring Legacy* will focus on the creation of customized interpretive bundles for 40 prioritized battlefields, mixing digital resources and traditional storytelling to create deep, immersive experiences particular to the unique aspects of each site. Highlighting the Trust’s commitment to K-12 education, the campaign will enable 10 million students to experience the power of a battlefield visit, either through our History Field Trip Grant Program or our award-winning Virtual Field Trips.

Further details on specific goals and metrics of the campaign are available at [www.ourenduringlegacy.org](http://www.ourenduringlegacy.org)★



## DATA CENTER LAWSUITS CONTINUE

*Judge delays ruling in Wilderness case*



Data centers like this are being constructed all over Virginia near hallowed ground!  
ROBERT JAMES



**ALMOST TWO YEARS** after the Orange County Board of Supervisors voted to allow a mega development featuring everything from thousands of homes to millions of square feet of data centers, the Trust continues its determined opposition. On March 24, our counsel appeared before a judge in the Circuit

Court of Orange County to determine whether the lawsuit brought by preservation groups and local landowners should proceed to trial.

Rather than rule from the bench on a motion filed by Orange County, its Board of Supervisors and the owners of the Wilderness Crossing site that sought to throw out the case, Judge David B. Franzén, chose to contemplate the complex matter further, citing that the record includes more than 2,000 pages of filings. His ruling is expected by the beginning of summer.

However, Franzén did rule decisively in our favor on the matter of two *amicus curiae* briefs the defendants had sought to exclude from the record. Filed by the National Parks Conservation Association, National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, as well as the Piedmont Environmental Council, the "friend of the court" briefs emphasized the conservation efforts undertaken to preserve the Wilderness Battlefield and the irreparable harm the Wilderness Crossing development would have on the Wilderness Battlefield Unit of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Battlefield Park.

The Trust, along with the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust Inc., Friends of Wilderness Battlefield and nearby homeowners filed suit in May 2023 over the county's secretive and unlawful zoning process.

The Wilderness Battlefield was named one of the country's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2024. And Preservation Virginia called attention to the broader category of historic sites impacted by data centers in its 2025 statewide list

In its 2025 roster of the Commonwealth's most endangered places, announced on May 15, Preservation Virginia included a special, collective listing for all historic sites impacted by data center development, including the Wilderness and Manassas Battlefields.★



## TRUST WINS WEBBY, TELLY AWARDS!

*More accolades for digital and video products*



**THE AMERICAN** Battlefield Trust is celebrating a host of meaningful international recognitions for our digital education tools! We took home a Webby Award for *The Liberty Trail AR Experience* app, taking top accolades in the Arts, Culture and Event apps category. Meanwhile we earned six Telly Awards, including four for *America's Wars 1754-1945*, an ambitious and far-ranging animated battle map which details all major U.S. military conflicts from the French and Indian War to the conclusion of World War II.

The animated map, created with filmmaker Wide Awake Films, has been viewed more than 1.9 million times on YouTube. It earned Gold Tellys for Motion Graphics & Design, a specialty category that only considers motion graphics incorporated into a piece; History, for an online show or segment produced to document historical people, places or events; and in the Not-for-Profit category, as well as a Silver Telly in the Online Series.

The video uses sophisticated VR that allows viewers to step right into a historic 1864 photograph made by photographer Timothy O'Sullivan when he climbed to the second story of the Massaponax Church in Virginia and shot a meeting of Union generals through the window.

The Trust also earned a Bronze Telly in the 2D Animation category for *The Saratoga Campaign*, which uses sophisticated map animations and expanded footage of Revolutionary War scenes to explore this pivotal 1777 campaign.

The Telly Awards honor the best work in the video medium, including branded content, documentary, social media and other forms of immersive content. Hailed as the "Internet's highest honor" by *The New York Times*, the Webby Awards recognize outstanding digital work across the world.★



Indianapolis, Ind.



St. Paul, Minn.



Wilmington, Del.



Pall Mall, Tenn.



Pueblo, Colo.



Riverside, Calif.

## FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HEROES™

*New GPS-enabled app showcases Medal of Honor history*



**THE AMERICAN** Battlefield Trust and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society have put valor on the map like never before with a new mobile app that provides access to a global network of sites tied to the lives and legacies of those 3,528 individuals who have received the nation's highest military honor. From hometowns to far-flung battlefields, from namesake buildings to monuments and museums, together these places tell a fuller story of Recipients' lives, not just the combat action for which they were recognized. The *Medal of Honor Valor Trail™* app is a dynamic and immersive visualization of the Medal of Honor's full story and impact.

"Few Americans can visit remote battlefields like Iwo Jima, but with the *Medal of Honor Valor Trail™* app, they can be connected to a vast network of places with tangible and meaningful links to powerful stories," said Trust President David Duncan. "The app creates a new and compelling way to engage with our nation's history and make Recipients' legacies of service and sacrifice more accessible than ever."

"Each Medal of Honor Recipient was shaped by experiences before they ever put on a uniform, and many who returned

home became pillars in their communities and in upholding the values of the Medal," said Society President Britt Slabinski. "*The Medal of Honor Valor Trail™* demonstrates that Recipients' stories are expansive and tied to meaningful locations in their lives and memories."

The *Medal of Honor Valor Trail™* app is centered around an interactive map that allows users to virtually follow in the footsteps of Recipients by discovering battlefields, memorials, museums, and more. Sites can be viewed by category, and pages for specific Recipients show an individual journey, from birth through enlistment, citation action, death and burial, plus listings for namesake sites. The *Medal of Honor Valor Trail™* app is available for free download via the App Store and Google Play. More sites are being added to the Trail regularly. Future curated collections of Recipients with parallel stories and experiences will deepen the connections between heroes across time.

The Trust and the Society have collaborated since 2018 to highlight the connections between Recipients across eras and the significance of the landscapes where those heroes fought. Learn more about the unique partnership at [www.valortrail.org](http://www.valortrail.org)★



GEORGIA APPROVES GRANT PROGRAM  
*Honoring legendary “Coach” Vince Dooley*



**GEORGIA IS NOW** the fifth state to create its own matching grant program specific to historic landscapes, thanks to the Vince Dooley Battlefield Trust Fund Act. Named for the legendary University of Georgia football coach, the measure honors a cause dear to that late coach’s heart by creating a state matching grant program that will foster preservation of Georgia’s historic battlefields. It was signed into law by Gov. Brian Kemp during a signing ceremony featuring members of the Dooley family.

The legislation was introduced by Rep. Houston Gaines (120th Dist., Athens) and passed by the Georgia House of Representatives in March. After being championed in the Senate by Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, who served as co-captain of the 2002 SEC Champion Georgia Bulldogs football team, and Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th Dist., Athens), it was unanimously approved by that chamber in April.

“Coach Vince Dooley transformed UGA athletics and inspired generations,” said Lieutenant Governor Jones. “Coach



From left to right: Patrick Guthrie, Chris Welton, Houston Gaines, Governor Brian Kemp, Derek Dooley, Daniel Dooley, Speaker Jon Burns.

Dooley was a wonderful husband, father, mentor and public servant. He gave back to his community, and his legacy continues to inspire others to do the same. It is fitting that we honor his legacy and passion for history with this dedication.”

“This act will ensure a permanent legacy to preserve our historic battlefields — a meaningful tribute on the 250th anniversary of our nation and to the late, great Coach Dooley,” said Representative Gaines. “As we see development creeping throughout our state, preservation efforts like this have never been more important. In doing so, we will help share our country’s history and help educate future generations of Americans.”

Georgia’s historic battlefields are well-documented, but not fully protected and not always accessible to the public. Congressionally authorized studies have identified 34 historically significant battlefields in Georgia with thousands of vulnerable acres retaining enough historical integrity to make them worthy of preservation. The Vince Dooley Battlefield Trust Fund Act establishes a competitive matching grant program to encourage further federal and private sector investment in these sites.★

MUSICIAN WINNERS ANNOUNCED  
*The first-ever American Revolution music competition*



**THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST** is excited to announce the winners of the Music and the American Revolution Competition, co-sponsored by the Ray and Vera Conniff Foundation. The contest called on high school and college-age musicians, as well as independent artists under the age of 30, to craft a song that showcased not only their creativity, but also captured the vibrant-yet-complex nature of the era that molded a bold, new nation. Dozens of talented artists submitted moving and original pieces of music, encapsulating the spirit of the American Revolution.

Our panel of judges — including popular musicians Trace Adkins and Tommy Skeoch, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Music Collection Curator Bret Werb and others — selected the following pieces to receive a \$3,500 cash prize: “Overture to the American Vision” by Jonathan Melton (High School Category); “How Happy the Soldier” by Tess Rowan (College/University Category); “Black Powder Through Meadow Green” by Nathaniel C.G. Harder (Independent Musicians Category).

“It’s a profound privilege for me to be a small part of ushering in our country’s 250th anniversary,” added contest winner Nathaniel C.G. Harder. “As an American citizen, I feel tremendous pride in being able to contribute to my country’s musical culture through my work and am so genuinely honored to be given such a generous and meaningful award.”

Look for a fresh contest with expanded parameters to continue the partnership to be announced later this year!★

HAVE YOU SEEN THE LATEST?

**TWO OF THE** American Battlefield Trust’s most popular video series expanded this spring with the launches of new animated maps covering the Battle of Brandywine in 1777 and the Battle of Bentonville in 1865, plus a virtual field trip covering the fan-favorite hamlet of Gettysburg.★



SUCCESS STORIES  
LAND SAVED FOREVER

RECENT PRESERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS  
*Properties protected by the Trust, July–December 2024*



Petersburg Breakthrough Battlefield  
Petersburg, Va.  
ROBERT JAMES

**ANTIETAM, Md.**

The September 17, 1862, Battle of Antietam remains the single bloodiest day in American history. While the battle was a draw from a military standpoint, Lee’s army withdrew, giving Abraham Lincoln the “victory” he had been waiting for to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

*In late December, the Trust acquired 10 acres at Antietam, including a portion of the famous West Woods and steps away from the Dunker Church. The property will be restored and eventually transferred to the National Park Service. The Trust has now saved 498 acres at Antietam.*

**BENTONVILLE, N.C.**

In March 1865, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman divided his force as he marched north into the Carolinas. Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston confronted an isolated wing of Sherman’s army on March 19 and experienced early success until Union reinforcements arrived late in the day. On March 21, the Confederates attempted a final, desperate counterattack before retreating.

