HALLOWED GROUND

SAVING AMERICA'S BATTLEFIELDS | CIVILWAR.ORG

The CAPITAL WILL FALL!

BRANDYWINE • BLADENSBURG • PETERSBURG BREAKTHROUGH
The Civil War Trust is the nation's largest national nonprofit organization devoted to battlefield preservation. Through the Campaign 1776 initiative, our mission of preserving America's significant battlefields — through protection of the land itself and by educating the public about the vital roles those battlegrounds played in directing the course of our nation's history — also extends to sites associated with the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Thanks to the contributions of more than 200,000 members and supporters nationwide, we have preserved more than 46,000 acres at 131 sites in 24 states. For more information, call 1-888-606-1400 or visit our website at www.CivilWar.org.
ROM THE BEGINNING of the modern battlefield preservation movement, it has been the charge of the Civil War Trust and its predecessors to preserve American battlefields to educate the public about what happened on these hallowed grounds and the ongoing significance of those events. Battlefields are outdoor classrooms, teaching young and old alike about the sacrifices made during our nation’s turbulent first century to secure the precious freedoms we enjoy today.

Battlefields are where crucial chapters of the American story were written, where ordinary citizens — farmers, merchants and laborers — displayed extraordinary valor. The United States is the oldest and most successful democratic republic in the world, thanks to the sacrifices made by these citizen soldiers. We see the battlefields on which they fought as living memorials to all Americans who have honorably served in our armed forces.

It is, however, a different kind of memorial that has been in the news recently, as debate has intensified over the role of Confederate monuments in our modern society. Elite groups have attempted to co-opt America’s Civil War history for their own ideological ends, deploying violence and intolerance that have no place in this great nation.

It is vital for the future of our country that Americans understand the full scope of our nation’s complex story. Our history — both good and bad, heroic and shameful — shaped who we are as Americans today. Thus, history education is a foundation of good citizenship and a key ingredient in developing the leaders of tomorrow. Professional historians frequently caution against the tendency to look at historical events solely through a contemporary prism — when judged against modernity and contemporary values, it is the rare historical personality or era that is not found wanting.

As students of history, you know that these monuments are not monolithic. They were commissioned at various times, by various individuals and groups, for a variety of reasons. Each war specifically designed for its community and context. While some were erected as political statements, many more were intended as a focus for collective grief as an entire community mourned its fallen sons — an instinct as common after the Civil War as it is today with veterans of World War II and other conflicts of the last 70 years.

Accordingly, we see monuments and memorials — especially those on America’s battlefields — as educational tools for teaching valuable lessons about national, and local, history. Given that perspectives on history can and do shift, rather than move or remove monuments, we encourage communities to augment these memorials with additional interpretation to help the public reflect on the many layers of their history.

Since the events in Charlottesville, I have received many calls for the Trust to “do something” about the situation. The question may be slightly different, but the answer is one I have become familiar with giving, thanks to countless pleas for assistance saving a cemetery or museum or historic home: We saw battlefields. And it is the strict adherence to that mission that has driven our success.

I am also aware of suggestions to move monuments from public parks to battlefields, museums, cemeteries and other locations. Let me say that there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Taking a historic resource out of its historic context is rarely an advisable course of action. But in the case of moving monuments to battlefields, our imperative is to ensure their integrity in perpetuity — so future visitors can fully experience the landscapes the soldiers once saw. Aside from the immense costs in moving and maintaining such monuments, the Civil War Trust would not want to facilitate the loss of pristine battlefield landscapes by placing monuments where they were never intended.

In the coming weeks, we will be sending a survey to our membership, asking you to weigh in on this controversy. “Tell us what you think!” And as this debate continues to sweep across the country, please remember — and remind others of — the words of Abraham Lincoln in his first inaugural address: “We are not enemies, but friends…. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.”

JIM LIGHTHIZER
President, Civil War Trust

PETERSBURG IN THE CIVIL WAR

Delve into the action around Petersburg, from the initial fighting on the Eastern Front and the Battle of The Crater, to the final moments of the campaign at Five Forks and The Breakthroughs. Explore our top historical resources — including videos, photos, articles, apps and more — in our Petersburg Collection. Visit www.civilwar.org/petersburg/

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BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE

Shortly after the issue of Hallowed Ground went to press, we held a ceremony announcing special preservation efforts at the Brandywine battlefield. Visit our site to learn more about the battlefield as it stands today and the history of what happened there by toggling between historic and modern topics using the “then” and “now” button in the top right of www.civilwar.org/battle/brandYW
**SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ANNOUNCES**

**Preservation and Interpretation Projects at 20 American Battlefields**

A LITTLE OVER 100 ACRES of hallowed ground across 19 battlefields in nine states will be protected via $7.2 million in federal matching grants announced by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke during a July 5 news conference at Maryland’s Antietam National Battlefield.

“As both the secretary of the interior and a military veteran, I’m deeply honored and humbled to deliver the news that battlefields from the first World War to the Vietnam War will be protected,” said Secretary Zinke. “Visiting the hallowed ground the day after Independence Day is incredibly moving, and it underscores the importance of why we must preserve these historic grounds.”

The American Battlefield Protection Program, a bureau within the National Park Service (NPS), administers the grant program, which encourages state and private-sector investment in battlefield preservation. Since the American Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants Program was created in 1999, it has been used to save more than 28,500 acres of hallowed ground associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War. The latest round of awarded grants will protect historic landscapes at Prairie Grove, Ark.; South Mountain and Williamsport, Md.; Brice’s Cross Roads, Miss.; Fort Ann and Sackets Harbor, N.Y.; Brandylvania, Pa.; Batur Springs, S.C.; Fort Donelson, Tenn.; Appomattox Courthouse, Fredericksburg, Va.; Gaines’ Mill, Kelly’s Ford, Malvern Hill, New Market, Second Manassas, Third Winchester and Trench Station, Va.; and Shepherdstown, W.Va.

Joining Secretary Zinke at the event were James Lighthizer, president of the Civil War Trust; Will Shafroth, president and CEO of the National Park Foundation; and John L. Nau III, who serves on the governing boards of both organizations.

“It is a pleasure to be standing here today with Secretary Zinke on one of America’s most famous battlegrounds,” noted Lighthizer. “We are proud of our long-standing partnership with the Department of the Interior to protect America’s endangered battlefield parks, and we look forward to working with President Trump and Secretary Zinke to preserve these irreplaceable national treasures.”

Zinke also used the occasion to confirm the maintenance and restoration projects to which President Donald J. Trump’s first-quarter salary donation of $78,333 will be allocated. Two important restoration projects at Antietam will benefit: preservation of the historic Nowerman House near the Middle Bridge site on the battlefield, and replacement of 5,000 linear feet of rail fencing along the Hagerstown Turnpike where some of the most intense fighting of the battle occurred. The president’s gift will be matched by $185,660 in contributions from the Civil War Trust, the National Park Foundation and the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, a local nonprofit active on the battlefield for more than three decades.

“As a place where wounded soldiers found much-needed care after the battle, the historic Nowerman House is vital to the story of Antietam,” Shafroth said. “The National Park Foundation is honored to work with President Trump, the Civil War Trust, the Save Historic Antietam Foundation and generous donors to preserve the site so that current and future generations can experience firsthand this incredible piece of history.”

Secretary Zinke indicated that his future announcements are part of a renewed commitment by the Department of the Interior to preserve important historic sites and address the maintenance backlog at national parks. The department estimates there is $12 billion in deferred maintenance at NPS sites, including $229 million at the 25 battlefield parks in the National Park System.

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**EIGHT STRAIGHT!**

Trust receives 4-star Charity Navigator rating

MERICA’s foremost watchdog group for nonprofit organizations, Charity Navigator, has once again affirmed that the Civil War Trust maintains the highest possible standards for fiscal responsibility and mission-driven effectiveness by awarding us a 4-star rating for the third consecutive year.

In his assessment of the Trust, the firm’s CEO Michael Thatcher summarized, “Attaining a 4-star rating verifies that Civil War Trust exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in your area of work. Only 3 percent of the charities we evaluate have received at least 4 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Civil War Trust outperforms most other charities in America.”

Trust president James Lighthizer welcomed the designation, but emphasized that the organization’s commitment to fiscal responsibility was not driven by desire for accolades, but rather by respect for its members. “Our donors are the heart and soul of this organization — their passion for history and their faith in us are our driving force. We owe it to them to be outstanding stewards of their gifts, producing tangible and consistent results with maximum return on their investment.”

Learn more about the Trust’s commitment to fiscal responsibility and effectiveness at www.civilwar.org/accountability.

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**CASINO PLAN WITHDRAWN**

Developer abandons third attempt to bring gambling to Gettysburg

THE LATEST iteration of the threat of casino development at the fringes of the Gettysburg Battlefield ended in mid-June, as developer David LeVan opted not to submit his formal application for a license to the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission. The project, as envisioned, would have allowed for the construction of Mason-Dixon Downs, a facility featuring gambling on live horse races within a casino setting. Securing a license from the commission would have been the first of several regulatory hurdles necessary for construction to begin.

