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AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

# HALLOWED GROUND

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## HALLOWED GROUND

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of the American  
Battlefield Trust  
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The American Battlefield Trust preserves our nation's hallowed battlefields and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters today. We permanently protect these battlefields as a lasting and tangible memorial to the brave soldiers who fought in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Thanks to the contributions of more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide, we have preserved more than 53,000 acres, 143 sites in 24 states. For more information, call 1-888-606-1400 or visit our website at [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org). *Hallowed Ground* is the membership magazine of the American Battlefield Trust. It is produced solely for nonprofit educational purposes and every reasonable attempt is made to provide accurate and appropriate attribution for all elements, including those in the public domain. Contemporary images are reproduced only with permission and appropriate attribution; uncredited images are courtesy of the American Battlefield Trust. Feature articles reflect the research and opinion of the bylined author. ©2020 American Battlefield Trust.



AMERICAN  
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**A**

**S WE APPROACH** the end of 2020, perhaps you, like me, are reflecting on a year we never could have imagined — from the uncertainty produced by a global pandemic to the ways we would rise to those challenges. We did not predict the important, but sometimes-difficult, conversations about American

history that are currently taking place all over the nation. On a personal level, although I knew the Trust would experience a leadership change in 2020, and I aspired to follow Jim Lighthizer once he retired, the honor was neither expected nor assumed.

That's why, as I pause amid the bustle of the holiday season, I am both very grateful and very proud. Grateful, because in my 20-plus years with the Trust, I have never been more in awe of those, like you, who make up this organization. Even as each one of us experienced tremendous uncertainty — and many have experienced financial hardship — you kept faith in our cause. We've all seen the headlines about museums and other cultural institutions uncertain whether they will reopen, and about so many nonprofits having to slash programs. Thanks to steadfast donors like you, the Trust has not missed a beat, but instead has maintained an aggressive schedule of land preservation and groundbreaking educational programming. I am grateful beyond words.

And also proud. Among my pledges as I assumed the presidency was that the Trust would remain the best possible steward of your donation dollars. Just a few weeks ago, I received word that Charity Navigator had once again — for the 11th straight year! — awarded the Trust its highest-possible, four-star rating, a track record that puts us in the top one percent of all nonprofits in the country. I am immensely proud of this achievement, and with your help, next year we'll strive for an even dozen.

I also mentioned that as the son, husband, father and brother of professional educators, I am passionate about the work the Trust does to teach American history. This work is absolutely vital to our mission. If future generations don't know what happened on these battlefields and why it matters, then the fact that they are preserved will lose meaning. I want to be sure that more members know

about the Trust's education programs and consider supporting them with targeted gifts — I'd encourage you to read pages 34 and 35 to learn about the full suite of our educational efforts.

Finally, I told you about my vision for working toward the substantial completion of America's most important battlefields. Although I was eager to share the news at the time, negotiations were not quite finalized, so I had to bite my tongue! But as you may have read in a separate letter, or on the protective wrap that accompanied this magazine, the Trust has now begun a multiyear effort we are calling the "Gaines' Mill– Cold Harbor Saved Forever Campaign,"

which will lead to the preservation of the most-important unprotected Civil War battlefield land in the entire country.

This moment is literally decades in the making. For all that time, if you had asked me — or Jim Lighthizer, or much of our staff and Board, or any number of eminent historians — where the most important unprotected battlefield land in America was, I would have pointed to the place where the hearts of both the Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor Battlefields, outside Richmond, overlap. Over the next five years and with your help and generosity, we will work in stages to protect this supremely

hallowed ground through perpetual conservation easement.

But it isn't just about this one opportunity, big as it is. Think back over the last few years and recall some of the other blockbuster properties we have saved on those two battlefields: Remember the multifield Sportsplex we were able to prevent? What about the site of the historic Cold Harbor Tavern earlier this fall? Compare these victories to what had been preserved only a few short years ago. How easy it is to forget that in 2011, the National Park Service owned only 65 acres at Gaines' Mill. And you and I more than quintupled that total!

We are approaching a critical mass of preserved land at these battlefields and so many more across America, my friends, but we can't ease up. And with the stalwart support of dedicated members like you, I have no intention of doing so.



*David N. Duncan*

DAVID N. DUNCAN  
President, American Battlefield Trust

## Learn about the Battles of Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor

The Trust has recently begun a massive, multi-year effort called the Gaines' Mill–Cold Harbor Saved Forever Campaign. Learn more about these incredibly significant battles through articles from top historians, videos and other resources. [www.battlefields.org/GainesMill](http://www.battlefields.org/GainesMill) and [www.battlefields.org/ColdHarbor](http://www.battlefields.org/ColdHarbor)

## THE LONG ROAD TO PRESERVATION

The Trust's current project at Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor is itself two decades in the making — but efforts to preserve these and other battlefields around Richmond date back a century! Explore our timeline of the long road these sites have taken toward preservation.

[www.battlefields.org/GMCHTimeline](http://www.battlefields.org/GMCHTimeline).

## THE WESTERN THEATER ROAD TRIP

Generous donors to an online-only campaign sent Trust historians Garry Adelman and Kris White on a road trip through West Virginia and Kentucky. Look for the dozens of videos they captured while exploring battlefields both large (Perryville! Harpers Ferry!) and small (Kessler's Cross Lanes?) along the way on our YouTube Channel.

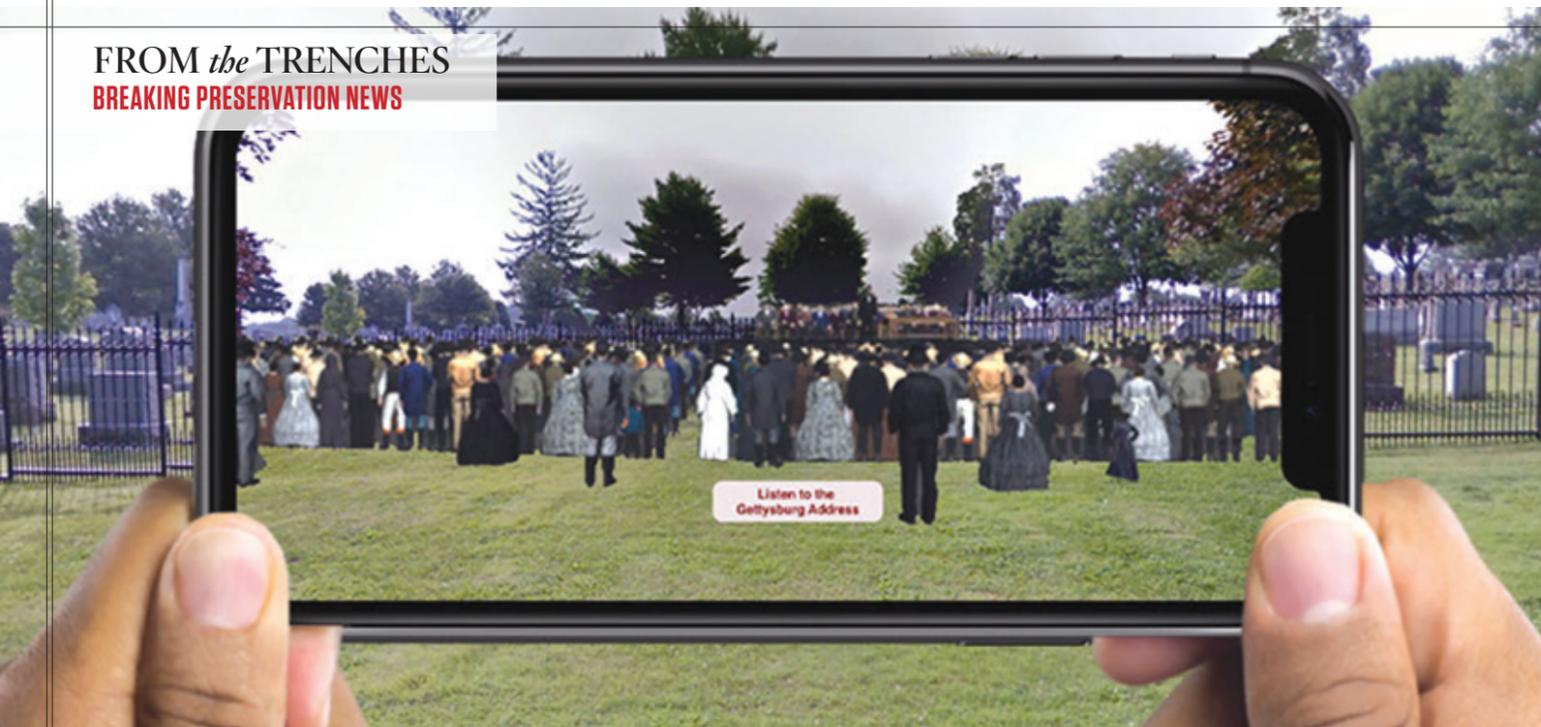
[www.youtube.com/AmericanBattlefieldTrust](http://www.youtube.com/AmericanBattlefieldTrust)

## WINTER IN WARTIME

Historically, there were relatively few battles fought during the winter — but that doesn't mean that soldiers didn't endure intense hardships. Or that the battles that did occur were insignificant.

[www.battlefields.org/winter](http://www.battlefields.org/winter)





## NEW AUGMENTED REALITY APP

*brings the Battle of Gettysburg to life like never before*



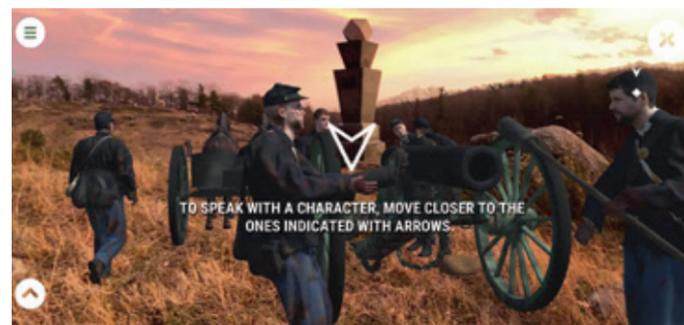
OVER THE LAST 157 YEARS, tens of millions of visitors to Gettysburg Battlefield have sought to imagine the terrible struggle that unfolded there in 1863. Now, thanks to the Trust's latest digital innovation, they can experience the battlefield in a new and exciting way. The Gettysburg AR Experience digitally inserts

animated versions of historical events into the user's environment. This means that a digital Lincoln can deliver his Gettysburg Address from the comfort of your living room, or that any local park can bear witness to Pickett's Charge.

"The American Battlefield Trust is committed to finding ways for 21st-century innovations to breathe life into events and personalities from the 18th and 19th centuries," said Trust President David Duncan. "A decade ago, we pioneered this unique type of place-based education with our first Battle App guides, and now we are pushing the envelope again with augmented reality."

The Trust is the nation's premier battlefield land preservation organization and a leader in place-based history education and interpretation. To date, we have released 23 apps designed to serve battlefield visitors with expert audio and video content as well, as on-board GPS-enabled maps. Last autumn, the Trust launched *Civil War 1864: A Virtual Reality Experience*, an award-winning immersive video that places viewers at the center of four period scenarios.

From decades spent leading tours at Gettysburg and other important sites, the Trust's chief historian, Garry Adelman, knows



what will spark the imagination of visitors. "What you need to do as a battlefield guide is to drag the past forward," he said. "We know that technology provides all sorts of windows to allow enlivening of the senses so you can get a little closer to the past. And the Gettysburg AR Experience is one of the closest things to time travel I have yet encountered."

The immersive elements of the Gettysburg AR Experience were made possible by Lumina Datamatics, an international firm with American headquarters in Norwell, Mass., and Interactive Knowledge, a frequent Trust development partner based in Charlotte, N.C. Lumina Datamatics produced the app's audio and visual renderings — 3D animations and interactive objects and characters, while Interactive Knowledge built the app, which is structured to accept expansion via additional interactive scenes and geographic sensing.

The Gettysburg AR Experience is available for free download on iOS and Android devices. Learn more at [www.battlefields.org/gettysburg-ar-experience](http://www.battlefields.org/gettysburg-ar-experience)★



Gaines' Mill Battlefield, Hanover County, Va., ROBERT JAMES



Cold Harbor Battlefield, Richmond National Battlefield Park, Mechanicsville, Va., ROBERT JAMES

FOR DECADES, preservation experts have had a near-consensus: A square-mile of the Richmond suburbs was the most historically significant but unprotected Civil War landscape in America. Not only was this land central to the Battle of Gaines' Mill in June 1862, but two years later played a major role in the Battle of Cold Harbor.

As time passed, threat of development loomed ever larger. It became one of the largest undeveloped tracts in desirable Hanover County, snowballing its fair-market value. During a 2005 Trust Board Meeting, legendary historian Ed Bearss declared: "Even if you have to sell every other piece of battlefield land the Trust has ever saved in order to preserve this land, you should do it. It's that important!" It took another 15 years of determination, cultivation, and negotiation, but the Trust has reached an agreement to secure permanent protection of this land.

The transaction involves several tracts to be announced in phases over the course of five years. While the entire effort is known as the "Gaines' Mill – Cold Harbor Saved Forever Campaign," the

## ANNOUNCING THE "GAINES' MILL-COLD HARBOR SAVED FOREVER CAMPAIGN"

*Massive, multi-year effort will protect acreage at the heart of two iconic battlefields*

first stage is summarized as "Pickett's Charge, Five Times as Large." It includes 96 acres from the long-term project plus 12 additional acres; land across which, between the two battles, some 70,000 soldiers charged.

The Trust is prevented from disclosing the cumulative cost of the conservation easement that will protect the land, instead sharing an immediate funding need of \$1,411,000 for the 108 acres. Thanks to early gifts from major donors and a significant grant from the Lee-Jackson Educational Foundation, \$511,000 remains to raise.

This broad effort will contribute toward the protection of a critical mass at both battlefields — allowing visitors 200 years from now to understand how the action unfolded on that landscape. Such an achievement will be largely due to the Trust's efforts — as recently as 2011, the National Park Service owned only 65 acres at Gaines' Mill, a figure that has since grown more than five-fold. This feat wouldn't have been possible without the Trust's members and their passion for saving these immensely important battlefields. Learn more at

[www.battlefields.org/GMCH2020](http://www.battlefields.org/GMCH2020)★

## SEEKING A BRIGHT FUTURE IN THE OLD DOMINION

*Report examines balance between solar energy expansion and Virginia's historic treasures*

VIRGINIA NOW NUMBERS among the many states with a growing appetite for renewable energy resources, exemplified by its 2020 passage of the Virginia Clean Economy Act. And several point to solar energy as the shining light of the future. With so many eager to find homes for

solar energy facilities, preservationists in the Commonwealth have raised a very important question: Where will they go? Considering the state's wealth of historic sites and cultural resources, the concern is a valid one.

"Unlike individual or commercial solar installations that occupy unobtrusive rooftops, utility-scale solar facilities may occupy hundreds or thousands of acres

— and those acres could very well be important to the story of American democracy," said Trust President David Duncan.

However, a new report from the Trust, Preservation Virginia and Cultural Heritage Partners deems that green energy goals and historic preservation need not be mutually exclusive. The report, *Siting Solar in Virginia*, draws from real-world cases and offers a roadmap for how solar developers can thoughtfully address historic resources. Suggested methods include mechanisms to proactively engage with the State Historic Preservation Office and preservation advocates — with one case study also detailing a pioneering mitigation strategy for instances where adverse effects to battlefield lands cannot be avoided.

As proposals for utility-scale solar facilities in historic areas appear across Virginia, this report underscores how the state is well-positioned to pursue its solar energy commitments while balancing the public's interest in protecting the storied resources for which it is internationally known.

Read the full report, *Siting Solar in Virginia: Protecting Virginia's Historic Landscapes While Meeting State's Clean Energy Goals*, at [www.battlefields.org/solar](http://www.battlefields.org/solar)★



## NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM *welcomes newest battlefield unit*



ON OCTOBER 14, the entire National Park System celebrated the formal addition of its 421st unit, Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument in Nancy, Ky.

“Today, we proudly declare that this once-endangered Civil War battlefield has been rescued, and it is another victory for Kentucky!” said U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers. “It has been an honor to work with my friend Senator Mitch McConnell, Secretary David Bernhardt, the Mill Springs Battlefield Association [MSBA], and so many others to preserve this historic battlefield so future generations can experience an interactive education about our history in Kentucky and the significant impact that Kentucky had in strengthening our nation.”

In 1991, the National Park Service, via the report of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, identified Mill Springs Battlefield as one of the 25 most endangered battlefields in America. Since then, the American Battlefield Trust and MSBA have worked with federal, state and local partners to protect nearly 1,000 acres of the battlefield. On March 12, 2019, President Donald Trump signed into law the designation for Mill Springs to become a national monument. A signing ceremony at the U.S. Capitol officially completed that process, followed by the October celebration at the new park.

“Through the power of public-private partnerships, the important historic landscape at Mill Springs has been protected for future generations of Americans to learn from and enjoy,” said Trust President David N. Duncan. “It has been our privilege to work alongside government officials at the federal, state and local levels, as well as committed nonprofit partners, to protect nearly 700 acres at Mill Springs — land now becoming part of the inheritance of every American.”

The Battle of Mill Springs, fought on January 19, 1862, was the second largest battle to take place in Kentucky and marked the Union’s first major victory. The outcome helped maintain Kentucky’s Union affiliation throughout the war and offered more than a strategic victory for the Union army in that it provided a much-needed boost to morale and re-energized Northern war interests.

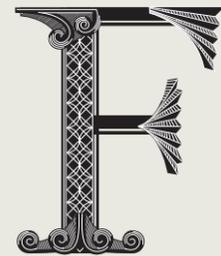
“Today’s celebration has been a journey of more than 28 years. We are so grateful and thankful to Congressman Hal Rogers and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Without their help, persistence and insight, this day would not have been possible,” said MSBA President Dr. Bruce Burkett. “We also owe the American Battlefield Trust, Pulaski and Wayne County executive support and hundreds of volunteers, a deep and heartfelt thank you.”

During the celebration, Elisa Kunz was introduced as the acting superintendent for the Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument. ★

During the celebration, Elisa Kunz was introduced as the acting superintendent for the Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument. ★

## KINGS MOUNTAIN AUDIO DRAMA DEBUTS

*Capstone project from inaugural Youth Leadership Team member wows audiences*



FEW AMERICANS have heard of the Battle of King’s Mountain, a decisive engagement fought on October 7, 1780. But Rock Hill, S.C., teen John Mugabe has worked to change that, creating a three-episode audio drama showcasing the experiences of those who fought at King’s Mountain, located near his home, as a capstone project for his time on the Trust’s Youth Leadership Team (YLT).

A member of the inaugural YLT class in 2019–2020, Mugabe envisioned a powerful audio drama that could give true voice — not merely words on a page — to the long-ago soldiers whose valor at King’s Mountain kept the flame of freedom alive. “Their stories deserve to be heard,” he said. “And, most importantly, remembered and enshrined as the words of true heroes.”

Although COVID derailed completion of the project, Mugabe did not accept defeat. Instead, he approached sound designer Joe Miller, a former history teacher who grew up around King’s Mountain. Miller saw promise in the project and offered a package that included three days of studio space, voice actors, music, editing and other professional services.

Fees exceeded the original project stipend tenfold, but the Trust suggested a two-part mechanism to secure the money: find a generous donor to provide a grant that could be matched in micro-gifts by the Trust’s 300,000 Facebook fans. The grant was provided by acclaimed historical novelist Jeff Shaara, a former member of the organization’s Board of Trustees, and the remaining \$1,954 was crowdfunded by Trust members in less than 24 hours. Shaara was so excited by the project that he has offered a similar storytelling challenge grant to this year’s YLT participants. [www.battlefields.org/battle-kings-mountain-story-memories](http://www.battlefields.org/battle-kings-mountain-story-memories) ★



## SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN ANIMATED MAP

*Now playing online and  
in NPS visitor centers*



“**WE FIGHT, GET BEAT**, rise, and fight again.” The words of patriot General Nathanael Greene characterize the tenacious spirit of the patriots who fought in the Revolutionary War’s Southern Campaign, a critical period brought to life like never before in the new animated map created by the American Battlefield Trust, in partnership with the National Park Service.

With riveting storytelling and striking visuals, the new 15-minute animated map was produced by the award-winning Wide Awake Films and intended for exhibition at the visitor centers for Cowpens National Battlefield, Kings Mountain National Military Park and Ninety Six National Historic Site. Although building interiors remain closed, visitors have begun enjoying the didactic resource al fresco, and the Trust has made it available to broader audiences through its YouTube channel — joining comprehensive tellings of the entire Revolutionary War and Civil War, as well as 10 battle or campaign-level productions in the broader series. “Viewers of this exceptional production will benefit from the insight delivered through its sophisticated examination of the Southern Campaign,” said Trust president David Duncan. “The Trust is pleased to partner with Cowpens National Battlefield to highlight this important piece of history and share our enthusiasm for history education across generations.”

Diana Bramble, acting superintendent at Cowpens National Battlefield, concurred — adding, “The Southern Campaign Animated Map is a wonderful way to orient visitors to our park and provide context regarding its profound significance in the Revolutionary War. The Trust’s commitment to history is evident in the work they produce, and we are proud to have collaborated with them on this outstanding project.”

The Southern Campaign Animated Map highlights the immense political division that existed in the Carolina backcountry: Colonists were split between those who remained loyal to the British Crown and those supporting independence. By late 1780, the Southern Campaign embodied Greene’s famous statement of tenacity: Even as the British gained tactical victories, the Americans gained a strategic upper hand through attrition.

Telling this inspiring story is a key element of The Liberty Trail, which will ultimately link more than 70 sites associated with the Southern Campaign, preserving some 2,500 acres and functioning as an educational multimedia and heritage tourism resource. Learn more at [www.TheLibertyTrail.org](http://www.TheLibertyTrail.org) ★

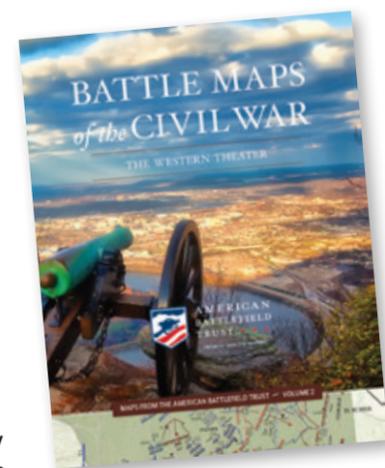
## BATTLE MAPS OF THE CIVIL WAR: THE WESTERN THEATER

*Second volume in Trust’s map book series now available*



STRATEGY AND GRIT abounded in the Civil War’s vast Western Theater. It was there that Union commanders employed tactics that hit the Confederacy at its most vulnerable points, impeding the ability to move supplies and men. To help armchair historians better understand these important engagements, the American Battlefield Trust has released *Battle Maps of the Civil War: The Western Theater*, the second book in a series collecting the group’s acclaimed historical maps in bound form for the first time. The 112-page book, published by our friends at Knox Press, features scores of full-color maps and text from Trust resident historian Kristopher White.

Last year’s edition on the Eastern Theater was wildly successful, and the new title, tracking the course of the war from Fort Sumter to Joe Johnston’s surrender at Bennett Place, is already proving popular. Initial distribution was reserved for donors who contributed to our exciting campaign to protect 303 acres at Lookout Mountain and Franklin, but individual copies are now available. Look for copies wherever books are sold — including the Trust’s online store, where you’ll find special discounts and offers throughout the holiday season. [www.battlefields.org/battle-maps-western-theater](http://www.battlefields.org/battle-maps-western-theater) ★





## TRUST POISED TO TRANSFER 384 ACRES AT PERRYVILLE to *Commonwealth of Kentucky*

**I**N A TYPICAL OCTOBER, the history community turns its eyes to Perryville, Ky., for one of the most anticipated living history and battle commemoration events of the year. While public health concerns made such a large gathering inadvisable in 2020, the battle's anniversary was still celebrated, as the American Battlefield Trust and the Commonwealth of Kentucky revealed they were in final negotiations to transfer 384 acres into Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site. These lands — six individual properties valued at \$2.5 million and purchased by the Trust over 20 years — will represent the largest addition to the park since it was created in 1936.

“The work done by the Trust, alongside partners at the federal, state and local levels, has made Perryville one of the most ‘complete’ battlefields of the Civil War,” said Trust President David Duncan. “And this transfer will even further enhance a tremendous park.”

In all, the Trust has protected 1,150 acres at Perryville — 113 of which are already part of the park — representing roughly half of all work done by the organization in Kentucky. Nearly all this work was completed through cooperative efforts, including matching grants from the federal American Battlefield Protection Program, logistical support from the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the support of the Boyle County Fiscal Court. The Commonwealth's deep commitment to battlefield preservation was visible in the creation of a per-

manent Kentucky Battlefield Preservation Fund during the 2020 legislative session.

The addition of these lands to the park stands to have great economic, recreational and environmental benefits for the region and the state, emphasized Zeb Weese, executive director of the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves and chair of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board. “Generations yet to come will visit these lands to absorb their historic legacy, marvel at their natural beauty and appreciate the rare species habitat they support.”

Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Goodman called the pending parkland addition significant for Kentuckians. “I am grateful for the collaborative efforts of the American Battlefield Trust and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, through the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF),” Goodman said. “Preserving our natural heritage through these land acquisitions is essential.”

“During the Civil War, military leaders on both sides understood the significance of maintaining strategic control of Kentucky,” said State Rep. Daniel Elliott, who was the lead sponsor of the legislation to create the Kentucky Battlefield Preservation Fund. “In the same way, my fellow legislators clearly grasp the myriad reasons why battlefield preservation is a worthwhile investment for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We are eager to continue working to create public-private partnerships that will ensure the protection of these important landscapes.”★



### FOUR STARS *eleven times over!*

**E**ARNING TOP HONORS in any evaluation is a rewarding feeling, but doing so 11 times in a row is something special! That's why the American Battlefield Trust is celebrating! In recognition of our diligent efforts to operate as effective and transparent stewards of financial resources, we have once again received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest independent evaluator. Only one percent of the nation's nonprofits have demonstrated this level of sustained excellence.

As he celebrated the achievement, Trust President David Duncan noted “No matter how much we raise, it's about how effective and efficient we are with the resources that are entrusted to us. The rating provided by Charity Navigator mirrors the promise that the Trust sends to its donors each time they invest in our indispensable mission.”

“We are proud to announce American Battlefield Trust has earned our 11th consecutive four-star rating,” said Charity Navigator's CEO Michael Thatcher. “This is our highest possible rating and indicates that your organization adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way.”

The Charity Navigator rating system reflects a nonprofit's financial health, accountability and transparency, as well as how effectively it delivers on mission objectives. This isn't the only distinction that validates the Trust's responsible and efficient practices. We also proudly bear the Platinum GuideStar Nonprofit Seal of Transparency and are accredited by the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance for meeting its 20 standards on governance and oversight.★



## TRIUMPH IN THE WEST WOODS



**ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**, Jim Lighthizer used his last chance to address Trust members to do more than thank them for the memories. After staff made arrangements with the seller to ensure that no hurdles stood in the way of closing, he was able to spend his final hours as president celebrating a major victory at his favorite battlefield.

“I think most of you know that Antietam has a special place in my heart because I started helping to save land there when I was Maryland secretary of transportation — years before I came to the Trust. Well, that makes it a particular a joy to offer you this as my very last announcement as President: We did it! Together, we saved the three key acres in Antietam's West Woods I wrote to you about a few weeks ago. Thank you for rising to the occasion and helping us quickly complete this final transaction of my tenure.”

Antietam's West Woods mark one of the most fiercely contested areas of the battlefield. The fighting at Antietam on September 17, 1862, is generally considered among the great turning points of the Civil War, a Union victory that allowed President Abraham Lincoln to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. The Trust publicly launched a national fundraising effort to purchase the \$310,000 property on August 17, 2020, noting an expedited timeframe to meet a seller deadline.

Located within the boundary of Antietam National Battlefield, the site was ineligible for matching grants traditionally used for battlefield preservation by the Trust. In lieu of that funding source, the Trust drew, for the first time, on money contributed to the Lighthizer Legacy Fund. Gifts to that fund are earmarked specifically for acquisitions at sites hand-chosen by Lighthizer for their personal significance to him: the Antietam Campaign; Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor, Va.; and The Liberty Trail, a special project to shed light on untold stories of the Revolutionary War in South Carolina.★

## HIDDEN HISTORY *on Horse Island*

Horse Island, Sackets Harbor Battlefield  
State Historic Site  
Sackets Harbor, N.Y.  
CHASE GUTTMAN



**BEFORE THE SUN'S** ascent on May 29, 1813, British forces sailing upon Lake Ontario came ashore at Horse Island, the

first stage in a plan to overwhelm U.S. naval facilities nearby. They were met by a spirited but smaller force of Albany Volunteers, who fled on account of the overwhelming extent of enemy forces. The British pursued them to the mainland, only to find themselves under fire from American artillery. A three-hour battle ensued. British and Canadian troops struck the town of Sackets Harbor, but were repulsed by well-entrenched U.S. Regulars. Intended to be a British blow to the Americans, the Battle of Sackets Harbor resulted in a Patriot victory.

Today, the 24-acre Horse Island presents an opportunity to expand our understanding of the engagement through primary documentation. The American Battlefield Trust began efforts to acquire Horse Island — our first War of 1812 property — in 2017 and transferred the land to New York State in December 2018. After the transfer, the Sackets Harbor Battlefield received a \$50,000 federal grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program to further investigate the role the island played in the Battle of Sackets Harbor via an archaeological survey led by battlefield archaeologist Brian Grills and his team from Binghamton University.

In September 2020, the team descended on the island and, through careful labor, uncovered shell fragments, dropped musket balls, a side plate from a musket and buttons from military uniforms. Grills said they're using this new evidence to paint a broader picture of what happened during the chaotic events of May 29, 1813. The team also noted that these items were a welcome find: The island has previously been the target of treasure hunters. While Joshua Anderson, a field director on the project, encouraged history enthusiasts to "come, look, take pictures," he also emphasized how important it is that visitors leave this precious history untouched so that others can experience it.

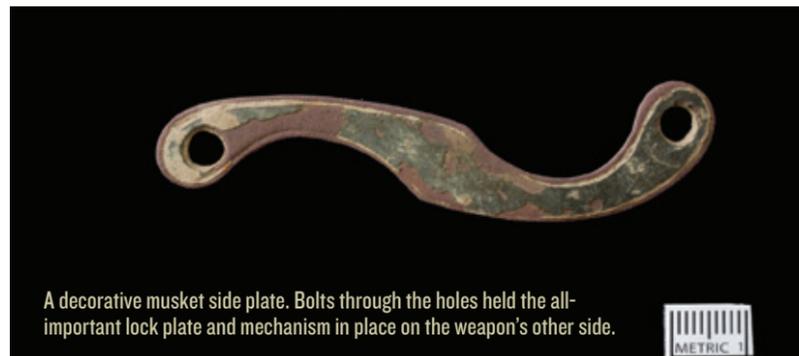
On top of their archaeological finds, the team will also rely on members of the community, such as descendants, to share their insight on the history of Horse Island. With these sources working in tandem, the project's report will aim to close the gaps in the site's elusive history. ★



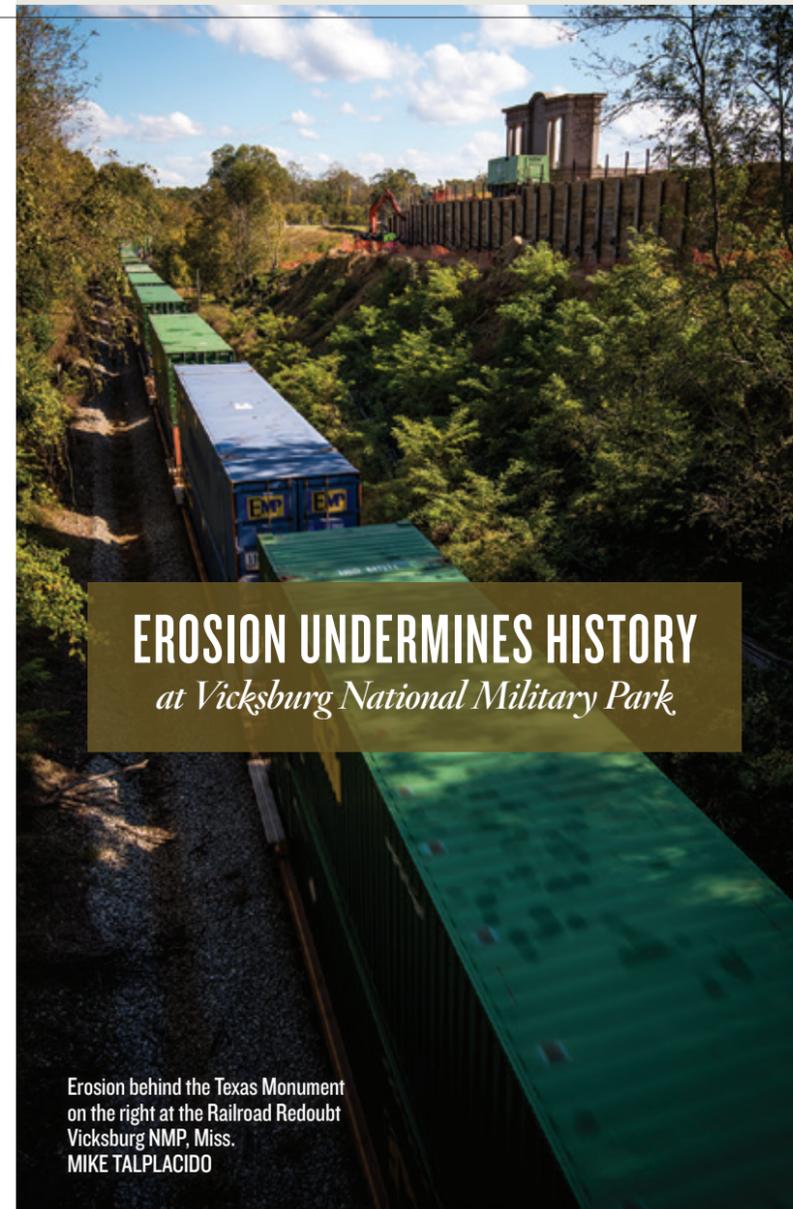
During the War of 1812, lead flint wraps were used to secure the flint, which created the spark necessary to fire, onto a flintlock musket.



Coins recovered from Horse Island were both British and American in origin.



A decorative musket side plate. Bolts through the holes held the all-important lock plate and mechanism in place on the weapon's other side.



## EROSION UNDERMINES HISTORY *at Vicksburg National Military Park*

Erosion behind the Texas Monument on the right at the Railroad Redoubt Vicksburg NMP, Miss.  
MIKE TALPLACIDO



Erosion on National Cemetery Road Vicksburg NMP, Miss.  
MIKE TALPLACIDO



**THE MOST SERIOUS BATTLE** being fought at Vicksburg National Military Park today, according to park staff, is against erosion, the process by which earth is carried away by wind or water. The loess soil type found in abundance at Vicksburg is particularly vulnerable to erosion; many of the battlefield's

most familiar landscapes have been shaped in this way, but they can also be unstable and present issues for visitor safety.

Loess is made up of silt-size pieces of wind-blown dust, typically less than 20 percent clay. Highly porous and loosely held together by calcium carbonate, loess is often called "yellow earth," and readily forms both natural vertical bluffs, which can be easily excavated into cave dwellings, and capillary crevasses that allow for water flow — all formations quite evident to Vicksburg visitors.

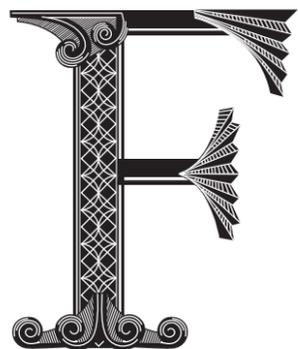
Three types of large-scale erosion, known as mass wasting, impact the park. Creep is slow, continuous downward movement, the type that will cause headstones in old cemeteries to sit at exaggerated tilts. Slump occurs when the base of a slope is undercut — such as by a stream — and without enough support, the land above moves downslope as a unit, often called a "slump block." Landslides are fast moving and dangerous, although small ones can often be observed on the edges of gullies after major rain events. The aftermath of significant storms will regularly see portions of the park closed to vehicular or pedestrian access, as rangers assess any damage and offer cleanup or stabilization services.

With erosion having long been a threat to the park landscape, much effort has gone into how best to combat it. Vegetation is known to help keep soil in place. During the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps planted thousands of trees at Vicksburg to help control erosion, but this is now giving way to more modern methods. Plants are now specifically chosen for performance in this soil and do not grow as high, maintaining viewsheds for visitors. Plus, the downing of a large tree with a hefty root-ball can trigger a sizable erosion event. Engineered structures and retaining walls also help combat erosion in particularly vulnerable areas.

The area around the Railroad Redoubt and Texas Memorial, site of an action featured prominently in this issue of *Hallowed Ground*, is among those targeted by the National Park Service (NPS) for stabilization. After years of study and design, and securing funds for the project, a major rehabilitation endeavor for the slope to the north of these features was begun on February 4, 2020. Unfortunately, this came amid a winter of heavy rains, and by March 1, up to one-third of the park was closed as the NPS responded to damage at slopes, roads and portions of Vicksburg National Cemetery. So significant was the damage that assistance in assessing and planning for repair was rendered by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Army Engineering Research and Development Center. In September, U.S. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith announced that among the \$22.7 million in emergency funding for federal road repairs in Mississippi, \$8 million had been allocated to the NPS for work at Vicksburg and along the Natchez Trace National Parkway. ★

## A FRIEND IN DEED

*Advocacy and support group makes great strides on behalf of Mississippi Battlefields*



### FRIENDS OF VICKSBURG

National Military Park and Campaign, established in 2008 as the official non-profit partner for the Vicksburg National Military Park (VNMP), has garnered a growing reputation as a small, but mighty friends group able to create a tangible impact on the visitor experience and rally support where needed most. Since being awarded the American Battlefield Trust Brian C. Pohanka Organization of the Year Award in 2013, the organization has been busy continuing its preservation efforts.

The battlefield protected by the Vicksburg National Military Park is hallowed ground, on which more than 100,000 soldiers from both the Confederate and Union Armies fought and suffered, many of whom were wounded or died in the struggle for the city of Vicksburg and for control of the Mississippi River. One of the most complex and protracted military operations in U.S. history, the Vicksburg Campaign marked a decisive turning point of the Civil War, giving the Union control of the Mississippi River, splitting the Confederacy in half and elevating Ulysses S. Grant as a military and future political leader.

More than a Civil War battle and siege, Vicksburg should be understood as a campaign. In his attempts to control the Mississippi River, Union Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant used extraordinary and precedent-setting tactical actions, still studied and lauded by our modern military.

More than a Civil War battle and siege, Vicksburg should be understood as a campaign. In his attempts to control the Mississippi River, Union Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant used extraordinary and precedent-setting tactical actions, still studied and lauded by our modern military.

### CHAMPION HILL

In 2014, Congress expanded the authorized boundary of VNMP to include the battlefields that figured into stages of the campaign prior to the siege of the city, places where bloody and decisive fighting occurred. The first transfer of land occurred in 2019, when 800 acres — the largest addition to the park since it was created in 1890 — were added at Champion Hill. The remarkable historical integrity of this land means visitors can experience the battlefields as



Champion Hill Battlefield  
Hinds County, Miss.  
MIKE TALPLACIDO

they might have appeared in 1863.

In addition to coordinating efforts to ensure the transfer of the first lands at Champion Hill, Friends of the Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign committed to match the value of the land with funds for preservation, access and interpretation of these additional battlefields. By telling the story of the full Campaign and not only the Siege, VNMP will provide an even more engaging and complete visitor experience.

The first of these initial access and interpretation projects is underway. Currently in the planning phase, but fully funded through the generosity of donors, the National Park Foundation and Centennial Challenge Funds, soon there will be two paved parking areas near the Crossroads at Champion Hill, along with orientation kiosks, interpretive signage and an enhanced trail system for the public to gain access to the battlefield for the first time.

Also in the final stages of design are new interpretive signs at the historic Coker House at Champion Hill, funded through Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign. These projects take preservation one step further and provide critical access and interpretation to these significant sites.

### RAILROAD REDOUBT

In addition to work at the new battlefield sites surrounding Vicksburg, Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign has also been busy with preservation efforts along the historic siege and defense lines from the final stages of the Campaign for Vicksburg. Earlier this

year, the organization undertook, with support from the American Battlefield Trust, a campaign to acquire a critical two-acre tract adjacent to the south boundary of the park.

Near the Railroad Redoubt, the land was on the left flank during the Union attacks against the Confederate positions on the morning of May 22, 1863. That morning, more than 200 Union cannon opened fire on the Confederate defenses and hammered them with solid shot and shell for four hours, tearing large holes in the earthen fortifications.

The area has seen significant residential and commercial growth over the past decades and is adjacent to U.S. Interstate 20. Any re-

development of the property would have been detrimental to the historic resources inherent to the battlefield landscape and the viewshed associated with the Vicksburg National Military Park and the Vicksburg Battlefield, as well as any potential archaeological resources.

### PROTECTION

Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign was one of only a handful of National Park Service partnership organizations able to pioneer a way through donations and volunteer efforts to continue basic operations during the nation's longest government shutdown. For 35 days, from December 22, 2018, to January 25, 2019, when VNMP was the most vulnerable to vandalism and relic hunting, Friends was able to protect the park and ensure visitors still had access to the tour road, the visitor center, the U.S.S. *Cairo* Gunboat and Museum and restrooms. Due to the suc-

cessful campaign to educate state legislators on the importance of VNMP as a state treasure and economic resource, the Mississippi legislature passed legislation in the spring of 2019 to ensure state funds would be available to protect and keep basic operations in the event of a future government shutdown.

Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign is committed to growing preservation efforts to protect these battlefields and historic buildings to better interpret the stories of the Vicksburg Campaign. The battlefield additions to the park expand the visitor experience and educational offerings for these important sites.

There is a growing number of people truly dedicated to preserving the tangible reminders of the bravery and perseverance of those involved in the Vicksburg Campaign. Helping maintain the battlefield and other historic aspects of the campaign is a noble cause, but sharing the story of the pivotal events that occurred here more than 150 years ago that helped shape our nation is crucial for education of future generations. For more information about the organization or to join preservation efforts in Vicksburg, please visit [www.friendsofvicksburg.org](http://www.friendsofvicksburg.org).★



The Railroad Redoubt  
Vicksburg NMP, Miss.  
MIKE TALPLACIDO

# SEVEN PINES

## Where Has the Seven Pines Battlefield Gone?

by Charles F. Bryan, Jr., Ph.D



**HERE IS A CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD** that draws nearly four million people a year — more than any other, including Gettysburg — yet, despite having gone to the location intentionally, few have any idea of what occurred there in 1862.

Having lived in Richmond more than 30 years, I cannot tell you how many times

I have flown in and out of the city's airport. On incoming flights, as we prepare to land, I sometimes glance out my window, trying to imagine what the landscape must have looked like a century and a half ago.

It was here that Confederate and Union forces clashed for two days of intense fighting in the late spring of 1862. The battle, known as either Fair Oaks or Seven Pines, resulted in combined casualties totaling nearly 14,000 dead, wounded, captured or missing, making it the bloodiest battle fought in the Eastern Theater up to that point in the war. Overall losses on both sides totaled nearly four times the casualties at the Battle of Bull Run the previous summer.

As the largest battle either field army had engaged in, it was widely reported in both the Northern and Southern presses. Although the public could not know it at the time, the battle would prove to be a turning point in the war. Yet Seven Pines is a battle that has received little attention, despite its significance — perhaps because it has been overshadowed by the Seven Days' Battles, Robert E. Lee's first major campaign, three weeks later.

Events leading up to the battle began in late March 1862, when Union Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan launched his Peninsula Campaign with the goal of capturing the Confederate capital of Richmond. Rather than approach Richmond overland directly south from Washington, he transported two-thirds of

his 105,000-man army by ship to Fortress Monroe on the tip of the Virginia Peninsula. He then ordered this force westward up the peninsula, convinced he could surprise his Confederate opponent, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, with this bold flanking move. His army came to a sudden halt, however, when it encountered Johnston's smaller force hunkered down in a strong defensive line stretching across the Peninsula at Yorktown. Soldiers on opposite sides glared at each other across the lines in a nearly month-long siege, daring the other to make the first move.

Outnumbering Johnston nearly two-to-one, McClellan prepared to unleash an overwhelming attack in early May. Johnston realized how precarious his situation was, and withdrew his army under the cover of night up the Peninsula to the outer defenses of Richmond. After a sharp clash with a Confederate rearguard at Williamsburg, McClellan advanced cautiously until reaching the eastern bank of the Chickahominy River, close enough to hear church bells tolling in Richmond.

He then split his force, leaving the main body north of the Chickahominy while Maj. Gen. Samuel Heintzelman's III Corps and Maj. Gen. Erasmus Keyes's IV Corps crossed to the opposite shore as heavy rain began to fall. Soon the river reached flood stage, making it nearly impossible for reinforcements to cross the roiling waters. In the meantime, the two Union corps settled into defensive positions at the crossroads of Seven Pines and Fair Oaks Station. As a precaution against a Confederate attack, Brig. Gen. Silas Casey's division of the IV Corps constructed a large redoubt, bristling with cannon, facing west across the Williamsburg Road.

Johnston now saw his opportunity to destroy the two isolated corps and soon developed ambitious but complex plans to attack them with an overwhelming force on May 31. Advancing six infantry divisions over three roads that converged at Seven Pines required precise timing and near perfect coordination.

★ PHOTOGRAPHY by JAMIE BETTS PHOTO ★



In 1927, the Richard Evelyn Byrd Flying Field was built over a substantial portion of the Seven Pines Battlefield in Henrico County, Va. After decades of expansion, it became Richmond International Airport in 1984.

The drenching rain that had isolated Union troops south of the river ironically turned roads into virtual canals of thick, oozing mud, slowing Confederate troop movement. In addition, poor staff work led to confusion. Maj. Gen. James Longstreet's division was scheduled to open the battle at dawn, but it did not reach its objective until the afternoon. Meanwhile, another Confederate division under Maj. Gen. D.H. Hill finally launched the attack on the Union line at Seven Pines at 1:30 p.m. The battle raged back and forth for most of the afternoon, with the Confederates finally gaining the upper hand — and control of Casey's redoubt — as other Rebel forces joined in the fray.

Just in time, however, Union Brig. Gen. Edwin Sumner boldly crossed the swollen Chickahominy River over a rickety bridge with his II Corps and plowed into the attacking Rebels, sending them reeling. Sumner's audacious initiative saved the day for the Union troops south of the river. As dusk settled over the bloody landscape, it seemed that the Federals had been pushed back, but not destroyed.

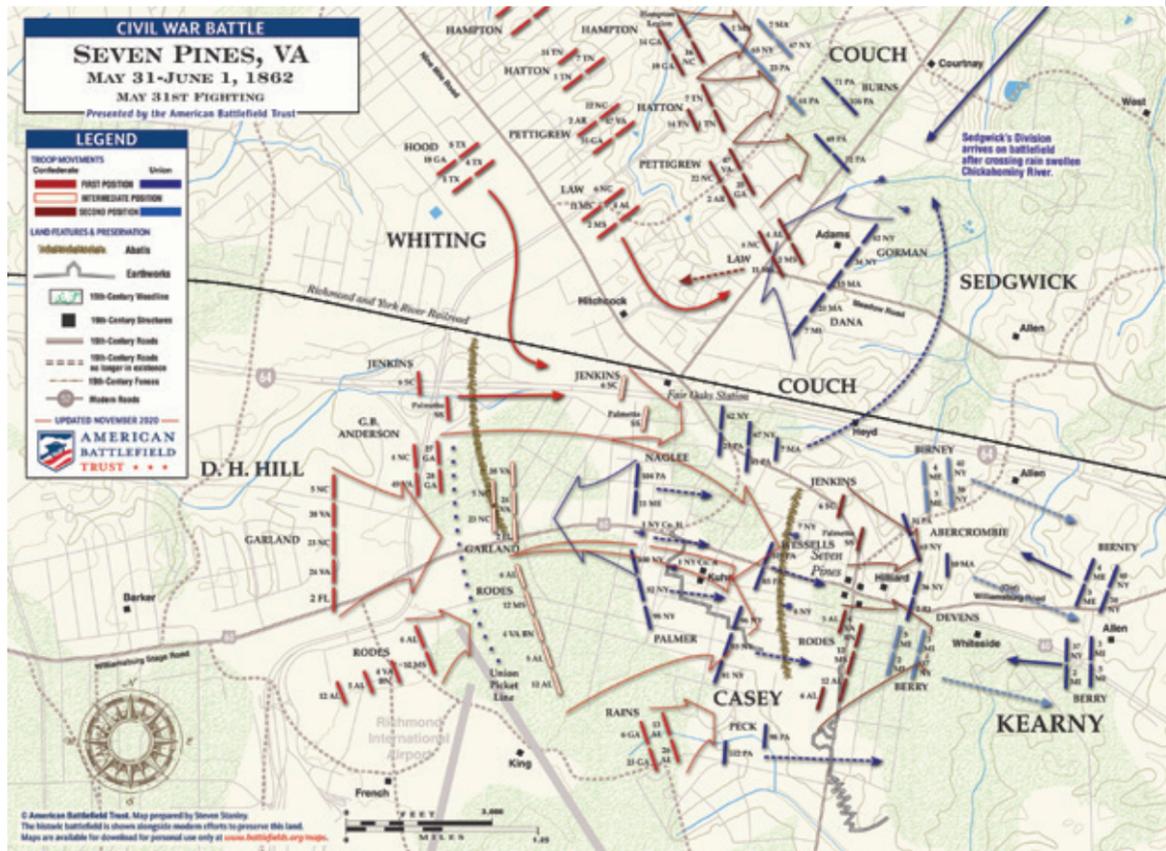
Confusion reigned on both sides after the day's chaotic fighting, but now the Confederates faced a crisis of command. As Johnston repositioned Rebel troops, a shell fragment slammed into his chest, knocking him off his horse and out of the war for months.

Confederate command now fell to Maj. Gen. Gustavus Smith, who was ill and unfit for the job. The next morning, Smith launched a feeble attack that fizzled out; but by day's end, Confederate President Jefferson Davis relieved him and appointed his chief military adviser, Robert E. Lee, to command the army.

With that action, the war's course changed dramatically. Three weeks later, Lee mounted a major offensive and drove the Federals from Richmond. With Lee at the Confederate helm, the Federal army lost the initiative and did not come close to the Confederate capital for another two years.

How did the preservation effort that protected other Civil War battlefields elude Seven Pines — despite such significance to the war's outcome? Unfortunately, the activities of the American Battlefield Trust, founded as the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites in 1987, came too late for Seven Pines.

Ironically, it was another war that led to the initial destruction of this battlefield. With America's entry into World War I in 1917, demand for gunpowder increased dramatically. As a result, scores of railroad-accessible sites in rural areas throughout the nation became prime locations for gunpowder plants. With a rail line running through a quiet area in eastern Henrico County, federal agents



over the next several decades, more of the battlefield was built on and paved over. Today, the nearby Seven Pines National Cemetery, a few cannon and visible earthworks and a handful of historical markers are the only reminders of one of the Civil War's crucial turning points.

Not every battlefield could be preserved whole and intact, and Seven Pines is certainly not alone in the fate it suffered. Important Civil War sites at Fredericksburg, Chattanooga, Atlanta, Franklin and Nashville have also long been built over and destroyed.

Thanks to the efforts of organizations like the American Battle-

field Trust, however, we can be thankful that, despite what happened at Seven Pines, much of the ground men fought and died on can still serve as a reminder of just how high the price of freedom can be. And we can hope that, as has been occasionally done to date, slices of such "lost" battlefields can be reclaimed. ★

*Charles F. Bryan, Jr., Ph.D., is the President and CEO emeritus of the Virginia Historical Society and is founding partner of Bryan & Jordan Consulting, LLC.*

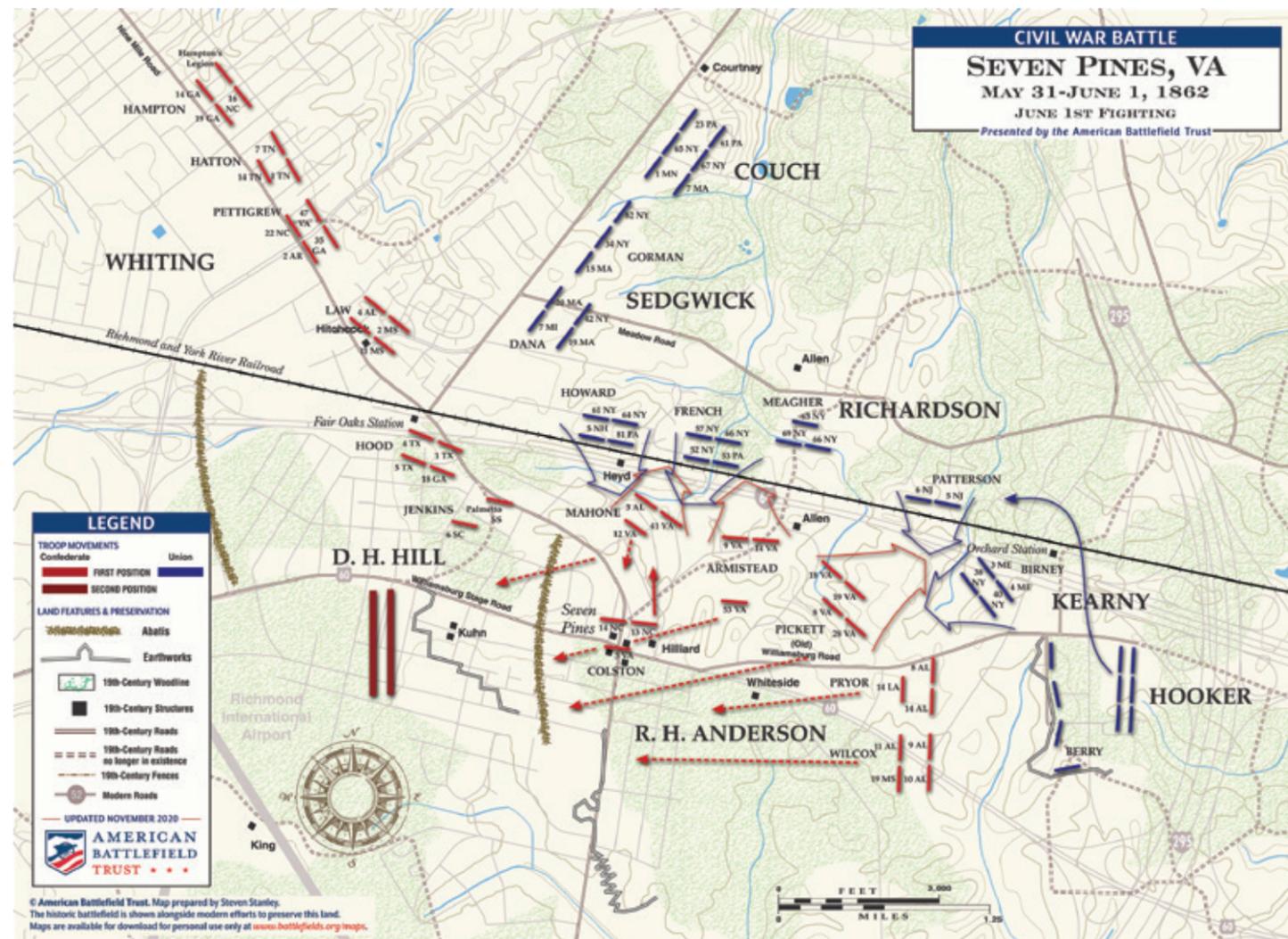


*“How did the preservation effort that protected other battlefields elude Seven Pines?”*

thought Seven Pines was a perfect site for a large munitions plant.

Work began in late 1917 on what was described then as “the mightiest munitions packing plant in all the world,” and was completed by July of 1918. Within four months, however, the war ended, with the plant humming at full production levels. In the meantime, more than 400 homes, along with stores, a school and a library, were built for the plant's workers. Named for one of its developers, the town of Sandston occupies much of what had been the staging area for the Confederate attack on May 31, 1862.

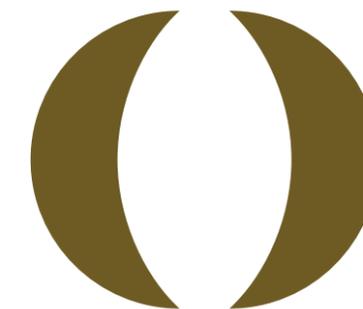
Then, in 1927, officials broke ground close by to build a commercial airport honoring Arctic explorer and native Virginian Richard E. Byrd. As the airport's footprint and ancillary businesses expanded





*Raymond Military Park  
Raymond, Miss.*  
CHESTER JOHNSON

# *Approaching* **THE BASTION CITY**



**MAINTAINING FULL CONTROL** of the Mississippi River was an early and vital war aim for the Federals, since the waterway served as a highway to move men and materials from places as far away as Pittsburgh to New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico. By early 1863, only two Confederate strong points stood between the Federals and dominance of the mighty river.

The first was the “Gibraltar of the Confederacy” — Vicksburg, Miss. Situated atop dominate bluffs overlooking a sweeping bend of the river, Vicksburg was a tough nut to crack. Time and again, Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant had tried and failed to approach the bastion city. A late 1862 advance south from Tennessee ended with Confederates severing Grant’s supply lines. Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman attempted to storm the city, but came up short at Chickasaw Bayou. Canals were dug and abandoned. Levees were blown up to create floodplains, only to carry the boats too high in the water, literally among the branches of the trees. Nothing seemed to work. In late April 1863, however, Grant finally struck gold. Utilizing some diversions, he marched his army down the western side of the river, while Rear Adm. David Dixon Porter ran his flotilla of gunboats and transports past the Confederate guns of Vicksburg. The two forces reunited some 30 miles south of the city, and on April 29–30, Porter’s sailors were

by KRISTOPHER WHITE  
Adapted from the Trust’s new book,  
*Battle Maps of the Civil War:  
The Western Theater*, published  
by Knox Press and available  
wherever books are sold.

transporting Grant's army across the river to Bruinsburg, Miss., unopposed.

Now on the Vicksburg side of the river, Grant's men marched toward their first objective, Port Gibson, situated roughly 10 miles to the east, which commanded the local road network. Fighting for control of the strategic crossroads was fierce and included rare nighttime combat. On the afternoon of May 1, a desperate Confederate counterattack was repulsed, leaving the Southerners to retreat and evacuate the remaining garrison at Grand Gulf the next day. The Battle of Port Gibson was a resounding Union victory that secured Grant's beachhead east of the Mississippi River and cleared the way to the Southern Railroad supplying Vicksburg.

From there, rather than move directly on Vicksburg, Grant and his Army of the Tennessee drove along a northeastern axis of advance. Grant's ultimate goal was to isolate Confederate Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton and Vicksburg from the rest of the Confederacy. Grant also aimed to take the state capital of Jackson and disrupt the railroads and communications lines in and out of the city. The destruction of the Southern Railroad in central Mississippi was a vital objective.

Grant's army advanced over a broad front in hot and dusty conditions, with water scarce. On May 12, Grant directed his three corps to various crossings of Fourteen Mile Creek to secure a source of water for his men and animals. This would also move his army into position for the planned lunge against the railroad.

Confederate Brig. Gen. John Gregg had been dispatched to Raymond, Miss., with 3,000 men and orders to strike the Federals in the flank or rear as they advanced. Faulty intelligence led him to believe that he would only face a small contingent of Union troops, but he was actually confronted by a powerful 10,000-man corps. Although outnumbered, Gregg ordered an attack, with units splashing en echelon across the creek to slam into the Federals. The blue line began to waver and break in places, but was rallied by the presence of division commander Maj. Gen. John A. Logan.

Union resistance stiffened, and once reinforcements arrived on the field in early afternoon, a counterattack compelled Gregg to abandon the field and retreat toward Jackson. With a victory in hand, Grant divided his columns. One continued north toward the Southern Railroad; the other pressed east toward Jackson.

As the first streaks of dawn appeared in the eastern sky on May 16, 1863, a train heading east near Clinton, Miss., found the tracks ahead destroyed. The brakeman and the baggage-master were escorted by Union soldiers into the presence of Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. When questioned, they informed the Union commander that the Confederate army defending Vicksburg, which they estimated numbered 25,000 men with 10 batteries, was in Edwards Station and preparing to attack the rear of Grant's army. This was not a bad estimate of the Confederate forces, which consisted of 23,000 men and 15 batteries. Grant ordered his troops,

## *Grant's ultimate goal was to isolate Lt. Gen. Pemberton and Vicksburg from the rest of the Confederacy.*

32,000 in all, to march on Edwards along three parallel roads.

Although the opening shots of the Battle of Champion Hill were fired along the lower road around 7:00 a.m., it was not until 9:45 that the Union vanguard turned a bend in the upper road and reached the country home of Sid and Matilda Champion. A half mile southwest of the house was the bald crest of Champion Hill, which dominated a strategic crossroads that would be vital to the final assault on Vicksburg.

Grant arrived on the field shortly after 10:00 a.m., and ordered this powerful battle line to advance. With a mighty cheer, the Federals slammed into the Confederates at the base of the hill, and a wild hand-to-hand brawl ensued.

Union soldiers swept over the crest of Champion Hill and drove hard toward the crossroads only 600 yards farther south. Despite a murderous fire of musketry and artillery, the Federals seized the crossroads and stood on the verge of victory.

But Confederate Lt. Gen. John Pemberton ordered a desperate counterattack that struck the Union position before they consolidated their hold on the crossroads. The gray wave surged over the crest of Champion Hill and pushed the Federals back to the Champion House. Their success, however,

was short-lived, as two more Union divisions charged the hill. Threatened in flank and rear, the Southerners were compelled to fall back. When the Federals again seized the crossroads, Pemberton ordered his army off of the field and back toward the defenses of Vicksburg. Union victory at Champion Hill — and the next day at the Big Black River Bridge — forced the Confederates into a doomed position inside the fortifications of Vicksburg.

On the evening of May 17, John C. Pemberton's beleaguered army poured into the defensive lines around the Confederate Gibraltar. Looking for a quick victory and not wanting to give Pemberton time to settle in,

Grant ordered an immediate assault. Of his three corps, only Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's XV Corps, northeast of the city, was in position to attack on May 19. Sherman's assault focused on the Stockade Redan, named for a log stockade wall across the Graveyard Road connecting two gun positions. Here, the 27th Louisiana Infantry, reinforced by Col. Francis Cockrell's Missouri Brigade, manned the rifle pits.

Sherman's men moved forward down the road at 2:00 p.m. and were immediately slowed by the ravines and obstructions in front of the redan. Bloody combat ensued outside the Confederate works. The 13th United States Infantry, once commanded by Sherman, planted its colors on the redan but could advance no farther. Capt. Edward C. Washington, the grandnephew of George Washington, commanding the regiment's 1st Battalion, was mortally wounded in the attack. After fierce fighting, Sherman's men pulled back.

Undaunted by his failure, Grant made a more thorough reconnaissance of the defenses prior to ordering another assault. Early on the morning of May 22, Union artillery opened fire, and for four hours bombarded the city's defenses. At 10:00 a.m., the guns fell silent, and Union infantry advanced on a three-mile front.



Sherman attacked again down the Graveyard Road, McPherson's corps moved against the center along the Jackson Road and McClernand's corps attacked to the south at the 2nd Texas Lunette and the Railroad Redoubt, where the Southern Railroad crossed the Confederate lines. Surrounded by a ditch 10 feet deep and walls 20 feet high, the redoubt offered enfilading fire for rifles and artillery. After bloody hand-to-hand fighting, Federals breached the Railroad Redoubt, capturing a handful of prisoners. The victory, however, was the only Confederate position captured that day.

Grant's unsuccessful attacks gave him no choice but to invest Vicksburg in a siege. Pemberton's defenders suffered from shortened rations, exposure to the elements and constant bombardment from Grant's army and navy gunboats. Reduced in number by sickness and casualties, the garrison of Vicksburg was spread dangerously thin. Ci-

vilians were particularly hard hit. Many were forced to live underground in crudely dug caves due to the heavy shelling.

By early June, Grant had established his own line of circumvallation surrounding the city. At 13 points along his line, Grant ordered tunnels dug under the Confederate positions where explosives could be placed to destroy the Rebel works. At the end of the month, the first mine was ready to be blown. Union miners tunneled 40 feet under a redan near the James Shirley House, packed the tunnel with 2,200 pounds of black powder, and, on June 25, detonated it with a huge explosion. After more than 20 hours of hand-to-hand fighting in the 12-foot-deep crater left by the blast, the Union regiments were unable to advance out of it and withdrew back to their lines. The siege continued.

By July, the situation was dire for the Confederates. Grant and Pemberton met between the lines on July 3. Grant insisted on an

unconditional surrender, but Pemberton refused. Rebuffed, Grant later that night offered to parole the Confederate defenders. At 10:00 a.m. the next day, Independence Day, some 29,000 Confederates marched out of their lines, stacked their rifles and furled their flags. The 47-day siege of Vicksburg was over.

With the loss of Pemberton's army and a Union victory at Port Hudson five days later, the Union controlled the entire Mississippi River, and the Confederacy was split in half. ★

*Kristopher D. White is the American Battlefield Trust's senior education manager and a cofounder of the Emerging Civil War community. He is an award-winning speaker and editor, with nearly two dozen books to his name. A former staff military historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, White frequently leads battlefield tours across the nation and abroad.*

The massive Federal assault against Vicksburg's defenses on May 22, 1863, started with such promise. For a time the Stars and Stripes even floated above the soaring ramparts of the Railroad Redoubt. But the tides of battle shifted and things swiftly went ....



# OFF

# THE

# RAILS

by ANDREW MILLER  
PHOTOGRAPHY by  
MIKE TALPLACIDO



**AFTER A WINTER OF MANEUVERING** through the bayous of Louisiana and Mississippi, Grant ordered the Union Army of the Tennessee to move south along the roads and levees of Louisiana to find a crossing of the Mississippi River south of Vicksburg. Soldiers cut trees to lay them in the mud, effectively corduroying roads, while engineers bridged flooded bayous to eventually lead Grant's army to Disharoon's Plantation. Crossing the mighty river at Bruinsburg, Mississippi, on April 30, 1863, Grant's army secured the area in the largest amphibious landing in American history until the Allied landings in the invasion of North Africa during the Second World War.

Between May 1 and 17, 1863, Grant's army pushed deep into Mississippi, defeating Confederate forces at Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hill and the Big Black River Bridge, before arriving in the rear of Vicksburg. Grant and many in his army believed the capture of Vicksburg would be swift, despite seven miles of Confederate earthworks featuring nine major defensive works connected by rifle pits. Overconfident, on May 19, Grant's pressed the Confederates at different points, while a division under Sherman assaulted Stockade Redan, which guarded one of the major points of ingress into the city. Quickly blunted, Grant realized he would need a stronger push to take the fortress city.

**THE PLAN**

Meanwhile, Grant's army was strengthening its positions along the broken terrain facing the Confederate defenses. A flotilla of gunboats and mortar flats under the command of Rear Adm. David Dixon Porter patrolled the waters, ready to synergize and support the ground troops. Roads were cut through the countryside to the Yazoo River, bringing in supplies and reinforcements — as well as rumors from Memphis that a large force near Jackson was being organized to destroy the Federal army.

"I now determined on a second assault," remembered Grant in his memoirs. "[Confederate Gen. Joseph] Johnston was in my rear, only fifty miles away ... there was danger of his coming to the assistance of Pemberton, and after all

he might defeat my anticipations of capturing the garrison if, indeed, he did not prevent the capture of the city." The pressure was on, and Grant was ready to roll the die.

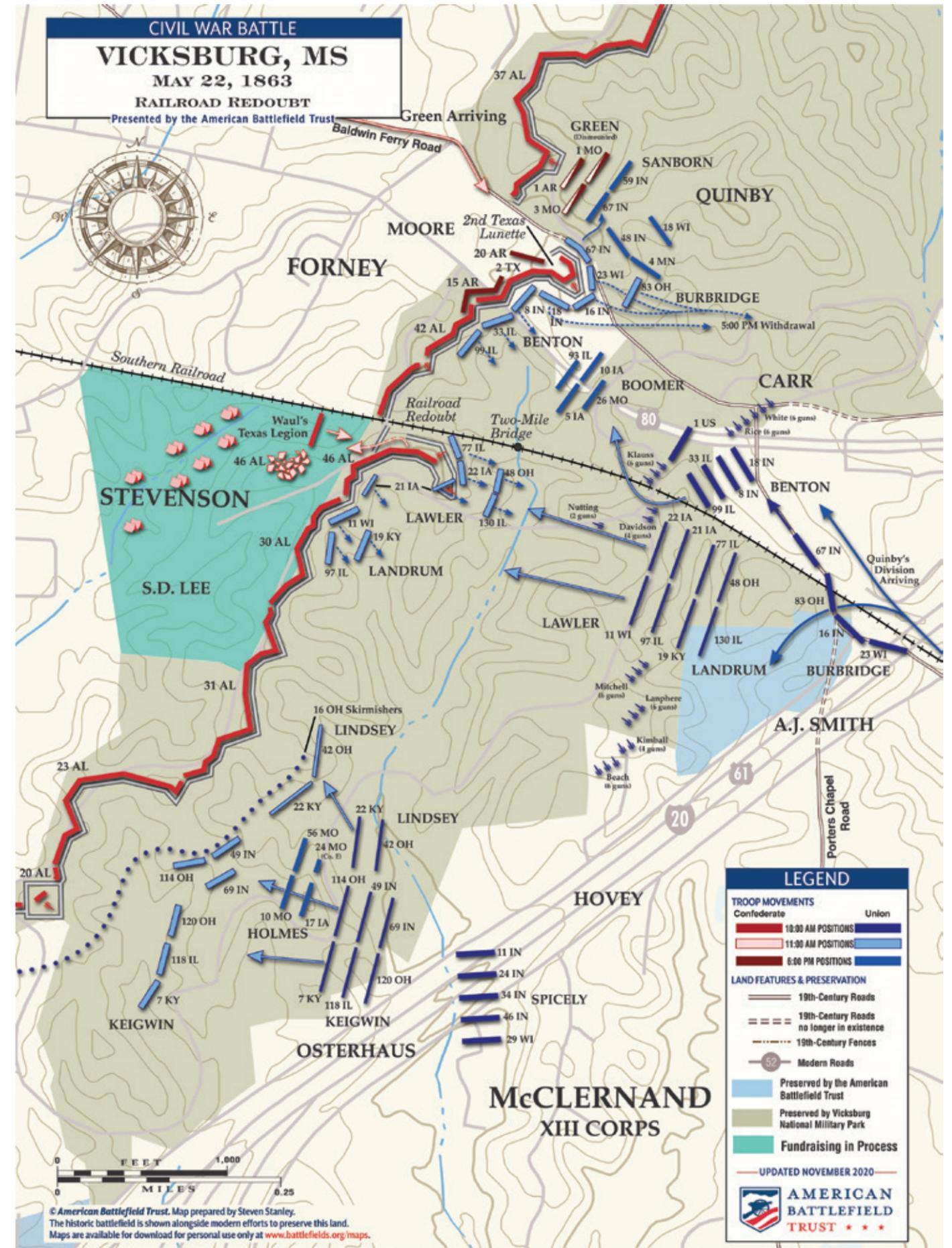
On May 21, Grant drew up his plan of action:

*A simultaneous attack will be made tomorrow at 10 a.m. by all the army corps of this army... At an early hour in the morning a vigorous attack will be commenced by the artillery and skirmishers... The troops will go light, carrying with them only their ammunition, canteens, and one day's rations... If prosecuted with vigor, it is confidently believed this course will carry Vicksburg in a very short time.*

The thousands of men and boys in Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand's XIII Corps were, for all intents and purposes, the left flank of Grant's army. Three of the nine major Confederate forts loomed over the ridge that protected McClernand's veterans. Manning this section of the Rebel works was the left flank brigade of Maj. Gen. Carter Stevenson's worn-out division. The brigade of Alabamians under the command of 29-year-old Brig. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee had proved fighters throughout the campaign, holding against overwhelming odds at Port Gibson and Champion Hill. Lee moved Col. Isham Garrott's 20th Alabama Infantry into Square Fort, an enclosed earthen structure anchoring the brigade's right flank, with the 23rd, 30th and 31st Alabama running north in the rifle pits. Having lost half the regiment at Champion Hill, Lt. Col. Edmund Pettus took command of the remnants of the 46th Alabama defending the rear works of the Railroad Redoubt. This fortification sat directly south of and abutted the once vital Southern Railroad of Mississippi tracks that connected Vicksburg with Jackson.

**THE NIGHT BEFORE: MAY 21–22**

McClernand's dispositions for assaulting the Railroad Redoubt were haphazard to begin with: two brigades from the 14th Division under the command of Brig. Gen. Eugene A. Carr upfront, supported by the two brigades of Brig. Gen. Andrew Jackson Smith's 10th Division behind them. They faced the same broken terrain found all around Vicksburg, but the problem was compounded by the railroad tracks that split both divisions in half. This would cause one brigade from each division to move on separate objectives, the right two brigades fronting the Second Texas Lunette situated along Baldwin's Ferry Road.



Commanding the front-rank brigade of Carr's division was Brig. Gen. Michael K. Lawler. The 250-pound Irishman was a veteran of the Mexican American War and had most recently handsomely led his brigade of Iowans through a meander scar to help route Pemberton's defenders at Big Black River Bridge. Supporting "Big Mike" Lawler's boys was Col. William J. Landrum's brigade of Smith's division. Landrum, like Lawler, was a veteran of the Mexican American War, and

carried more easily and with less sacrifice than any other point on our front, and I determined to direct my regiment against it."

As darkness descended on the opposing forces, Lawler formed his brigade and moved it around Maj. Maurice Maloney's siege guns, inching through briar patches and felled obstructions, and fending off hordes of mosquitos to reach the ravine in front of the Railroad Redoubt for a rapid dash up the hill to take the fortification in the morning. Landrum's brigade moved into Lawler's former position directly behind the hill in support.

Lee, to his credit, was very much aware

States (Siege Guns) under Maloney fired on the Railroad Redoubt. Capt. Charles H. Lanphere's 10-pounder Rodman guns, 7th Battery Michigan Light Artillery, of Brig. Gen. Peter Osterhaus' 9th Division roared into action on the Rebel works and rifle pits just south of Maloney's guns. The heavy siege guns tore gaping holes in the sloping walls of the Railroad Redoubt's exterior escarpment.

Inside the forward trench of the Railroad Redoubt were two consolidated companies of the 30th Alabama. Exhausted from a lack of sleep during the night, Lt. James Madison Pearson and his small band of "yel-

## *The heavy siege guns tore gaping holes in the sloping walls of the Railroad Redoubt's exterior escarpment*

Badgers of the 11th Wisconsin pushed forward, supported by the 97th Illinois. Within 10 minutes, the Federal soldiers crested the redoubt's outer wall — and were immediately met by a wall of smoke and lead.

Maj. Salue G. Van Anda, commanding the 21st Iowa, remembered that "the fire of the enemy from both flanks, as well as the front, was terrific. Many of our officers and men fell on every side, but with a determination that knew no fear, the enemy's works were gained." Iowans began to scale the redoubt's walls and entered a breach created by Maloney's siege guns. Confederate defenders who did not retire to the secondary line of trenches fought hand-to-hand, but within 10 minutes, the front of the redoubt was in Federal hands. The flag of the 77th Illinois was brought forward and placed on the walls, flying defiantly in front of the Rebels' main defenses. Soon, one of the 22nd Iowa's flags was brought up and placed by the Illinois colors.

### **STALLED**

Initial success was quickly blunted as casualties mounted for the Federal attackers. Lt. Col. Cornelius Dunlap, commanding the 21st Iowa, had remained in the rear during the initial assault because of a foot wound suffered at Port Gibson. But seeing their success, he hobbled down the slope, through the abatis and up to join his men.

Exuberant enough to tarry in a high, exposed position, Colonel Stone had "regarded the door to Vicksburg as opened, and so said to Colonel Dunlap, and we were looking over the ground, congratulating ourselves upon our success, when I was shot in the arm by a sharpshooter from the woods beyond their rifle pit." No sooner had Stone been hit, when the much-beloved Dunlap was shot through the head and killed instantly.

Meanwhile, the left side of the assault had pushed up to broken portions of hilly

terrain directly in front of the Rebel works, but were met by a galling fire as soon as they began to crest the slope. Pinned down, the Midwesterners continued to do the best they could, and Landrum sent reinforcements to bolster the left flank, but the Alabamians had locked their enemy in place.

Lawler and Landrum were in trouble. At 10:10 a.m., a dispatch was sent back to McClernand stating: "[T]he enemy are massing their forces in our front. No movement of our troops on our left. We ought to have re-enforcements."

This was all true. Confederates rein-

forcements in the form of Col. Thomas N. Waul's Texas Legion had been moved into the works directly behind the Railroad Redoubt. The Federal left flank had not moved beyond the protection of the last major hill in front of the Confederate works. But because McClernand had arranged his assaults in one long line, he had no real reserves to exploit the advantages he gained. By 11:15 a.m., he sent Grant a request for a diversion of troops nearby under General McPherson to prevent the massing of Confederate reinforcements. But Grant simply advised an increasingly desperate McClernand to draw



Looking up at the Railroad Redoubt. Note the Texas Monument on the right in the distance.

practiced law in Kentucky before the war. Landrum's Prairie State regiments had spent May 20 skirmishing with Lee's Alabamians. Relieved at night, the entire brigade sat in reserve the next day, while Lawler's men took their place. McClernand pulled the 10th Division back, replacing them with the 14th Division on May 21.

When orders were received that a general assault would take place the following morning, Col. William P. Stone of the 22nd Iowa Infantry in Lawler's brigade used the setting sun to personally reconnoiter the ground his regiment was ordered to cross. Getting to within 50 yards of the Confederate entrenchments, Stone was "satisfied ... that the fort next to the railroad could be

of the intentions of the Federal forces massing before him. Federal sharpshooters had been active on his front since May 19. Federal batteries opened on his positions the following day and into the night. But Lee's position was strong, with plenty of reserves to plug any breaches the Federals might make. When naval gunboats and mortars began the barrage of the city during the night going into May 22, it was increasingly apparent that the assault was coming.

### **THE ASSAULT: MAY 22**

At 8:00 a.m., Federal artillery opened along the entire length of Grant's lines. The deafening roar of 30-pounder Parrott rifle siege guns operated by members of the 1st United

lowhammers" endured a constant barrage of cannon fire. "A large number of the enemy's guns were concentrated upon our position, in fact at one time three shells exploded so simultaneously over and in the work, scattering dirt, trash, and debris in every direction," Pearson wrote after the war. "It seemed that the very elements were resolving themselves into chaos, and that the very earth beneath us was as unstable as if an earthquake was in operation."

After two hours of constant artillery fire, Lawler's men fixed bayonets and moved up the steep slope of the Railroad Redoubt. On the right side of the brigade was Col. Stone's 22nd Iowa, followed by Hawkeyes in the 21st Iowa in one column. On the left, the tenacious



The adjacent tracks that gave the Railroad Redoubt its name.



From the viewpoint of the Texas Monument above the Railroad Redoubt. The Trust is currently working with the Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign to protect an important two-acre parcel just south of the national park boundary at the Railroad Redoubt. Visit [www.battlefields.org/2020WesternBig3](http://www.battlefields.org/2020WesternBig3) to be part of this effort!

from his reserves.

At noon, McClernand sent the first of two eyebrow-raising messages. Requesting a “vigorous push” by the other corps to again prevent Rebel reinforcements in his sector, he wrote to Grant “we have possession of two forts, and the Stars and Stripes are floating over them.” While it was true the flags of the 77th Illinois and 22nd Iowa were indeed floating over the escarpment of the Railroad Redoubt, full possession was an exaggeration. But receipt of this message forced Grant to act.

The hours ticked away as the Federals, stuck in the ditch outside the Railroad Re-

doubt, waited through the day’s sweltering heat for support or relief. Soon the Confederates took to rolling artillery shells with lit fuses down the slope. Landrum reported back by mid-afternoon that the “hand grenades” were “hurting us considerably.”

According to Lieutenant Pearson, stuck on the other side of the Federals, those hand grenades were actually having a telling effect on his men. “The pitching of grenades continued and coming from the direction of our forces back of us ... our troops were throwing them under the mistaken apprehension that the Yankees were in possession of the works.” One of Pearson’s men called back to the rear

Confederate trench to “quit throwing those things you are killing Alabama troops.” A reply from the rear trench yelled back, “Damn Alabama troops from Ohio.” Pinned down by both friend and foe alike, Pearson and his men soon surrendered rather than be killed. As Pearson walked to the rear a prisoner of war, his boot “slushed” with the blood of the dead from inside the redoubt.

#### TEXANS TRIUMPHANT

With the Federals effectively stalled, Stephen D. Lee looked to press his advantage and drive the attackers away from the Railroad Redoubt. As sunset was quickly approaching,

Lee wanted his left flank secured and turned to Waul’s relatively fresh troops to reclaim the point of the fort. The Texans responded with gusto; two officers “not only willingly agreed, but solicited the honor of leading their companies to the assault. Not wishing to expose a larger force than necessary....”

The hand-picked force gathered to run the gauntlet of Federal fire was met by Lieutenant Colonel Pettus, who had commanded the remnant of the unit that originally occupied the section of the siege works. Musket in hand, Pettus “offered to guide and lead the party into the fort.” Despite well-aimed volleys of musketry, the small Rebel force sped

between its main line and the point of the Railroad Redoubt. Exhausted and weakened by significant casualties, the Federals gave way and moved down the ravine. Two more companies of Texans moved forward, fully securing the fort and capturing both prisoners and the colors of 77th Illinois. The remnants of Lawler and Landrum’s brigades fell back to the ridgeline fronting the Railroad Redoubt and kept up a desultory fire through the night.

#### AFTERMATH

While it is difficult to ascertain Confederate casualties from the action at the Railroad Redoubt — most reports being written after the siege and combining losses suffered throughout the period — the Federal attackers suffered mightily. Lawler’s casualties were 54 officers and enlisted men killed outright, 285 wounded and 29 captured; Landrum suffered 42 killed and 273 wounded.

In the ensuing weeks, as Federal forces tightened their grip around Vicksburg, McClernand reflected on the campaign. His men spearheaded the advance down the levees in Louisiana. They were the first to land on Mississippi soil, the first to tangle with Confederates in Port Gibson. They shielded Grant’s movements into the state, contributed significantly at Champion Hill and overwhelmed the Confederates at Big Black River. They assaulted the Railroad Redoubt and 2nd Texas Lunette vigorously. He was pleased.

General Orders, Number 72 was McClernand’s congratulatory order to the XIII Corps, attributing the campaign’s successes to that point to his veterans. Written on May 30, the order had made its way to the press, and inevitably into the hands of fellow corps commanders Sherman and McPherson. However, Grant was aware of the order before his angry subordinates reported it, requesting from McClernand on June 17 clarification whether it was genuine or a fabrication of the newspapers.

Confirming the order came from him, McClernand realized his error, but blamed his adjutant — per War Department orders dating to April 1862, a copy ought to

have been forwarded to headquarters. And, as Sherman pointed out, McClernand was in violation of War Department General Order No. 151, prohibiting official letters to be published in newspapers without authorization.

At 2:00 a.m., on June 18, 1863, Lt. Col. James Wilson arrived with Grant’s special order relieving McClernand of his command. Surprised, the general blurted, “Well, sir! I am relieved! By God, sir, we are both relieved!” The political general spent the better part of a year trying to prove that Grant and other West Pointers conspired to destroy his reputation — to no avail. The assault on the Railroad Redoubt (and his own blustering) ended his time in the Army of the Tennessee.

Through a vigorous pursuit by the veterans, Vicksburg National Military Park was created by an act of the Congress in 1899. The monumental task of locating the siege lines that had eroded away over forty years, as well as the locations where Union and Confederates fought, camped, worked, and experienced this watershed moment, began immediately. Letters by veterans arrived from all over the United States confirming (and sometimes disagreeing) the places where their regiments took part over the vast landscape. For the veteran’s goal was to ensure the park commemorated the assaults accurately.

In writing his experiences from that notable day, James Madison Pearson explained why the preservation of the battlefield and ensuring the story was told truthfully was so important. “I would remark that often, for nearly 40 years, my mind reverts to that as the most memorable day of my life,” he opened a letter on the subject, before expanding on the sentiment throughout the text. “I had passed through Vicksburg twice since the war [before the park existed]... and what a change had taken place! ... A feeling of sadness crept over me as I thought all the pomp and circumstances...had gone forever.” The veterans guaranteed that the hallowed grounds, where their youthful lives were changed forever, were preserved for the benefit of future generations to appreciate. ★

*Andrew R. Miller is the lead park ranger and historic weapons program coordinator at Vicksburg National Military Park. Earlier in his National Park Service career, he has served at Shiloh National Military Park, Stones River National Battlefield and Fort Pulaski National Monument.*



## REMEMBERING ED BEARSS

*Fellow Trustee and member of the Bearss Brigade Bill Vodra reflects on a remarkable legacy*



**N MEMORIAL DAY 1990** — Monday, May 28, because precision matters — at Mill Springs, Ky., I learned three important things about Edwin C. Bearss.

Our tour bus turned down a country road and stopped by a small park, enclosed by a low wall. Ed jumped off, gathered his group and, amidst a slight drizzle, interpreted the Battle of Mill Springs. As always, during the drive, Ed had laid out the strategic situation, described the opposing forces — from commanders to individual regiments — and provided an incredible wealth of detail about weather, weapons, politics and logistics. Once on the ground, he immediately located the positions of the Union artillery and cavalry, the path of the Confederate troops and the ebb and flow of the fighting, ending with the “Zollie Tree,” against which Confederate Brig. Gen. Felix Zollicoffer had died. Ed put us into the midst of the combat. When he finished, he looked around and said, “This place is very pretty. I’ve never been here before.”

**FIRST LESSON:** Ed could, in fact, arrive at a spot where Americans fired shots in anger, orient himself and figure out how the battle was fought. His personal experience as a Marine in World War II, his research into the ways in which Civil War combat occurred and his acute understanding of the role of terrain allowed him to translate historical records into a vibrant experience. Having seen the elephant himself, Ed knew how soldiers live, fight and die, and the effect terrain has. It was, after all, terrain that led to his severe wounding in Cape Gloucester, New Britain, in January 1944.

While Ed spoke, a local woman drove up. Seeing our bus, she wondered what we were doing. Hearing the end of Ed’s interpretation, the woman recognized the name “Zollicoffer.” When she was young, she recalled an elderly woman regularly laying flowers at the Zollie Tree, but she had no idea who Zollicoffer was or what happened there. Ed proceeded to provide a condensed version of the entire story, adding information about the likely identity of the woman she remembered.

**SECOND LESSON:** Ed was enthusiastic about educating everyone and sharing his knowledge without flaunting it. Ed was not a natural teacher, however. He said his early lectures put people to sleep. Realizing that to educate, one also had to entertain, he developed the persona we all came to love.

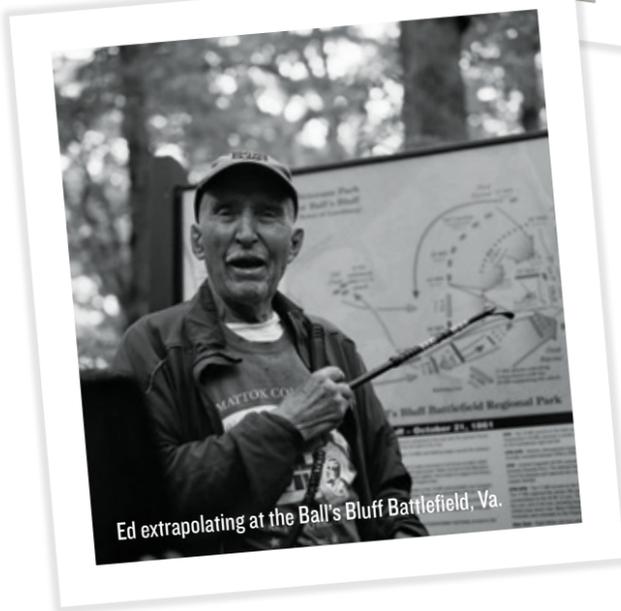
That rainy Memorial Day, only a one-acre park marked the battlefield. Support for battlefield preservation had dried up after the Centennial. A new group (the



Bill and Dru Vodra with Ed in front of his home in Arlington, Va.



Bill and Dru with Ed at the dedication of his monument at Champion Hill, Miss.



Ed extrapolating at the Ball's Bluff Battlefield, Va.

Association for Preservation of Civil War Sites, or APCWS) had been formed in 1987, but was still focusing initially on the Eastern Theater. And in 1988, Congress condemned and took Stuart’s Hill, at Manassas, to prevent its commercial development. Otherwise, much of the modern preservation story lay in the future. A new generation had to be inspired first.

**THIRD LESSON:** Ed taught the importance of understanding — and therefore preserving — the land. From the 1980s (and prob-

ably much earlier) through the 2010s, he would guide day trips on weekends and longer tours during his vacations from the National Park Service (NPS). He also traveled around the nation, giving talks to roundtables and friends groups, often as a fundraising attraction to support preservation. His most devoted followers, the Bearss Brigade, celebrated his birthday each year by raising \$8,000–10,000 for a preservation cause of Ed’s choosing. These gifts often made a huge difference to a small organization, and over 25 years exceeded \$250,000.

His energy was boundless, if he could be of help. During a 2007 tour on the 1862 Dakota War in Minnesota, we arrived at the hotel near dinnertime. Awaiting were representatives of the Wood Lake Battlefield Preservation Association (BPA): Would Ed be willing to depart, now, to go 70 miles to address a meeting of county commissioners regarding a preservation project? Despite being 84, having been “on duty” for the last 10 hours and facing an early departure the next morning, Ed agreed. He would always go the extra mile, for the cause of preservation. (The American Battlefield Trust, working with the Wood Lake BPA, helped preserve 280 acres of the battlefield in 2009 and 2011.)

Ed’s role in preserving battlefields cannot be overstated. In the late 1950s, he was central to creation of national parks at Pea Ridge and Wilson’s Creek. During the “Third Battle of Manassas,” Ed worked with senior levels of the Department of the Interior and congressional leadership in the federal taking. In 1993, the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission proposed a national strategy for battlefield preservation, and much of the work was done by Ed Bearss, an ex officio member. He would also regularly “sell” preservation by testimony before congressional committees and by private tours for key members and their staffs.

He joined the Board of Trustees of the original Civil War Trust, and when that group merged with APCWS in 1999 to form the Civil War Preservation Trust, Ed was made Trustee for life. His role on the CWPT Board was critical. His deep knowledge of battlefields served to advise on the importance (or not) of tracts offered for preservation. He was also respected by NPS officials and local preservation organizations, providing the Trust credibility among those with whom it would work closely. And his presence at meetings of the membership, lecturing and guiding tours, was a special treat for our donors.

On October 14, 2020, just a day less than a month after Ed Bearss passed away, the National Park Service celebrated the formal establishment of the Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument, as authorized by Congress in March 2019. (See Page 5) While Ed was on the Board, the American Battlefield Trust and its predecessors preserved 696 acres of this battlefield.

Ed Bearss epitomized and embodied the Trust’s goals: “Preserve. Educate. Inspire.” We will miss his wisdom and gruff voice, but will continue to pursue these goals. ★

*Bill Vodra has served on the American Battlefield Trust Board since 2005, barring a one-year gap, as mandated in the bylaws. He toured battlefields across the nation and around the world with Ed Bearss from September 1987 to September 2019. Cumulatively, he spent more than 365 days on a bus, somewhere, with Ed.*

Made possible by a partnership between  
the American Battlefield Trust and



## THE FIGHTING BEARSS

*If you imagine that this family's military legacy is confined to the Pacific Theater of WWII, think again*



The winter of 1777-1778, John Effinger's ancestor, who participated in the revolution, was Captain John Ignatius Von Effinger of Mannheim, Germany. He came to America with the troops of Hesse-Cassel, but immediately after his arrival, "fired with the love of liberty," he joined the American army. He enlisted in 1778, when Washington was in winter quarters on the Schuylkill river in Pennsylvania, and served till the end of the war, August, 1783. He became a captain in the corps of life guards, immediately attached to the person of Washington.

But the family military pedigree extends much further back to the American Revolution.



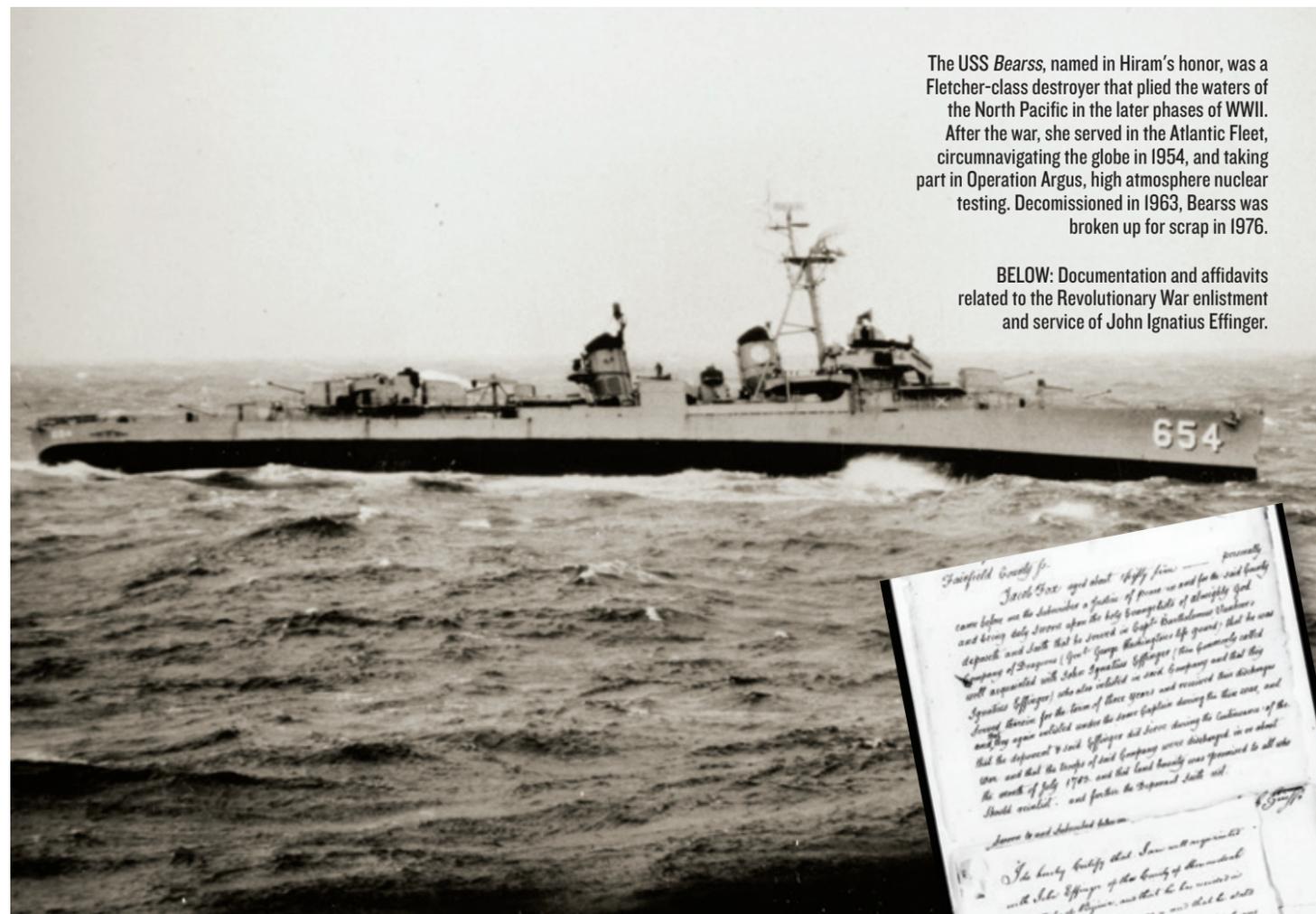
**EDWIN C. BEARSS** brought the Civil War to life for many with his stories. He knew firsthand the cost of defending this great nation as a Marine during World War II in the Pacific Theatre. But like all of us, he was more than the environment he lived in, more than a sum of life experiences;

he was also a product of those who came before him.

Bearss' ancestors are found intertwined through many pieces of American history. Perhaps the most famous Bearss on the family tree, besides the legendary historian, is "Hiking Hiram" Bearss, who earned the Medal of Honor for leading an assault on an insurgent position in the Philippines in 1901. Bearss went on to other postings, including command of the newly established Marine barracks at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 1909. While stationed in the Dominican Republic, the aggressive foot patrols led by Lieutenant Colonel Bearss earned him the nickname "Hiking Hiram" — a proclivity that those who enjoyed battlefield tours with his younger cousin-once-removed might consider congenital. As part of the American Expeditionary Force, Colonel Bearss fought at Belleau Wood, where the Marines earned their Devil Dogs nickname, and other key engagements of World



The reverse inscription on the Medal of Honor awarded to Hiram Bearss for extraordinary heroism in the Philippine-American War, 1901. It is now in the collection of the Museum of the U. S. Marine Corps.



The USS Bearss, named in Hiram's honor, was a Fletcher-class destroyer that plied the waters of the North Pacific in the later phases of WWII. After the war, she served in the Atlantic Fleet, circumnavigating the globe in 1954, and taking part in Operation Argus, high atmosphere nuclear testing. Decommissioned in 1963, Bearss was broken up for scrap in 1976.

BELOW: Documentation and affidavits related to the Revolutionary War enlistment and service of John Ignatius Effinger.

War I, earning the Distinguished Service Cross and other awards.

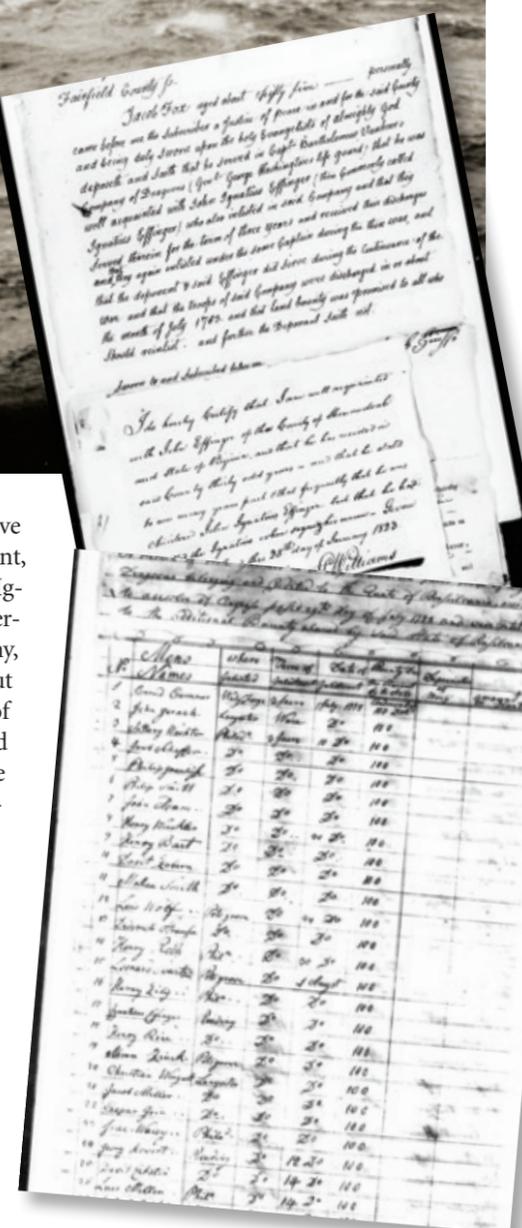
Edwin C. Bearss was born and raised on a ranch in Montana. His father, Omar, was also a veteran of World War I as part of the 1st Engineer Battalion, which participated in the Lorraine and Meuse-Argonne Campaigns. Omar was born in Indiana to Edwin and Lucia Effinger Bearss, early Indiana settlers. Edwin had served in the Civil War as part of the 109th Indiana Infantry, which was organized July 10, 1863, to repel Morgan's Raid, and disbanded one week after it was mustered.

Lucia Effinger Bearss was the daughter of prominent judge Robert Patterson Effinger. Robert was born in Ohio, and as a young man of about 20, ventured out to California during the Gold Rush of 1849, not as a miner, but working for the U.S. Boundary Commission. He wrote letters home that were later published as *R P Effinger's Excellent Adventure: The Unknown Letters of a Young Ohio Lawyer*. Apparently storytelling, like hiking, runs in the family.

Lucia's great grandfather — Ed's great-

great-grandfather — appears to have been not just a witness, but also a participant, in the beginning of American history. John Ignatius Effinger was born in Mannheim, Germany, in 1765. He joined the British Army, arriving at Staten Island in July 1776. But the Americans captured the imagination of Ignatius, as he was commonly known, and he deserted the British. In August 1778, he enlisted in the Light Dragoons, serving under Bartholomew von Heer. But this was not just any fighting regiment, they were part of George Washington's Life Guard, and Ignatius likely would have been nearby during the harsh winter at Valley Forge, when Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown in 1781, and until he left service in 1783.

Nor did the family's military legacy end with Ed's time in the South Pacific. In each of the two subsequent generations — his children and grandchildren — there has been at least one U.S. Marine surnamed Bearss. ★





## SHARING THE AMERICAN STORY

*Trust educational offerings strike a chord with millions*

**A**S 2020 DRAWS to a close, we naturally pause to take stock of the way this tumultuous year helped transform the Trust's education vision. Our already abundant collection of quality educational tools found greater audiences than ever before, amassing millions of users. Folks of all ages have enjoyed learning about the nation's past through the lens of the battlefields and the figures who bore witness to those events. Even digitally, the inescapable enthusiasm of the staff and its partners brought the subject matter to life! We actively sought new ways to creatively cover fundamental history and share lesser-known stories that leave our diverse audiences wanting more. While many of our education programs are available and applicable to anyone, others target a particular group in tremendous need of energizing history education — our nation's teachers.

### SUPPORTING CLASSROOMS

Whether the classroom is located at home, or school, or on the battlefield, the Trust aims to kindle in students and their teachers a love of history. This year, we completed a comprehensive overhaul of our online Civil War Curriculum and launched a new

Inquiry-Based Curriculum designed to meld traditional and modern teaching methods. New curriculum for the Revolutionary War is already in development, with expansions into the Early Republic and War of 1812 to follow.

Although less applicable to the virtual classrooms of 2020, other programs are equally beloved. Our Civil War Traveling Trunks deliver resources and replica artifacts straight into classrooms to facilitate a hands-on learning experience. When we are logistically able to restart the program, we'll add a Revolutionary War Trunk into the mix alongside its seven 1860s brethren.

**784 TEACHERS**  
*trained in 2020 alone.*

**32,000 STUDENTS**  
*sent on Field Trips to date.*

**23 FREE APPS**  
*to help you explore battlefields.*

**5 MILLION+**  
*student visits to*  
[www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org) in 2020

### THE FUTURE OF FIELD TRIPS

Fueled by our firm belief that battlefields are outdoor classrooms, the Trust's Field Trip Fund has provided funding assistance allowing more than 32,000 K-12 students and teachers to visit historic sites related to the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War.

Understanding that current circumstances may complicate the viability of field trips for some time, we have begun planning virtual field trips. These interactive events will offer a mix of video, quizzes, question-and-answer sessions and supporting curricula. The Trust team will share artifacts and connect students with historians and experts in the field. Intended to pique students' curiosity, the virtual field trips will encapsulate and approximate the experience students have when they visit in person.

### TEACHING TEACHERS

One of the Trust's flagship education programs, the National Teacher Institute, underwent a massive transformation in 2020. Established in 2002, it had traditionally been an in-person event with limited capacity. But the necessary switch to a virtual event this summer allowed us to reach 784 educators — more than

triple the usual number! A greater amount of teachers exposed to the Trust's acclaimed resources translates into more students engaging with quality history content, making this a true growth opportunity for our reach and impact. Moving forward, we will look to maintain an exclusive in-person event — scheduled for Baltimore in 2021 and Mobile, Ala., in 2022 — but also extend our capacity for digital workshops even further.

Both in-person and virtual Teacher Institutes will remain free and feature educator training, the deployment of classroom ready content and the issuance of Continuing Education Units. Sessions cover a wide range of historical eras and topics — this year's Institute saw such options as "Hollywood vs. History: The Civil War on Screen" and "Lessons in Leadership: Teaching George Washington in the Classroom."

### DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

The Trust's wealth of digital education resources allows educators, students and history enthusiasts to expand their minds with thousands of articles on historic events and figures, virtual tours featuring 360-degree annotated photography, Crash Courses, primary sources, maps and quizzes. In 2020, we also saw a 70 percent increase in viewership for our hundreds of impressive online videos. Audiences have become especially fond of both the animated map series and the immersive four-part series *Civil War 1864: A Virtual Reality Experience*. We are constantly looking to expand our video library, covering new topics and employing innovative formats as we bring the past to life.

The Trust even puts history in palm of your hand. Convenient in a year in which battlefields pose an ideal opportunity for fresh air and enriched understanding, the Trust's 23 apps for iOS and Android devices allow users to explore key battlefields alongside the experts — they come integrated with the Trust's renowned battle maps, accounts of soldiers who bore witness to the fighting, stories of arduous preservation efforts and more.

### THE POWER OF PLACE

Unsurprising as part of an organization that has preserved more



During a recent content creation trip to Kentucky and West Virginia, Senior Education Manager Kris White captured footage at Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument, which became one of almost 300 new videos created by the Trust in 2020.

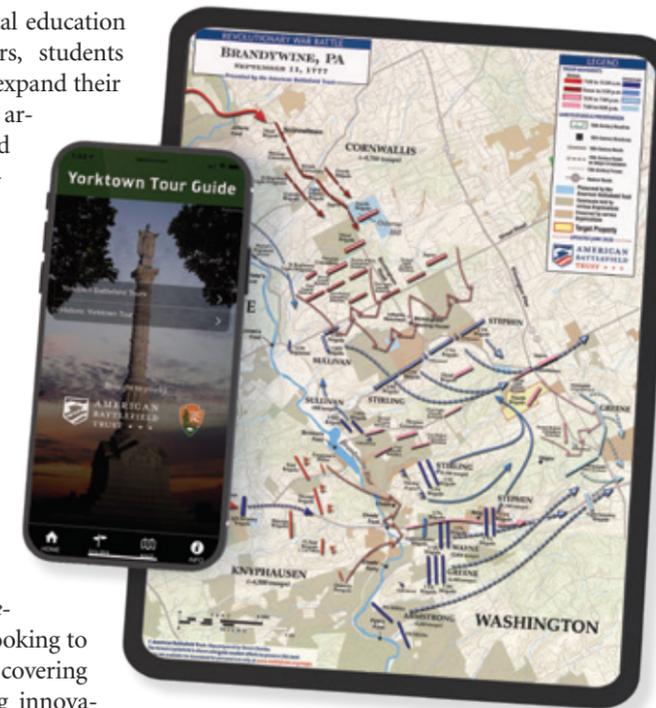
than 53,000 acres of battleground, the Trust is deeply committed to place-based education via on-site events, interpretation and land stewardship. Trails and signage are used to orient battlefield visitors — and on certain occasions, such as military staff rides, our staff leads battlefield tours that give an added layer of context to the sacred ground. We carefully steward and restore our properties by removing non-historic features and fostering period-appropriate vegetation.

Proving that history has no age requirement, Trust Generations events bring families to battlefields to learn about the people and events that shaped this nation's history in age-appropriate ways. Meanwhile, heritage travel itineraries prove that battlefield communities have amenities and attractions to appeal to visitors of all stripes.

With so many innovative programs on its plate, you would be forgiven for thinking the Trust education team would be running out of steam. Far from it! Fueled by an ambitious vision, the Trust has its sights set on becoming the unrivaled history resource for America's formative conflicts — engaging more than 100 million Americans by the time of the nation's 250th birthday in 2026. It is our belief that after encountering our unique flavor of educational content, audiences will have a firmer grasp of American

history and be motivated to take action to protect it.

But achieving this ambitious vision requires more than enthusiasm, it requires the support of members. Since we are committed to pursuing education in addition to preservation, we will not divert funds away from any land acquisition efforts, and must seek out donors who will contribute specifically toward this aspect of the mission. Please consider supporting Trust education programs with a gift by visiting [www.battlefields.org/support-education](http://www.battlefields.org/support-education).★



DISCOVER NEW WAYS  
to support the Trust's mission

Battle of Camden National Historic Landmark  
Camden, S.C.  
LAUREL HOUSDN PHOTOGRAPHY

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### EMAIL:

Steven.Freiman@morganstanley.com

**DIRECT LINE:** 202-778-1579

**FAX:** 202-905-2986

### DTC INSTRUCTIONS:

Morgan Stanley  
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**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 067-022635-101

For more information, contact Clarissa Borges at (202) 367-1861, ext. 7235

**AT THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST**, we work hard to be a responsible steward of your donation dollars, earning coveted four-star ratings from the nonprofit watchdog group Charity Navigator in each of the last 11 years for our efforts.

As 2020 draws to a close and you contemplate year-end giving, remember that there are many ways you can contribute to the American Battlefield Trust and meet your personal philanthropic goals. A tax-deductible gift of cash made by check or credit card — whether to a particular acquisition effort or education programs — is just the beginning! Learn more at [www.battlefields.org/give](http://www.battlefields.org/give).

## CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR

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



## Give An Acre

**LOOKING FOR A GIFT** that will outlast even the firmest New Year's resolution? Helping protect battlefield land in the name of someone on your list is a creative way of giving loved ones a meaningful gift that is uniquely tangible and symbolic of their interests. Customize the amount of your gift and send a personalized eCard to the recipient. Plus, as the giver, you will be eligible for tax deductions on your contribution to the Trust. Full details are available at [www.battlefields.org/gifts](http://www.battlefields.org/gifts).

## Gift Memberships

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



## MONTHLY GIVING

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

Choose the level of giving you are comfortable with, starting at \$10 per month — or receive all the benefits of our Color Bearer Society starting with monthly gifts of \$84. [www.battlefields.org/givemonthly](http://www.battlefields.org/givemonthly)

## DID YOU KNOW?

Your used car, truck or RV can benefit battlefield preservation.

[www.battlefields.org/vehicledonation](http://www.battlefields.org/vehicledonation)



## GIVING THROUGH YOUR IRA

**IF YOU ARE** over 70 1/2, you can donate directly to the Trust through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA retirement account. Required minimum distributions (RMDs) have been waived for 2020 through the CARES Act, but you can still make a QCD gift from your IRA to support battlefield preservation. Gifts may be made from Traditional or Roth IRAs. <https://www.battlefields.org/give/ira-qcd>.

## WORKPLACE GIVING

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

Many private companies, especially large ones, have formal programs to match employees' charitable gifts. [www.battlefields.org/matchinggifts](http://www.battlefields.org/matchinggifts)

### 2021 SCHEDULED MEMBER EVENTS

**Color Bearer Thank You Weekend**  
February 19-21, Columbia, S.C.

**Annual Conference**  
June 3-6, Chantilly, Va.

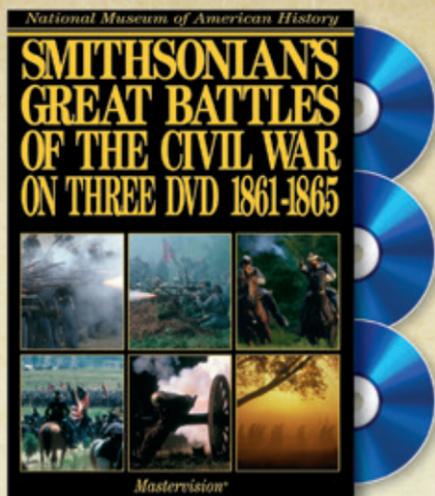
**Grand Review**  
October 24-26, Richmond, Va.

*The Trust is dedicated to ensuring the safety of our guests in these uncertain times. Any updates on event status will be posted at [www.battlefields.org/events](http://www.battlefields.org/events).*



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 "Looks at the military, political and social history of the war, with powerful battlefield scenes." —*Chicago Tribune*  
 "Copiously filmed reenactments complement quickly-paced battle descriptions." —*Civil War Times Illustrated*

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HERITAGE SITES



## VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

**FOUNDED IN 1899**, Vicksburg is one of the "first five" national battlefield parks of the Civil War, alongside Antietam, Chickamauga & Chattanooga, Gettysburg and Shiloh. Befitting the scale of the struggle for Vicksburg and the city's strategic significance to the war effort, it is a large park, with more than 1,300 monuments and markers, that welcomes more than a half-million visitors per year.

More than 20 miles of entrenchments remain at Vicksburg, many of which can be seen from the 16-mile park tour road. The USS *Cairo* Museum, featuring the remains of the "Hardluck Ironclad" sunk in the Yazoo River and rediscovered by Ed Bearss as a young NPS historian, is another popular stop. While many may associate such a service with a trip to Gettysburg, Vicksburg visitors may also choose to hire a licensed battlefield guide for a private tour in their own vehicle. Alternately, a cell phone driving tour and an American Battlefield Trust Battle App® guide are also available.

The Vicksburg National Cemetery, established in 1866, is the largest Union cemetery in the nation. Of its more than 17,000 Civil War graves, almost 13,000 are unknown burials and a significant number

are members of the United States Colored Troops. Vicksburg National Cemetery was closed to new burials in 1961 and is the final resting place of American soldiers from the Mexican American War, Spanish American War, the First and Second World Wars, and the Korean War. It is also the final resting place of Flight Sgt. Edgar Horace Hawter of the Royal Australian Air Force. The exact circumstances of Hawter's interment are uncertain, but he was killed in a July 1942 crash over the South Pacific island of New Guinea alongside two American sergeants who hailed from Vicksburg, and his family has never sought for him to be repatriated. In 2006, the Australian government supplied an official headstone for Hawter, and his national flag is displayed twice a year — November 11, known internationally as Armistice Day marking the end of World War I, and April 25, ANZAC Day, the equivalent of Veterans Day for Australia and New Zealand, celebrated on the anniversary that those nations' forces landed as part of the bloody Gallipoli Campaign in 1915.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Access to some areas of the park may be limited because of policies related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please research restrictions to access and reductions in scheduled programming as you plan your trip.★

VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK  
3201 Clay St, Vicksburg, Miss. 39183 <https://www.nps.gov/vick>



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