LAY of the LAND

HOW MAPS WERE CREATED AND SHARED
WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THEY WERE INACCURATE OR SIMPLY UNAVAILABLE?
MESSAGE from HEADQUARTERS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

If there is one thing that members of the American Battlefield Trust love — other than saving endangered battlefields land — it’s our maps.

You use them to scrutinize a land acquisition opportunity, determining if the project fits your favored reasons for contributing. You check what troops moved across it and guess how intense the fighting was. I know that many of you save each one you receive in the mail from us, bundling them together in binders and books to create a personal reference atlas covering years or decades of preservation activity.

You bring them out onto the field with you when you’re on a tour, giving them quite a work-out — turning them to orient you to the ground, folding and unfolding them in the heat and humidity. At the Annual Conference, we would get constant requests from people seeking “extra” maps from tours they hadn’t attended in person. So we began binding all the relevant maps together in a keepsake booklet. Then we decided that we should print those on especially robust paper so they could stand up to the weekend’s wear and tear — and still be suitable for reference when you return home.

If there has ever been an issue of Hallowed Ground for map lovers, it’s this one. You want to know how carefully gathered intelligence was transformed into cartography? See page 17. Curious about the kind of impact a good — or bad! — map could have upon a general on the field? That’s page 20.

What about how period maps help us determine the historic significance of a property? Page 24. How does the type of satellite mapping found on your smart phone inform the work of the Trust? Check page 33. And possibly the most frequent map-related question we receive: What is the process behind creation of the Trust’s signature battle maps? Well, meet our long-time cartographer on page 16.

I hope that you’ll learn something new in this issue — find a new way to look at these incredible primary resources or come away with greater ability to interpret modern maps. Please take your newfound skills to our website and explore the nearly 500 maps online at www.battlefields.org.

Jim Lighthizer
President, American Battlefield Trust

MAP ISSUE

THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

BATTLEFIELDS FROM ALL ANGLES

WE HAVE recently refreshed our 360° Virtual Tours for mobile devices and for speedier experiences. View our panoramic tours and jump from scene to scene to explore compelling photography, historic details, battle highlights, points of interest, and more. Look for the “360” symbol to indicate availability.

The Antietam, Chancellorville, Chattanooga, Cold Harbor, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, North Anna, Spotsylvania, Totopotomoy and Wilderness battles are currently available. Many more on the way, including some Revolutionary War battles! Try viewing the rich battlefield landscapes with a VR headset to get a real immersive experience. It’s the closest thing to being there. www.battlefields.org/360

CARTOGRAPHIC CATALOGUE

A NEW VIDEO featuring our chief historian Garry Adelman as he guides you through the key features to look for when studying a Trust battle map. From terrain contours to fence types, these maps are packed with information and you’ll gain a new appreciation for just how much can be learned from them. www.battlefields.org/ourmaps

MOUNT YOUR OWN FIELD EXPEDITION

HAVING READ our latest article on how Jayhawkers, bushwhackers and other guerrillas used deep local knowledge of the terrain to wage war, are you inspired to head out and explore the Trans-Mississippi Theater? Check out our newest itineraries for greater St. Louis and greater Kansas City to find suggested places to eat, stay and play while you explore history. www.battlefields.org/libraries

www.battlefields.org
AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST
JOHN BROWN’S RAID SITE JOINS
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

TRUST-PROTECTED PROPERTY AT ALSTADT’S CORNER PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE ABOLITIONIST RAID AND THE 1862 BATTLE


IN AUGUST 17, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park grew meaningfully, with an event marking the ceremonial transfer of 35 acres known as Alstadt’s Corner. The property, purchased by the Trust in 2014, includes a structure that played a key role in abolitionist John Brown’s 1859 raid, while the larger historical farm figured prominently in the 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry.

“The events at Alstadt’s Corner shaped our nation,” Park Superintendent H. Tyreene Brandyburg said. “This generous donation to the American people allows the National Park Service to preserve this important place, its lessons and its stories forever. It’s an honor to be entrusted with its care.”

In facilitating the property’s purchase, the American Battlefield Trust received a matching grant from the federal American Battlefield Protection Program and an exceptional gift from Ellistonville Plantation, Inc. Assistance in the process was provided by our National Park Foundation, the State of West Virginia Division of Culture & History and the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission.

“This is just the latest example of the Trust working alongside Harpers Ferry National Historical Park to protect the critical landscapes involved in some of the most dramatic chapters of American history,” said American Battlefield Trust board member Lt. Gen. Richard Mills, who spoke on behalf of the organization. “Nine times since 2002, we have joined together with fellow conservation groups in set aside 542 acres associated with the 1862 battle.”

The original structure housing Alstadt’s Ordinary (or tavern) was built circa 1790. On October 16, 1859, when John Brown launched his raid on Harpers Ferry, he ordered a detachment of his forces to go to Charles Town and capture prominent prisoners. On their return to Harpers Ferry, the party stopped at Alstadt’s Ordinary, kicking in the front door to capture John H. Alstadt, his son John Thomas Alstadt and seven slaves. Ultimately, Brown and his raiders were compelled to surrender the federal arsenal, they had seized, and Brown was hanged for his crimes.

Almost three years later, the Battle of Harpers Ferry was fought on September 12–15, 1862, when Confederates forces surrounded and besieged the town. Unable to mount any breakout attempt past the Confederates massed around the turnpike at Alstadt’s Ordinary, the 12,000-man Union garrison was forced to capitulate. It was the largest surrender of U.S. forces during the Civil War.

“It was particularly rewarding to work with the NPS and the American Battlefield Trust to preserve this unique and fascinating historic structure,” said Roxanne Quimby of Ellistonville Plantation, Inc. “I learned a great deal about the era and the story of Alstadt’s Ordinary, as well as enjoyed having the opportunity to admire the beautiful landscape of the region. It’s gratifying to see the culmination of our efforts come to fruition.”

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS
Preservation’s voice for a new generation

with their elected officials as part of the Trust’s first Youth Lobby Day on Capitol Hill.

“Without the youth perspective, we are denying the future leadership,” said Trust President Jim Lighthizer. “Informing the public about the importance of preserving our history and our heritage is a priority. We want to give young people the opportunity to be involved in the preservation movement.”

As of the date of this article, the Trust had already taken part in numerous youth events, including the “Youth in the Workforce” event, which was attended by hundreds of students from across the country.

“You can’t do this alone,” Lighthizer said. “We have to work together, and we have to work with our young people.”
FROM THE TRENCHES

BREAKING PRESERVATION NEWS

KENTUCKY MEMORIES

2019 Annual Conference Recap

A Braham Lincoln once said, “I think to lose Kentucky nearly the same as to lose the whole game.” But during the American Battlefield Trust 2019 Annual Conference, members enthusiastically toured the Bluegrass State, enjoying top-notch tours, exceptional lectures and presentations, beautiful scenery and warm fellowship during their stay.

Tours destinations included Civil War sites at Manassas, Perryville, Richmond, Shelby’s Bend, Camp Wildcat and Camp Nelson, as well as battlefields and destinations associated with Revolutionary War military history and the adventures of legendary frontiersman Daniel Boone. The lineup of expert tour guides and speakers featured Garry Adelman, Kent Masterson Brown, Daniel Davis, A. Wilson Greene, Nikky Hughes, Christopher Kokolski, Richard McMurry, Lawrence Peterson, Phillip Seyfried, Stuart Sanders, Darryl Smith, Dr. Amy Taylor and Christopher White.

As always, the Trust used the occasion to present its annual Preservation Awards, recognizing extraordinary achievements in the field of battlefield protection. Among this year’s honorees were the following: novelist and champion of Tennessee’s Franklin Battlefield Robert Hicks received the Edwin C. Bearss Lifetime Achievement Award; Joni House, site manager of Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site, received the Shelby Foote Preservation Legacy Award; and the Kentucky Heritage Land Preservation Fund and Kentucky State Parks, which each received the State Preservation Leadership Award.