*Made possible thanks to a 2023 North Carolina Directed Grant, the North Carolina State Capital Infrastructure Fund, and the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Trust acquired three different properties at Bentonville, totaling 194 acres. The Trust has now saved 2,259 acres at Bentonville.*

**BRANDY STATION, Va.**

The largest cavalry battle in American history and the opening clash of the Gettysburg Campaign took place on June 9, 1863. While the daylong fighting resulted in a tactical Confederate victory, Brandy Station was a huge morale boost for the Union and proved the fighting prowess of the Union Cavalry.

*In December, the Trust facilitated a perpetual conservation easement on 100 acres at Brandy Station with funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation. The property was the site of a critical phase of the fighting on the afternoon of June 9. The Trust has now saved 2,352 acres at Brandy Station.*

**THE BREAKTHROUGH AT PETERSBURG, Va.**

Following the battle at Cold Harbor, Maj. Gen. George Meade’s Army of the Potomac attacked Petersburg on June 15, 1864, driving the defenders, led by Confederate Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, from their entrenchments. As the Union advanced, Beauregard fell back to defend the city, while Gen. Robert E. Lee rushed in reinforcements. Their timely arrival halted the Union attack and signaled the start of the 10-month siege of Petersburg. When the defenders’ lines finally cracked on April 2, 1865, it was only a matter of hours until the Southern capital at Richmond was abandoned. Then the weary Confederates turned west toward Appomattox.

*Aided by funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, the Trust acquired 8 acres at The Breakthrough in Petersburg. The property will be maintained by the Pamplin Foundation and continue to be a historic resource for the Pamplin Historical Park. The Trust has now saved 417 acres at The Breakthrough in Petersburg.*

**CHAMPION HILL, Miss.**

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

*In September, the Trust acquired five acres at Champion Hill with funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Mississippi Historic Site Preservation Fund. The Trust will eventually transfer the property to the National Park Service. The Trust has now saved 1,228 acres at Champion Hill.*

**CHICKASAW BAYOU, Miss.**

Between December 26 and 29, 1862, Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman failed in his bid to compromise Vicksburg’s Confederate defenses at Chickasaw Bayou. The outnumbered Confederates stood strong while Sherman’s Federals suffered eight times as many losses. While the defeat subverted the Union’s first attempt at capturing Vicksburg, the tide turned in July 1863.



SUCCESS STORIES

LAND SAVED FOREVER

*In the second half of 2024, the Trust acquired four tracts at Chickasaw Bayou, totaling 25 acres. The preservation success was made possible through funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Mississippi Historic Site Preservation Fund. The Trust has now saved 50 acres at Chickasaw Bayou.*

COLD HARBOR, Va.

On June 27, 1862, Gaines’ Mill was the third in the Seven Days’ Battles. Union Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan gave orders to hold off Gen. Robert E. Lee’s Confederates long enough for the Army of the Potomac to begin heading south toward the James River. Out-numbered and eventually overwhelmed, Union troops retreated across the Chickahominy River, burning the bridges behind them. The Battle of Cold Harbor was fought over two weeks in the spring of 1864 as the culmination of the Overland Campaign across much of the same ground.

*The Trust acquired 10 acres that played a critical role in both the Gaines’ Mill and Cold Harbor battles. The Trust has now saved 263 acres at Cold Harbor.*

DEEP BOTTOM II, Va.

During the night of August 13–14, 1864, the Union II Corps, X Corps and Brig. Gen. David M. Gregg’s cavalry division — all under command of Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock — crossed the James River at Deep Bottom to threaten Richmond, coordinating with a movement against the Weldon Railroad at Petersburg. On August 14, the X Corps closed on New Market Heights while the II Corps extended the Federal line to the right along Bailey’s Creek. During the night, the X Corps was moved to the far right flank of the Union line near Fussell’s Mill. On August 16, Union assaults near Fussell’s Mill were initially successful, but Confederate counterattacks drove the Federals out of a line of captured works. Heavy fighting continued throughout the remainder of the day. Confederate Gen. John Chambliss was killed during cavalry fighting on Charles City Road. After continual skirmishing, the Federals returned to the south side of the James on the 20th, maintaining their bridgehead at Deep Bottom.

*Aided by the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, the Trust acquired 8 acres at Deep Bottom II. The Trust has now saved 233 acres at Deep Bottom II.*

FRANKLIN, Tenn.

On November 30, 1864, determined not to let the Federals reach the safety of Nashville, Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood unleashed a massive frontal assault against their entrenched lines. Despite nearly breaking through the Union center, he was driven back with heavy losses — more than 6,000 casualties, including six dead generals.

*In partnership with Franklin’s Charge and the Battle of Franklin Trust and thanks to funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program and Tennessee’s Civil War Sites Preservation Fund, the Trust helped fund the acquisition of a key 0.6-acre property at Franklin adjacent to the Carter House and previously-protected land at the*

*Cotton Gin site. The tract will be restored and incorporated into the existing park. The Trust has now saved 182 acres at Franklin.*

FREDERICKSBURG, Va.

On December 13, 1862, Union troops carried out a series of futile frontal assaults, but at the south end of the field, a Union division briefly penetrated the Confederate line. On December 15, Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside called off the offensive and re-crossed the Rappahannock River.

*The Trust acquired 7 acres at Fredericksburg that played a key role in 1862 battle, as well as the Second Battle of Fredericksburg on May 3, 1863. The Trust has now saved 266 acres at Fredericksburg.*

GETTYSBURG, Pa.

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

*Funding from the Pennsylvania Green Space Program and the American Battlefield Trust aided the Land Conservancy of Adams County’s acquisition of a perpetual conservation easement on 83 acres at Gettysburg. The Trust has now saved 1,362 acres at Gettysburg.*

GOLDSBOROUGH BRIDGE, N.C.

On December 17, 1862, Confederate forces moved to defend the railroad bridge at Goldsborough as Union troops advanced from the southwest. Union forces launched an attack, driving the Confederate troops back and setting fire to the bridge to disrupt supply lines. Despite Confederate resistance, Union troops succeeded in their ambush before withdrawing to New Bern, N.C.

*With support from the American Battlefield Protection Program, Goldsboro Bridge Battlefield Association and Wayne County, the Trust acquired 55 acres at Goldsborough Bridge – marking the Trust’s first preservation effort at the site. The tract will be transferred to Wayne County and stewarded by the Goldsboro Bridge Battlefield Association. The Trust has now saved 55 acres at Goldsborough Bridge.*

KERNSTOWN, Va.

Relying on faulty intelligence, “Stonewall” Jackson marched aggressively against the Union garrison at Winchester but was stopped at First Kernstown on March 23, 1862. The threat to Washington prompted President Lincoln to redirect troops away from Richmond and into the Shenandoah Valley.

*The Trust acquired three tracts at Kernstown, totaling 39 acres. The efforts were made possible with support from the American Battlefield Protection Program and Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund. The Trust has now saved 428 acres at Kernstown.*

MANASSAS, Va.

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

*Supported by the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Trust acquired an important 1.4-acre tract at Manassas. The Trust will steward the property until it is eventually transferred to the*

*Manassas National Battlefield Park. The Trust has now saved 387 acres at Manassas.*

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

In November 1864, Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood led the Army of Tennessee northward toward Nashville in a last desperate attempt to draw Gen. William T. Sherman out of Georgia. Despite the terrible losses suffered at Franklin, Hood stubbornly continued on to Nashville. He was confronted there by Gen. George H. Thomas, who successfully attacked Hood on both flanks during the first day of fighting. On December 16, Thomas finished the job, routing the Confederate army and ending any hope of Southern victory in the Western Theater of the war.

*In November, the Trust acquired a 2-acre property at Nashville, with the support from the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Nashville Metropolitan Board of Park and Recreation, the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund, and the Friends of Fort Negley Park. The property will be transferred to Fort Negley Park. The Trust has now saved 3.3 acres at Nashville.*

SACKETS HARBOR, N.Y.

When the War of 1812 broke out, both sides began building up their naval forces on the Great Lakes, which were vital highways for troops and supplies in the wilderness of the Old Northwest. When American forces attacked the British shipyard at York (now Toronto), the British launched their own raid on Sackets Harbor — the main U.S. shipyard on Lake Ontario. But such an attack had been long-expected and was ultimately repulsed.

*With support from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the State of New York Land Acquisition Fund, the Trust acquired 86 acres at Sackets Harbor. The property will be transferred to the State of New York for incorporation into the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site. The Trust has now saved 111 acres at Sackets Harbor.*

SHILOH, Tenn.

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

*In December, the Trust acquired 23 acres with support from the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund. The property will eventually be transferred to the National Park Service. The Trust has now saved 1,566 acres at Shiloh.*

STONES RIVER, Tenn.

On December 31, 1862, advancing forces under Union Gen. William Rosecrans fought a pitched battle with Braxton Bragg’s Army of Tennessee on the outskirts of Murfreesboro, Tenn. Both generals formed plans of attack, but Bragg struck first, pulverizing the Union right flank with two veteran divisions. False reports indicating a Union retreat kept Bragg in place on January 1, but January 2 dawned with Rosecrans stubbornly holding his ground. Bragg ordered Gen. John Breckinridge and his division to charge the Union left late in the afternoon. Breckinridge’s men crossed an open field and nearly achieved a breakthrough, but massed artillery broke up the assault at the climactic moment. Although the battle to that point had been a tactical draw, the arrival of Union reinforcements made Bragg’s position untenable. He retreated on January 3, granting the North a valuable strategic victory in the middle of an otherwise dismal winter.