In a statement addressing his decision to halt the project, LeVan said, “Unfortunately, the uncertainty surrounding the gaming expansion legislation in Harrisburg makes it impossible for me to commit to this project at this time,” a reference to legislation passed by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives that would allow gambling to expand into new locales like airports, bars, bowling alleys and rest stops.

Despite the project’s termination, Freedom Township, where Mason-Dixon Downs would have been located, will still move ahead with a referendum question on its November ballot that would preclude any future efforts to build a racetrack in the jurisdiction.

This was LeVan’s third attempt to bring gaming to the Gettysburg area. Previous applications for licenses to operate a slots parlor near East Cavalry Field and a resort casino near South Cavalry Field were rejected by the State Gaming Control Board in 2006 and 2011, respectively. ***
FROM the TRENCHES
BREAKING PRESERVATION NEWS

Photos by BRUCE GUTHRIE

WINNERS ANNOUNCED for 2017 Preservation Awards

5 PART OF THE 2017 Annual Conference in Chattanooga, Tenn., Civil War Trust president James Lighthizer recognized some of the outstanding leaders of battlefield preservation with the organization’s annual preservation awards.

Since the inception of its battlefield preservation awards in 2001, the Trust has honored a wide variety of individuals and groups — historians, scholars, National Park Service personnel, celebrities and even residential developers — for their achievements in protecting endangered Civil War battlefields.

The Trust presented the National Preservation Leadership Award to two outstanding Tennessee lawmakers: U.S. senator Lamar Alexander and U.S. representative Marsha Blackburn. During their tenure on Capitol Hill, Senator Alexander and Representative Blackburn have cultivated strong records of safeguarding Tennessee’s unique cultural resources and supporting federal battlefield preservation legislation, including a measure to expand Island-No.1 National Military Park.

The Shelby Foote Preservation Legacy Award was presented to the HTR Foundation, which, with a total of 5.8 million in contributions to date, is the Trust’s number one private-sector partner. In 2013 and 2016 alone, support from the HTR Foundation resulted in the preservation of more than 550 acres at Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Appomattox Court House and Champion Hill.

The Trust presented the State Preservation Leadership Award to Mary Ann Peckham, executive director of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA). The TCWPA is a statewide organization that identifies and raises funds for Tennessee’s surviving battlefield sites, including working with the Trust in 2015 to preserve land associated with the “Cracker Line” at the Battle of Brown’s Ferry.

Mike Robb, who served as chair of the Whitfield County Commission in Georgia from 1997 to 2016, was named the Carrington Williams Battlefield Champion. The Trust worked with Robb and Whitfield County to preserve battlefield land at Rocky Face Ridge — an important early conflict in the four-month campaign that determined the fate of Atlanta during the Civil War — as well as the February 1864 Battle of Dalton.

The Trust presented the Brian Pohanka Preservation Organization Award to the Friends of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. Founded in 1986, the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga was one of the first groups formed to support a national military park. The award is named for the late Brian Pohanka, an outstanding historian and one of the founders of the modern battlefield preservation movement.

The Trust presented the National Park Service Preservation Advocate Award to Jim Ogden. Ogden has worked as the staff historian of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park since 1994, and is widely regarded as an expert in the Western Theater of the Civil War.

TOP HISTORY EDUCATORS earn honors

URING the Teacher Institute’s July 15 banquet, two outstanding history educators earned awards from the Trust for their dedication and innovative instruction.

Shelley Max Snyder, a reading specialist at Lyon Magnet Elementary School in Waukegan, Ill., was named Teacher of the Year for her ability to bring hands-on history activities to her students even when the subject area isn’t explicitly listed on the curriculum. Hands-on activities, including researching old photographs and other projects, engage upper-elementary students and encourage them to look deeper.

For the past 12 years of her 18-year career, Snyder has helped organize a fourth grade field trip to Springfield, Ill., so students can walk in Lincoln’s footsteps with the benefit of background knowledge she has helped them acquire. Five years ago, she deepened this commitment, creating after-school clubs focusing on Lincoln and the Civil War experience.

David Wegs, principal and upper-grade teacher at Waucoo Lutheran Grade School in Campbellport, Wisc., received the Abbe-Carter Award for instructional excellence. Wegs is also a board member of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and a frequent presenter and lecturer across the Midwest, focusing on units that originated in the region. For example, he has led several class trips to Antietam and Gettysburg, allowing students to follow in the footsteps of the Iron Brigade, the only all-Western unit in the Army of the Potomac.

Wegs encourages students to contemplate the experience of individual soldiers — their motivations and harsh realities — to identify compelling stories that make history relevant today. In this, he is inspired by his son, Josh, a U.S. Marine combat veteran and double-amputee who is active with the Wounded Warrior softball program.

ACCOLADES CONTINUE for Hallowed Ground

HE Civil War Trust’s membership magazine continues to win accolades for its content and design. For the ninth consecutive year, Hallowed Ground has won a Grand Award in the annual Apex Awards for Publication Excellence, citing the Summer 2016 issue, celebrating the National Park Service centennial, in particular. In assessing the publication, Apex judges wrote: “A superb magazine. Hallowed Ground offers an exceptional overview of the Civil War Trust’s unique efforts to preserve the history of America’s battlefields. Copywriting is crisp, with interesting features and quick-reading shorts, while the photos and photo spreads are simply stunning. It is a publication rich in both content and visuals.”

This year, we were one of only 15 recipients of this top honor across all categories. Receiving this honor — being evaluated among the top 5 percent of evaluated magazines — as a small nonprofit in a competition featuring larger organizations and private companies, is always a notable achievement. Moreover, Hallowed Ground featured three named finalists in medal categories of the 2016 International Society of Publication Designers competition.
NEARLY JUNE, more than 400 Civil War Trust members and guests gathered in Chattanooga, Tenn., for our Annual Conference. This 18-year tradition offers an unprecedented opportunity for history lovers to connect with like-minded people who care passionately about preserving American history.

In 2017, attendees enjoyed the option of choosing among 13 different tours with top-tier battlefield guides. The excursions focused on the Battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, making visits to iconic places like Orchard Knob, Lookout Mountain, and Brown’s Ferry. Particular attention was paid to sites that Trust members helped save with their donations.

Other highlights included lectures from noted historians, an evening riverboat cruise along the Tennessee River and the official release of a new book detailing the 100-year history of the Trust’s role in battlefield preservation.

Recognizing the incomparable educational opportunities offered by walking the hallowed ground of a battlefield, particularly in the company of top historians and fellow preservationists, this year generous donors endowed full scholarships for six students and six teachers to attend the Civil War Trust Annual Conference.

This year’s student scholarship class included: Logan Merchant of North Carolina State University (Mike and Mary Alvise Student Scholarship); Anne Hollmuller of Johns Hopkins University and Caleb Pacut of the University of West Florida (Dave and Jean Kreidler Student Scholarships); Ray “True” Winegarner, III, of Texas A&M University (Thomas Malone Memorial Student Scholarship); Elizabeth Webb of the University of Delaware (Patricia Kay Davies Student Scholarship); and John Smith of Temple University (Private Peter Long Miller Memorial Scholarship). Teacher Scholarship recipients included: David Hendrick of Bear Creek Middle School, Stratford, Ga.; Dr. Michael Murphy of Weymouth High School, Weymouth, Mass.; Linda Nielsen of Crosrounds Middle School, Lewisberry, Pa.; Shirley Matz Snyder of Lynn Magnet School, Waukegan, Ill.; Cheri Stegall of Cucupah Middle School, Scottsdale, Ariz.; and Mark Truett of Camp Floyd State Park, Fairfield, Utah.

If you’d like to join us in Newport News, Va., visit www.civilwar.org/annualconference to learn more about our 2018 conference, Marching Toward Freedom: The Wars of America’s First Century in Virginia’s Historic Triangle. *
EMERGING FRANKLIN PARK BENEFITS
from archeology, state funding

The profound transformation of Franklin, Tenn., from a typical suburban setting into a heritage tourism destination continues, with several major steps taken thus far in 2017.

Thanks to preservation efforts by the Civil War Trust and local activists, including the Battle of Franklin Trust and Save the Franklin Battlefield Foundation, historians are able to understand the fighting around the Carter House like never before. Two properties on Columbus Avenue have been transferred to local ownership for inclusion in the growing park and geared of modern features — opening up sweeping views of the battlefield that had been obscured for the past century by development.

The area was also subjected to a thorough archaeological investigation by TRC Solutions, the same firm responsible for two previous digs in the Carter House area. The process definitively established the portions of the Federal line defended by the 50th Ohio and uncovered a number of poignant artifacts, including a U.S. belt buckle, bullet strips, bullets and a crushed cannon.

After visiting the dig in progress alongside fellow Tennessee state representatives Charles Sampson, R-McMinn, and Sam Whitson — himself a retired U.S. Army colonel — remarked that the findings are “evidence that people fought and died here. Soldiers gave their lives during this desperate battle, Whitson said. “It’s a reminder to preserve what happened here and the contributions that made this possible and remember this important part of Franklin’s history.”