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Top two rows by MIKE TALPLACIDO
Bottom two rows by BUDDY SECOR

LEF TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM: On the field at Perryville. The red roof barn serves as a landmark on the battlefield at Richmond. Trust chief historian Garry Adelman leads a tour of Perryville for members including Jim Wilen, Wayne Bassen, Harry Balchey, Garry Adelman, John Rigby, Larry Seidler, Jackie Ericks, Meghan McManus (scholarship winners). Joe Kelln for The Historic Fayette County Courthouse in downtown Lexington. Exploring Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument, one of the newest units within the National Park System. Trustee Bob and Lynne Hahn. Trust President Jim Lightner with Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Robert Hicks; A beautiful day on the Perryville Battlefield. Color Bearers Amber Lee and Trustee Kate Kelly.

STAR OF STAGE, SCREEN AND HISTORY

Actor Steve Zahn takes a leading role in preserving Perryville

OU MAY RECOGNIZE HIM from his role in ABC’s “The Crossing,” providing motion capture talent for “War for the Planet of the Apes” or playing guitar alongside Tom Hanks in “That Thing You Do!” But perhaps you would do better to consider him in a different light, as a farmer and outdoorsman, history lover and preservationist.

For a decade and a half, Steve Zahn has owned a farm outside Lexington, Ky., raising horses and goats, and enjoying the beauty and the history of the surrounding countryside. He started a local theater company during his downtime from Hollywood, but that is hardly his only contribution to the surrounding community; he has also become a leading advocate for Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site.

As hundreds of American Battlefield Trust members and staff gathered in Lexington this May for our Annual Conference, Zahn joined in the festivities, speaking at the Color Bear Dinner. He also joined the Trust’s education team on a very special tour of the Perryville Battlefield, musings on our opportunity to protect the proverbial “hole in the donut” — the last critical portion of the battlefield still in need of preservation.

“I spent several hours with Steve over the course of three days, and I can tell you he knows his stuff,” reported Trust chief historian Garry Adelman. “He needed no coaching as we walked the battlefield, and he told me about which regiment or which battery fought where at which time of day.”

A lifelong lover of history, Zahn reports that among his great regrets as a chespin is not playing a role in a major historical epic, like Gettysburg. Ride with the Devil or “Free State of Jones” earlier in his career. Instead, he made the most of being on a Confederate ironclad with Matthew McConaughey and Penelope Cruz and in playing with Civil War miniatures in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid movies. Now, however, he is thrilled to be on set filming a forthcoming miniseries “The Great Lord Bird,” which dramatizes John Brown’s Raid on Harper’s Ferry.

But his love of the past is more than the-
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

One dozen students and educators join attendees at Annual Conference

ACH YEAR, hundreds of history lovers and preservationists gather for the American Battlefield Trust’s Annual Conference. Some attendees are long-timewar veterans of the field of military history, and others are new to the world of battlefield preservation. And, among those, are a handful who have yet not finished their undergraduate degrees, according to the Trust’s scholarship program.

In 2019, 12 individuals — six students and six teachers — attended the conference through the scholarship program. They were selected via a competitive process and received comprehensive conference registration, as well as lodging and travel expenses and meal costs for the event.

And they enjoyed the experience mightily.

“The best part of the conference for me was the knowledge of everyone involved and the passion and focus of the participants,” reflected teacher scholarship recipient Jeff Scott, Ph.D. “I was in awe of how many people had such knowledge of battlefields and how important it was for them to enhance the learning and understanding of people in our country.”

This sense of camaraderie was also memorable for student recipient Christian Spencer, who noted, “Each member was extremely welcoming, and I looked forward to every event where I could meet new people and have great conversations!”

This year’s student scholars were underwritten by support from Trustee Mary Abbe and her late husband Mike; Carol Beavers and Dave Dean Kreidler; Susan Malone Tramontin; and Pat and Nancy Crago, in memory of their ancestor Peter Long, and the estate of Patricia Kay Davies. Teacher scholarships were provided by Carol Beavers John Dudnik and Trustees Bill Hopp and Mary Abbe, together with her late husband Mike.

In the decade since it began, the scholarship program has grown significantly. It is advertised via university history departments and various social media channels. Demonstrating that they will be natural fits for the Trust community, applicants craft their packages with care — and the favor is returned by the sponsors as they review the materials.

“This was my first year to review the candidates, both teachers and students,” said scholarship sponsor Nancy Crago. “I really enjoyed discussing each candidate and making the choices. I was so excited to read the applications letters I could not wait to get to Lexington to meet these wonderful people.”

For Abbe, a long-time history professor, support of the scholarship program is a natural extension of her ongoing commitment to the Trust’s education programming:

“Walking a historic battlefield is an immersive experience, one in which our senses are firing on all cylinders; there’s nothing quite like it,” Abbe said. “One past scholarship recipient, a fifth- and sixth-grade teacher from Arizona, described her Appomattox visit to me as follows: ‘I was able to feel that special energy that only comes from being on a battlefield... Thanks to your tour of Lee’s Retreat, my students have a better understanding of how it feels to be traveling with an army. My time there, like the time spent by this year’s awardees, becomes a ripple effect that touches all those they touched — and their experience becomes a force multiplier that carries their passion for history and preservation into the future and beyond.’

The full class of 2019 Conference student scholarship winners included: Michael Elver of Temple University; Joseph Santor of the University of Delaware and Christian Spencer of North Carolina State University; Joshua Cameron of Cambridge University; Danielle Powers of Washington and Lee University; and Megan Muller of the University of Delaware.

We were also pleased to welcome these six classroom educators as teacher scholarship recipients: Stephanie Behr of Lincoln Preparatory Academy, Arizona; Hannah Boman of Berkshire Junior/Senior High School, Ohio; Ann DeTurk of Hartland Elementary School, Vermont; Annemarie Grey of the Alabama School of Fine Arts, Alabama; Kathleen Roberts of Starzburg High School, Virginia; and Jeff Scott of Duke Country North High School, Georgia.

Full information and application procedures for the 2020 Conference Scholarship program toward attendance and next year’s event is available at www.battlefields.org/annualconference. The submission window opens in January, with recipients notified in early April.

NEW CONTENT invigorates Trust YouTube channel

HE INTERNET is full of people seeking information about countless topics in American history. With industry data suggesting that an increasing number of internet users are turning directly to YouTube with their queries, regardless of subject, the Trust has thoughtfully tailored its channel to meet the needs of these researchers.

The Trust has a new way to appeal to everyone who has a burning question about American history and needs a succinct — but authoritative — answer. Battlefield U, our new YouTube-based video series, tackles commonly asked questions with lightning-strike answers suitable for all audiences.

“Thanks to 21st-century technology, learning about American history is no longer confined to the classroom, and we’re able to reach a much broader audience than armchair generals who have already read significantly on the subject,” said Trust President Jim Lightner. “Multimedia content is an ideal entry point for those who are just venturing into the field of history, and Battlefield U is a simple and effective means to introduce the many resources that the Trust provides through its website and other media channels.”

Battlefield U is not the Trust’s first foray into educational video content; it joins others on a robust YouTube channel that adds at least one video every week. The long-running In the Order series provides significantly more content on specific topics, and the War Department invites experts to venture into analysis of events, in addition to relaying historical facts. Your State in the Civil War videos trace local connections throughout the broader course of history, and Animated Maps provide unparalleled perspectives on individual battles or campaigns — plus long-form videos covering the entire Revolutionary War and Civil War. In all, more than 500 videos are available on the Trust’s YouTube channel.

BRANDY STATION BATTLEFIELD ANNIVERSARY

500 luminaria crown Fleetwood Hill

O MARK the 156th anniversary of the Battle of Brandy Station, the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance partnered with the Liberty Rifles, an authentic living history unit, to place 500 luminaria along the Fleetwood Hill interpretive trail. Each flickering luminaria represented 10 soldiers who were killed, wounded, captured or went missing during the three battles fought in Culpeper County during 1862 and 1863.