*With funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund, the Trust successfully acquired 32 acres at Stones River. The Trust has now saved 105 acres at Stones River.★*



Goldsborough Bridge Battlefield  
Dudley, N.C.  
CHRIS M. ROGERS



PARK DAY 2025

*Safeguarding and improving America’s historic sites*

**M**ANY THANKS to the 117 sites that rallied the troops to host a volunteer stewardship activities through the American Battlefield Trust’s 29th Annual Park Day event. Cumulatively, Park Day volunteers have contributed nearly 475,000 hours of volunteer labor toward the upkeep, maintenance and improvement of battlefields, historic sites, museums and cemeteries that tell the story of our nation. In 2025, we welcomed sites from 27 states, representing connections from the French and Indian War through the Civil War. We are grateful for the outstanding site managers and volunteer coordinators who make these gatherings so worthwhile for participants.★

ALABAMA

Fort Gaines

ARKANSAS

Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park

CONNECTICUT

New England Civil War Museum

GEORGIA

Fort Morris  
Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park  
Kettle Creek Battlefield  
Prater’s Mill Historic Site  
Resaca Confederate Cemetery  
Rocky Face Ridge Park  
Shoupade Park

ILLINOIS

John A. Logan Museum

INDIANA

General Lew Wallace Study and Museum

KANSAS

Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Center  
Fort Blair Historic Site  
Mine Creek Civil War Battlefield

KENTUCKY

Battle for the Bridge Preserve  
Battle of Richmond, KY  
Camp Nelson National Monument  
Columbus-Belmont State Park  
Fort Duffield  
Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site  
Tebbs Bend Battlefield

LOUISIANA

Camp Moore Confederate Museum and Cemetery  
Fort DeRussy State Historic Site  
Mansfield State Historic Park  
Port Hudson State Historic Site

MAINE

Fort Knox Historic Site  
Tate House Museum

MARYLAND

Antietam National Battlefield  
Fort Washington Park  
Historic Annapolis  
Monocacy National Battlefield

MASSACHUSETTS

Minute Man National Park  
Pentucket Burial Ground

MISSISSIPPI

Brice’s Cross Roads National Battlefield  
Raymond Military Park  
Vicksburg National Military Park

MISSOURI

Battle of Lexington State Historic Site  
Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site  
Fort D Historic Site  
Lone Jack Civil War Battlefield, Soldiers Cemetery & Museum  
Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield

NEW JERSEY

Fort Lee Historic Park  
Princeton Battlefield State Park

Taylor Butler House/Marlpit Hall  
Wallace House and Old Dutch Parsonage

NEW MEXICO

Fort Stanton Historic Park

NEW YORK

Deposit Revolutionary War Cemetery  
Fort Hardy  
Newtown Battlefield State Park  
Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site  
Saratoga National Historical Park

NORTH CAROLINA

Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site  
Guilford Courthouse National Military Park  
Historic Carson House  
Stonewall Manor

OHIO

Buffington Island  
Johnson’s Island Civil War Prison

OKLAHOMA

Fort Towson Historic Site

PENNSYLVANIA

Braddock’s Battlefield History Center  
Brinton Run Preserve  
Bushy Run Battlefield  
Colonial Pennsylvania Farmstead  
Fort Mifflin on the Delaware  
Gettysburg National Military Park  
Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site  
Lancaster Cemetery  
Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center  
The Conococheague Institute  
Washington Crossing Historic Park

RHODE ISLAND

Butt’s Hill  
Patriots Park

SOUTH CAROLINA

Battle of Rivers Bridge State Historic Site  
Buford Massacre Battlefield  
Camden Battlefield  
Hanging Rock Battlefield  
Historic Camden  
Musgrove Mill State Historic Site  
Oakley Park Museum  
Old House – Thomas Heyward, Jr., Tomb

TENNESSEE

Browns Tavern  
Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park  
Fort Dickerson  
Fort Pillow State Historic Park

Mabry-Hazen House  
Marble Springs State Historic Site  
Mossy Creek Battlefield/Glenmore Mansion  
Parkers Crossroads Battlefield  
Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center  
Shiloh National Military Park  
Tipton-Haynes State Historic Park

TEXAS

Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Historic Landmark

VIRGINIA

Ball’s Bluff Battlefield Regional Park  
Battle of Williamsburg  
Brandy Station – Graffiti House  
Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park  
Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park  
Cedar Mountain Battlefield  
Colonial National Historical Park – Yorktown Battlefield  
CVBT Nine Mile Run Tract  
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Military Park  
Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways Museum  
Historic Endview  
Historic Salubria  
Historic Sandusky  
Kernstown Battlefield  
Laurel Hill – Birthplace of JEB Stuart  
Manassas National Battlefield Park  
Patrick Henry’s Red Hill  
Payne’s Farm Battlefield (Wilderness Battlefield)  
Petersburg National Battlefield  
Seven Pines Battlefield/Meadow Road  
St. John’s Church Foundation

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Fort Bunker Hill  
Fort Mahan

WEST VIRGINIA

Shepherdstown Battlefield



Yorktown Battlefield, Va.  
LAUREL HOUSDEN PHOTOGRAPHY



Yorktown Battlefield, Va.  
LAUREL HOUSDEN PHOTOGRAPHY



Brinton Preserve, Va.  
DOUG BACHMAN



Bentonville Battlefield, N.C.  
DAVID DAVIS



Petersburg Battlefield, Va.  
JAMIE BETTS PHOTO



## ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNCOVER HISTORY *at Minute Man National Historical Park*



An AVAR crew member searching the "Bloody Angle" at Elm Brook Hill



**AS OUR COUNTRY BEGINS** six years of commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, archaeologists are playing an ever-greater role in uncovering the secrets of history still buried in the hallowed ground of the war's battlefields. One example: Five musket balls Patriots fired at British soldiers at the North Bridge in Concord on April 19, 1775, were uncovered during an infrastructure project at Minute Man National Historic Park last year.

Some of the actual ammunition fired by the minute men at the British in "the shot heard 'round the world" at

Concord's North Bridge was unearthed as National Park Service (NPS) archaeologists conducted compliance tasks to help prepare the park for the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) project. The Trust was involved in ensuring that GAOA funding directly benefits NPS historic sites and battlefields with important infrastructure improvements. For example, between 2022 and 2025, Minute Man will receive approximately \$27 million to address maintenance backlog challenges for the park's buildings, structures, landscape, trails, signage and monuments.

Archaeologists determined that the five musket balls found during survey work preliminary to trail improvements near the



NPS staffers searching "Parker's Revenge"



A musket ball found in the "Parker's Revenge" area.



NPS staffers searching "Parker's Revenge"



NPS staffers discussing their finds at "Parker's Revenge"



The AVAR team after their dig at the "Bloody Angle" at Elm Brook Hill

North Bridge were fired by the Patriots because they were of the size usually used in the colonies and were found in an area where British soldiers gathered to stop the minute men from crossing the bridge. The musket balls also bore marks indicating they were fired as opposed to simply being dropped.

Although the Concord discovery happened somewhat by accident during other necessary work, dedicated archaeological projects specifically devoted to building a better understanding of the battles of the Revolution are also producing exciting results. And they are perfectly suited to the mission of the American Battlefield Trust, since they are undertaken on the land itself.

We preserve battlefields first and foremost to honor the American soldiers who fought and died on them. But archaeological projects are proving the immense value of preserving battlefield land for the untapped historical knowledge in still-buried ammunition and artifacts from battle. The locations and spatial patterns of munitions and other battle artifacts allow archaeologists and historians to determine more precisely where troops were positioned and where fighting occurred.

The benefits extend even further, since some of the archaeological work is being conducted by veterans working with the American Veterans Archaeological Recovery (AVAR).

In August 2024, an AVAR team, funded in part by a Trust grant to Friends of Minute Man National Park, uncovered a concentration of musket balls that revealed troop positions at the "Bloody Angle" at Elm Brook Hill. This site, about halfway between Lexington and Concord, was one of the places on Battle Road where minute men inflicted severe casualties on the retreating British troops during their march back to Boston.

At park sites, AVAR volunteers work in teams under the supervision of the National Park Service archaeologists to perform 100 percent metal detector coverage of target areas. All finds are input into GIS systems with exacting special data. "What we're learning may not completely rewrite a battle," said AVAR CEO Stephen Humphreys, "but it definitely adds nuance to our understanding of that battle. The information that can come from a single musket ball has grown by leaps and bounds."

The Trust provided a grant to help fund a non-AVAR archaeology project in 2013 that revealed troop positions and other important historical information at Parker's Revenge, another site close to Lexington on the Battle Road. It was here where minuteman Captain John Parker and the Lexington militia bloodied the retreating Redcoats as "revenge" for the 10 Patriots killed and eight wounded when the British attacked them on Lexington Green that morning. The Trust has saved an acre of the Parker's Revenge site.★





# Let It Begin Here!

*Until April 19, 1775, Lexington and Concord were  
virtually identical to every other New England village.  
But in one morning they became permanently linked  
to the story of the nation's origin.*

PHOTO by ROB SHENK, WIDE AWAKE FILMS



# Colonel James Barrett Farm

TARGET OF THE BRITISH RAID

by THOMPSON DASHER



The Colonel James Barrett Farm  
Concord, Mass.  
MELISSA A. WINN

**W**HY DID the American Revolution begin with engagements at Lexington and Concord? In no small part because of the stately home standing in a broad floodplain abutting the Assabet River: the Colonel James Barrett House, one of 11 witness structures in Minute Man National Historical Park.

Benjamin Barrett inherited the property on which the house now sits from his father, Humphrey Barrett, in 1702. He began construction of the house three years later, erecting a small “saltbox” structure. He operated a mill along a brook just to the east of the farm, the foundation of which can still be seen off Barrett’s Mill Road. Upon his death in 1728, the mill was willed to his elder son, Thomas, while the house was inherited by his 18-year-old son, James.

The next five decades saw James rise in status from a yeoman farmer to a country gentleman. The size and value of his property increased dramatically: A 1755 valuation list noted 15 cattle, five oxen, two pigs and 50 acres of land, but by 1771, the same list had grown to 18 cows, 25 steers and heifers, 15 oxen and 150 acres. Barrett also enslaved a young man of color named Philip at the property; a practice that marked him among the social elites in Massachusetts. The farm produced large quantities of rye and oats, eventually landing James a contract to supply the British Army garrisoned in Boston. It was around this time that Barrett made substantial renovations to the house, adding an ell to its western side. Soon after, a shifting political climate in the province transformed the farm and its standing in the town of Concord.

In early 1775, Barrett was directed by the Provincial Congress to organize all military stores located in the town of Concord. These supplies included musket balls, powder, cartridge paper, tents, spades,

axes, candles, medicine, cookware, oats, artillery implements and numerous pieces of ordnance. Barrett used his own farm to store a large quantity of these supplies, along with four brass three-pound cannons and two coehorn mortars. It was these stockpiles that prompted the British Army’s expedition to Concord on April 19, 1775. A detachment of four companies of light infantry was sent specifically to Barrett’s home, although they found nothing — the munitions had been relocated and further hidden in the preceding days and the colonel was with his militia.

The Barrett Farm continued to be used as a supply depot and manufactory for the duration of the war. Thomas Barrett’s mill next door began producing muskets, while James operated a widespread recruiting effort for the Continental Army from his home. Following James’s death in 1779, the home passed to his son, Peter Barrett and remained in Barrett family hands until roughly 1905, when it was purchased by the McGrath family. By this time, the house had undergone many renovations, though much of the original framework was intact. It was purchased by Save Our Heritage in 2002 in a state of disrepair, but was gradually restored, becoming a part of Minute Man National Historical Park in 2012. Today, it is open seasonally for self-guided tours and special programs.★

*Thompson Dasher is a research assistant for the Robbins House and former ranger at Minute Man National Historical Park. He has a B.A. in history from Gettysburg College and is pursuing a master’s degree.*

# Spread The Alarm

A NETWORK OF MIDNIGHT RIDERS ALERT THE COUNTRYSIDE

by SARAH KAY BIERLE

**B**EHIND, the shadows of Boston loomed. Ahead, the shore of Charlestown and the waiting road toward Lexington and Concord. Paul Revere and trusted friends rowed quietly, slipping out of British-patrolled Boston, Massachusetts.