State legislators took another major action on behalf of Franklin in early May, passing a state budget that included a $3.1 million appropriation toward building a 4,000-square-foot visitor center at the Carter House, a state-owned property managed by the Battle of Franklin Trust. The new structure will be surrounded by landscaping designed to mimic the gardens and orchards maintained by the Carter family. The project is in keeping with the Carter House Master Plan, unveiled in 2015 after a 18-month drafting process. The first step in the transformation occurred last spring, with the demolition of the old Franklin High School gym. Later phases will also include topographical rehabilitation of the landscape.

Elsewhere on the battlefield, the Lotz House dedicated a fully restored Civil War cannon in memory of local lance corporal John A. Hundt, a Marine Corps veteran who died in a tragic accident last July at age 55. The 12-pound Mountain Howitzer was carefully restored by Hundt’s father, Victor, who donated the artillery piece, which was used by Confederate troops at the Battle of Chickamauga.

FINDING!
Col. Robert Gould Shaw’s Fort Wagner sword discovered

N JULY 18, 1863 years to the day after he lost his life leading the 54th Massachusetts in a doomed assault against Fort Wagner in Charleston Harbor, Capt. Robert Gould Shaw’s personal sword was placed on display at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston. Long thought lost — possibly even buried in the mass grave Shaw shared with his African American troops — the sword was recently discovered in the attic of one of his descendants, having been forgotten for generations.

In a twist, after Union forces failed to carry Fort Wagner, Confederate defenders loaded the bodies of many of their fallen adversaries. Shaw’s sword — an exceptionally fine custom-made English weapon he received as a gift from his uncle only a few weeks earlier — was probably sold to a Southern officer and made its way into North Carolina. In 1865, Brig. Gen. Charles Jackson Palmer, commander of the Military District of New Bern and himself a commander of black troops, retrieved the sword and arranged for it to be returned to Shaw’s sister, Susanna Shaw Minton. Gradually, the sword was forgotten and resigned to dusty attics.

Then, in March of this year, several Minton descendants were clearing out their parents’ subor

APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA
As the Battle of Appomattox Court House developed on the morning of April 9, 1865, Federal infantry arrived in relief of the cavalry, which had begun to drive back the Confederate infantry. Brig. Gen. George Custer’s Federal cavalry moved to the east, threatening the Confederate left flank, but the advance soon halted when Custer heard rumors of a flag of truce to arrange terms of surrender. A white flag shortly came into view, and Custer’s soldiers gave “three rousing cheers.”

In April, the Trust finalized purchase of 200 acres that witnessed some of the last fighting in the Civil War’s Eastern Theater, even while truce flags were circulating among other portions of the lines. The property was also the site of the war-time Morton House, a notable battlefield landmark, and will eventually be transferred to Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Project assistance was provided by the federal ARBP: the Virginia Battlefield Fund and the HTR Foundation. It brings the Trust’s total of protected land to 440 acres at Appomattox Court House.

BENTONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
In March 1865, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman divided his force as he marched north into the Carolina. Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston confronted an isolated wing on March 19, experiencing success until Union reinforcements arrived late in the day. On March 21, the Confederates attempted a final, desperate counterattack before retreating.

In early June, the Trust completed acquisition of a 73-acre tract that played a role in the second and third days of the battle. This land will be transferred to the State of North Carolina for incorporation into Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, providing an excellent opportunity to interpret the latter phases of fighting in this sector. Funding was provided by the federal American Battlefield Protection Program and the North Carolina Clean Water Management Fund. The Trust has now protected a total of 1,857 acres at Bentonville.

BRANDY STATION, VIRGINIA
The largest cavalry battle in American history and the opening clash of the Gettysburg Campaign took place on June 9, 1863. While the daylong fighting resulted in a tactical Confederate victory, Brandy Station was a huge morale boost for the Union and marked the end of Southern mounted domination in Virginia.

In March, the Trust finalized the placement of a conserva

CHAMPION HILL, MISSISSIPPI
The May 16, 1863, Battle of Champion Hill has rightly been called the most decisive battle of the most decisive campaign of the Civil War. After a fierce, seven-mile, Federal soldiers seized the Jackson Road, and the Confederates were driven from Champion Hill, setting the stage for the siege and surrender of Vicksburg.

This spring, the Trust finalized its purchase of a 319-acre tract in the vicinity of Jackson Creek, across which rugged veterans of the Union XIII Corps and XVII Corps advanced in overwhelming numbers to close off all hope of a Confederate miracle. Eventually, the Trust will look to transfer this land — protected with assistance from the federal ARBP, the HTR Foundation and the National Park Foundation — to Vicksburg National Military Park. This project brings the Trust’s total of protected land to 795 acres at Champion Hill.
COLD HARBOR, VIRGINIA
The Battle of Cold Harbor is remembered as the culmination of the Overland campaign. The battle involved engagements of the Civil War. Beginning on May 31, Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses Grant ordered a series of hopeless frontal assaults, finally shifting his army to threaten Petersburg on June 12. The 51-acre tract purchased by the Trust in late May is particularly notable for the very large fort called “Blecher’s Redoubt,” dating from mid-June 1864, that still stands on the property. This tract represents almost 10 percent of the length of the Federal army’s front line during the second week of Cold Harbor. The property will soon be transferred to Richmond National Battlefield Park, and brings the total of Trust-protected land to 1,040 acres at Cold Harbor.

FORT DONELSON, TENNESSEE
After capturing Fort Henry, Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant advanced across country toward Fort Donelson. On February 16, 1862, after failing to break through the town’s lines, the fort’s 12,000-man garrison surrendered to Grant’s demand for “unconditional surrender,” solidifying the Union hold on Kentucky.

In February, the Trust purchased a 40-acre tract at the southern point of where the Confederate unit “breakout” attack occurred, which runs parallel with the southern boundary of Fort Donelson National Battlefield’s “Confederate Breakout Unit.” The project was made possible by participation from the federal ABPP and the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund. The Trust has now protected a total of 355 acres at Fort Donelson.

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

In April, the Trust purchased a 0.3-acre parcel on the southern end of the battlefield, augmenting what has previously been protected at places eventually to be transferred to Richmond National Battlefield Park. Funding was provided by the federal ABPP, and the land will eventually be transferred to the National Park Service for incorporation into Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park. The Trust has cumulatively protected a total of 248 acres at Fredericksburg.

GAINES’ MILL, VIRGINIA
Fought July 27, 1862, Gaines’ Mill was the second of the Seven Days’ Battles, during which the Confederates sought to repel a Union force virtually from the gates of Richmond. A massive twilight assault nearly carried the day for the Confederates, but darkness stemmed the tide, and the chase continued. In May, the Trust acquired a two-acre property at what had been the southern edge of the New Cold Harbor intersection, the area where Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee spent the battle on horseback, greeting fresh troops and warriors streaming into the attacks. Funding for the land, which will eventually be transferred to the Park Service for incorporation into Richmond National Battlefield Park, was provided by the federal ABPP. The Trust has now protected at total of 343 acres at Gaines’ Mill.

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

In early May, the Trust finalized its purchase of 38 acres at the Gettysburg Almshouse on Barlow’s Knoll, where, on the afternoon of July 1, Confederate troops steamrolled over Mary Barlow’s division. The property will soon be transferred to Gettysburg National Military Park, bringing the Trust’s total of protected land to 1,020 acres at Gettysburg.

NEW MARKET HEIGHTS, VIRGINIA
At dawn on September 29, 1864, the Army of the James—including a significant number of United States Colored Troops (USCT) and the 111th Pennsylvania Volunteers—attacked the Richmond defenses. After initial Union successes, the Confederates rallied and contained the breakthrough. Lee reinforced his lines and counterattacked unsuccessfully the next day. The Federals entrenched, and the Confederates erected a new line of works, shifting troops away from Petersburg to meet the threat against the capital.

In June, the Trust finalized the purchase of 13 acres within the footprint of the Federal assault against New Market Heights, land that likely saw a portion of the USCT forces who earned fame during the battle come under long-range Confederate fire from the Sugar Loaf Farm. The land was eventually to be transferred to Richmond National Battlefield Park. The Trust has now protected a total of 31 acres at New Market Heights.

SHILOH, TENNESSEE
On the morning of April 6, 1862, Confederate soldiers poured out of the nearby woods and struck a line of Union soldiers near Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. The overpowering Confederate offensive drove the unprepared Federal forces from their camp. Intense fighting continued until after dark, but the Federals held. A Union counteroffensive the next morning overwhelmed the weakened and outnumbered Confederate forces, which retired from the field.

In April, the Trust purchased an 118-acre property associated with the earliest phases of the fighting at Shiloh. This land, which will soon be transferred to Shiloh National Military Park, brings the organization’s tally of protected land to 1,317 acres at Shiloh.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN, MARYLAND
In September 1862, the Army of Northern Virginia invaded Maryland, but the bold plan was jeopardized when a copy of Gen. Robert E. Lee’s orders fell into Union hands. In intense fighting on September 14, 1862, the Federals gained control of all three passes in the South Mountain range. But stubborn resistance had brought Lee previous time and set the stage for the Battle of Antietam.