“Every time you read a number in history, for example, the 1,400 casualties suffered at Brandy Station, it’s so incredible easy to normalize those staggering numbers through the lens of the past, and to quickly make them imperceptible,” Michael Clarke, the Liberty Rifles’ leader told the Culpeper Courier-Express. “Any way that we can make those numbers more tangible, we better remember their sacrifices and struggles.”
WELCOME, NEW MILITARY MEMBERS!

Thousands joined thanks to special offer during month of July

IN JULY, members of the Trust’s Alumni Board gathered at Antietam National Battlefield for a weekend of reunion, connection and discussion. This new group is made up of veteran members of our Board of Trustees who remain eager to be involved in our mission despite their official tenure on that body ending. The Trust is thrilled to continue working with them in this capacity, taking advantage of their considerable institutional knowledge and enthusiasm for our cause. We look forward to the many contributions that we know the Alumni Board will make toward our success in the future.

REMEmBERING

Lester G. “Ruff” Fant

Bころ, after his passing, when the Board of Trustees gathered for its meeting in Lexington, Ky., Trustee Don Barrett offered the following tribute to our late chairman emeritus: “Ruff Fant served on the board of the old Civil War Trust from 1995 to the time of the merger in 1999. He was chairman from 1997 through 1999, and at the very first meeting of the newly merged organization, really the first time he had to be the chairman, he actually proposed rearranging the board, didn’t actually tell us what to do. We were practically shocked. He brought that into the board in 2014, serving again with distinction and great dedication.”

“Ruff was a true gentleman to everyone, but he was especially esteemed by many of the senior staff. Ruff would, of course, never take any credit for anything good that happened, instead taking the time graciously to recognize a staff member.”

FOR THE 17th consecutive year, Hallowed Ground has won accolades in the APEX awards for Publication Excellence! Several recent layouts were also recognized by the International Society of Publication Designers in New York City.

VETERANS for BATTLEFIELDS

A BROTHERHOOD OF SERVICE

HERE WAS A TIME when Pete Brown imagined that he might be a history professor, but those modern realms of public history owe a great deal to the fact that he took a different, less conventional path. Instead, through a circuitous route, he found himself here in Antietam, standing with his wife Julia and brought thousands of people to walk the ground of important places across the country and around the world.

In recognition of his tremendous contributions to the field of history and preservation by introducing its guests to the power of a place to open windows to the past, Pete and Julia Brown are the most recent recipients of the Trust’s Edwin C. Bezard Lifetime Achievement Award.

“The goals [for HistoryAmerica] were pretty simple,” said Pete, “Making the experience so personal that the participants … fall in love with history by being on the site of great events in the company of a well-respected historian.”

Named in 1984, the Brown’s tours were synonymous with well-planned logistics. That was no small feat and required extensive scouting. In hosting 500 events over almost 20 years, the couple visited more than 1,000 historic sites from numerous eras — virtually all the American conflicts from the Revolutionary War through WWI and even unexpected events like the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927.

Their favorite stops?

“Some of them that jump out to me are obvious places like Gettysburg, Antietam and Little Big Horn. Others, further off the beaten track, are Saratoga, Trophy Point at the U.S. Military Academy, St. Clair’s Defeat in Ohio and the Near Pierre Trail in Idaho. In Mexico, we found Buena Vista and Cerro Gordo to be critical turning points. The Bridge Too Far at Arnhem in the Netherlands was outstanding, as was the Kiel Gorge Trail in the Hunsruck Forest of Germany.”

With a business model based on the importance of physical places, Pete reports, “Starting Battlefields became of great importance if we wanted to stay in business,” leading to a close working relationship with the Trust. “Preserve, educate and inspire gradu­ally the cycle to work in partnerships. Working at a big picture now, the umbrella organization is a dream come true. HistoryAmerica helped people fall in love with history, and we take great pride in that.”

Pete & Julia Brown receive Lifetime Achievement Award

Former Marine and wife pioneered battlefield visitation with HistoryAmerica Tours

TOP TO BOTTOM: Pete and Julia Brown in 2007, shortly after receiving an Athena Award. Pete with NPS Chief Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss, who became a close friend and mentor, increasing Brown’s pride in having been named in the Corps, and in the presentation. A highlight of Pete’s career, including American Battlefield Trust Trustee Bill Whitaker with Drs. Ed Bearss, landing on Red Beach, Guadalcanal, where Bearss served safely in WWII.WGBH accommodations aboard the Queen Charlotte to tour history. America greatly enjoys numerous battlefield visits in style.

Service. Beazs organized a tour of Nathan Bedford Forrest sites that filled an entire bus and set a new precedent. The Browns continued to seek out other groups who could lead groups through their specialties. They also created a relationship with the Delta Queen Steamboat Company, which they par­ticipated in expertise that served them well in other theaters, too.

“We eventually discovered that small ships had repositioning cruises, and we could turn their sites into history cruises. For example, a ship going from Malys to Spain could be coaxed into doing the Italian Campaign of 1915 from firstly Rome if we could bring the people, which we did.”

Whether it was a small ship serving as a floating hotel or multiple lodgings along a bus route, the Browns’ tours were synonymous with well-planned logistics. That was no small feat and required extensive scouting. In hosting 500 events over almost 20 years, the couple visited more than 1,000 historic sites from numerous eras — virtually all the American conflicts from the Revolutionary War through WWI and even unexpected events like the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927. Their favorite stops?

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Rappahannock Station Battlefield Park

BENTONVILLE, N.C.
IN MARCH 1865, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman divided his force as he marched north into the Carolinas. Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston confronted an isolated wing 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 May, the Trust purchased three acres at Bentonville with the assistance of the federal American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), land that will be stewarded until its transfer to Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site. The Trust has now protected a total of 1,164 acres at Bentonville.

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

The Trust has recently completed two transactions at Champion Hill, a 10-acre property and a 58-acre property, the latter owned by egg producer Cal-Maine Foods, Inc. Both will eventually be transferred to the National Park Service as part of the ongoing expansion of Vicksburg National Military Park to include other engagements from the campaign. The Trust has cumulatively protected 866 acres at Champion Hill.

COLD HARBOR, VA.
The BATTLE of Cold Harbor is remembered as the culmination of the Overland Campaign and one of the bloodiest engagements of the Civil War. Beginning on May 31, Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant ordered a series of hopeless frontal assaults, finally shifting his army to threaten Petersburg on June 12.

In January, the Trust closed on two properties totaling nearly 82 acres at Cold Harbor, both of which will someday become included in the Richmond National Battlefield Park. We have now saved a total of 182 acres at Cold Harbor.

FORT BLAKEY, ALA.
MANY HAVE called the Battle of Fort Blaekley in Alabama “the last stand of the Confederate States.” The battle, fought on April 9, 1865, Confederate fortifications. This achievement adds to the Trust’s earlier 67-acre success at Fort Blaekley.

GETTYSBURG, PA.
ON JULY 1, 1863, Confederate forces converged on the town from the west and north, additional seven acres in conservation easement. This major preservation effort, one of the largest in Trust history, was accomplished with funding nearly entirely by Trust members. The Trust has now protected a total of 1,183 acres at Gettysburg.

NEWTOWN, N.Y.
CONTINENTAL FORCES were frequently plagued by negative encounters with the British-aided Iroquois Nation in upstate New York, then representing the American western frontier. To prevent further disturbances General John Sullivan moved against the Iroquois Nation. The August 29, 1779, Battle of Newtown was the decisive action of his campaign to subdue the threat, setting precedent for future military treatment of Native peoples in the process.

In June, the Trust completed the acquisition of 68 acres at Newtown with the assistance following his partial victory at Reusell Station. Maj. Gen. George G. Meade ordered an assault against Lee’s infantry along the Rappahannock River on November 7, 1863. The single pontoon bridge at Rappahannock Station was overrun in a brutal nightime bayonet attack, forcing Lee to retreat south.