Hours before, Patriot leader Joseph Warren had summoned the messengers who would spread the word that “the Regulars are coming” through the countryside during the night of April 18–19, 1775. Paul Revere — silversmith, father and one of the Sons of Liberty — wasted no time. William Dawes also hurried, leaving Boston by land, and likely using his good humor to ease his way past the British guards.

Behind Revere, the steeple of Christ Church — sometimes called the Old North Church — silhouetted dark against the sky. Not long before, two flickering lanterns had shone from the steeple’s highest windows: another signal to the waiting countryside, in case the messengers were apprehended. Believing secrecy essential to his operation’s success, British General Thomas Gage stationed guards and patrols in Boston’s streets and along the roads toward Concord to catch any couriers.

Meanwhile, forming ranks outside their barracks, British soldiers waited for orders to make their own departure from the rebellious city and march the 16 miles west to Concord, where they believed arms and ammunition had been secreted. Disarming the dissatisfied rebels of other towns had already been attempted with little success, but Gage hoped the expedition to Concord would firmly end the Massachusetts troubles. Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith and Major John Pitcairn had been picked for their leadership and willingness to lead the mission.

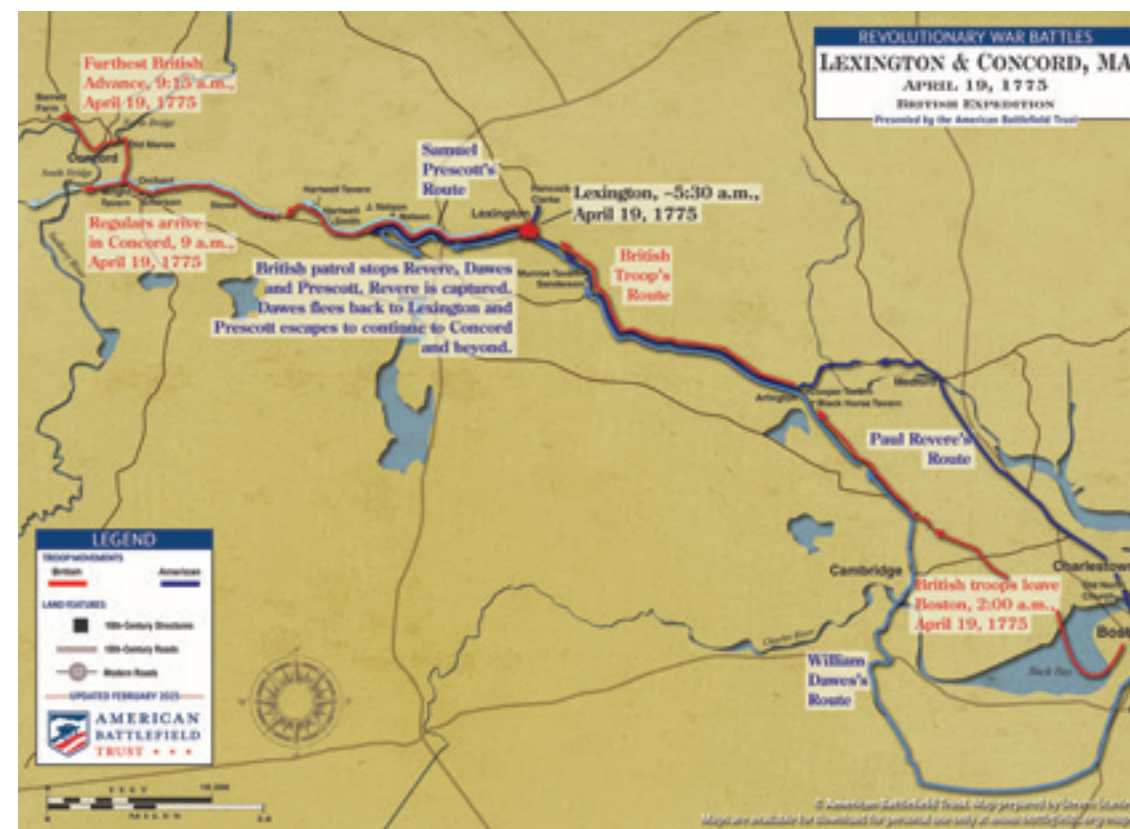
Revere eluded the British in his departure from Boston. Friends met him with a horse, and he trotted into the darkness. He paused at the houses of known militia leaders, rousing them and igniting the networks of minutemen, militia and other messenger riders to carry the news to more distant communities. Revere rode north, then west — passing through the village of Medford and turning closer to the Mystic River to avoid British patrols blocking his preferred road. Shortly after midnight, he cantered into the

village of Lexington. Revere warned John Hancock and Samuel Adams — Sons of Liberty leaders — to seek safety and roused the leaders of Captain John Parker’s militia.

William Dawes reached Lexington around the same time as Revere, having taken a southerly route to warn other communities. Together, the two midnight messengers continued west toward Concord. Along the road, they were joined by Samuel Prescott, who Revere recognized as a young doctor connected to the Patriot cause. Revere accepted Prescott’s offer of assistance, knowing he would be recognized and trusted by his neighbors.

A few miles outside Lexington, a British patrol surprised the three men. Dawes eluded capture but lost his horse. Prescott used his local knowledge to gallop cross-country and continue on to Concord with word of the British advance. Revere was captured and threatened at pistol point, but ultimately was allowed to go free. He walked back to Lexington and found in the dawn’s light the aftermath of conflict — scattered shots on what is now known as the Battle Green.★

*Sarah Kay Bierle serves as education associate at the American Battlefield Trust. She received her bachelor’s degree in history from Thomas Edison State University and is author of two titles in the Emerging Civil War book series.*







*The first fight for independence (Lexington Common, Mass., U.S.A.) 19 April 1775*  
by William Barnes Wollen, Courtesy National Army Museum, London England



# Lexington Green

FIRST BLOOD IN THE PRE-DAWN GLOOM

by DANIEL DAVIS

**M**ANY EVENTS, through the course of time, become shrouded in mystery, leaving students and historians alike with more questions than answers. One such incident occurred on a village green outside Boston, Massachusetts, early in the morning of April 19, 1775.

In the years following the French and Indian War, Massachusetts became a hotbed for resistance against the Crown. Relations boiled over on the night of December 16, 1773, when the Sons of Liberty dumped taxable tea into Boston Harbor. London responded by passing the Coercive, or Intolerable, Acts, designed to punish the colony and sending a new governor and commander in chief, Lieu-

tenant General Thomas Gage, to enforce the new law. Still, local Whig leaders continued to collect supplies and prepare for armed conflict.

Gage monitored the activity and eventually set his sights on the village of Concord. More than a local meeting place for the Provincial Congress, rumor had it there was also a significant stockpile of munitions housed there. The British commander made preparations for an expedition to leave Boston and march to Concord on the night of April 18.

Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith headed the operation, which consisted of 700 grenadiers and light infantry drawn from the line regiments of the garrison. Major John Pitcairn, a Royal Marine, acted as Smith's second-in-command. Unfortunately for Gage, Patriot riders

slipped through the patrols he had set, fanning out across the countryside ahead of Smith's column to raise the alarm. One of them, Paul Revere, galloped into Lexington around midnight to warn the local militia and, critically, two of the most important Patriot leaders, Samuel Adams, and John Hancock, who were staying there.

Delayed as he marched out of the city, Smith decided to send Pitcairn ahead with the light infantry. About 5:00 a.m., word of Pitcairn's imminent arrival reached Lexington. Captain John Parker, the commander of the local militia, called his men to arms on the green. According to reports by veterans of the engagement, he told them: "Stand your ground. Don't fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here."

As the British arrived, Lieutenant Jesse Adair of the Fifth Regiment of Foot moved to the right, while Pitcairn took the light companies from the Fourth and 10th Regiments to



Henry Hudson Kitson's The Lexington Minuteman statue (1900)—in Lexington Battle Green  
JAMES WELLMAN

the left. Pitcairn approached Parker and his men to order them to disperse. What orders Parker then issued remain a mystery, but suddenly, a shot rang out, followed by a volley from Pitcairn's ranks. The violence continued, with some British breaking ranks to pursue retreating militiamen through the village. By the time Smith's main column arrived and he restored order, eight militiamen were dead and 10 more wounded, alongside one British soldier. Despite the fighting, Smith chose to push on to his objective at Concord.

We will never know who fired that first shot. What is certain is that it ignited the series of events that led to the creation of the United States of America. ★

*Daniel T. Davis is a senior education associate at the American Battlefield Trust. A graduate of Longwood University, he is a former National Park Service Ranger and author of six books and numerous articles.*





Old North Bridge  
Minute Man National Historical Park  
Concord, Mass.  
MARK LOTTERHAND



# North Bridge

FIRST FORCIBLE RESISTANCE TO THE BRITISH ADVANCE

by SARAH CANFIELD

**C**OMPARED TO THEIR NEIGHBORS in Lexington, the citizens of Concord were already wide awake by the time the British began their approach. Theirs was a larger town with a small Tory minority; most citizens supported local militias and had anticipated British interference. When Concord's pastor, William Emerson, heard the alarm raised by Dr. Prescott in the predawn gloom of April 19, 1775, he rushed to grab his weapon and get to Wright's Tavern. Much to his pride, he was the first to arrive. Many more men from Concord and nearby Lincoln soon joined him.

At daybreak, a scout arrived in Concord, reporting shots fired on Lexington Green. Major John Buttrick assembled the nearly 250 militiamen gathered and prepared to meet the approaching British. The militia positioned themselves around Concord's hills, and fresh arrivals from the surrounding countryside bolstered their

forces throughout the morning. The British reached Concord around 8:00 a.m., and under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith and Major John Pitcairn, continued their objective of seizing any stockpiled contraband. Far fewer munitions were found than expected, but they found casks of flour for the militia at Ebenezer Hubbard's house and threw them into the millpond. The townspeople later retrieved and salvaged the flour.

Meanwhile, seven companies commanded by Captain Lawrence Parsons moved toward the North Bridge. On the opposite side stood the provincial militia — around 400 men strong and outnumbering the British two to one.

Once across the bridge, Parsons divided his troops: One company remained at the western end of the bridge, facing the militiamen; four were dispatched to the farm of militia Colonel James Barrett, where significant munitions were believed to be stored; and the remaining two took up position along the road to the farm.