In the first quarter of 2017, the Trust protected two individual parcels at South Mountain that span all three of the passes at which fighting raged: Crampton’s, Octor and Turner’s Gap. All 102 acres will eventually be transferred to South Mountain State Park, providing excellent opportunities for interpretation. Funding and assistance was provided by the federal American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Transportation. The Trust now protects 635 acres at South Mountain.

TREVILOM STATION, VIRGINIA
Union Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan hoped to disrupt enemy supply lines and create a distraction amid the Overland Campaign with a large-scale railroad cavalry. Union troops seized the station on June 11, 1864, and destroyed some tracks but were unable to disable the Confederate position the next day.

In April and May, the Trust completed two transactions at Treviloom Station totaling 456 acres—one large easement project and a smaller purchase that will result in 11 acres being transferred to the Treviloom Station Battlefield Foundation to mark an achievement by the Michigan Brigade that has been called “Custer’s First Last Stand.” The Trust now has cumulatively protected a total of 2,226 acres at Treviloom Station.

UPPERVILLE, VIRGINIA
The Battle of Upperville was one of a trio of cavalry engagements fought in Virginia’s Loudoun County during the early phases of the Gettysburg Campaign. Confederate cavalry J.B. Stuart’s skilled delaying tactics produced hard-fought battles at Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville, but ultimately he successfully prevented Union troopers from gaining any fruitful intelligence on the second invasion of the North.

Funding was provided in two sectors: around the village of Upperville, and along Goose Creek. In late May, the Trust completed acquisition of a 12-acre parcel overlooking Goose Creek and the four-arch historic stone bridge spanning that waterway. The land and bridge, along with a seven-acre parcel owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation, will be transferred to the Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority to create a new publicly accessible battlefield park. The organization has now protected a total of 413 acres at Upperville.

CAMPAIGN [1776]
EUTAW SPRINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA
After a string of defeats in the spring of 1781, Continental General Nathaniel Greene described his efforts to end the British threat in South Carolina succinctly: “We fight, get beat, rest and fight again.” He led 2,100 troops on a 120-mile march that ended near the British camp at Eutaw Springs. On September 8, the Americans attacked at first light. Although he could not fully dislodge the British, Greene claimed victory.

Although only 2.8 acres, the tract purchased by the Trust in mid-June saw intense fighting and occupation by both sides. Funding for the acquisition was provided by the federal ABPP and New York State’s Land Bank; the land will now be transferred to the South Carolina Battlefield Trust. The project represented our first project at Eutaw Springs.

FORT ANN, NEW YORK
The Battle of Fort Ann was fought July 7–8, 1777, with Continental troops unscathingly attacking the British camp there. The British won the battle on the tactical level, as they remained on the defensive. But at the operational and strategic levels, the engagement changed the overall campaign’s momentum. It created a delay that allowed American forces to regroup and destroy the British’s supply lines, which contributed to the British defeat at Saratoga in October.

In June the Trust completed its first-ever acquisition of hallowed ground on the state of New York, purchasing 160 acres at Fort Ann that will soon be transferred to the Town of Fort Ann for perpetual stewardship. Funding assistance was provided by the federal ABPP, facilitating Campaign 1776’s first effort at Fort Ann.

SACHETS HARBOR, NEW YORK
When the War of 1812 broke out, both sides began building up their naval forces on the Great Lakes, which were vital highways for troops and supplies in the wilderness of the Old Northwest. When American forces attacked the British shipyard at York (now Toronto), the British launched their own raid on Sachets Harbor — the main U.S. shipyard on Lake Ontario. But such an attack was more of a long-shot and never materialized.

In June, the Trust completed acquisition of the first-ever property associated with a War of 1812 battle, 24.5 acres at Sachets Harbor. Funding assistance was provided by the federal ABPP and the State of New York, to which the land will be transferred for incorporation into Sachets Harbor Battlefield State Park.
FIGHTING FOREFA thers
Civil War soldiers with family ties to veterans of the Revolution and War of 1812

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

JOHN McKNIGHT GIBSON came into the world in 1840, the 100th anniversary of the birth of his great-grandfather and namesake, a Revolutionary War captain. The captain barely outlived the Revolution, dying in 1782 on the Ohio frontier. Gibson, who served in the 13th Louisiana Infantry, survived the war but lost both hands to tuberculosis in 1880.

DAVID WYNN VAUGHAN COLLECTION

JAMES FRANKLIN PUTNAM, the son of a Presbyterian minister and great-grandson of Revolutionary War Brigadier General Rufus Putnam, served in the 8th Independent Battery Ohio Light Artillery. He fought with distinction at Shelby, Vicksburg and elsewhere.

RONALD S. COGGINGSRUND COLLECTION

HENRY NEWTON COMEY, a member of the 2nd Massachusetts Infantry wounded at Gettysburg, hailed from a family with five veterans of the Revolution. One of them was Jonathan Company, a private in Captain John Hornet’s Company, Colonel Bullard’s Regiment, which marched at the Lexington alarm.

RONALD S. COGGINS COLLECTION

Many sons of Virginia from the prominent Lee family fought for the Confederacy, including JULIAN PROSSER LEE. His great-grandfather was prominent politician Richard Bland Lee, and his great-uncle was Revolutionary War cavalry commander Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee — the father of Gen. Robert E. Lee.

WILLIAM A. TURNER COLLECTION

In 1814, CAPTAIN SULLIVAN BURBANK led a company of the 21st U.S. Infantry against British troops at Lundy’s Lane during the War of 1812. Fifty years later, his grandson, Capt. Sullivan Wayne “Sullie” Burbank, led his company against rebel troops across Saunders Field during the Battle of the Wilderness. Sullie, mortally wounded, fell into enemy hands and died in captivity.

RONALD S. COGGINS COLLECTION
Central Virginia Battlefields Trust
An unparalleled partnership

Many of the greatest successes in the history of battlefield preservation would not have been possible without dynamic partnerships between conservation groups. In particular, the presence of a determined local voice advocating on behalf of these sites consistently transforms a community into one that thinks prospectively about protecting its historic resources, instead of one constantly reacting to threats.

Nowhere is this more evident than Fredericksburg, Va., where we will gather for our 2017 Grand Review. Here, since 1996, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT) has worked to protect the storied and bloodied fields over which some of the most important battles of the Civil War were fought.

"To date, we have effectively saved over 1,200 acres of battlefields that would have surely become strip malls or fast-food franchises," reflects CVBT president Tom Van Winkle. "The Battle of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House left over 100,000 casualties. It was men cry out to have their story told and not be forgotten."

While the overall strategy of saving blood-soaked ground has remained constant over two decades, Van Winkle admits that the group’s tactics have evolved. "In business, and yes, preservation is a business, you need to change and adapt to trends and always try to keep ahead of them. [...] We have realized it is also important to be aware of the land providing the protection or viewed to the hallowed ground saved. One only need to view Fredericksburg’s Salem Church to realize ignoring this will easily negate the time and effort of the original purchase, rendering it almost forgotten."

CVBT and the Trust have worked together on dozens of property acquisitions, landscape restorations and advocacy campaigns, creating a truly collaborative partnership built on mutual respect. For example, when the Trust first sought to purchase Fredericksburg’s Slaughter Pen Farm in 2006, the $12 million price tag was daunting, but a $1-million commitment from CVBT—a monumental sum for the group’s size—jump-started the effort and electrified the preservation community. Similarly, when CVBT invested a $770,000 state grant into the Trust’s Fleetwood Hill purchase at Brandy Station, it helped ensure the project’s success.

Even among the top tier of local conservation groups, CVBT is notable for the strength and depth of its community ties—an attribute that has, time and again, paid dividends in acres saved forever. Now, as during the Civil War, Fredericksburg’s location halfway between Washington and Richmond has made it a target: first for warrens, now for suburban development.

"Being able to preserve battlefields not only pays homage to the fallen Americans who fought here, but it also creates green spaces and draws tourists to bolster the area’s economy,” says Van Winkle. “The CVBT, in all our negotiations, always seek to find a ‘win-win’ scenario and are never combative. We are a community, and several of our board members have been born here and lived all their lives in the area. We want CVBT to be an organization the community is proud of.”

As it enters its second decade of years in the trenches of battlefield preservation, CVBT’s Van Winkle is looking long term. "Those who have followed our purchases in the past many years will note we are stitching together the fragmented Chancellorsville Battlefield—all of note, the Stonewall Jackson flank attack area. Great progress has been made, and within the next 20 years we would love to be able to walk, without interruption, a significant stretch of the well-known attack."

The Trust stands ready to work with CVBT to advance this goal. It may be ambitious, but if any cooperative partnership can make it a reality, it is ours. As Van Winkle summarizes, "Together we make an unstoppable team."