In February, the Trust acquired 200 acres at Rappahannock Station with the assistance of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, and ABPP. Should the Commonwealth enact legislation to create a state park honoring the battles fought in Calverly County, the Trust will transfer this land to the state as part of that process. The Trust has now protected a total of 665 acres at Rappahannock Station.

SARATOGA, N.Y.
IN THE FALL OF 1777, British grand strategy called for a coordinated three-pronged offensive that would converge on Albany. N.Y. British General John Burgoyne’s army advanced south from Canada to the small village of Saratoga. After sharp fighting on September 19, the British dug in, only to be defeated in a second attack on October 7. Ten days later, Burgoyne surrendered his army, a decisive victory that helped persuade France to ally with the American cause.

In February, the Trust completed the acquisition of six acres at Saratoga that will eventually be transferred to Saratoga National Historical Park. The Trust has now protected total of 26 acres at Saratoga.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN, MD.
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 bought Lee precious time and set the stage for the Battle of Antietam.

During March, the Trust worked with ABPP and the State of Maryland Highway Administration’s Transportation Enhancement grant program to purchase 18 acres that will laterly be donated to South Mountain Battlefield State Park. The Trust has now protected a total of 665 acres at South Mountain.

WILSON’S CREEK, MO.
The BATTLE of Wilson’s Creek was fought on August 10, 1861, just a few weeks after the First Battle of Manassas, about 5,000 miles away in the Trans-Mississippi Theater. This Confederate victory buoyed Southern sympathizers in Missouri, serving as a springboard for a bold thrust north and a trump campaign to pass an ordinance of secession.

This spring, the Trust worked with the Wilson’s Creek Battlefield Foundation to acquire six acres that were immediately transferred to the Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield. The Trust has now protected a total of 378 acres at Wilson’s Creek.
FIELD REPORTS
LOCAL PARTNERS AND ALLIES

WITH THE BUSY SUMMER travel season now closed, historic sites across the country can take stock of another successful cycle greeting and educating visitors. And contrary to con- jecture, battlefield parks, at least, continue to expe- rience a steady stream of history lovers and families eager to explore their landscapes.

Popular opinion seems to hold that nostalgic activities like the family road trip, replete with vis- its to national parks and other significant sites, are on the decline, a misconception furthered by dire

BATTLEFIELD TOURISM STRONG

reporting in a May Wall Street Journal article. Deeper analysis of visitation data, however, paints a far more nuanced and accurate picture.

In-depth study of annual visitation data to a selection of National Park Service (NPS) units by the Harhinger Consulting Group, which has a long asso- ciation with the Park Service and the Trust, found an adjusted 26 percent increase in visitors to battlefield parks between 1990 and 2018. This trend is born out by the experience of Stone’s River National Battlefield, which experienced its fourth—ever highest visitation in 2018. And that was hardly an anomaly, considering that 2018 set the all-time record. In broader terms, visitation to Stone’s River has increased notably in the last three decades, nearly 40 percent.

When examining historical trends, it’s important to note some limitations in the available data. As National Park Service officials testified under oath to mem- bers of Congress, “Prior to the mid-1980s, no standard service-wide system existed for counting visitors. As a result, a considerable amount of mathematical errors and double-counting occurred.” Thus, it is deeply problematic to base assump- tions on earlier, flawed information, which can distort results and lead to erroneous conclusions. NPS has been working to improve the accuracy of its visitation numbers for decades, developing and implementing site-specific counting instruc- tions for each of its parks. “In raw numbers,” NPS has taken pains to emphasize, “the combined effect of these changes sometimes looked like a decline or an increase in visitation, in fact when the change was the result of more accurate counting.”

Relying on statistics from the 1970s may provide startling anecdotes and riveting media trend stories, but not reliable comparison.

Moreover, statistics know that looking only at an individual year’s numbers will not always render accurate longitudinal trends. A hurricane that closes the park for repair work can skew outcomes, for example, so would a broken in-street counter over a major holiday weekend. Conversely, events unrelated to the park’s mission could be a one-time draw — the 2016 record at Stone’s River was aided by those coming to the park for optimal view- ing of that summer’s solar eclipse. Instead, multiyear averages paint a more accurate picture, prompting Harhinger to compare the averages in the period 1990-1992 (once rigorous system-wide metrics were in place) and 2016-2018, noting a 21 percent increase across the parks at Antietam, Chickamauga and Chattanooga, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania, Gettysburg, Richmond, Shiloh and Vicksburg.

Using more reliable figures heralds a promising future for battlefield tourism and illustrates the powerful effect of preservation on visitation. A perfect case in point: At the dawn of the new millennium, Richmond National Battlefield Park was home to fewer than 1,000 acres of preserved battle- field land and was often host to fewer than 100,000 visitors each year. Today, the park has grown to comprise nearly 6,000 acres in and around Virginia’s capital — welcoming just under 200,000 visitors last year alone. This, in turn, creates tremendous eco- nomic benefits. Whereas travelers to the Old Dominion typically spent $559 per trip in Fiscal Year 2018, the Virginia Tourism Corporation found, heritage travel- ers in particular spent $1,116 per trip during the same time period. A 2017 report prepared for Preservation Virginia by the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis at Virginia Commonwealth University calculated that heritage travelers to the state spend a total of $7.7 billion per year, generating 1.3 billion in taxes and supporting more than 105,000 jobs.

While it is an ever-present challenge to make history relevant to modern audiences, it is now that historians and preservationists are rising to meet, both- ersly and admirably. In part, they do this by seeking to expand their audience, drawing visitors from beyond their traditional demographic, and making a col- lective commitment to transforming it into an opportunity to augment current visitation.

PAGE FROM THE PAST
TANGIBLE LINKS TO HISTORY

HOW TO READ OUR MAPS
A WEALTH OF INFORMATION

National Park Service–authorized boundaries indicate whether preserved lands would be eligible for transfer or donation to the park.

Shadings show the preservation work done by the National Park Service, the Trust and other partner groups.

Different shades among troop positions indicate multiple phases of battle, with timing reflected in the legend.

Minor roads from modern subdivisions help orient you when visiting the site in person.

With Trust maps typically a top result in online searches, including descriptive information of this type helps introduce new audiences to our work.
“MAP BY STEVEN STANLEY”
Meet the researcher and artist behind our maps

Detailed maps showing historical features and troop movements alongside modern preservation status have become virtually synonymous with the American Battlefield Trust. These hallmark products—a constantly growing body of work already in the hundreds—are all the work of historic cartographer Steve Stanley.

VEN THE YEARS. Stanley has charted a career path that prioritizes strong working relationships with organizations like the Trust, parks and other historical organizations. This is work he feels “honors the men who fought and died there in both the education and the preservation of the battlefields” through his mapmaking.

“Saving our heritage has long been a passion of mine, and with my talent of producing the battle maps, I can keep pursuing that passion.”

Stanley’s love of history stretches back to high school and was nurtured by checking out Bruce Catton’s books from the local library and taking family trips to battlefields at Fredericksburg, Gettysburg and New Market.

A graphic designer by training, he became involved in historic cartography while serving on the board of directors for the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and was approached about creating a large-format, 25-sheet map set of the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House.

“After creating that map, I started working on maps for other individuals and organizations,” Stanley recalls, “but I wanted to create my own look and feel by adding in details like modern roads grayed in the background, so that the reader or user of the map could orient themselves on the battlefield in present day.”

Stanley’s relationship with the Trust began in 1998, meeting the staff when he attended an event. He initially worked on individual display projects. Then, in 2000, he was asked to produce a special map for the newly merged Civil War Preservation Trust to include in a mailing to raise funds for the purchase of the Widow Pence Farm on the Cross Keys Battlefield. That means of conveying the importance of a particular property truly resonated with members.

To create a map, Stanley first must find the physical location of the battlefield, which can be surprisingly difficult for some lesser-known sites. After laying out that essential perimeter, he pulls together primary sources and other materials to begin placing troops on the battlefield. It isn’t a neat process. “My wife knows when I am getting deeply involved in creating a new map by the mess around me!”

To accurately render topographical features from the Civil War period, he typically references old maps, as the landscape may have changed significantly over time. Before the U.S. Geological Survey reworked its modern topographical maps to be more user-friendly for cartographers, Stanley had to hand draw each topographical element, a process that might take several hours—or several days, depending on terrain.

It’s the details that make a map come to life, and so Stanley adds historical and modern roads, water features—whether small streams or major rivers—historical buildings and period farm fields and tree lines. Once the base map with these physical features is complete, he turns to the action of the battle. Mythical actions contribute to determining where units were located and what their movements were during the battle.

“The maps I’ve collected have gotten me in the general vicinity, but it is really the primary and contemporary resources that get the troops moving correctly. After I feel I have the troops in the correct positions... I will send the maps to a historian for that battle and have them check my work.”

Historians greatly value Stanley’s efforts, and in addition to his work with the Trust, he has served as the designer for America’s Civil War magazine and provided maps for more than 60 books. Recently, his repertoire has expanded beyond the Civil War, into both the 18th and 20th centuries, and he produces work for the Italian magazine WARS★
AT THE OUTSET
OF THE CIVIL WAR.

it was immediately clear that the mapping resources available to commanders on both sides were woefully insufficient. In most cases, state legislatures issued medium-format maps of their territories at a scale of five miles to one inch, meaning they lacked necessary detail. Moreover, although they had been updated by state governments in the 1850s, the base maps might be decades old; the state maps of Maryland and Virginia — the most likely theater of war, given the location of the warring sides’ capitals at Richmond and Washington, D.C. — originally dated to 1841 and 1826, respectively.

Commercially produced county-level maps, often at a far better scale of one inch to a mile, were snatched up by commanders whenever the opportunity presented itself, including through confiscation or subterfuge, as the Confederate army did when it plotted its 1863 invasion of Pennsylvania.

Despite the lack of existing maps that plagued both sides, the Union war effort was at a material advantage, in that it had infrastructure in place that could be mustered toward the challenge. Swiftly, the U.S. Army’s Corps of Topographical Engineers and Corps of Engineers, the Treasury Department’s Coast Survey and the navy’s Hydrographic Office took on greater roles and significance than ever before. Under the direction of Maj. Gen. John G. Barnard — ultimately the chief engineer for all Union armies in the field — maps of unprecedented detail were produced in record time. 

As mapping projects moved into Virginia and other enemy territories, professional survey and reconnaissance teams from the various branch-es worked cooperatively to inform precise finished products for both land and naval operations.

RECOGNIZANCE AND RENDERING

Unable to rely on existing entities in the way their counterparts in Washington were, authorities in Richmond faced a very serious quandary with regard to mapping. Describing the untenable situation faced by his fellows during the Seven Days’ Battles of 1862, Confederate Brig. Gen. Richard Taylor recalled, “The Confederate commanders knew not more of the topography of the country than they did about Central Africa.”

Assuming command of the Army of Northern Virginia in the midst of the campaign, Gen. Robert E. Lee, who had been trained as a military engineer, swiftly set about rectifying the situation, appointing a new head of the Topographical Department five days into his tenure and sending field parties out almost immediately. Perhaps, then, it is unsurprising that the most

Areas of repeated mapping became increasingly well-mapped, but when a force prepared to launch into new territory, fresh challenges presented themselves.

we could get” but was attended to by those with local knowledge.

“When they were not busy producing new maps for every brigade commander and higher officer — reproduced in sections to be of manageable size when folded, and mounted with cardboard covers to protect the valuable document from the elements — topographical engineers were further tasked with creating accurate maps of the action that took place during battles. Engineers were issued small-scale maps when they made field reconnaissances along-side the army, marking additional features and positions as they encountered them. These data could then be integrated into updated regional maps, as well as maps made to record instances of combat that were filed with official reports.

After the war, these cartographical resources created by both Northern and Southern armies were conscripted for the U.S. War Department’s Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. This monumental undertaking is remarkably thorough and, with 178 pages of images, remains the most detailed atlas of the Civil War — a resource still reprinted in new editions and consulted by historians of all stripes.

PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION

As important as thorough reconnaissance of terrain and accurate recording of these details onto an authoritative map may be, it is just as critical to sufficiently reproduce and distribute that information.

The tried-and-true method for mass production of maps in the field, used for centuries after Johannes Gutenberg debuted his groundbreaking technology, was transferring the information onto a copper engraving and using a traditional printing press. The process required significant time and skill, as well as steady hands and the patience to engrave an entire map in reverse.

Then, in the 19th century, the reproduction process was revolutionized with the advent of lithographic printing, which enabled significantly more detail to be included and expedited the process. The desired images were drawn, in reverse, onto large, flat slabs of limestone and then chemically etched so that ink could be applied. When care was taken to line them up properly, multiple stones could be prepared for layering colors to better convey detailed information, appropriately. 

Refrainments to the process came with the advent of the transfer method, which allowed cartographers to draw their work in the “positive” on a prepared paper that could, through chemical reaction, transfer the image to a lithographic plate. In either case, litho-graphic printing was speedier and more forgiving than printing from plated engravings, but it required cumbersome equipment — large presses and heavy stones. Still, many topographical engineer- ing units maintained both options in their inventories.

During the Civil War, however, another technological advance — photography — offered tantalizing promise as a way to efficiently reproduce maps for distribution. Photographic techniques of the time allowed images to be captured in great detail on large glass plates. Multiple prints could be made on paper treated with a solution of dissolved salt using the same plate. But, with any emerging technology, the price was steep, and printing results required significant refinement. According to a report by Capt. W. E. Merrill of the federal Army of the Cumberland, early war prints were suboptimal on several counts; the boilers might distort and sections not join properly, prints were prone to fading in sunlight and the process itself was weather-dependent.

Capt. William Margedant of the 9th Ohio, who had worked in photography before the war, developed a groundbreaking technique for map reproduction. His “black maps” — named so because the information appeared in white on a black background — were swift to reproduce, meaning that amended versions could be distributed as new information was gathered. Equipment requirements were minimal and could be portable, albeit expensive. This technique was used to great effect in the later part of the war, particularly in the Western Theater.
BURNSIDE’S BANE

Inaccurate maps repeatedly thwart a Union general

by KRISTOPHER WHITE and DANIEL DAVIS

QUALITY CARTOGRAPHY is among the most effective tools in a general’s arsenal. It can be the secret weapon that lets an army dominate an entire campaign, as Stonewall Jackson did in the Shenandoah Valley during the spring of 1862. Or, as was the case with Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside, bad maps — ones that misrepresent the landscape or lack key landmarks — could perpetually turn opportunity into disaster.
**Dateline: FREDERICKSBURG, DECEMBER 1862**
**by KRISTOPHER WHITE, American Battlefield Trust Education Manager**

**AS GOOGLE MAPS ever led you astray at work? Your boss describes your destination for the big meeting as one place, but Google Maps tells you something else entirely? And it always happens at the worst possible moment. There is, perhaps, no better example of the 19th-century version of Google Maps setting an army on the wrong path than the Battle of Fredericksburg.**

On the morning of December 13, 1862, Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside set into motion a two-pronged assault against the Confederate lines. The northern prong targeted the now infamous Mary’s Heights sector. The southern prong, Burnside’s more powerful thrust, targeted the “the heights near Captain Hamilton’s.”

Some 60,000 Federal soldiers stood poised to “seize” the heights. The commanding general’s orders seemed clear: at least to him. Left Grand Division commander Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin was to send at once a column of attack, composed of a division at least, in the lead, well supported and to keep his whole command in readiness to move down the old Richmond road.” Burnside hoped that Franklin’s men would get “in the rear of the enemy’s line on the crests.”

Thus, Old Burn thought that he had just ordered one-half of his army to attack and cut off the Confederate left flank from its direct line of retreat to Richmond. There were two major flaws in Burnside’s plan. However, the first was that he used an incorrect term in his orders. He should have ordered Franklin to “seize” the heights, not “seize” the heights. The former term carries more weight in military parlance. The second flaw was with Burnside’s map of the battlefield.

The high command's map showed the Old Richmond Road running parallel to the Rappahannock River. Which it does. But, Burnside’s map also showed the road taking a sharp, 90-degree turn westward about two miles south of the city. This abrupt turn should have led the Federal’s toward the enemy, the heights, and their objective. Sadly for the Federal’s the road did not run such a thing. Their map was utterly incorrect.

Instead, the road meandered south, away from the Confederate position, rather than decisively turning west. Franklin, who was stationed on the west bank of the river, knew that the road actually led away from the Confederate position. But rather than being proactive and asking his commanding officer for clarification, Franklin blindly followed his orders. Baffled as to why Burnside would order his men due south, Franklin just assumed that his wing would not spearhead the major Federal offensive as had been outlined the night before in a meeting of senior officers.

Instead, Franklin halfheartedly attacked. His blind obedience and an inaccurate map led to one of the worst defeats in the history of the Army of the Potomac, including a needless bloodbath at Mary’s Heights. ★

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**Dateline: SPOTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE, MAY 1864**
**by DAN DAVIS, American Battlefield Trust Education Associate**

**Proper maps and the identification of critical landmarks are vital to a commander. An erroneous map, remembered Lt. Col. Theodore Lyman, aide de camp to Maj. Gen. George Meade, could “utterly bewildер and discourage the officers who used it, and who spent precious time in trying to understand the incomprehensible.” Plagued by faulty maps, the Union army barely averted catastrophe in the opening days of the Overland Campaign.**

Following a two-day stalemate in the Wilderness, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant ordered Meade’s Army of the Potomac to Spotsylvania Court House. Grant hoped to reach the crossroads and seize the inside route to Richmond ahead of Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. While the bulk of the army moved along a north-south axis, Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside’s IX Corps was to march east through Chancellorsville and then proceed to Spotsylvania via the Fredericksburg Road. Grant directed Burnside not to advance farther than an area identified as the “Gate” on a headquarters map. Unfortunately, the landmark did not appear on the map in Burnside’s possession.

Once again, Burnside fell victim to poor and inaccurate maps. The same obstacle led to a misunderstanding when, at the head of the Army of the Potomac during the Battle of Fredericksburg, he issued orders to his subordinates based on faulty understanding of the terrain, contributing to the devastating Union defeat. Removed from command and relegated to lead a corps instead of an army, Burnside now found himself on the receiving end of a similar situation.**

On the morning of May 9, 1864, one of Burnside’s divisions, under Brig. Gen. Orlando Willcox, reached a driveway leading to the Quayle House, some four miles northeast of Spotsylvania. Willcox believed he had reached the “Gate” indicated by Grant, whom, in fact, he was well south of the actual location. Unknowingly in the wrong place, Willcox was soon drawn into an engagement.

Directly to his front and across the Ní River were troopers from Brig. Gen. William C. Wickham’s Confederate cavalry brigade. Rather than hold his position, Willcox pushed forward regiments from Col. Benjamin Christ’s brigade. Christ’s men drove off Wickham’s troopers and took control of the south bank.**

As other brigades crossed, Willcox placed himself in a precarious position. He was Burnside’s only division over the Ní River. Without support, Willcox was isolated and vulnerable to an assault. Later that day, Brig. Gen. Robert Johnston’s North Carolinians attacked Willcox. Although the assault was initially successful, Willcox rallied and repulsed his attackers. The destruction of an entire division would have seriously impacted the Union army during this critical juncture in the campaign. The situation would have been made worse by the knowledge that the outcome had been avoidable, if only the high command had possessed accurate maps. ★
The Elliot Map

by GARRY ADELMAN
American Battlefield Trust Chief Historian

APS USED by famous commanders in wartime can be things of legend. Could General George Washington have won his first victory against British Regular troops at Princeton without a critical map showing the roads that led to the isolated enemy force? Could Stonewall Jackson and his "foot cavalry" have performed with such mastery in the Shenandoah Valley without Jedediah Hotchkiss’s maps? Likely not. Military commanders crave maps as critical resources to achieve victory.

Cartographic works made after an engagement or campaign, however, are also essential resources in understanding what happened and where it happened and, by providing context, why it happened. S.C. Elliot’s 1864 Map of the Battlefield of Gettysburg is one such map.

While an 1858 map of Adams County, Pa., helped commanders march to Gettysburg, and numerous postwar maps aimed to place troop positions precisely onto battlefield terrain, Elliot’s map stands out as something different. There are few contour lines and no rectangular blocks to denote military units. Elliot revealed other things — the locations of corpses, carcasses and fortifications amidst Gettysburg’s road systems and farm structures. With this unique focus, Elliot performed a great service for 19th- and indeed, 21st-century Americans.

Elliot captured battlefield carnage in a manner all his own. Photographers secured — visually, on their glass plates — tiny slices of battlefield bloodshed, while combatants captured select scenes in textual format via their letters, memoirs and other reminiscences. But no one else geolocated for all time the blood bath that was Gettysburg, as well as individual graves, artillery emplacements and breastworks. Historians know that Elliot’s work is not perfect — in many cases, far from it, but his map is an essential resource for not only historians, but also modern preservationists.

The American Battlefield Trust consults Elliot’s map as part of its due diligence for every single acre we consider acquiring at Gettysburg. Indeed, the map helps us know what properties are hallowed ground. In preserving battlefield land west of Willowbly Run, along the Baltimore Pike and Emmitsburg Road, on East Cemetery Hill, Oak Ridge and Barlow’s Knoll, Trust members felt the impact of Elliot’s work. Our members stepped up mightily for great efforts on Seminary Ridge and Lee’s Headquarters long after Elliot placed Union and Confederate graves on the parcel we were aiming to protect.

While other maps may point toward helping armies succeed in battle, Elliot’s achievements endure as one of our best resources for the preservation of America’s greatest battlefield.★
JAY HAWKERS BUSH WHACKERS

Local Knowledge and Intelligence in the Bloody Trans-Mississippi West

Shortly after the pro-Southern Missouri Guerrillas sacked the Kansas Jayhawker capital at Lawrence in August 1863, a New York Daily Times correspondent attached to the federal cavalry reflected on the Guerrillas’ knowledge of local geography, tactics, and strategy. Under the command of notorious chieftenant Capt. William Quantrill, the Guerrillas, he wrote, “follow the hog paths through the woods, knowing every foot of ground, and [are] able to evade us at every mile they traverse.”

by KRISTEN M. PAWLAK
PHOTOGRAPHY by NOEL BENDOM
UNLIKE MANY of the larger armies of the Eastern and Western Theaters of war, frontier units on both sides — such as the Missouri Guerrillas, Kansas Jayhawkers and Cherokee Mounted Rifle regiments, as well as Rebels under Merritt and Jeff Thompson — had a remarkable knowledge and understanding of the geography of the land in which they operated, which led to their repeated successes on the battlefields of the Trans-Mississippi West.

ANTEBELLUM ATROCITIES

OR THE YOUNG United States, the frontier had been a fluid boundary between society and the wilderness. As the country expanded westward throughout the early to mid-19th century, so did the frontier. Americans across all classes were motivated to live and work across this transformative region, which included the area from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River and beyond.

In times of warfare, the frontier played an essential role in American victory, but conflict there was vastly different than the traditional battles fought near strategic centers of gravity. Typically, war on the frontier consisted of irregular combat marked by local resistance and irregular strategies and tactics, as well as guerrilla troops. These guerrillas fought using nontraditional combat methods. Their small-unit tactics and understanding of local terrain and communities gave them an advantage that ultimately made up for the superior num-bers of their enemy. However, with the guerrilla war much closer to home and heart for these rural settlers, society and ideology on the frontier were torn apart within a short period of time. With the line between combatants and civilians blurred, war crimes helped consistently fuel the irregular units resisting the enemy.

The increase in resistance by local combatants, who understood the local geography and population, gave the irregulars a significant advantage over their enemy. The increase in resistance by local combatants, who understood the local geography and population, gave the irregulars a significant advantage over their enemy.

As the new country approached the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, it rapidly degenerated into armed conflict. The divisive issue of slavery’s expansion westward. This outbreak of violence was concentrated along the border of Missouri and the Kansas Territory, giving the period the notorious name of “Bleeding Kansas.”

At that time, pro-slavery and abolitionist irregular fighters each took the law into their own hands, with the hope of impacting the statewide election for the Kansas Territory. By targeting the homes and communities of their rival faction, these vigilantes set the tone of warfare on the border for the next two decades, and escalated the level of violence by the time civil war erupted in 1861. Many rural border communities — like Lawrence and Olathe — were the sites of horrific massacres between the two factions in these pre-Civil War days. Such feats were only feasible through an undeniable ability to terrain and intelligence. By 1861, however, the Border War — defined by guerrilla warfare — deteriorated into a brutal, seemingly endless conflict, for those on the frontier.

A TRADITION OF IRREGULAR OPERATIONS

ON SEPTEMBER 23, 1861, James H. Lane, a U.S. senator from Kansas and future Union brigadier general, led his 1,200-man brigade of Jayhawkers across the border into Missouri and rendezvous, plundered and burned the town of Osceola. Two months later, when the pro-Confederate State Guard entered town, one member, John W. Fisher, reflected, “It is enough to make a man’s blood boil — Men are anxious to go to Kansas and retaliate.”

The aggressive and infamous Charles “Doc” Jennison also continued his war against Missouri by forming the 7th Kansas Cavalry Regiment.

They were following in the footsteps of other American forces who had fought on the periphery of earlier conflicts.

Guerrillas strategically utilized the area they knew so well by relying on loyal civilians, lesser-used roads and trails and creeks to remain concealed and move throughout both Missouri and Kansas undetected. In fact, the Missourians’ guerrilla-like tactics and fear of understanding of the terrain around them led to their infamous nickname, the “Bushwhackers,” as they seemed to blend into the landscape itself, evading capture.

BUSHWHACKER COUNTRY

There are countless examples of the Bushwhackers utilizing their local knowledge of their area of operations, including a raid on Olathe that was one of their greatest victories early in the war. Because of their “cavies, hills, and hollows,” as well as their infestation of creepy critters, the Snubor Hills of the western Missouri backcountry were Quantrill’s preferred hideaway location — and a place no Federal trooper dared to enter. In the late evening of September 6, 1862, the Bushwhackers moved...

Cap. William Guerrill

A schoolteacher-turned-bandit turned guerrilla, Quantrill commanded wartime contingent of rangers that included future outlaws Jesse and Frank James. He was mortally wounded in a skirmish in Kentucky in May 1865, but his influence was felt for many years during the settlement of the “old west.”

Bloody Bill Anderson

Particularly after the 1864 raid on Centrailia, in which 24 unarmed Union soldiers aboard a passenger train were captured and executed, Anderson earned a reputation as one of the most violent bushwhackers.
came through the “Swat” and crossed the border into Kansas completely undetected by Federals. Swiftly and quietly, they moved through eastern Kansas and captured three Jayhawkers. Entering their camp, the Guerrillas dragged the Jayhawkers from their beds and murdered them. Their knowledge of the land and their quick movements allowed them to advance straight into the Kansas town of Olathe, which they soon ransacked and plundered. As one Kansas soldier wrote about Quantrell’s men after that raid, “They were familiar with every cow-path, knew every farmer.” Numerous bands of irregulars operated across Missouri, and these smaller units also resisted Union occupation. Early in the war, Brig. Gen. Marmaduke Jeff Thompson commanded the First Division of the Missouri State Guard, which was based out of the southeastern “Bootheel” region of the state. Unable to join the main body, the unit remained in its home area and exploited the Bootheel’s extensive swamps to its advantage. Like Quantrell’s Raiders and the Kansas Jayhawkers, Thompson’s men were locals who knew the swamps and region very well. Their repeated success in using the swamps to surprise Federal troops led to their commander’s legendary nickname: the “Swamp Fox of the Confederacy” in tribute to Marion. The troops adopted “Remember Marion” as their motto. In the fall of 1861, Brig. Gen. Ulysses Grant, commander of the District of Southeast Missouri, was repeatedly forced to deal with the nuisance of Thompson’s men. On October 2, 1861, Grant deployed more than 1,000 men to intercept these irregulars, but they remained elusive. It was not until later that month, when the irregulars were far north of their native “Bootheel” region and completely outnumbered, that Thompson was defeated.

## NATIVE AMERICAN UNITS

LSO UTILIZING local knowledge to their advantage were the Confederate units of the Five Civilized Tribes. Though the First and Second Cherokee Mounted Rifles were the most well-known, Native American Confederate general — there were units from each of the five tribes: Cherokee, Seminole, Chickasaw, Creek, and Choctaw. Like many other Confederate units on the frontier, these Native American units did not venture far from familiar areas, operating primarily within their own territories in present-day Oklahoma, as this area as launch points to conduct partisan operations. The Native American mounted infantry and cavalry regiments’ irregular style of warfare bore fruit in their 1863 raids into Kansas and Missouri, and the successful capture of Federal supplies at Cabin Creek. At the Second Battle of Cabin Creek on September 19, 1864, Confederate Choctaw and Cherokee troopers united in attacking a Federal wagon train filled with more than $1 million worth of supplies. Their success was part of a larger effort of raiding Federal supplies throughout the Indian Territory and Kansas, a result of the Cherokee Nation’s remarkable knowledge of the region’s geography and rail systems. It was one example of the Cherokee Nation’s successful exploitation of the advantage offered by operating within its own territory.

**THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR**

May have lasted four bloody years, but the war between Rebel irregulars and Union authorities continued far longer than anyone could have imagined. For years after the Civil War, many of these frontier irregulars continued their personal war against authority, as seen with the James and Younger Brothers. Indeed, the strategies of the guerrilla fighters on and off the battlefield have been at the center of American military strategy due to the military’s increasing interest in counterinsurgency operations. Since before the country’s entry into the War on Terror in 2001, the American military has studied frontier irregulars like Quantrell, Jennison, Lane, Thompson, and Waite to learn how best to fight modern-day terrorists. Simultaneously admired and despised, but universally respected, these frontier irregular fighters from the Civil War — through their use of geography, terrain, civilians and small unit tactics — have shaped the way the United States has waged war ever since.

Kristen M. Pawluk is an editor for the Emerging Civil War community and the driving force behind “Missouri’s Civil War Blog.”
TEACHER INSTITUTE MEETS UP
Near-record crowd descends on Raleigh, N.C.

EARLY ZOO K–12 educators convened in Raleigh, N.C., on July 21–24 for the American Battlefield Trust’s annual National Teacher Institute, the second-largest such gathering in the event’s 19-year history. Three and a half days of workshops, battlefield and museum tours and guest lectures offered attendees tools to creatively teach about the pivotal conflicts of America’s first century.

“The American Battlefield Trust believes that teachers have the power to inspire students and a new generation of historians,” Trust President James Lightner said. “The National Teacher Institute will give teachers the tools, techniques and approaches to cultivate interest and engagement with U.S. history.”

Participants representing 36 states and the District of Columbia learned firsthand at key sites associated with the American Revolution and the Civil War, coming in close contact with the “real stuff” of history—artifacts, images and documents that offer true tangibility to past events. In addition to instructional enrichment for the upcoming school year, attendees earned continuing education units and certifications through Virginia Tech University.

Guest speakers included award-winning author Robert M. Dunkerley, director of education at the American Civil War Museum Stephanie Fitzwater Ardouni and Christopher MacKovskie, the editor in chief and co-founder of the Emerging Civil War blog and book series. Keynote speaker Dr. Edward Ayers, professor and president emeritus of the University of Richmond and 2013 recipient of the National Humanities Medal, spoke about the different explanations for the Civil War throughout America, where these explanations come from and how they should be presented to students.

Among the many targeted presentations at this year’s institute were several by award-winning educators eager to share their techniques. Robert Reinhart, a two-time Trust award recipient, conducted a workshop on exploring written documents using the five senses, while James A. Percoco, a 2011 National Teachers Hall of Fame inductee, presented on how he integrates primary sources and film into the classroom using the Civil Rights Movement as a case study. Tours, which help educators learn strategies to maximize their own time away from the classroom, included visits to Revolutionary War sites like Guilford Court House; Civil War battlefields at Bentonville and Averasboro; and sites related to the Civil Rights Movement in Durham.

As part of the event, the Trust named Richard Houston of Monomoy Regional High School in Harwich, Mass., as its 2019 Teacher of the Year. A 41-year veteran educator, Houston not only teaches his AP U.S. history students in the classroom, he also inspires some 90 percent of them to attend the voluntary after-school enrollment sessions that enable him to cover many topics on the AP test in greater detail.

The 2020 National Teacher Institute will be held in Mobile, Ala., July 9–12. Registration will open in mid-November, as will the application period for scholarships to cover travel and lodging costs, as the Institute itself remains free to educators. Full details are available at www.battlefields.org/teacherinstitute.

Photography by David & Delores Davis

Having this information has, over the last two-and-a-half decades, enabled the Trust to orient preservation efforts and vital resources toward averting the most significant Civil War acreage. In 2007, NPS followed the CWSSC report with its own Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States, which identified the 243 most significant battlefields from this pair of conflicts—but did not include maps of these sites akin to the maps produced by the CWSSC of similarly significant Civil War sites.

Knowing the ability of such maps to help pinpoint the most pressing preservation targets and inform related campaigns and pursuits, five years ago, the Trust embarked on an ongoing effort with Binghamton University’s Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) to compile these cartographic resources. Funded by a series of planning grants from NPS’s American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), we set out to augment NPS’s 2007 report with digital maps highlighting the historic boundaries of all 243 of the nation’s principal Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields and reflect the troop movements on these sites. The Trust and PAF consulted with appropriate State Historic Preservation Offices as well as other authorities and experts throughout the effort to ensure that the maps and accompanying data would be as accurate as possible.

With this project on track to conclude by year’s end, the Trust and greater battlefield preservation community will now be better equipped than ever before to rise in defense of these early American battlegrounds with both NPS’s 2007 report and new, corresponding mapping at the ready. Moreover, landowners and local governments will be able to employ these digital resources as guides to building and zoning in context-sensitive ways, with a better understanding of the position and significance of the historic landscapes in their communities. We know that the availability of these resources will enhance preservation efforts in the same way that their Civil War counterparts have—letting us quickly assess the significance of a particular property and prioritize those areas most in need of protection.

N 1995, the federal Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSSC) released its Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields. The CWSSC had been tasked by Congress to identify America’s most significant Civil War sites. Out of the roughly 10,500 armed conflicts that occurred during the Civil War, 184 of these — just 3.7 percent — were recognized by the CWSSC as the war’s principal battles. In preparing its report, the CWSSC worked closely with the National Park Service (NPS) to survey and map these sites as well, carefully delineating the historic boundaries of each of the nearly 400 battlefields listed.
The Color Bearers

American Battlefield Trust Color Bearers are the undisputed leaders in this nation’s battlefield preservation movement. Just as the heroic Color Bearers of the Civil War distinguished themselves on the battlefield with their courage, valor and dedication, our Color Bearers distinguish themselves by their extraordinary commitment to the mission of saving our nation’s most hallowed ground.

THE American Battlefield Trust exists to identify, preserve, for all time, the battlefields of the American Revolution, the War of 1812 and the Civil War. We do this so that all Americans, now and in the future, may learn of the sacrifices made to secure democracy and individual freedoms. Unfortunately, these sacred battlefields are rapidly disappearing under the relentless wave of urban sprawl. To stem this tide of destruction, the American Battlefield Trust issues an urgent call for volunteers — individuals, corporations and foundations — to join a prominent league of supporters: the Color Bearers.

Color Bearership membership requires an additional, unrestricted gift of $1,000 or more that goes above and beyond any battlefield-specific gifts. These important membership dues act as a “ready reserve” fund the Board of Trustees can utilize to move quickly to save a piece of hallowed ground. They also allow us to actually run the organization: to pay staff salaries, to cover rent and utilities, to maintain our world-class website and to create outstanding educational content — even to print and mail the magazine in your hands.

The vast majority of Color Bearers also give to many property acquisition appeals, and it is this level of “above-and-beyond generosity” that is worthy of special recognition. While representing less than 3 percent of our total membership, our 1,300 Color Bearers donate nearly 50 percent of all the gifts we receive, year after year.

What does it mean to be a Color Bearer? Color Bearers are the leaders of the battlefield preservation movement, and the backbone of the American Battlefield Trust.

COLOR BEARER BENEFITS
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★ Receive invitations to exclusive historian-led battlefield tours, including a specially selected tour in conjunction with the Annual Conference.
★ Receive invitation to an exclusive “Author’s Dinner” with a noted author or historian at the Annual Conference.
★ Receive special recognition in printed materials at the Annual Conference.
★ Name listed on the annual “Roll Call of Honor” in our quarterly magazine, Hallowed Ground.

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★ Receive invitations to The Grand Review, an annual, intimate weekend of battlefield tours, history talks, meals and camaraderie, held at a unique Civil War or Revolutionary War-related site, with appropriate recognition in the event program.

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★ National Color Bearers will have Annual Conference fees waived for yourself and four additional guests.

Full donations are tax deductible, if you don’t take advantage of the events benefits offered. For more tax information, visit us online.

WHAT OUR COLOR BEARERS SAY
“If I could pass on anything to future generations, it would be the same love of history that was instilled in me by my family. I think the efforts of the Trust and its Color Bearers goes a long way towards preserving this history for future generations.”

— Anthony Hodges
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FEW READERS of Hallowed Ground realize that all submissions to the magazine by photographers and artists are made as donations. If you’re interested in donating your time and talent for the American Battlefield Trust by taking high-resolution photography for Hallowed Ground please send an email with a web link or samples of your work to Creative Director Jeff Griffith at HallowedGroundPhotography@gmail.com. (Please note that images taken at web resolution settings on your camera or mobile phones are not of suitable high resolution to reproduce in print media.)

PARKER’S CROSSROADS BATTLEFIELD

ATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION in west Tennessee got a major boost in early September, as Parkers Crossroads became the country’s latest National Park Service-affiliated area. A signing ceremony held between representatives of Shelby National Military Park, the city of Parkers Crossroads, and the Tennessee Historical Commission formalized the new partnership created by an act of Congress.

“Becoming an affiliated area offers many benefits to the battlefield, and allows the National Park Service to enter into agreements to provide assistance for interpretation and preservation of the battlefield,” said Shelby Superintendent Dale Wilkerson. “We are extremely pleased to be able to formalize our long-standing relationship with Parkers Crossroads.”

The sentiment was echoed by Tennessee Historical Commission Executive Director Patrick McIntyre, who said, “This recognition is a testament to the importance of this place, as well as an endorsement of the work by those who have been instrumental in preserving this battlefield for posterity.”

The Trust has worked with local, state and federal partners to protect 368 acres at Parkers Crossroads.

In becoming an official affiliated area, Parkers Crossroads joins more than a dozen other significant sites operated independently but typically closely associated with a nearby national park. These include Benjamin Franklin National Memorial (Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia), Tuskegee National Historic Site (Colonial National Historical Park) and Auschwitz-Birkenau WWII National Historic Area (the park service’s Alaska regional office). Parkers Crossroads Battlefield preserves and interprets the site where almost 3,000 men commanded by Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest were engaged by two Federal brigades on December 31, 1862. After the fight, General Forrest was able to cross the Tennessee River.

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