Smoke from bonfires lit by Smith's grenadiers alarmed the militiamen, and they moved off the hill, toward the bridge and town. Barrett ordered them to load their guns but not fire until fired upon. The British felt the vulnerability of their position and crossed back

over the North Bridge, just in time to get some 100 men across and tear up a few planks as they went.

The militia marched down the bridge in ranks of two, led by the Acton Company's Captain Isaac Davis and the Concord Company's Major John Buttrick. Barrett rode at the rear, repeating his order not to fire first. The British forces gathered at the end of the bridge in a confused jumble when the firing began.

In the first British volley, Captain Davis and one of his men fell. Major Buttrick gave the order to fire, and this organized Patriot volley killed two British troops and wounded several. Halfway back to town from the bridge, the retreating British encountered reinforcements from Colonel Smith, far too late to be of any help, and they marched back into Concord to prepare for their final retreat. The North Bridge saw the first successful and organized resistance by an American force, unified under a commander, of the Revolution. ★

*Sarah Canfield is events associate at the American Battlefield Trust. A graduate of American University, she previously worked for the National Park Service's National Historic Landmarks Program, researching Revolutionary War sites.*



# Battle Road

HARRIED BRITISH RETREAT TO BOSTON

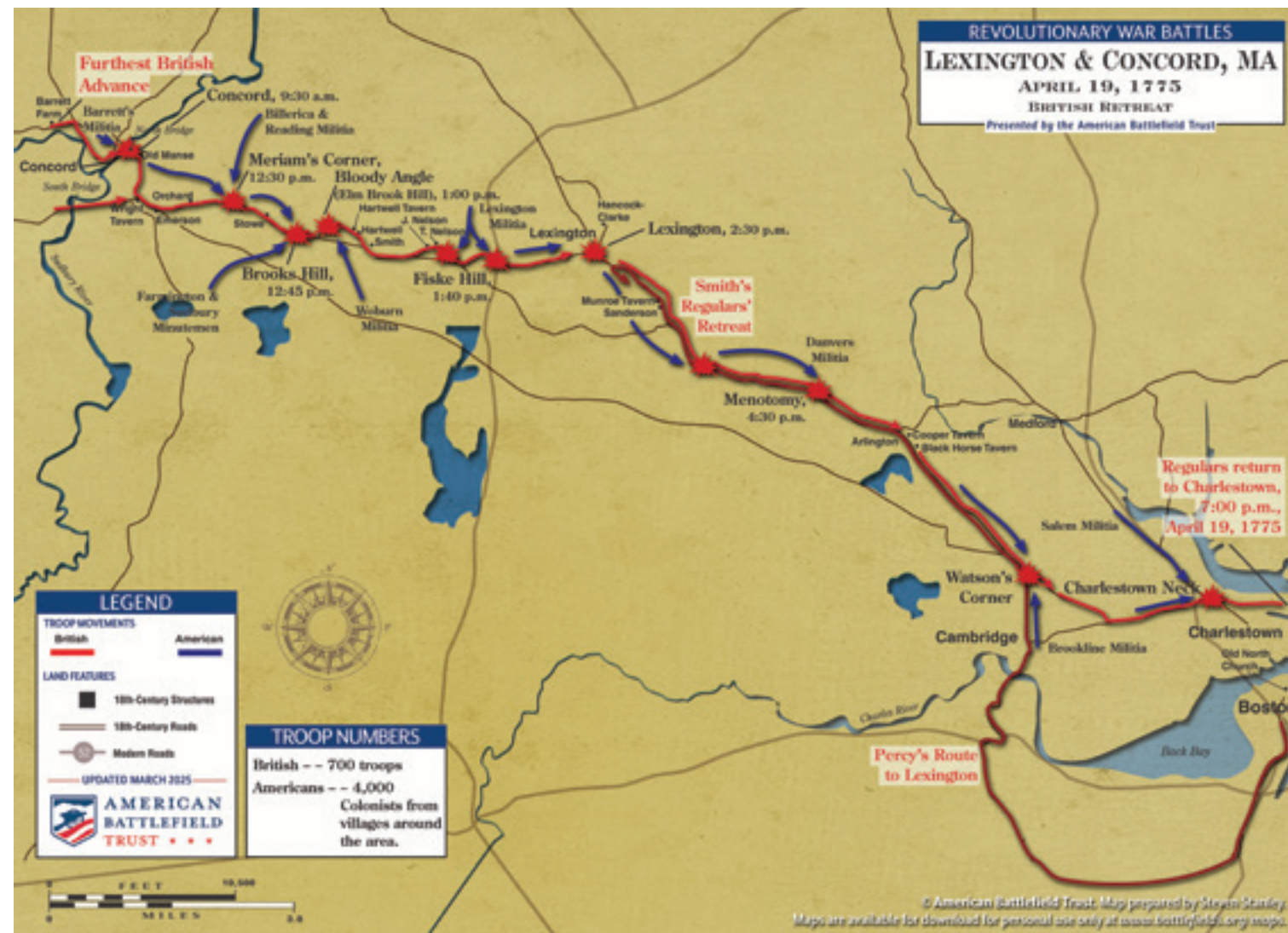
by KATE EGNER

**I**T HAD BEEN an intense morning. What began as a confused skirmish on Lexington Green and a desperate stand at Concord quickly became an all-out, moving ambush, with 700 British soldiers running an eight-mile gauntlet of Patriot militia with their sights set on revenge. It was just after noon on April 19, 1775, and the first battle of the American Revolution wasn't over yet — the day's most intense fighting was about to begin.

British troops had begun their day hours earlier, marching into the small town of Lexington at dawn, where they dispersed more than 70 of Captain John Parker's militiamen, and in a confused volley of fire, killed eight and wounded others before turning their attention to Concord, where close to 400 militiamen had congregated. Fighting over the North Bridge was the first intentional and organized engagement of what became the American Revolution.

Unsuccessful in his mission to seize munitions and well-bloodied at the bridge, Major John Pitcairn ordered his British troops to retreat back to Boston — but the American Patriots were poised for revenge, ready to pounce on the column as it marched along the narrow road out of Concord back toward Lexington. As the retreating British forces wound their way through farms and pastures, across narrow bridges and hemmed-in paths between stone walls, an afternoon of ambush awaited them.

Around 12:30 p.m., the British reached a crossroads known as Meriam's Corner. From their vantage points behind the houses and barns of the settlement, Patriots watched and waited. A Patriot militiaman from Reading, Reverend Edmund Foster, recalled that "The British marched down the hill with very slow, but steady step, without music, or a word being spoken that could be heard. Silence reigned



Meriam's Corner  
Concord, Mass.  
DANIEL LACROIX

on both sides." With the British light infantry now crossing a narrow bridge, the waiting Patriots had their chance. Ensign Jeremy Lister of the 10th Regiment of Foot later noted in his diary, "... immediately as we descended the hill into the Road the Rebels begun a brisk fire ... it became a general firing upon us from all quarters, from behind hedges and walls ..."

Continuing down the Bay Road (as Battle Road was known in 1775), the retreating British found no relief from the besieging Patriot militias, more of whom were waiting perched atop Brooks Hill. British Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith of the 10th Regiment ordered an unsuccessful attack on the Patriots waiting there and quickly regrouped to continue the march down the hill. All the while, Patriot militiamen used their knowledge of the landscape to overtake the British advance, while more militiamen continued to pour into the area. Eyeing the British approach, Major Loammi Baldwin ordered his men to "scatter and make use of the trees and walls" to defend their attack. At this "Bloody Angle," according to militiaman Edmund Foster, the British were hemmed "between two fires," as Patriots attacked from both sides of the narrow road in a "short but sharp contest."

An hour into their retreat, the British column now approached Lexington. Captain Parker, who had faced the British that morning on Lexington Green, collected his men for their turn at revenge. From their high ground, Parker's men — many of whom had already faced

the British that morning — launched their attack. At close range, the Patriots opened fire and continued their barrage as the British fell back to Lexington. Before it was over, the British managed to claim a few more casualties, including Jedediah Munroe, who had been wounded that morning on the Green.

Reflecting on the repeated Patriot assault, British Lieutenant John Barker recalled in his diary the continuous onslaught as the day continued: "[W]e were totally surrounded with such an incessant fire as it's impossible to conceive." General Thomas Gage likewise reported to the Earl of Dartmouth that "The Rebels attacked the King's troops in several places, and killed and wounded a considerable number. The troops continued to retreat and were much fatigued."

As evening set in, the retreating British troops still had a long way to go back to Boston — but along the Bay Road the Patriots had proved their mettle. It may have been the end of a disastrous day — but it was only the beginning of a war. ★

*Kate Egner is the Trust's senior manager of digital content. She holds a B.A. in historic preservation and classics from the University of Mary Washington and an M.A. in American history from the College of William and Mary. Prior to joining the Trust, she spent time at the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and the VA250 Commission.*



**I****N THE** 17th and 18th centuries, lakes and rivers acted as the highways and byways of the North American countryside. Situated at the confluence of Lake Champlain and Lake George, Fort Ticonderoga controlled access north and south between Albany, New York, and Montreal, Canada. This strategic location poised an attacker on an avenue of advance, while a defender could fortify strategic points along the waterways.

In 1755, the French had begun construction of a fort to protect the approach into their Canadian territory, and by 1757 a formidable star-shaped stone fort sprang to life. In 1758, it was heavily engaged by the British in the Battle of Fort Carillon during the Seven Years' War (also known as the French and Indian War in North America). French defenses held, but the British seized the fort a year later and rechristened it Fort Ticonderoga, from an Iroquois word meaning "it is at the junction of two waterways."

After the Seven Years' War, the map of North America changed dramatically and with Canada now also part of the British Empire, the strategic significance of Fort Ticonderoga waned. All that changed after the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

Against the better wishes of the Continental Congress, which only wanted to act defensively at this point of the war, both Connecticut and Massachusetts dispatched forces to capture strategic Fort Ticonderoga. Colonel Ethan Allen and his "Green Mountain Boys," who represented Connecticut, unexpectedly met up with a Massachusetts force led by the haughty but capable Colonel Benedict Arnold on May 9, 1775, near the fort. There had been no coordination between either colony, and the arrival of the respective forces was a shock to both officers. Nonetheless, the two men decided to work in concert to take the fort.

On May 10, 1775, the American force silently rowed across Lake Champlain from present-day Vermont and captured the fort in a swift, late-night surprise "attack." In reality, the fort had fallen into disrepair, and the undersized garrison of some 45 British officers and men were taken wholly by surprise, surrendering without a single shot being fired after Allen supposedly demanded their capitulation "in the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress."