Learn more about this outstanding group and how you can advance its efforts at www=cvbt.org.
The American Revolution

BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE

PROVING THE PATRIOTS' METTLE

BY MANY MEASURES — duration, geographic spread of the fighting, number of troops engaged — it was the biggest battle of the Revolution. The loss at Brandywine cost the fledgling nation its capital, but it earned new respect for troops determined to fight on to ultimate victory.

BY Michael C. Harris

The Battle at Brandywine by William R. Leigh (1833–1899), ca. 1863, oil on canvas. Showing the patriots at the Battle of Brandywine. Courtesy Brandywine River Museum of Art. Purchased through a grant from the Mid atlantic Arts Trust.
BRITISH VICTORY at the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777, led to the army's capture of Philadelphia—a defeat so complete that the Americans had to flee west. Washington's Continental army, seeking to evacuate Philadelphia, was hard pressed and forced to make a retreat. The American line remained in place atop Birming- ham Hill. Two brigades—the 3rd Virginia, under Brigadier General William Woodford, and the 4th Virginia under Brigadier General Charles Scott—were flanked by the enemy's left, the 3rd Virginia under Brigadier General Charles Scott—were on the high ground directly above and north of Sandy Hollow, with Woodford at the right side of the division and Scott on the left. General Stephen later reported to Washington that Scott's brigade was mostly "dropped in the ditch of a fence Opposite to the Center of the Enemy."

Advancing against Stephen were, from right to left, the British 1st Light Infantry Battalion, stationed on both sides of the Birmingham Road; the British 2nd Light Infantry Battalion; and on the left, the 4th Virginia, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Ludwig von Wurmb, the jaeger commander. The battle was fought by only a small path in the middle. The situation brought the more disorder among the Americans, because at the same time we were exposed to enemy small arms fire. Lieutenant Colonel Ludwig von Wurmb, the jaeger commander, oversaw the advance and described the initial encounter with the American skirmishers a short time earlier: "I saw that the enemy wanted to form for us on a bare hill, so I had them greeted by our two ammunitons," Lieutenant von Politzsch noted. "The small arms and canister fire became considerably heavier and the smoke descended everywhere, yet, it could be noticed several times, that they [Stephen's division] were making preparations over there to throw us back with bayonets, and because we were not in formation, we did not feel very good about the situation."

Although the German troops could not effectively use their smaller guns to support their advance, the Americans had no such problem. Situated on good terrain, in a command- ing view, the battalion guns attached to Stephen's divi- sion did outstanding work defending the position with shell and grape, as did the patriot marksmen, which were loaded and fired as fast as humanly possible. The inherent strength of Stephen's position was undeniable. According to the Jaeger Corps Journal, the Americans were "advantageously posted on a not especially steep height in front of a woods, with the right wing resting on a steep and deep ravine." The stout defense put up by the Americans likely surprised Lieutenant Richard St. George of the 32nd Foot's light company, who remembered "a most infernal fire of cannon and musket—smoke—con- cussive shattering—inclined to the right! Incline to the Left!—bail!—charge!... the balls ploughing up the ground. The trees cracking over ones head, The branches riven by the artiillery—The leaves falling as in autumn by grapevines." Lieutenant Martin Hunter, another officer in St. George's light company, agreed with his fellow officer and also took note of the impossing defensive nature of the terrain: "The position the enemy had taken was very strong indeed.—very com- manding ground, a wood on their rear and flanks, a ravine and strong paling in front."

One of the jaeger officers fighting on the left wing, Lieutenant Heinrich von Politzsch, recalled the "counter-fire from the enemy, especially against us, was the most concentrated.... The enemy had made a good disposition—men high after the other to his rear. He stood fast," he added, perhaps with grudging respect. Lieutenant Colonel von Wurmb agreed. "We sounded ourselves 150 paces from their line which was on a height in a woods and we were at the bottom also in a woods, between us was an open field. Here they [Stephen's main line] fired on us with two cannons with can- nister and... continued the Harassment constantly because of the terrible terrain and the woods, our cannon could not get close enough, and had to remain to the right." The German light infan- trymen, reported one participant, "were engaged for over half an hour, with grape shot and small arms, with a battalion of light infantry. We could not see the 2nd Battalion of Light Infantry because of the terrain and while we fired a few rounds, each commander had to act according to his own good judgment."

Despite the tactical flexibility of light infantry, the wood- ed and sloping terrain required strategic thinking. The 1st Light Infantry Battalion, advised by the powerful American fire, stalled the elite British and German units. The swaying lowlands and thickets also forced the 4th British Brigade, part of Charles Cornwallis's reserve, to swing west well of the Birmingham Road, which in turn de- nied the light troops their promised support. Unless the Ja- gers could turn the American right flank, it would be difficult to reach, let alone carry, Stephen's position. Stirling's retreat into Sandy Hollow exposed Stephen's left flank to the sur- ging British troops. Stephen attempted to maintain his position rather than retreat, perhaps to provide as much time as pos- sible for Stirling and Sullivan to withdraw their scattered com- mands to a safe distance and reform elsewhere.

General Scott's brigade, holding the left side of Stephen's division, was hit a short distance from the American artillery position that had just been overrun by the British light infan- try and grenadiers, some of whom were still pressing against his front. Woodford's brigade on Scott's right, meanwhile, was facing a fresh threat from the advancing jaegers and newly placed enemy artillery. After encountering significant ob- stacles in the form of fences, ditches, and swampy terrain, the British and German troops finally managed to wheel three guns into an ideal position to enfilade Woodford's brigade with grapevines. Two of the guns, three-pounders that were probably attached to the 2nd Battalion of Light Infantry, un- limbered along the unit's front, with nine companies on their left and another five companies advancing on their right. The third piece, a 12-pounder, set up between the battalions, with the 1st Light Infantry Bat- talion advancing on its right. From this advantageous po- sition, the British gunners rammed grapevines down the hot tubes and fired, spray- ing deadly iron rounds at an oblique angle into Wood- ford's line. Whether these metal balls were responsible for taking out the horses of Stephen's pair of field pieces is unknown, but the animals fell around this time and, when the infantrymen even- tually retreated, there was no way to take the invaluable field pieces with them. Woodford, struck in the hand, had also retired down the southern slope to dress his injuries.

While the British guns roared, the 2nd Light Infantry Battalion and jaegers, supported by the advance of Brigadier General James Agnew's 4th British Brigade, pressed Stephen's front. Five companies from the 2nd Battalion had finally man- aged to cross the marshy bottomland in front of Birmingham Hill and assault Scott's brigade on Stephen's left. "The fire of
Scott’s men held as long as possible, but Strong’s withdrawal exposed their left flank. When the patriot guns on the hill ceased firing, the 1st Light Infantry Battalion surged forward to close the distance, overwhelmed the front and engulfed the flank of Scott’s line, which collapsed and retreated down the back of Birmingham Hill into Sandy Hollow and beyond.

While Scott’s brigade was driven back, as late as 8:00 a.m. Woodford’s embattled brigade was still standing firm against the oncoming jaegers and blats of grapeshot. His men, however, were falling with uncomfortable regularity. Sergeant Noah Taylor and Ranks Dudley, both from the 7th Virginia Regiment, were taken out by flying metal. Colonel John Patton’s Additional Continental Regiment, least Independent Company, was attached to the 11th Virginia Regiment, least Private John Stewart with a wound in his left arm and Private Jacob Cook, with a shot to his right leg. Captain James Calderwood, whose independent company was attached to the 11th Virginia Regiment, was wounded and died two days after the battle. Eleven years later, his widow applied to the War Department for half-pay.

When the fighting intensified on his right, Lieutenant Colonel von Wurmb had the call to attack sounded on the half moon (haunting horns), and the jaegers, with the 52nd Regiment of Light Infantry, stormed up the heights. Despite Woodford’s best efforts, once Scott’s brigade on his left was swept away, it was simply impossible to remain in place for long. The final straw arrived on the opposite flank when von Wurmb’s jaegers struck Woodford’s right; a sergeant and six men worked around the American right to pick off men from the rear. Captain Johann Ewald recorded this tactic in his diary: “During the action Colonel Wurmb fell on the flank of the enemy, and Sergeant [Alexan- der Wilhelm] Rickett with six jaegers moved to his rear, whereupon the entire right wing of the enemy fled to Dilworth-town.” According to another account, Rickett’s movement around Stephen’s right flank put the Germanic troops in a good position to “inaccommodate[s] the enemy for a half hour.” Von Wurmb later wrote with pride that his jaegers “attacked them in God’s Name and drove them from their press.”

“They allowed us to advance till within one hundred and fifty yards of their lines,” remembered Lieutenant Martin Hunter of the 52nd Regiment of Foot’s light company, “when they gave us a vol- ley, which we returned, and then immediately charged. They stood the charge till we came to the last paling. Their line then began to break, and a general retreat took place soon after.” An unidentified officer with the 2nd Light Infantry Battalion described the assault from his perspective: “Our army Still gained ground, although they had great Advantages of Ground and their Cannon keep a constant fire on us. Yet We Neir Was daunted they all gave way.” According to the Journal Corps Journal, “the enemy retreated in confusion, abandoning two cannons and an ammunition caisson, which the Light Infantry, because they had attacked on the less steep slope of the height, took possession of.” Lieutenant von Felitzsch remembered the jaeger line “overpowered the enemy completely; the rebels retreated on all sides, we pursued them until it was 7 o’clock and dark.”

Stephens’s division ended up as scattered and difficult to organize as Sullivan’s broken command. Unlike Sullivan’s men, however, Stephens’s troops were in position and prepared when the British attacked, and accustomed themselves well. This was simply demonstrated when the jaegers reached the summit of the hill and realized that “many dead [Americans] lay on our front.” The 52nd’s Lieutenant Hunter admitted the Americans had “defended [their guns] to the last; indeed, several officers were cut down at the gates. The Americans never fought so well before, and they fought to great advantage.”

As the remnants of Sullivan’s, Strong’s and Stephens’s divisions retreated to the southeast, they crossed numerous farms — including property recently acquired by the Civil War Trust’s Campaign 1776 initiative — just west of Dilworthtown. Ultimately, elements of all three of these divisions were rallied and fought with Nathanael Greene’s division around dusk in the last action of the Battle of Brandywine about a mile south of Dilworthtown. The two armies continued to maneuver and spar over the next several days, forcing the Continental Congress to abandon Philadelphia and clear it of military supplies. Howe’s army marched into the city, which had been central to the Continental cause, unopposed on September 26, 1777. Though no victory for the patriots, their hard fighting at Brandywine made the British take notice.

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Before the British could torch the Capital of the United States, they had one last stop to make.

Bladensburg, Maryland, was essentially deserted.

Most of its inhabitants were long gone; fleeing ahead of the British troops rumored to be marching north from the small fishing village of Benedict. Unsure of where exactly its enemy would strike, the American army under Brigadier General William H. Winder had been both advancing and retreating for the last several days, exhausting itself in the search for the invaders. A political appointee, Winder had begun to show the strains of top-commanded, second-guessing himself and, ultimately, becoming too flustered to be an effective commander. The fact that President James Madison, Secretary of War John Armstrong, and Secretary of State James Monroe all countermanded the general’s instructions only added to his frustrations.
By dawn on August 24, 1814, it had become clear that Bladensburg was the British target, and Winder's dead-tired army was forced to march at full speed to get there first. Of the more than 6,500 troops at the general’s disposal, most were militia units from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, augmented by a small number of regular forces from the army, navy and marines. Although the Americans outnumbered the British, they were mostly raw and untested compared to the battle-hardened redcoats.

By contrast, British Major General Robert Ross commanded a force of nearly 4,500 troops, the bulk of them veterans, dubbed “Wellingtons Invincibles” from fighting the French in Spain and helping depose Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, these battle-hardened soldiers were now in the United States to make “Cousin Jonathan” — a pejorative term used by the British to describe their symbolic relationship to the American nation — pay for starting this little war. The Irish-born Ross, himself a veteran of many battles, had repeatedly distinguished himself under fire; the Duke of Wellington had personally chosen him to lead this expeditious force. His immediate subordinate was Rear Admiral George Cockburn, who was no stranger to the region.

Since early 1813, Cockburn had been terrorizing the Chesapeake Bay region. Some of his more infamous endeavors included the burning of Brentwood, a small village outside Washington, D.C. He had even made a feint up the Potomac toward Washington in mid-July 1813. There, the American militia turned out for an attack that never came and returned to the capital celebrating as if they had won a tremendous victory. After wintering in Bermuda, how- ever, Cockburn returned by February 1814, determined to strike at Washington. From his base on Tangier Island in Virginia, the British admiral renewed his campaign of raids with overwhelming success. Amid these incursions, hundreds of enslaved African Americans freed themselves from nearby plantations and sought refuge with the British. Nearly 200 such men took up arms against their former masters by joining the newly formed Corps of Colonial Ma- rines. Although initially wary of the nontraditional recruits’ abilities, Cockburn soon became confident they “will neither shew want of zeal or courage when employed by us in attacking their old masters.”

Not only were they gallant under fire, but their presence gave the battle- field an astonishing psychological impact on the Americans, which would be clearly demonstrated in the coming battle.

On August 24, the Americans arrived on the field first and began taking up positions just to the west of town facing the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River — today more commonly known as the An- casco — which was spanned by a small wooden bridge leading into Bladensburg. As midday drew near, the last increased dramatically, putting the soldiers at a disadvantage due to hasty. As his forces ar- rived piecemeal, Winder organized his army into three battle lines in a triangular formation along what Ross would later describe as “very commanding ground.” Light American troops, including George Cock- burn, the town and bridge. Secretary of State James Madison him- self placed a second line about 500 yards behind this, a distance that would prove to be too great to offer meaningful support. Commo- dore Joshua Barney, late of the Chesapeake Flotilla, commanded a flotilla and moved to the 3,000-yard line in the center.

President James Madison arrived on the battlefield around noon to confer with Winder. Mistakenly believing the general to be in town, and his small party were about to cross the bridge before being informed that the British had just taken Bladens- burg. The presidential party quickly retired behind the first line, at roughly the same time that Major General Ross began surveying the American defenses.

From his position, the British commander could plainly see the first line’s artillery concentrated on the bridge and town, but also that the bulk of his enemy’s forces were still arriving and being placed into line. Assessing the troops that were in line, Ross realized they were too far apart — packed troops and they could not support each other. Several sub- ordinates pushed for an attack right away, while others cautioned against it until the whole force was up and ready. In weighing his options, Ross was convinced by Cockburn that the militia would pose no threat and ordered an immediate attack, despite only having a portion of his force ready. At about 12.30 p.m., Colonel William Thomson’s Light Brigade stepped off to lead the Brit- ish assault; the remaining two brigades were still several miles away.

Thomson’s veteran light infantry, soldiers specially trained in rapid movement and execution of the charge, charged across a broad right that both impressed and intimidated the Americans. Never- theless, when the Baltimore Artillery opened up with its six-pound guns, killing several men outright and mangling the limbs of oth- ers, the remaining redcoats took cover whenever they can find it. American artillery kept the British pinned until Colonel Thor- enstand rode up and, bristling his sword, urged his men forward. “You see the British admiral knew how to use them!” he shouted, as he spurred his horse across the bridge. Despite a hail of artillery and small arms fire, the British attack was renewed with newfound vigor. Winding from his position in town, Ross instructed a sub- ordinate to get the remaining two brigades into action posthaste. Both he and Admiral Cockburn were delighted by this early phase.

Thomson’s assault was supported by salvos of Congreve rock- ets. These were wildly inaccurate and could terrify troops with their horrific screeching, but they were simple to launch and, in the ab- sent of any real artillery, had to do. As these hissing rockets blared over the American frontline — and President Madison’s position, Winder implored his commander in chief to take up a safer position. The president decided that it “would now be proper” for his party “to retire to the rear, leaving the military movement to military men.” With these first British salvos, James Madison be- came the first sitting American president to come under fire — a distinction only the soldiers at Gettysburg and those on Fort Stevens in July 1864.

Despite the initial effectiveness of its artillery, the first American line of light riflemen and American cavalry was fo- cused on the town and bridge. Secretary of State James Madison him- self placed a second line about 500 yards behind this, a distance that would prove to be too great to offer meaningful support. Commo- dore Joshua Barney, late of the Chesapeake Flotilla, commanded a flotilla and moved to the 3,000-yard line in the center.

When the redcoats arrived, they approached Barney’s position cautiously, wary of the large guns protecting the road. Only when the British were within
a few hundred yards of his line did the commodore order one of the 18-pounders to fire grape shot, cutting a wide swath in the lines of the advancing redcoats. Two more assaults were attempted and likewise bloodily repulsed, with Commodore Barney noting how “all were destroyed.”

Colonel Thornton decided that a new tactic was in order. Between Barney’s heavy artillery and Major Peter’s six-pounders, the British were being cut to pieces in a deadly crossfire. Skirting around the bottom of a ravine, he personally led a charge up the hill on the American right. Marines and riflemen charged into the British line as the 18-pounders poured grape shot into the British flank. It was at this point that Thornton was grievously wounded — shot in the thigh by a musket ball. The British advance faltered, and the Americans pushed them back several hundred yards. Ross and Cockburn arrived on scene and took stock of a situation that had turned suddenly grim for the British. General Ross personally took command of the Light Brigade, while Admiral Cockburn ordered rocket fire on Barney’s position. Although spurred, the sailors and marines could not sustain the attack in the face of an entire brigade.