Despite the lack of violence, it was the first offensive victory for American forces and secured the strategic passageway north, opening the way for the American invasion of Canada later that year. Allen received the lion's share of the credit for the victory and quickly moved on to capture nearby Crown Point. Between the two installations, the Americans secured 78 cannon, six mortars, three howitzers, 18,000 pounds of musket balls and some 30,000 flints. The "Gibraltar of North America" gave General George Washington raw materials and fire power to challenge the British — albeit in a remote and inconvenient location. ★

*Kristopher D. White is the Director of Education and Events at the American Battlefield Trust. White is the co-founder and chief historian of Emerging Civil War. He is the author of articles that have appeared in publications such as Civil War Times, Blue & Gray Magazine, and America's Civil War.*



Fort Ticonderoga  
Ticonderoga, N.Y.  
BUDDY SECOR

# *Ticonderoga Siezed*

AMERICANS TAKE THE OFFENSIVE

by KRISTOPHER D. WHITE



FROM MILITIA AND MINUTE MEN

# *to Continentals*

by ROB ORRISON

**F**ROM THE BEGINNING of European colonization, communities along the Atlantic seaboard required able-bodied men to participate in militia units to protect against Native American tribes on the frontier and foreign foes like the French. Most militias would muster and train in town and county centers, usually on court days.

These gatherings often had a festival air, with the entire community coming to watch.

As the situation in Boston became more tense, many communities in Massachusetts created more elite companies of “minutemen,” units with more regular training (sometimes weekly) that carried the expectation of response to danger at a “minute’s notice.” In October 1774, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress adopted this organizational structure overall, and other New England colonies began to do the same. However, contrary to popular thought, most units in action at Lexington and Concord were not minutemen companies, but instead regular militias.

After Lexington and Concord, thousands of militias from around New England and some Mid-Atlantic states converged on Boston, and many in the Continental Congress, such as John Adams, called for the “nationalization” of the growing force. After some debate, on June 14, 1775, the 22,000 troops gathered around Boston (plus a smaller force outside New York) were voted to become the Continental Army; the following day, George Washington was named its commander. But the Patriot troops who fought the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17 were not yet aware of their change in status — Washington had not even set out from Philadelphia yet. It was not until July 3 that he took command of his new army.

Congress expected states to furnish “levies” to maintain the Continental ranks, but many had difficulty filling their quotas, and militia units also remained active across the colonies. In New Jersey and South Carolina, these militias served as strike units against British supply lines and loyalist units, an ongoing campaign to disrupt British logistics. They provided the Continental armies in the field with much-needed manpower, albeit on a temporary and temperamental

basis. At the Battle of Bunker Hill, militia dealt a deadly blow to the British and, later in the war, units made decisive contributions at Bennington, King’s Mountain, Cowpens and Guilford Courthouse.

For all the benefits of a militia force, George Washington knew that for the United States to gain its independence and to create a true nation-state, a nationalized, professionally trained, standing army was needed. The transformation into a national force did not happen overnight. Initially, congressional leaders believed a force of approximately 20,000 men in 26 battalions would be sufficient. Military and political leaders quickly realized, however, they would need more and authorized further units, including cavalry and artillery.

The process was also fraught with political squabbles: Soldiers tended to want officers from their colony of origin, but Washington’s long-range goal was to create an American army, not one based on former colony identities. He believed the only way to beat a well-trained European army was to create a professional American army in the European fashion. To achieve this, he relied on former British officers such as Charles Lee and Horatio Gates to assist him in organizing the army and training the soldiers. Efforts were hindered by short-term enlistments and lack of support from Congress, including delayed pay and lack of supplies. Ultimately, German-born Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben set up a standard training program during the winter of 1778 at Valley Forge, which instilled true discipline.

From then on, effective Continental soldiers stood up to the British Army and proved their mettle in battle throughout the war. Today, the United States Army remains one of the nation’s most stalwart and universal institutions. It fulfilled Washington’s vision as a means to mold a new nation, and was a catalyst to remove sectional differences as its veterans formed a nucleus of the new united republic. ★

*Rob Orrison serves as division manager for the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division. He also sits on the board of directors for both the Mosby Heritage Area Association and Virginia Civil War Trails. Of his four published works, his latest is To Hazard All: Guide to the 1862 Maryland Campaign (2018).*





THE BATTLE OF

*Bunker Hill*

THE SUCCESS IS TOO DEARLY BOUGHT

by PHILLIP GREENWALT

“...**THAT POSSESSION OF THE HILL** called Bunker’s hill in Charlestown, he securely kept and defended, and also, some one hill or hills on Dorchester neck be likewise secured...” came the missive of a committee of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts in early June 1775. This de-facto political body left it to the Council of War, which comprised General Artemas Ward, the ever-present Dr. Joseph Warren, and the other generals stationed around Boston. These military officers should do whatever was necessary “for the security of this colony.”

By the middle of June, word reached Jonathan Hastings House, where Ward had set up his headquarters following the actions of Lexington and Concord in April. From a “gentleman of undoubted veracity” who had been able to leave Boston on June 9, the message arrived in Ward’s hands on June 14. British General Thomas Gage had planned an offensive on Sunday, June 18, against Dorchester Heights, to the south of Boston and then subsequently at Charlestown with the hope of advancing on Cambridge and scattering the rebels.

After consulting with General John Thomas and William Heath, both in charge of Patriot defenses near Dorchester Heights in Roxbury, Ward realized that nothing could be done to stop the British in that sector. The Americans lacked necessary supplies of war to repel and defend the prominence, including a lack of artillery. Ward focused on defending Charlestown, which included fortifying Bunker Hill.

Charlestown was “vital for the survival of the rebel army.” Cambridge lay barely three miles farther along, and whoever controlled the heights of Charlestown also controlled any movement or occupation of Cambridge. In turn, Bunker Hill dominated the peninsula, looked over parts of Boston, and was also out of artillery range of most of the British ordnance. Lastly, if the Americans could take the initiative and preempt Gage’s planned offensive, then Dorchester Heights may be forgotten and British efforts focused on pushing the rebels from Charlestown.

In his councils at Hastings House, Ward settled, with his generals, on sending the three Massachusetts militia regiments, under the commands of Colonels William Prescott, Ebenezer Bridge, and James Frye, numbering approximately 1,000 men. Joining with the Massachusetts men was a contingent of Connecticut militia overseen by General Israel Putnam and Colonel Richard Gridley’s company of artillery. Prescott was in overall command, with Gridley overseeing construction of fortifications. The militia infantrymen held their postings the first day on Bunker Hill.

These men at 6:00 p.m. marched onto Cambridge Common, and shuffled into line within sight of the Hastings House. Although not the most military-esque, these men believed in their officers and followed them toward the looming height of Bunker Hill. Ward had made his move; the rebels



*The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker's Hill, 17 June, 1775,*  
by JOHN TRUMBULL. Oil on canvas.  
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON. Gift of Howland S. Warren.



would provoke the British by clandestinely erecting earthworks on Bunker Hill.

What about the British? Reinforcements trickled in throughout May, bringing the eventual number to 6,000 men within the environs of Boston. Along with the rank-and-file came three general officers, William Howe, Henry Clinton and John Burgoyne by May 25, 1775. Planning began almost instantly to break the ring of enemy militia encircling the city, what Burgoyne would write as creating “elbow room.”

Decisions had been made by the brass of the British military in Boston to assault Dorchester Heights and then move on to assault Charlestown. Yet, as the sun crested the eastern horizon on June 17, sentries and observers notified Gage about what the militiamen of New England had accomplished. A redoubt had been constructed on Breed’s (Bunker) Hill, which prompted the British into action.

At approximately 9:00 a.m., a plan of

action was decided upon. Howe would personally lead troops across the Charles River to attack the newly constructed redoubt. The British Navy opened the day’s actions by starting a cannonade that lasted approximately two hours.

*For the victorious British, Bunker Hill was the first of several Pyrrhic victories in the ensuing American Revolutionary War.*

Those two hours though were not enough for the infantrymen and marines of the British military. First, the tide was insufficient for the British Navy to ferry the foot soldiers to the Charlestown Peninsula until midday. After the 2,400 soldiers landed, terrain of fences, swampland and a

narrow strip of beach funneled them toward a reinforced fence. Lastly, the British Navy found its guns could not provide the necessary prelude of covering fire that Gage and the British leadership had hoped would soften the American defenses.

With the approach of and unexpected delay of the British attack, militia reinforcements arrived to bolster the number of defenders. Showing an understanding of the lack of combat experience of their men, some colonial officers ventured toward the front slopes of Breed’s Hill, planting stakes to mark the location of when to fire at the enemy.

Drums sounded around 3:30 p.m., and British forces launched themselves toward the hill and the rail fence running perpendicular to the Mystic River and on the left of the American line. What ensued was a two-hour engagement that ended with American withdrawal and a short-lived pursuit by the weary British soldiery. On the hillside of



Bunker Hill Monument  
Boston National Historical Park  
Charlestown, Mass.  
JAMES WELLMAN

Breed’s Hill and along the stretch of sandy soil on the bank of the Mystic River laid more than 1,000 dead and wounded British soldiers. Approximately 450 colonials were killed and wounded, including the great Patriot Dr. Joseph Warren, so instrumental in the build-up of Massachusetts and the burgeoning revolutionary movement. He had risen from his bed, where he had been laid-low with a migraine, to rush to Breed’s Hill, where he was one of the last to fall as the redoubt itself fell to the British.

For the victorious British, Bunker Hill was the first of several Pyrrhic victories in the ensuing American Revolutionary War. The sight of a carpet of red strewn on the

Charlestown Peninsula would be an embedded memory to Howe, soon to take over the top mantle from Gage, of the British war effort in North America. That high attrition of casualties potentially played a role in some of the future campaigns Howe conducted against the Continental Army in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Although a British victory, Bunker Hill has entered the pantheon of American military lore. Probably the most positive outlook of any American military defeat in the country’s 250-year history. In popular culture, the name *Bunker Hill* ranks with such great American victories as Gettysburg and the actions of D-Day in World War II. Its mem-

ory solidified the prowess and capability of the militia and bookended the actions of Lexington and Concord two months prior.

The memory, history and importance of Bunker Hill, though, is best summed up by General Nathanael Greene, who spoke for the multitude wanting American independence. “I wish we could sell them [the British] another hill at the same price.” ★

*Phillip Greenwalt holds a B.A. in history from Wheeling Jesuit University and an M.A. in American history from George Mason University. He is currently a supervisory park ranger with the National Park Service at Everglades National Park. He has previously worked at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, George Washington Birthplace National Monument and Thomas Stone National Historic Site. He is the co-author of three books in the Emerging Civil War Series, along with articles in various historical publications.*



**Meet Faith Trumbull Huntington, daughter of a Royal Governor who joined the Patriot cause and witnessed unspeakable carnage at Bunker Hill in the American Revolution Experience.**







The AVAR crew heading to their first location of the day.

## VETERANS FIND NEW MEANING OF “RECOVERY” through archaeology at Camden

**A**LIGHT FOG gently blanketed the ground on the quiet and peaceful Camden Battlefield, which, nearly 250 years ago, saw vicious fighting and one of the most crushing Continental defeats of the Revolutionary War. As the sun began to peek through the trees, the sounds of leaves rustling and birds chirping were interrupted by electronic beeps and buzzes. Military veterans had arrived on the battlefield. Armed with metal detectors, they were searching for a deeper understanding of Camden’s history as part of a four-week archaeological field school, born out of a collaboration with the American Battlefield Trust and the Historic Camden Foundation.

The nonprofit organization American Veterans Archaeological Recovery (AVAR) uses rehabilitation archaeology to support veterans experiencing service-related physical or mental health disabilities, positioning them alongside professional archaeologists. The Trust has supported several previous AVAR projects, including at Saratoga and Minute Man National Historical Parks, but this is the first time it welcomed the group to land it has

directly protected. Since its inception in 2016 and through Trust support, AVAR has increasingly specialized in conflict archaeology and setting interested participants on a path toward industry-leading professional services in the sector.

“AVAR’s mission 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. “We were honored to bring this immensely impactful program to Trust-owned land and be a part of this meaningful mission.”

“The American Battlefield Trust has been one of our most steadfast partners,” said AVAR CEO Stephen Humphreys. “We are both trying to protect these sites, and the Trust has been crucial in the way our program has developed, allowing us to help these veterans.”

The group, made up of more than a dozen veterans, studied the Revolutionary War battlefield and colonial settlement in Camden, ad-

**WARRIOR  
LEGACY**  
★★★★★

Photography by CHRIS M. ROGERS

vancing understanding of the historic land while aiding veterans’ reintegration into civilian society by providing marketable skills and education.

Mackenze Burkhart, AVAR operations manager, said that veterans are uniquely positioned to tackle conflict archaeology projects. “There’s nobody that understands a battlefield to the same extent that veterans do,” said Burkhart, who has been with the organization since 2020. “When you’re thinking about the camaraderie of the people who fought here together and died here together, our teams can imagine that. They’re creating that camaraderie in a modern sense, as veterans who are looking for continued purpose and growth after their experience in the military.”

In addition to AVAR staff, the field school was 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 absorbed the cost for veterans participating in the field school at Camden.

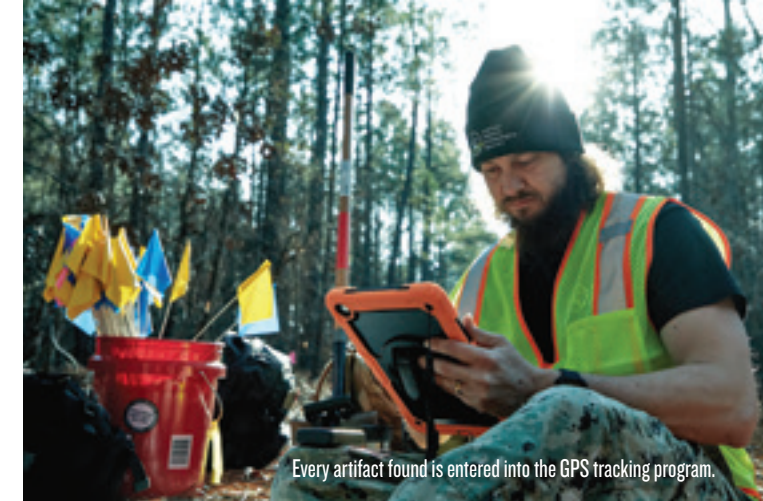
“This has been one of the greatest things I’ve done to improve my life since getting out of the military,” said Daniel Fortier, a veteran who first worked with AVAR in May of 2023. “I never thought I’d be able to work again, and now I have the opportunity.”

The Battle of Camden was a brutal defeat for the Americans early in the Southern Campaigns of the Revolution. After capturing Charleston in May 1780, British General Charles, Lord Cornwallis established a garrison at Camden to control the South Carolina backcountry. A Continental force under General Horatio Gates came south in response, and the armies made contact north of Camden early on August 16. A flawed battle array pitted Gates’s inexperienced Virginia militia against regiments of veteran British regulars, who launched a devastating bayonet assault. The Virginia militia retreated, as did North Carolina militia, but Continental Regulars from Maryland and Delaware withstood the onslaught until nearly surrounded. As was typical following a Revolutionary War battle, many of the dead were buried near where they fell. Last year, after erosion threatened to expose them, 12 sets of such remains were reinterred in modern Camden cemeteries.

The archaeological study conducted during the field school went far beyond finding relics of the past, it also helped complete understanding of how events unfolded. Every buckshot, musket ball or other artifact found by the veteran archaeologists-in-training was entered into a GPS tracking program. Together, the location of the objects presents a clearer picture of the extent of the battle, troop movements and other insights into the action on that site in 1780.

Humphreys emphasized that he does not like to come to a site with a preconceived notion about the story of the battle, as that could limit the potential for discovery. “Archaeology allows us to tell a different side of the story that may not have the same biases as texts. Officers sometimes want to exaggerate their own actions or cover their mistakes,” said Humphreys. “Archaeology can really fill in some of those gaps, as well as tell the stories of the regular rank-and-file soldier.”

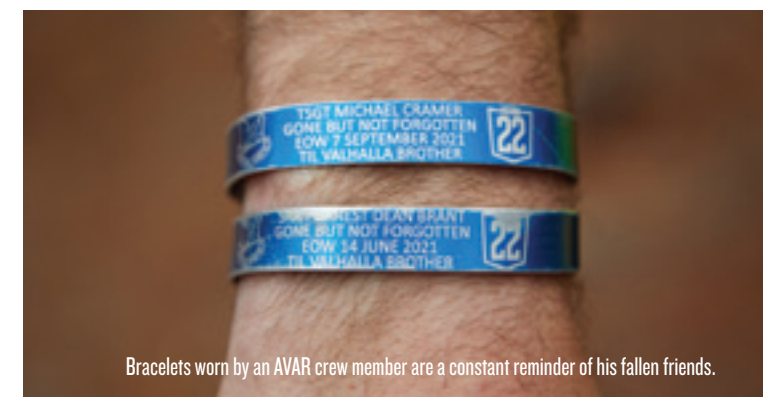
The Trust has preserved more than 294 acres of hallowed ground on the Camden Battlefield. The battlefield is also featured as a primary site on the Trust’s *Liberty Trail-SC* app, made in a partnership with the South Carolina Battleground Trust. The app connects battlefields across South Carolina and tells the captivating and inspiring stories of this transformative chapter of American history, including at Camden.★



Every artifact found is entered into the GPS tracking program.



The AVAR team in Camden showing some of their findings.



Bracelets worn by an AVAR crew member are a constant reminder of his fallen friends.



## A REVOLUTIONARY PARTNERSHIP

*Overwhelming response to the American Revolution Experience extends program's run through 2026!*

**N**O MATTER where you are in the United States, chances are the *American Revolution Experience* has made a stop near you — or it will soon! After realizing their organizations shared a vision for a semiquincentennial program to bring the nation's formative conflict to life, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the American Battlefield Trust joined forces in a yearslong collaboration that has educated and inspired hundreds of thousands.

“The connection between the American Battlefield Trust and DAR could not be a better match, because our goals are so aligned,” said Kristine White, who acts as the DAR liaison for the *Experience*.

The exhibit features vignettes exploring the conflict from the perspectives of Patriots, loyalists, enslaved and free Blacks, Native Americans and others whose lives were upended — and the physical journey each took through the conflict. It first launched online during the summer of 2022 and swiftly won Bronze in the Education, Art & Culture division at the second annual Anthem Awards. It then was a finalist in the “People’s Choice” category of the Webby Awards. A matching grant from the federal American Battlefield Protection Program and generous support from DAR funded the creation of a physical exhibit now traveling the nation, spending time at museums, libraries and other community venues. This exhibit consists of 12 panels with custom illustrations by artist Dale Watson that spotlight stories not often featured in classrooms, complemented by three digital kiosks

containing contextual information about the broader conflict.

“During planning, we really wondered if people would come, but the positive response has been so overwhelming,” said Claire Cocciolo, who coordinates the *Experience* on behalf of the Trust. “We hear over and over again how a visitor learned something new and wants to come back and dive deeper. It’s the best takeaway we could imagine.”

The response from DAR chapters seeking to sponsor and host the exhibit in their communities has also been overwhelming, putting us on the verge of doubling the program’s original goal of 48 sites by May 2025. And with Cocciolo and Wood working tirelessly to schedule the hundreds of sites still on the waitlist, an extension through the end of 2026 has been announced, a resounding testament to the alignment between the organizations and the quality of the product.

Wood and Cocciolo work with local DAR chapters to organize shipping and logistics. As they coordinate venue selection and timing, they attempt to schedule strategically to minimize shipping costs and transit length so that there is less downtime between displays. The close collaboration also has a side benefit: Cocciolo was so inspired by DAR’s work and how it overlaps with the Trust’s mission that she decided to complete her own rigorous application to become a DAR member.

“Hopefully all Americans are looking to the past at what our founders did to preserve this country, and how we owe them to continue to preserve our freedoms and this history,” remarked Wood. “I think people are hungry for patriotism, and the Trust and DAR are delivering that to people — a positive way to be patriotic.”

Explore the digital version of the *American Revolution Experience* for yourself — or find an upcoming stop for the exhibit near you! — at <https://american-revolution-experience.battlefields.org/>★



The American Revolution Experience  
at the Idaho State Capitol  
Boise, Idaho  
BRANDON L. HULL, HULLFILM

## A FAMILY TREE RICH IN MILITARY SERVICE

*Kentucky House Speaker Pro Tempore David Meade*



**LEGACY** of military service stretching back 250 years has made Kentucky House of Representatives Speaker Pro Tempore David Meade’s family tree as strong and venerable as an aged live oak on a sprawling country estate.

Meade all but needs a spreadsheet to keep track of the 21 veterans he is descended from those who served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 or the Civil War. In the Revolution alone, 10 of Meade’s ancestors joined the Patriot cause. Two were captured, but remarkably, all 10 survived the war and lived long lives well into the 19th century.

And as we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, a peek into Meade’s ancestral past provides a fascinating glimpse into how our forefathers answered the call of patriotism and helped transform 13 British colonies into the United States of America. And it is also an opportunity to reflect on how connections to the past inspire action by committed preservation champions, like Meade, in the present.

Meade’s seventh-great-grandfather on his mother’s side was **Major Adam Heiskell**, who joined Virginia’s Frederick County Militia in 1775 and served in General Daniel Morgan’s company of riflemen, marching 500 miles from Winchester, Virginia, to Cambridge, Massachusetts, in just 24 days to join Colonel Benedict Arnold’s disastrous campaign against Quebec. Heiskell was wounded and captured in the doomed American assault on December 31, 1775, but was exchanged in the spring of 1776. He returned to Winchester, where he lived until his death in 1822.

Another seventh-great-grandfather on his mother’s side was **Private Thomas Arthur**. Arthur served four enlistments with the Bedford County Militia of Virginia and was in the rear guard during the Battle of Camden on August 16, 1780, the worst Patriot defeat of the Revolution. He settled in Kentucky after the war and died in 1833 at age 84.

A maternal sixth-great-grandfather, **William Lawson, Sr.**, was in his 40s when he enrolled in

Virginia’s Montgomery County Militia in 1777. Serving as a sergeant, Lawson was one of the legendary “Overmountain Men” who poured out of the backcountry to fight and defeat British loyalists in the Battle of Kings Mountain in South Carolina in 1780. He was mustered out of service soon after and returned home to Scott County, Virginia, where he lived into his mid-90s.

**William Lawson, Jr.**, also served in the Patriot militia on two occasions as a three-month substitute for other men. He was 16 when he entered service for the first time in the fall of 1779, returning again in 1781. He was 87 or 88 when he died in Scott County, Virginia, in 1852.

On his paternal side, Meade’s sixth-great-grandfather, **Zachariah Wells**, enlisted in the Continental Army cavalry at Loudoun County, Virginia, on July 28, 1776, and rode with legendary Patriot cavalier Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee. Wells fought at Brandywine and Germantown. He was captured on December 12, 1777, but his misfortune spared him the deprivations of Valley Forge. Exchanged in 1778, he returned to Virginia and is believed to have died in 1833 in Kentucky.

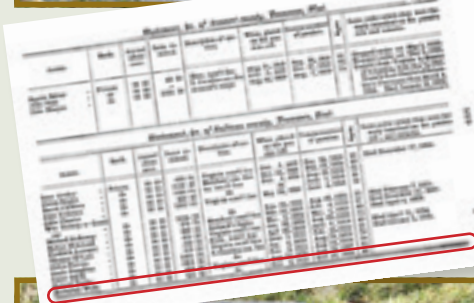
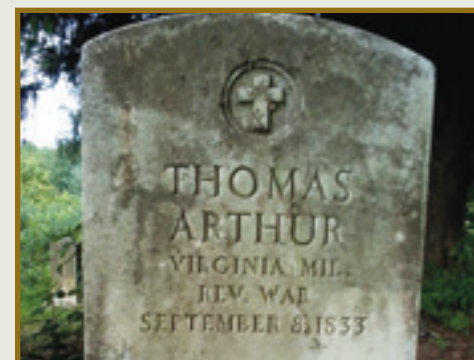
Another sixth-great-grandfather was **Barnabus Phelix Van Zandt**, a private in the New Jersey Militia who served at least eight tours, primarily in his home state. He was 94 when he died in 1850. Yet another sixth-great-grandfather, **Captain Michael Gilbert**, served in the Virginia Militia for more than four years and saw action in the Battle of Guilford Court House in March 1781.

A further sixth-great-grandfather, **Private William Obediah Gragg**, was a young man when he witnessed General Charles Cornwallis surrender the British Army at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781. He died at age 89 in 1847, having earned the nickname “Revolutionary Bill.”

A fifth-great-grandfather on Meade’s father’s side, **Nathaniel Pettice Thacker**, was a militiaman whose service included guarding British prisoners who surrendered



at Saratoga, New York, in 1777. Lastly, another fifth-great-grandfather, **William Clemmy Joseph**, served in the Maryland Line of the Continental Army for three and a half years before he was honorably discharged in late 1779 or early 1780.★

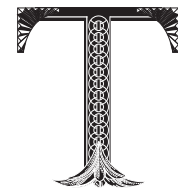






## THE “WORD THAT SHALL ECHO FOREVERMORE”

*Lexington and Concord have spent centuries*



HE MASSACHUSETTS hamlets of Lexington and Concord are inextricably linked in history to the first battle of the American Revolution on April 19, 1775. But in one respect, theirs can be a contentious rather than neighborly pairing.

For more than 200 years, folks in the town of Lexington, where colonial minute men shed the first blood in the American Revolution, have felt slighted by Concord’s attitude about the whole affair. You see, Concord, where other Patriots *killed* the first British soldiers at the North Bridge lays claim to being site of “the shot heard ’round the world.”

Wait, what? Were not the very first Patriot shots fired on Lexington’s Battle Green? Ineffective though they were, wouldn’t these be the shots that reverberated around the world; the shots that started an unlikely war for independence by an upstart colony of the British Empire?

The controversy had already been simmering for more than a decade before poet Ralph Waldo Emerson gave his hometown the nod in 1835 with the iconic lines in his “Concord Hymn:”

*“Here once the embattled farmers stood,  
And fired the shot heard ’round the world.”*

It all started in 1824, when the Revolutionary War hero Marquis de Lafayette visited the towns that form the cradle of American liberty. Lexington was infuriated when Concord took more credit than it thought due. At the time, there was a question whether any militia on Lexington Green even fired their weapons at all. Whereas at the North Bridge, there was no question: They responded to a British volley with one of their own, killing the first redcoats to fall in the war. It was at the North Bridge where the Patriots put up the “first forcible resistance,” folks in Concord asserted, and it was there where war really began.

This infuriated their Lexington neighbors, and in 1825 the Lexington Town Meeting created a committee “strictly aimed at the truth” to ascertain the facts about the April 19 affair. It published a 46-page booklet by Elias Phinney, *History of the Battle of Lexington: On the Morning of the 19th April, 1775*.

“Those who have undertaken to relate the events of that day have omitted many important facts and circumstances, the tendency of which has been to diminish, in the publick estimation, the importance to the country of the stand made by the militia of Lexington on that morning,” the preface reads. In fact, it was on Lexington Green where their “fellow townsmen ... boldly dared to begin the bloody conflict for independence...”



MARQUIS DE  
LAFAYETTE

## OR “RUDE BRIDGE THAT ARCHED THE FLOOD”?

*squabbling over the Revolution’s first shot*

Eleven years later, the Concord Battle Monument Committee asked Emerson to write a poem for the dedication of an obelisk monument at the North Bridge. He lived in Concord, and his father and grandfather had witnessed the fighting. Emerson’s words added fuel to the controversy, as did the monument, which bears the words, “Here on the 19th of April 1775 was made the first forcible resistance to British aggression...”

The dispute heated up again in 1894, when a petition was put before the Massachusetts Legislature requesting that April 19 be designated “Lexington Day.” That was quickly followed by a petition asking the legislature to anoint the famous day as “Concord Day.” The state compromised with “Patriots Day.”

It doesn’t help that the whole matter is riddled with uncertainties and inconsistencies. The first shot of the Revolution was fired at Lexington, to be sure, but it remains uncertain to this day whether it came from a British gun or a Patriot weapon — even whether it was intended or accidental. In the devastating British volleys that followed, eight Patriots were killed and 10 wounded. But several Patriots are on record as saying they fired their weapons at the British, and at least one redcoat was wounded. Resistance was scant, but not wholly absent.

At Concord, it was not a single shot “heard ’round the world,” but rather a volley from a handful of Patriots at or near the front of a two-line column at the head of the North Bridge. It came in response to a British volley that killed two Patriots and wounded four. This return fire killed three British soldiers, wounded nine and forced the redcoats to retreat.

However, when it comes to the amount of “forcible resistance” that day, then neither town ranks first. After the clashes at Lexington and Concord, the Patriots savaged the British forces during their retreat back to Boston, and by day’s end, the British had suffered more than 300 casualties, including some 73 killed. The colonists suffered about 93 casualties, including 49 dead.

Historian A. Michael Ruderman argues that the fighting in and around Menotomy (now Arlington) during the British retreat was the most significant action of April 19, writing: “Battle Green was an accident. Concord Bridge, a skirmish. But in the most brutal and deadly warfare of April 19, 1775, nearly 6,000 combatants fought hand to hand and house to house, the length and breadth of Menotomy.”

Today, both Concord and Lexington have Minute Man statues. Concord erected its statue in 1875 on the 100th anniversary of the battle, and its base includes the first stanza of Emerson’s poem. Lexington erected its Minute Man statue at the eastern point of the triangular Battle Green in 1900. And on the Green, at the place where the militia of Lexington formed their line, the town placed a rock memorial with a famous command that may or may not have been said by their leader, Captain John Parker: “Stand your ground. Don’t fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here.”

The dispute lingers on, and as the famous phrase is invoked during this anniversary period, it is often done without any understanding of the complicated legacy and historiography it implies. ★



LEFT: *The Lexington Minute Man* statue by Henry Hudson Kitson, Lexington, Mass. JAMES WELLMAN

RIGHT: Minute Man statue by Daniel Chester French, Concord, Mass. JAMES WELLMAN





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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](http://www.dar.org) and click on "Membership."

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## A PARTING SHOT

HERITAGE SITES

Old North Bridge  
VATH SOK



## MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

**B**EFORE THE SUN ROSE on April 19, 1775, years of simmering tension came to a head in the fields of Lexington and Concord, where the "shot heard 'round the world" ignited the American Revolution. Today, visitors to Minute Man National Historical Park can walk the ground where these first clashes took place and retrace the steps of the men who dared to challenge an empire.

Established in 1959, the park preserves and interprets the battlefields and landscapes tied to the opening of the Revolution, including the Old North Bridge in Concord, where fighting occurred on that April morning. It is also home to The Wayside, a historic home that once housed authors Louisa May Alcott, Nathaniel Hawthorne and more. Spanning more than 970 acres, the park stretches throughout the Massachusetts countryside and around the towns of Lexington, Lincoln and Concord.

The park's visitor center offers educational programs,

family-friendly activities and presentations that offer a deeper look into the events that day. *The Road to Revolution*, an award-winning multimedia theater presentation, immerses guests of all ages in the drama of the Revolution's first day.

A five-mile trail connecting sites from Meriam's Corner in Concord to the eastern boundary of the park in Lexington, the Battle Road Trail follows the remnants of the original route where the colonial militia and British regulars fought. Along the trail, original houses and taverns adorn the way for visitors to envision the landscape as it appeared in the 1700s, while markers and interpretive panels provide insight into the action that unfolded there.★

**MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK**  
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