Despite his horse being hit by grape shot, Ross led a renewed charge against Barney’s right flank. Maryland militia awaited the advance, but also broke and ran in the face of the counterattack. Simultaneously on the left flank, the District militia and U.S. regulars were informed of Winder’s order to retreat and, covered by the Georgetown Artillery, withdrew from the field in good order. The commanding general never informed Barney of the retreat, leaving the sailors and marines to fend for themselves. Enraged and disgusted that “not a single vestige of the American Army remained,” the commodore continued the fight. Gradually, his position was enveloped, and the guns were spiked after the artillery ran out of ammunition. Shot through the thigh, Barney managed to order his men to retreat before passing out due to blood loss. Stuck by gallantry and courage of Barney and his men, Ross and Cockburn were magnanimous in victory. “They have given us the only fighting we have had,” remarked the British admiral. Barney was immediately paroled by his captors and taken to Bladensburg to have his wounds tended. Despite being severely outnumbered, the commodore’s sailors and marines had gone toe to toe against more than 1,000 British troops and inflicted heavy casualties. But it was not enough to stop the invasion.

Several hours after their victory at Bladensburg, the British formed up and pressed on to Washington City. They arrived at the outskirts near Capitol Hill around dusk, where Major General Ross sounded the call for parley to discuss the terms for surrendering the city. As the government had fled, however, no one was left to respond to his call. Ross victoriously entered Washington to teach “Cousin Jonathan” a lesson he would not soon forget. As British forces entered the American capital, they received fire from the stately Sewall House on Capitol Hill. General Ross’s horse and two corporals from the 21st Foot were killed by these assaultants, members of Barney’s Chesapeake Flotilla. Ross had ordered that private property would be respected, so although the house was burned in retaliation, it was only one residence the British destroyed during the raid. The Americans had set fire to the Navy Yard themselves, but the redcoats targeted other military and government buildings, including the Capitol, the President’s House and the Treasury, as well as the State, War and Navy Department buildings. Overall, there were only a few instances of looting, and those caught were immediately punished. Following a deadly explosion at the Greenleaf Arsenal and severe storms in the city’s center, Ross and Cockburn determined that their time in Washington was at an end after just 26 hours, and began falling back to their ships. Thus ended the only foreign attack targeting America’s capital until the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

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BREAKING THROUGH TO THE OTHER SIDE

For nine months, the Confederate defenses of Petersburg held firm against repeated Federal assaults. They could not hold forever.

by EDWARD ALEXANDER
Plank Road, one of Petersburg's two remaining open supply lines. The infantry column would also serve to screen Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan's cavalry recently arrived from the Shenandoah Valley, which was to move through Dinwiddie Court House for the South Side Railroad. Expecting Lee to shift the Confederate dispositions to protect those lines, Grant instructed Parke, Wright and Maj. Gen. Godfrey Weitzel, who remained with the rest of the Army of the James near Richmond, to launch attacks against the Confederate entrenchments if they appeared weakened.

Wheeler, Humphreys and Sheridan set out on March 29, gaining Dinwiddie Court House without a contest and capturing another stretch of the Boydton Plank Road several miles closer to Petersburg after a brief engagement at Lewis Farm. Lee reacted to these developments by summoning what reserves he could spare — the cavalry under his nephew, Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, and Maj. Gen. George E. Pickett's infantry division — to transfer additional troops from their position closer to the city along the Boydton Plank Road to one four miles south along Hatchet's Run. The departure of a brigaded-and-a-half from around the Tabor Hall plantation opposite Wright's VI Corps left 10 regiments numbering 2,800 soldiers to man a male-and-a-half long stretch that, four days later, faced the brunt of an attack by Wright's entire command. March 30 proved to be a wash, heavy rains delaying the offensive for a day. His superior having sensed the stretched Confederate position, Wright received orders to attack the section of the Confederate line near Tabor Hall the next morning, but those orders were ultimately, albeit temporally, countermanded. Instead, Warren absorbed a withering, though outgunned, Confederate attack that day and eventually drove the Southerners back into their entrenchments along the White Oak Road, severing the link between the main line and Pickett, farther to the southwest, who spent the day driving Sheridan back to Dinwiddie Court House. Joined by Warren on April 1, Sheridan designed an attack against Pickett's position at the Five Forks intersection. With major combat in just its initial stages around that critical junction at 4:00 p.m., Meade sent the instructions for Wright to attack the Confederates in his front the following morning.

The V Corps' fresh troops must plan to form just one regiment of his command, some 14,000 men, in front of its own works near Fort Welch, using the position gained during the combat on March 25 as a staging ground. During the previous week, Brig. Gen. Lewis A. Grant had used the advanced position of the Union picket line to scout for weaknesses along the Confederate entrenchments. Had Grant identified a narrow ravine, the headwaters of Arthur's Swamp that wound its way from near Tabor Hall plantation toward the Union lines, widening as it flowed southeast.

Wheeler's division had been covered by thick pine woods when the armies arrived the previous October, but the encamped troops had timbered the ground over the course of their occupation. This ultimately exposed the ravine to view from the advanced picket position and, as the action shifted farther to the southwest, the beleaguered Confederates did not view the ravine as a point of sensitive vulnerability.

Lewis Grant pointed the ravine out to Brig. Gen. George W. Getty, commanding the division, who passed the intel up to Wright and Meade, who both concurred. Wright then set about devising specific instructions for his looming attack. Thus the Federal subordinate generals had already designated their objective, identified their tactics and written preliminary orders for the assault when Grant expanded Meade's previous plan to include an attack all along the lines.

After leaving the Union victory at Five Forks — and with it his preordained sacks of Warren — Grant wanted to continue to press the Confederates along the entire front. The overall Union commander frequently worried that he would wake up one morning and find the Confederates had evacuated Petersburg and Richmond, leaving his heavier, slower columns in their wake in a race he could not win. His dismissal of the unaggressive Warren and standing attack orders to Wright, Parke and Weitzel were intended to prevent that possibility. Now, on
the evening of April 1, Grant wanted to immediately follow up the good news from Five Forks with simultaneous attacks all across the front. However, Ord reported the terrain too difficult on his front, and Meade stated the impracticability of subordinate attacks that night. The Army of the Potomac’s commander instead chose to continue the plan he set forth in his previous orders that afternoon.

Around midnight, Wright’s men filed out of their trenches near Fort Welch and began forming behind their own picket line a half mile to their front, halfway across the distance between the rival sets of entrenchments. The Confederates, sentries, just a quarter mile out in front of their own main works, sensed the activity and fired blindly into the darkness. The VI Corps suffered significant casualties from the sporadic fire, wounding two mortally wounded regimental commanders, as well as the temporary loss of Lewis Grant to a head wound. Sharp discipline, including the muffling of wounded comrades and the removal of percussion caps from their rifle muskets, prevented excessive noise and any return fire that could tip the Confederates off to the strength of the gathering force. By 1:00 a.m., April 2, Wright’s men reached their designated locations in front of Fort Welch. Grant’s brigade of six Vermont regiments, new under command of Lt. Col. Amasa S. Tracy, formed in a column, with their left flank anchored along Arthur’s Swamp. The 5th Vermont Infantry lay just behind the Union picket line, with the 2nd, 6th, 3rd, 4th, and 1st Vermont Heavy Artillery (acting as infantry) stationed to their rear. Getty’s other two brigades, Col. Thomas W. Hildreth’s and James M. Brewer’s, similarly formed assault columns in echelon on the Vermonters’ right rear. Brig. Gen. Frank Wheaton continued the formation on the right flank, deploying his brigade along the High Bridge—Evers, James H. Proctor, and Joseph E. Hamblin in compact formation, with each to the right rear of the previous. Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Truman Seymour placed his two brigades, under Cols. J. Warren Keyser and William S. Trues, on the opposite side of Arthur’s Swamp, each deployed in three rows to the left rear of Getty.

The bluecoats lay silent on the cold, damp ground until 4:00 a.m., when a signal fired from Fort Wade spurred them to their feet. Rushing forward into the darkness, the Federals crossed the several hundred yards to the Confederate rifle pits without incident. Passing over the startled Confederates, who jogged the opposite way at prisoners, the attackers began to dig down once they struck the several lines of abatis in front of the Confederate earthworks.

Two companies of the 5th Vermont Infantry continued to rush forward at the tip of the wedge formation. Capt. Charles Gilbert Gould mistook a shout to “bear to the left” as a direct order and led 50 Vermonters out of the ravine. While his command bunched up as they sought to squeeze through a gap in the abatis, the young officer bolted ahead, scrambled up the ditch and mounted the parapet, saber in hand, to confront any Confederates he might encounter.

One of his comrades later recalled: “Capt. Gould rushed into the fort still alive, with nothing but his sword. The rebels came at him with swords, bayonets, and clubbed muskets. One bayonet was thrust into his mouth and through his cheek, and while in that position he killed the man with his sword. An officer struck him on the head with a sword and he was struck in the shoulder and wounded all over with clubbed muskets; but gave as good as he got.”

Corp. Henry Rees rushed forward and hacked his bayonet into Gould’s body back into the relative safety of the ditch below the earthworks. Meanwhile, Sgt. Jackson Sargent and Corp. Nelson Carle scaled the embankments and poured the regimental and national colors on the earthworks. As a dazed Gould was led to the rear, hand after hand, then dozens, then hundreds of Vermont infantry entered the thinly held Confederate works. After desperate hand-to-hand fighting — short in duration, but intense in violence — the outnumbered Southerners began surrendering on masse or retreating for Petersburg’s inner defenses.

The elated bluecoats lay畅通 on the Confederate encampments. Some stopped to rammage for souvenirs, while others pushed ahead for the Boydton Plank Road and the South Side Railroad beyond. Eventually, Wright swung his command south to Hatcher’s Run, sweeping the Confederates along the way before returning north to threaten Petersburg’s inner works.

Ord’s command advanced along the front toward Petersburg’s inner lines, overrunning brief, though desperate, defenses at Fort Gregg and Whitemouth. Federal divisions elsewhere fought on a wide front — Parke’s IX Corps battled against fierce Confederate resistance southwest of the city at Fort Mahone, a II Corps division secured a lodgement on the South Side Railroad farther to the west at Sutherland Station, and Sheridan cautiously pressed forward from Five Forks.

After learning of the death of Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill — who was shot by two Pennsylvanians on their return from wreacking the railroad on their own initiative — Lee telegraphed the Confederates laying through the Shenandoah: “You could see no further possibility of holding Petersburg past midnight. He advised the government’s immediate withdrawal from the capital and made plans to begin pulling his soldiers out of the trenches at both Petersburg and Richmond that evening.

Lee hoped to unite the various scattered remnants of his army at Amelia Court House, where they could follow the Richmond & Danville Railroad south toward North Carolina. But the decision of Wright’s victorious charge ultimately prevented that possibility. After frantic evacuations from both Petersburg and Richmond, the Confederate army could not gain ample breathing room to escape Grant’s pursuit.

One week later, on April 9, the Federals caught up to Lee at Appomattox Court House, where the Confederates general surrendered. President Jefferson Davis never bothered to reestablish the capital elsewhere, but the losses of the Army of Northern Virginia and Richmond convinced Southern generals elsewhere to yield the cause during the ensuing month.

Union casualties for the dramatic assault that came to be known as The Breakthrough totaled fewer than 4,000 — significantly less than at far more famous battles. Yet they contributed to one of the most decisive events of the war: the surrender of Lee’s army and the capture of Richmond. Capt. Gould — who survived his harrowing ordeal as the first soldier to reach the parapet during the Breakthrough, but was hampered by the lingering effects of his wounds for the remainder of his life — ultimately received the Medal of Honor for his sacrifice. Despite this, he had one thing on his mind when he wrote to inform his family of his tremendous participation that morning: “Am only sorry that I was wounded before I got into Richmond.”

Edward Alexander is author of Dawn of Victory: Breakthrough at Petersburg. He currently works as a park guide at Richmond National Battlefield Park and previously served as a ranger and historian at Pamplin Historical Park. A graduate of the University of Illinois he currently resides in Richmond, Va.
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
for Trust Student Contests

THE Civil War Trust is pleased to announce the winners of our 2017 student contests! Each year, the Trust sponsors a special prize at the National History Day competition. In addition, our Postcard and Essay Contests ask students to consider an annual theme — in 2017, “Preserving the Memory of the Civil War.”

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY SPECIAL PRIZE
Tate Green of the Clayton Bradley Academy in Tennessee won this year’s prize for his documentary entitled Divisions of Rebellion: The Hidden Stand and Sacrifice of the East Tennessee Bridge Burning.

POSTCARD CONTEST
Senior Division
Nandira Mahmud of Sayrevue Junior High, Bothell, Wash.
Eiken Nguyen of Traubler Junior High, Orwego, Ill.
MacKenzie Barnard of Central Fellowship Academy, Macon, Ga.

Junior Division
Viana Nguyen of Lakewood Creek Elementary, Montgomery, Ill.
Jacey L. of Johnson Elementary School, Bridgeport, W.V.
Carly Harshbarger of Central Middle School, Columbus, Ind.

ESSAY CONTEST
Senior Division
Joege R. Held of Powder River County District High School, Broomis, Mont.
Rebecca Schmitz of Fredericksburg High School, Fredericksburg, Texas
Scott Dernquet of Central Middle School, Columbus, Ind.

Junior Division
Zari Bruch of Central Middle School, Columbus, Ind.
Chase Jones of Central Middle School, Columbus, Ind.
Sam Ber Nebung of Central Middle School, Columbus, Ind.

“THANK YOU! Thank you! Thank you!” gushed one participant in the wake of the Trust’s annual National Teacher Institute. “I was blown away by it all. To be able to sneak away for that many days to study the Civil War was dream-like for me.”

For four days in mid-July, 176 teachers gathered in Memphis, Tenn., for one of the most highly regarded continuing education opportunities in the history and social studies community. Attendees participated in a series of outstanding workshops showcasing proven techniques for classroom engagement — from the esoteric (“Difficult and Broken Ground: The Terrain Factor at Shiloh” and “Memory and Memorialization at the National Civil Rights Museum”) to the tangible (practicing persuasive communication in “Drumbeat of the Regiment”) — and macro-scale-building community-building functions. Exceptional off-site tours of Shiloh National Military Park, ranging from intense five-hour hikes to tailored presentations created by National Park Service staff to showcase child-friendly interpretive techniques, formed the backbone of the event.

“I want to thank the Civil War Trust for preparing such a memorable event,” one guest wrote. “I probably would not have had the chance to visit Shiloh, but the Trust made it possible for me to go and share my experience with my students.”

Overall, attendees scored the event 9.46 out of 10, with virtually all participants declaring they would recommend the experience to friends and colleagues. Nearly 60 percent invested financially in the cause of preservation after attending, requesting that their refundable deposit should instead be directed toward Trust education programs.

A recurring element among many presentations was demonstrating the ways history can be made truly dynamic rather than dry: using high-resolution photos, artifacts or period-appropriate re-creations, online ancestry research, board games and even popular music to teach about the Civil War and civil rights. Memphis’ favorite son, Elvis Presley — who had his own connections to the Civil War — even featured in discussions! “The King of Rock ‘n Roll” began performing a mashup of “Thin,” “All My Trials” and the “Battle Hymn of the Republic” in 1972 as “An American Trilogy,” and the tune quickly became a crowd favorite.

The keynote speaker at Saturday evening’s banquet, New York Times-bestselling novelist Robert Hicks, author of The Widow of the South, A Separate Country and The Orphan Master, addressed the value of historical fiction in the classroom, drawing on his own experiences finding the right blend of history and storytelling in the tradition passed down to him through friendship with the legendary Shelby Foote.

The 2018 National Teacher Institute will be held in Valley Forge, Pa., and, for the first time, integrate material related to the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 as well as the Civil War. Interested teachers may want to reserve their spots early — 86 percent of 2017 attendees have already expressed their desire to join us again next summer!”
WHAT DO YOU GIVE the person who has everything? How about membership to the Civil War Trust which includes Hallowed Ground for all members! Perfect for Birthdays, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Birthdays or major holidays. Go to www.CivilWarTrust.org/giftmembership.

**GIVE THE GIFT of PRESERVATION!**

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**PAMPLIN HISTORICAL PARK**

Pamplin Historical Park and National Museum of the Civil War Soldier has earned a reputation as one of the most impressive museums and living history interpretive centers in the nation. The location’s campus also features antebellum homes, a slave life exhibit and centers for educational programs and special events.

But the crown jewel of the undertaking — and the very reason for its existence — is the underlying battlefields associated with the siege of Petersburg. In the early 1990s, a 100-acre property containing pristine earthworks erected in that campaign was put up for sale, the fledgling Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites worked with businessman and philanthropist Dr. Robert B. Pamplin, Jr., a descendant of the land’s wartime owners, to purchase the site. Following an additional $5 million investment, the museum and initial one-mile interpretive trail opened in June 1994 as the Pamplin Park Civil War Site, which soon grew through the acquisition and restoration of Tudor Hall, the plantation home of Pamplin’s ancestors.

Today, the 424-acre property includes the site where 14,000 federal soldiers broke through Confederatelines on April 2, 1865, leading to the surrender of Richmond and the Belle Isle House, which served as Ulysses S. Grant’s headquarters in the aftermath of the Breakthrough. Walking trails bring visitors battlefield stoopiers to a variety of landmarks, including monuments to the 66th Maryland (US) Infantry, the Vermont Brigade, and Lane’s North Carolina Brigade, pristine artillery ruins and earthworks, as well as the restored Hart House.

The latest and most significant addition to the network is the Petersburg Battleground Trail, which connects Pamplin with neighboring properties preserved by Petersburg National Battlefield and the Civil War Trust. This cooperative effort provides an unparalleled opportunity for visitors to explore the full breadth of the lands involved in the fighting.
In saving history, we made some history of our own.

TO MARK our 30th anniversary, the Trust has worked with historian Bob Zeller to publish a comprehensive study of modern efforts to set aside this hallowed ground. Fighting the Second Civil War: A History of Battlefield Preservation and the Emergence of the Civil War Trust, published by Knox Press www.knoxpress.com, is available online and wherever books are sold.

Get your copy today!

SALES BENEFIT BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION!