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CIVIL WAR TRUST

# HALLOWED GROUND

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THE PENINSULA



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**HALLOWED GROUND**

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THE CIVIL WAR TRUST’S core purpose is to preserve America’s hallowed battlegrounds and educate the public about what happened there and why it matters. The Trust focuses on prominent battlefields of the Civil War, the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, with particular emphasis on Civil War sites. Thanks to the contributions of more than 200,000 members and supporters nationwide, we have preserved more than 49,000 acres at 131 sites in 24 states. For more information, call 1-888-606-1400 or visit our website at [www.CivilWar.org](http://www.CivilWar.org). *Hallowed Ground* is the membership magazine of the Civil War Trust. It is produced solely for nonprofit educational purposes and every reasonable attempt is made to provide accurate and appropriate attribution for all elements, including those in the public domain. Contemporary images are reproduced only with permission and appropriate attribution; uncredited images are courtesy the Civil War Trust. Feature articles reflect the research and opinion of the bylined author. ©2018 Civil War Trust.

COVER: Chesapeake Bay around Fort Monroe, Hampton Roads, Va., D.M. LOWE, StarMountainMedia.com;  
THIS PAGE: Yorktown Battlefield, part of Colonial National Historical Park, Yorktown, Va., DERRICK DIEMONT.



SINCE THE LAST ISSUE of *Hallowed Ground*, we have closed the books on another spectacularly successful year for the battlefield preservation movement. And although the first flowers of spring are starting to appear across the country, I

hope you will join me in reflecting on some of our remarkable achievements in 2017.

We marked our 30th anniversary by celebrating the tremendous progress we have made since the first group of concerned citizens gathered in Fredericksburg, Va., to form the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites. From a few dozen visionary souls, we've grown to encompass tens of thousands of Americans working together to save heritage landscapes at a pace far eclipsing any other entity.

And if you need proof that ours is a compelling story, Bob Zeller's history of the preservation movement, *Fighting the Second Civil War* — released last year to coincide with this milestone — exhausted its first print run! Don't worry if you didn't receive your copy during the holiday season; the second edition is already available.

In 2017, for the first time, the Civil War Trust and Campaign 1776 successfully acquired land from each of the three conflicts that fall under our purview — the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War. All told, we completed 41 individual transactions at 28 battlefields in 11 states, protecting 2,474 acres of hallowed ground valued at approximately \$29 million. (Twice a year, this magazine features summaries of our most-recently completed efforts; you can read about the closings that occurred between July 1 and December 31 on page 11.)

Digitally speaking, we made huge strides last year as well, fully designing our website, [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org), to drastically improve the experience for the growing percentage of our 10.5 million visitors



who access it from their mobile phones. Always striving to reach people “where they are” we added more than 100 new articles, battle summaries and biographies, and added an entirely new feature — travel itineraries. Trust videos, including the 33 new topics in our popular “In4” and “Your State in the Civil War” series, garnered more than five million views, while our mobile apps were downloaded some 150,000 times.

But perhaps most excitingly, the dawn of this new year — and the dawn of a new era, the second 30 years of modern battlefield preservation — sees us on the precipice of even greater milestones.

I am supremely optimistic that when I next write to you in these pages, it will be to celebrate crossing the 50,000 acre threshold of battlefield land saved forever. That number is so profoundly large that I struggle to find any way to wrap my mind around it. Nearly 80 square miles! Ten percent bigger than the entire District

of Columbia!

Moreover, later this spring, our Field Trip Fund is poised to put the “boots” of its 20,000th student on the ground on a battlefield. By helping these young people visualize the places where history unfolded, we are giving our preservation work permanent meaning as they will have a more profound understanding of those events and their relevance to our modern society.

And from there, we continue — onward and upward to the next challenge!★

JIM LIGHTHIZER  
President, Civil War Trust

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WEBSITE EXCLUSIVES • GIFT MEMBERSHIPS • BATTLEFIELD MAPS • ANIMATED MAPS • 360° PANORAMAS • BACK ISSUES

*The Official Website of the Civil War Trust*

## GETTYSBURG CYCLORAMA IN 360°

One hundred thirty-three years after the real thing debuted to sell-out crowds, you can now “step inside” the famed Gettysburg Cyclorama with our five-minute, animated video. We are honored to partner with the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C., and Gettysburg National Military Park to draw more attention to the amazing 19th-century panoramic painting. Experience the 360-degree video at [www.civilwar.org/cyclorama](http://www.civilwar.org/cyclorama).

## FIND US ON PINTEREST

We now have an active community on Pinterest! Our new Pinterest page offers shareable content from our website and beyond, including biographies on Civil War generals, historical maps and teacher lesson plans. Browse our page to find stories of everyday Civil War soldiers, Civil War-era recipes and more. Find us on Pinterest, and pin your favorites at [www.pinterest.com/CivilWarTrust](http://www.pinterest.com/CivilWarTrust).

## WOMEN IN AMERICA'S WARS

We regularly applaud the contributions of brave men in America's early conflicts, but brave women also played an instrumental role — both on and off the battlefield. This Women's History Month, explore stories about women's vital contributions to support the country in wartime. Visit our online collection at [www.civilwar.org/women](http://www.civilwar.org/women).

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## PRESERVATION AND ARCHAEOLOGY

### enhance Georgia's Revolutionary War site at Kettle Creek

**T**HE SIZE of Georgia's Kettle Creek Battlefield Park is set to nearly triple, thanks to the protection of a 180-acre parcel announced on February 12 by U.S. representative Jody Hice (R-GA), legendary University of Georgia football coach Vince Dooley and officials from the Civil War Trust's Campaign 1776 initiative and the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association.

"As a native of Georgia and a student of history, I am thrilled that this significant battlefield is being preserved," Hice said. "I am proud to have supported the American Battlefield Protection Program in Congress and am honored it is being used — for the first time — to preserve a Revolutionary War site here in Georgia. Without the support of this program, as well as several state and local partners, this important land could have been lost. Now, it will be preserved and enjoyed as an outdoor classroom for generations to come."

The federal Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant Program has been used to protect scores of Civil War battlefields, including Chickamauga, Resaca and Rocky Face Ridge in Georgia. Its reach was extended to Revolutionary War sites in late 2014, and it has since helped save land from that conflict at Princeton, N.J., and Waxhaws, S.C., among other sites.

"Fought in 1779 on what is now Valentine's Day, the Battle of Kettle Creek deserves to be far better known," said Dooley, a proud Georgian and member of our Board of Trustees. "A surprise victory for the

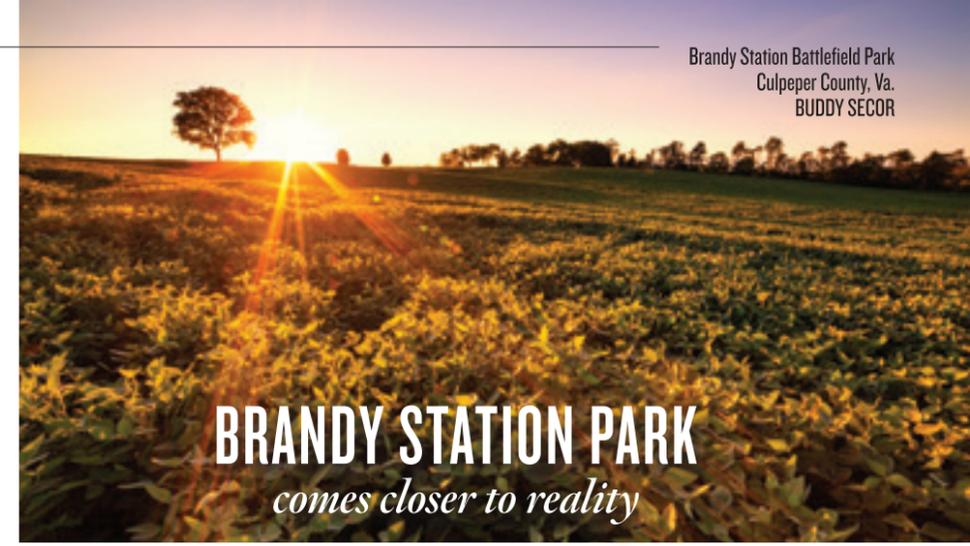
Patriot militia, Kettle Creek made headlines in Philadelphia, Boston and London. Coming just two months after Savannah had fallen to the British, it was the Patriots' first big win in Georgia and presaged later American successes as the war ground on in the southern colonies."

Trust President Jim Lighthizer expressed admiration for the groups that have shepherded and stewarded the park at Kettle Creek for many years, and who worked with the group on this new acquisition.

"I want to personally thank the local community — Wilkes County; the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association; Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution; and Georgia State Society Daughters of the American Revolution — for their steadfast efforts to preserve the Kettle Creek battlefield over the years," he said. "None of the work we do around the country would be possible without the efforts of such local partners on the ground."

Major support for the project was provided by the Watson-Brown Foundation of Thomson, Ga., the Georgia Battlefields Association and the Georgia Piedmont Land Trust, as well the property's previous owner, the Weyerhaeuser Co. The Kettle Creek Battlefield Association, which is in the process of completing an interpretive trail at War Hill, will soon turn its attention to a second, longer trail on the newly preserved property. The group has already found and marked Revolutionary War soldiers' graves and discovered Battle of Kettle Creek artifacts on the parcel and commissioned a University of Georgia study on preserving and interpreting the battlefield's evocative landscape in an effort to help Wilkes County realize its potential as a heritage tourism destination.★

1. Rep. Jody Hice (GA-10) cuts the ceremonial ribbon on the newly preserved property. 2. Hice speaks on the importance of preserving Revolutionary War battlefields in Georgia. 3. Kettle Creek Battlefield Association president N. Walker Chewning presents Trust President Jim Lighthizer with a sketch of the battle. 4. Chewning leads a tour for Hice, Coach Vince Dooley, Lighthizer, and other local preservation leaders. 5. The Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution offer a ceremonial musket volley. 6. Lighthizer and Hice speak with Civil War Trust members. **PHOTOS BY BRIAN KEELY PHOTOGRAPHY**



## BRANDY STATION PARK comes closer to reality



THE 2018 VIRGINIA Legislative session saw major strides made in our efforts to establish Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park, a new recreational entity long envisioned for the Trust's roughly 1,400-acre holdings at those two battlefields in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Thanks to the leadership of state senators Bryce Reeves and Emmett Hanger, the senate approved a budget amendment which helps position the proposed park lands for a smooth and well-ordered transition from the preservation community to the Commonwealth. The measure empowers the state Department of Conservation and Recreation to begin considering the management, potential user activities and operation of the proposed park, a step toward the formal master plan that would ultimately govern a new state park. The report and its recommendations to the General Assembly are due October 1, making this a major, concrete step forward for park advocates.

Alongside our partners in the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance, the Trust is engaged in a grassroots advocacy campaign in support of this "turn-key" park. For the first time, we are utilizing cutting-edge, click-to-call technology aimed at mobilizing our Virginia members and boosting support for the proposal.

Increased preservation activity at Brandy Station continues to uncover new stories and details about the Civil War in this much-contested region of Virginia. Please turn to page 14 to learn about some of the latest discoveries made by comparing the protected landscape with period photos and first-person accounts.★

## FEASIBILITY STUDY UNDERTAKEN

### for a Kentucky Battlefield Fund



AS PART of our ongoing efforts to encourage state-level investment in the public-private partnerships we successfully create to protect battlefield land, the Trust is working with a former commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to begin exploring the feasibility of a targeted fund in the Bluegrass State similar to those thriving in Virginia and Tennessee.

A bill currently in the state legislature directs the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet to prepare a report that identifies immediate preservation needs at the state's Revolutionary War and Civil War battlefields and suggests a long-term strategy to preserve Kentucky's Revolutionary War and Civil War battlefields. The National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program has identified 18 principle battlefields in Kentucky, half of which are deemed Priority I or Priority II in terms of preservation opportunities. The effort is also supported by many of our traditional preservation partners.★

## PRINCETON UPDATE



LOSING on the Washington's Charge property at Princeton, originally set for January, was rescheduled at the mutual agreement of the Trust and the Institute for Advanced Study to allow for resolution of a mitigation plan for storm water runoff infrastructure. Protection of Maxwell's Field was a landmark compromise and the result of a national grassroots campaign and major fundraising effort. We look forward to sharing the completion of this exciting project with our members in the near future!★



## HISTORIC VIRGINIA BRIDGE joins growing park network

**I**N THE BOTTOMLAND and hilly terrain along Goose Creek, history and nature mix, drawing walkers, cyclists, bird lovers, motorists and heritage tourists. On December 6, the site saw a host of notable Virginians and conservation advocates come together to celebrate the culmination of a decades-long process of preservation and stewardship through the creation of a new park spanning the border of Loudoun and Fauquier Counties.

These 20 acres lie at the heart of the Upperville Battlefield, where, on June 21, 1863, an important early engagement of the Gettysburg Campaign occurred. The park will also spotlight one of Virginia's architectural treasures: the Goose Creek Bridge. Built about 1802, the 212-foot-long span is one of the last four stone-arch bridges left in Virginia, and was a prominent landmark during the early stages of the Battle of Upperville.

The Civil War Trust recently acquired two adjacent parcels from owners who had provided excellent stewardship of the land, despite historic preservation falling outside what many would imagine to be their mission — the Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club and the Virginia Department of Transportation. Replicating a process successfully executed at the Middleburg Battlefield in 2012, the Trust will convey the lands to NOVA Parks, a regional conservation and recreation agency, to create a new public park.

“Great things happen through partnership,” said NOVA Parks board member Cate Magennis Wyatt. “It has taken the cooperation and common vision of many to make this possible, and we thank all those who have helped these efforts.”

Until 1957, the bridge carried vehicular traffic across Goose Creek, and when U.S. Route 50 opened nearby, the Virginia Department of Transportation retained ownership of the disused span. Soon thereafter, the Garden Club became involved in its protection, later working with former U.S. senator John Warner,

who donated a 12-acre meadow beside the bridge to the effort. The truly exceptional work undertaken by the Garden Club during its four decades of stewardship is detailed in this issue's Profile in Preservation on page 32.

“Goose Creek Bridge is among the more than 1,000 significant sites that have been protected under my administration's Virginia Treasures initiative,” noted Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe during the ceremony. “Focused on a ‘quality over quantity’ approach to land preservation, we have protected 1,337 natural, cultural, recreational and conservation-centered treasures across the Commonwealth — far exceeding our goal of 1,000 sites during my tenure.”

Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Ward further noted the abiding value of protecting historic landscapes. “By preserving the land where these Civil War battles occurred, we are not only protecting Virginia's unique history, but we are also conserving environmental features that millions of Virginians value immensely,” she said. “Nearly all the battlefield preservation work conducted in the Commonwealth has the additional benefit of protecting the vital Chesapeake Bay watershed.”

“American history was made in Loudoun County, and continues to be made,” said Loudoun County Board of Supervisors chair Phyllis J. Randall. “I thank the governor, Civil War Trust, and NOVA Parks for making this happen.”

Trust President Jim Lighthizer concurred, remarking that the various groups “have joined together to ensure that this beautiful and evocative landscape is preserved for generations to come.” He further noted that his organization has preserved 3,500 acres from early Gettysburg Campaign sites at Brandy Station, Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville.★

**TOP and CLOCKWISE:**

1) Middleburg Montessori School students join Civil War re-enactors and event speakers for the ceremonial ribbon cutting. 2) Jim Lighthizer addresses the crowd. 3) Former U.S. Sen. John Warner is flanked by Gov. and Mrs. McAuliffe. 4) At Upperville, Lighthizer and McAuliffe celebrated a final battlefield preservation success before his gubernatorial term ended in January.

**PHOTOS BY BRUCE GUTHRIE**

## NATIONAL TEACHER INSTITUTE takes educators from “Independence to Emancipation” at Valley Forge



**E**ACH SUMMER, the Civil War Trust's National Teacher Institute brings together K-12 educators from all over the world for four days of workshops, lectures and tours. Participants are immersed in a friendly, fun and engaging learning environment, where they can network and explore innovative teaching methods.

This year's event will be held in King of Prussia, Pa., and offer tours of Gettysburg National Military Park, “Old City” Philadelphia and Valley Forge National Historical Park. Lectures and workshops will cover the three major wars of America's first century, as well as other topics relevant to the early republican era. Particular emphasis will be placed on helping educators refine techniques for integrating local history and flavor into discussion of national trends and events, as well as the interplay between “history” and “memory” — and the role of each in the classroom. Presentations will be led by Civil War Trust staff, a host of outstanding educators and a cadre of professional historians, including keynote speaker Dr. Carol Reardon of Pennsylvania State University.

In addition to K-12 educators and administrators, a limited number of upper-level college students majoring in education will be in attendance, ensuring quality history instruction for future generations of children. The event is free, but does require a \$100 refundable deposit be placed to reserve your spot. At the conclusion of the event, educators can apply for continuing education credits, provided by Virginia Tech University. Learn more at [www.civilwar.org/teacherinstitute](http://www.civilwar.org/teacherinstitute).★



Trust Chairman emeritus John L. Nau, III, presents a framed image of the battlefield at Petersburg, Va., to Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, in appreciation of her longstanding support of legislation expanding the national park's authorized boundary. After almost eight years of effort, hundreds of acres of Trust-protected lands are now eligible for inclusion in Petersburg National Battlefield.

## BATTLEFIELDS MEAN BUSINESS REPORT quantifies the economic benefits of preservation, tourism



**I**N VETERANS DAY, the Trust released its latest study detailing the nature and scale of the economic benefits of historic preservation and heritage tourism in geographically diverse locations rang-

ing from Massachusetts's Lexington Green to Hawaii's Pearl Harbor. These historic sites pack an economic wallop, supporting jobs, creating opportunities for local business and contributing to state and local coffers.

To assemble *Battlefields Mean Business: Economic Benefits of Battlefield Preservation*, The Harbinger Consulting Group reviewed academic research and survey data, analyzed trends, crunched numbers and collected anecdotes to determine how battlefields affect local economies. In the process, the consultants examined more than 20 battlefield parks from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Indian Wars, Mexican War, Civil War and World War II.

The report found that, nationally, one in three out-of-town guests to battlefield communities said seeing the battlefield park was their main reason for traveling to the area. In 2015, the study's 10 focal battlefields hosted 9.7 million visitors. Tourism at the 10 sites generated \$569 million in sales in local communities, supported nearly 6,800 local jobs and added \$15 million in state and local tax revenue.

“Preservation efforts are key to growing that economic impact,” Civil War Trust President Jim Lighthizer said. “The more travelers have to see and do, the longer they will stay in a historic community, increasing the economic footprint of their visit.”

For instance, as Richmond National Battlefield has grown from 754 acres in 1996 to 3,700 acres today — transforming from a “windshield park” that necessitated just a quick stop or drive-by visit into an interactive, dynamic experience that draws and interests many more people — its visitation has more than doubled.

The *Battlefields Mean Business* report illuminates what enhances the economic benefits of battlefield tourism — engaging with visitors; collaborating with businesses and other historic sites; commemorating events and anniversaries; supporting rural areas; and preserving the storytelling landscapes.★



# ANNUAL PARK DAY 2018

*Volunteers sought nationwide for April 7*



IN ACH SPRING, thousands of volunteers gather at battlefields and historic sites across the nation to participate in the Trust's annual Park Day clean-up effort. Now in its 22nd year, Park Day is made possible in part by the continued financial support of History™. We are deeply thankful to all of the sites participating in this year's clean-up. Please visit [www.civilwar.org/parkday](http://www.civilwar.org/parkday) to find a site near you and learn about its specific plans, including meeting location, rain date and material needs.

\* indicates Campaign 1776 affiliate sites



Antietam National Battlefield  
Sharpsburg, Md.  
BRUCE GUTHRIE

## NEW LEADERSHIP at Partner Sites, Groups



RECENT MONTHS have brought a series of changes in leadership at battlefield parks and partner preservation organizations. The Trust wishes the very best to these friends and supporters as they begin the next phase of their careers.

Dennis Frye, a founder of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and one-time president of that predecessor organization to the Trust, will retire this spring from a long career in the National Park Service (NPS), most recently as chief historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust has named Elizabeth Heffernan its new executive director. She first became involved in the history and preservation community as the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission's logistics coordinator and staff manager for the Civil War History Mobile.

At Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site, Kurt Holman has retired after 27 years leading the park. In recognition of this extraordinary commitment, the Kentucky Historical Society presented him with its 2017 Lifetime Dedication to Kentucky History Award.

Dave Ruth, who spent 44 years staffing the NPS "cannonball circuit" has retired after 26 years as superintendent of Richmond National Battlefield. An exceptional partner in preservation, Ruth's tenure saw the park grow from 754 acres to nearly 4,000.

Former superintendent of Colonial National Historical Park (2004–2015), including the Yorktown Battlefield, Dan Smith has been called out of retirement and named acting director of the National Park Service by Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke.

J. Tracy Stakely has been named superintendent of Fort Sumter National Monument, Fort Moultrie and the Charles Pinckney National Historic Site in South Carolina, a position that also includes administrative oversight of the Reconstruction Era National Monument. Although his most recent posting has been at Congaree National Park, Stakely previously served as acting superintendent at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. ★

### ALABAMA

- Belle Mont Mansion
- Brierfield Ironworks Historical State Park
- Fort Gaines Historic Site
- Fort Morgan State Historic Site
- Historic Blakeley State Park

### ARKANSAS

- Arkansas Post National Memorial
- Camp White Sulphur Springs Confederate Cemetery
- Headquarters House Museum
- Historic Washington State Park
- Jacksonport State Park
- Jenkins Ferry Battleground
- State Park
- Poison Springs Battleground
- State Park
- Prairie Grove Battlefield
- State Park

### CALIFORNIA

- Drum Barracks Civil War Museum
- Modesto Citizens Cemetery – GAR Section

### CONNECTICUT

- Fort Trumbull State Park

### DELAWARE

- Fort Delaware State Park

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Fort Stevens

### FLORIDA

- Fort Clinch State Park

### GEORGIA

- A.H. Stephens State Park
- Allatoona Pass Battlefield
- Blue and Gray Museum
- Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park
- Dalton Confederate Cemetery
- Fort McAllister State Park
- Jefferson Davis Memorial Historic Site
- Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park
- Kettle Creek Battlefield\*
- Magnolia Springs State Park
- Pickett's Mill Battlefield State Historic Site
- Prater's Mill Historic Site
- Red Top Mountain State Park
- Resaca Confederate Cemetery

### IDAHO

- Morris Hill Historical Park and Cemetery

### ILLINOIS

- David Davis Mansion State Historic Site
- General John A. Logan Museum
- U.S. Grant Home State Historic Site



Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park  
Prairie Grove, Ark.

- Hart County Historical Society, Battle for the Bridge Preserve
- James A. Ramage Civil War Museum
- Keller's Bridge Battlefield
- Middle Creek National Battlefield
- Mill Springs Battlefield
- Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site

### LOUISIANA

- Camp Moore Confederate Cemetery and Museum
- Frogmore Cotton Plantation and Gins
- Port Hudson State Historic Site

### MAINE

- Bangor Historical Society/ GAR Memorial Home
- Fort Knox State Historic Site

### MARYLAND

- Antietam National Battlefield
- Fort Washington
- Monocacy National Battlefield
- Point Lookout State Park

### MASSACHUSETTS

- Forbes House Museum
- Minute Man National Historical Park\*



Cedar Mountain Battlefield  
Cedar Mountain, Va.

### MICHIGAN

- Historic Fort Wayne
- River Raisin National Battlefield Park\*

### MISSISSIPPI

- Beauvoir: The Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library
- Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center
- Gulf Islands National Seashore, Mississippi District
- Mississippi's Final Stands Interpretive Center and Battlefields
- Natchez National Historical Park – Fort Rosalie\*
- Raymond Military Park
- Vicksburg National Military Park

### MISSOURI

- Battle of Lexington State Historic Site
- Battle of Pilot Knob State Historic Site
- Hickory County Museum/John Siddle House
- Lone Jack Civil War Battlefield
- Missouri Civil War Museum
- Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

- American Independence Museum\*

### NEW JERSEY

- Fort Mott State Park
- Princeton Battlefield State Park\*

### NEW MEXICO

- Fort Stanton Historic Site
- Pecos National Historical Park

### NEW YORK

- Thomas Paine Cottage Museum\*

### NORTH CAROLINA

- Bennett Place State Historic Site
- Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site
- Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site\*
- Fort Fisher State Historic Site
- Governor Richard Caswell Memorial\*
- Historic Carson House\*
- Historic Edenton State Historic Site\*
- Kinston Battlefield Park
- New Bern Battlefield Park
- Smith-McDowell House Museum

### OHIO

- Berlin Crossroads
- Harriet Beecher Stowe House
- John Rankin House
- Johnson's Island Military Prison Site
- U.S. Grant Boyhood Home and Schoolhouse

### OKLAHOMA

- Doakville Archeological Site

### PENNSYLVANIA

- Brandywine Battlefield/ Birmingham Township\*

- Gettysburg National Military Park
- Highland Cemetery
- Laurel Hill Cemetery
- Monterey Pass Battlefield Park
- Mount Moriah Cemetery
- Paoli Battlefield\*

### SOUTH CAROLINA

- Buford Massacre Battlefield\*
- Camden Battlefield and Longleaf Pine Preserve\*
- King's Mountain National Military Park\*
- Musgrove Mill State Historic Site\*
- Ninety Six National Historic Site\*
- Rivers Bridge State Historic Site

### TENNESSEE

- Britton Lane Battlefield
- Carter House
- Fort Dickerson, Knoxville
- Fort Donelson National Battlefield
- Fort Germantown
- Fort Pillow State Historic Park
- Johnsonville State Historic Park
- Lotz House Civil War Museum
- Mabry-Hazen House
- Parker's Crossroads Battlefield
- Shiloh National Military Park
- Stones River National Battlefield

### TEXAS

- Camp Ford, C.S.A.
- Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Historical Landmark

### VIRGINIA

- Appomattox Court House National Historical Park

- Ball's Bluff Battlefield Regional Park
- Belle Grove Plantation
- Brandy Station Battlefield, Graffiti House
- Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park
- Cedar Mountain Battlefield
- Endview Plantation
- Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park
- Germana Foundation
- Kernstown Battlefield
- Liberia Plantation
- Manassas National Battlefield Park
- Mt. Zion Historic Park
- Newport News Park
- Pamplin Historical Park
- Petersburg National Battlefield
- Richmond National Battlefield Park - Gaines' Mill Battlefield
- Trevilian Station – Custer House
- Virginia Museum of the Civil War – New Market

### WEST VIRGINIA

- Bulltown Historic Area
- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- Rich Mountain Battlefield
- Shepherdstown Battlefield

★★★★

Find a site near you! Get involved! Send us your pictures!  
[WWW.CIVILWAR.ORG/PARKDAY](http://WWW.CIVILWAR.ORG/PARKDAY)

## DEVELOPMENT PLAN ABANDONED *after remains found near Fort Negley*

**I**N JANUARY, developers abruptly pulled a proposal to transform Greer Stadium, a disused minor-league baseball facility built at Nashville's Fort Negley Park in 1978, into mixed-use development after an archaeological study concluded human burials remained on the property. The proposal had been opposed by the Trust and many of our allies across the preservation community, including the Cultural Landscape Foundation, Friends of Fort Negley, Historic Nashville, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Tennessee Association of Museums, Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association and many prominent individual Volunteer State preservationists.

Although development would have not disturbed the footprint of the fort, it drew criticism from many quarters even before definitive archaeological assessments were released for the precedent it would have set in the unilateral decision to rescind public lands. Greer Stadium — which had stood empty since 2014, when the Nashville Sounds moved to a new downtown park — was to have been demolished and the underlying 21 acres transferred from public ownership to private and opened for development.

the UNESCO Slave Route Project.

In the early 20th century, efforts to create a national park unit at Nashville that would have included Fort Negley failed, and the city took over the site. In the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration allowed for creation of recreational facilities and repair of the fort, but America's entry into WWII halted any transformation into an interpretive center. While various recreational activities, from children's museums to softball flourished, the now-overgrown fort was off-limits to the public until 2004. Its visitor services have since been enhanced significantly, and the site has proven to be a popular area amenity.

The charge to stop the threat of private development was led by Friends of Fort Negley, which had filed a petition to block it with the Tennessee Historical Commission under the Tennessee Historic Preservation Act of 2016, which controls alterations to historic memorials. Now the group has formed a committee, led by country star Kix Brooks, that is seeking to restore the area and reintegrate it into the historic landscape, maintaining important green space in the fast-growing city.★

## JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED GROUND LAUNCHES

*summer residential program for high school students*



**O**UR NATION is facing a crisis in civic and historical literacy. A recent report by the National Assessment of Educational Progress found that only 23 percent of high school seniors showed proficiency in civics and just 18 percent in American history — the worst performance of the seven subjects included in the study.

To combat this growing problem, the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area is creating the National History Academy, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for highly motivated students to explore American history and civics through the power of place. One hundred future leaders will enroll in this immersive, five-week residential program and emerge with a deep and abiding grasp of the critical importance a knowledge of history lends to understanding our own lives and times.

Students will not just learn about American history; they will walk where Washington, Jefferson, Madison, John Brown and Martin Luther King walked, and where soldiers fought for the birth and survival of the nation. They will see and learn about seminal documents that shaped our history — the Constitution and Bill of Rights, the Monroe Doctrine, the Emancipation Proclamation, the Marshall Plan

and the "I Have a Dream" speech. When not learning on-site, they will engage in discussions and debate using the innovative history case method developed by Harvard Business School professor David Moss, and hear guest lectures by nationally recognized scholars and leading educators from historic sites and museums.

Based at the Foxcroft School, a preeminent residential secondary school in Loudoun County, Va., the National History Academy will put attendees within easy travel of dozens of national parks, national monuments and national historic sites. From America's earliest colonies to her bloodiest battlefields, from Native American villages to presidential homes, students will be at the center of a vast cross-section of history available nowhere else in the nation.

The connection between historical literacy and preserving democracy is clear: We cannot have a democracy without future leaders and citizens who know our history. The students who attend the Academy will have a new appreciation for our past and a deeper commitment to the preservation and conservation of the places where it happened.

Learn more at [www.historycamp.com](http://www.historycamp.com).★

Fort Negley, constructed atop St. Cloud Hill south of Nashville in 1862, is all that remains of the Union defenses that once encircled the city. Much of the work on these fortifications was performed by African Americans pressed into service by the Union army — either those still enslaved or self-emancipated blacks who had fled bondage for contraband camps near Federal lines. Conditions for these laborers were harsh; only 310 were ever paid for their work and up to 800 of the nearly 3,000 employed in the process may have died. Although tens of thousands of soldiers from both sides, civilians and contrabands were buried in these outskirts of Nashville during the war, many — perhaps one-third — were not exhumed and reinterred in permanent cemeteries. The probability that the vulnerable population of laborers are among those remaining in unmarked graves is high. In recognition of this important narrative, Fort Negley is the first American site nominated for

## SUCCESS STORIES LAND SAVED FOREVER



Appomattox Court House National Historical Park  
Appomattox, Va.  
NICHOLAS IVERSON

## VICTORY

### 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 cavaliers 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 August, the Trust acquired an unimproved 59-acre parcel contiguous to Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, followed by an additional five acres in December situated in the center of the park. Funding assistance was provided by the federal American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) and the Virginia Battlefield Sites Preservation Fund. The properties bring the Trust-protected total to **504 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 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 counter-attack before retreating.

The five-acre property acquired by the Trust in July will be incorporated into the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site. The Trust has now protected a total of **1,861 acres** at Bentonville.

### BRICE'S CROSS ROADS, MISSISSIPPI

At the beginning of June 1864, Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest set out with his cavalry corps of about 2,000 men to enter Middle Tennessee and destroy the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad, which was carrying men and supplies to Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman in Georgia. On June 10, 1864, Forrest's Confederate force defeated a much larger Union column under Brig. Gen. Samuel Sturgis at Brice's Cross Roads. This brilliant tactical victory against long odds cemented Forrest's reputation as one of the

foremost mounted infantry leaders of the war.

In September, the Trust purchased two properties totaling 87 acres, including land where regiments of United States Colored Troops protected the retreating Union army. Funding was provided by ABPP and the Brice's Crossroads National Battlefield Commission, to which the Trust will donate the land. We have now protected a total of **1,422 acres** at Brice's Cross Roads.

### BRISTOE STATION, VIRGINIA

On October 14, 1863, Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill's corps stumbled upon two corps of the retreating Union army at Bristoe Station and attacked without proper reconnaissance, resulting in the loss of a battery of artillery. Hill reinforced his line but could make little headway against the determined Yankee defenders. The victorious Federals continued toward Centreville unmolested, while the Confederates retired to the Rappahannock River, destroying the Orange & Alexandria Railroad as they went.

In August, the Trust acquired via landowner donation a 34-acre tract that includes the likely site of Rickett's battery of captured Union artillery. The land will be transferred to Prince William County for incorporation into its existing battlefield heritage park. We have now saved more than **168 acres** at Bristoe Station.

### CEDAR CREEK, VIRGINIA

In the fall of 1864, Union Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan marched up the fertile Shenandoah Valley, stripping the country bare to starve out the Confederate forces in Virginia. By mid-October, the exhausted Confederates were outnumbered two to one, but after an audacious night march, they surprised Union troops near Cedar Creek. Ultimately, a crushing Union rally extinguished Southern hopes in the Valley.

The 14-acre property saved by the Trust in August will play a critical role once incorporated into Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, connecting the park to land owned by the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation and allowing for unified interpretation of preserve areas. The Trust has protected a total of **661 acres** at Cedar Creek.

## SUCCESS STORIES

### LAND SAVED FOREVER

#### EUTAW SPRINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA\*

After a string of defeats in the spring of 1781, Continental General Nathanael Greene described his efforts to end the British threat in South Carolina succinctly: “We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again.” He led 2,100 troops on a 22-day, 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 kept pushing them back to Charles Town.

*In October, Campaign 1776 completed acquisition of a one-acre property on the American right flank at Eutaw Springs, a critical early step in the preservation and interpretation strategy for the battlefield. The land will eventually be transferred to the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust for management as part of the broader Liberty Trail initiative. To date we have now protected 14 acres at Eutaw Springs.*

#### GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

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

*The two-acre property along Doubleday Avenue on the First Day’s battlefield protected by the Trust in June was associated with the ill-fated attack of Union Brig. Gen. Alfred Iverson. It has already been transferred to Gettysburg National Military Park, subject to a life estate. The Trust has now protected a total of 1,022 acres at Gettysburg.*

#### GREENBRIER RIVER, WEST VIRGINIA

During the night of October 2–3, 1861, Union Brig. Gen. Joseph Reynolds advanced with two brigades from Cheat Mountain to reconnoiter the Confederate position at Camp Bartow on the Greenbrier River. He drove in the Confederate pickets, but after sporadic fighting and an abortive attempt to turn the Confederate’s right flank, withdrew back to Cheat Mountain.

*In July, the Trust issued a grant to the West Virginia Land Trust, facilitating the protection of a 14-acre tract at the heart of the Greenbrier River Battlefield. The property includes well-preserved earthworks and two impressive artillery lunettes, all of which will be interpreted with grant funding from the state Transportation Enhancement Program. This is the first land ever protected at the Greenbrier River battlefield.*

#### HANGING ROCK, SOUTH CAROLINA\*

The fall of Charleston in May 1780 was a major blow to Patriot fortunes in the Revolutionary War. The British then moved inland and set up a series of backcountry outposts. On August 6, 1780, in a major shift to American fortunes, Brigadier General Thomas Sumter seized one such location after a three-hour pitched battle at Hanging Rock.

*In November and December, Campaign 1776 preserved two*

*properties totaling 16 acres at Hanging Rock, largely directly across from previously protected lands. These lands will all be transferred to the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust for long-term management and interpretation as part of the broader Liberty Trail initiative. These projects were undertaken thanks to the assistance of ABPP and the South Carolina Conservation Bank. We have now protected 139 acres at Hanging Rock.*

#### HARPERS FERRY, WEST VIRGINIA

*As the Army of Northern Virginia advanced into Maryland*



Kettle Creek Battlefield  
Wilkes County, Ga.  
BRIAN KEELEY PHOTOGRAPHY

*in the fall of 1862, Gen. Robert E. Lee boldly divided his army, sending Maj. Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson to capture the Federal garrison at Harpers Ferry, while the rest of the army marched toward Sharpsburg, Md. Jackson placed artillery on the heights surrounding the town and, on the morning of September 15, ordered an artillery barrage and infantry assault. Believing the situation to be hopeless, the Union commander surrendered the garrison and more than 12,000 men.*

*In October, the Trust utilized ABPP funding and a landowner donation to record a conservation easement on 200 acres of Bolivar Heights at the site of Stonewall Jackson’s flanking column. This property was once threatened by development, particularly after water and sewer pipes intended to service it were laid through the national park without proper authorization. The Trust has now protected a total of 542 acres at Harpers Ferry.*

#### KETTLE CREEK, GEORGIA\*

*In early February 1779, a new Loyalist regiment set out to unite*

*with the British force that had successfully captured Augusta, Georgia. After crossing the Savannah River, they made camp on the north side of Kettle Creek in Wilkes County, Ga., unaware that about 350 Patriots were close by, preparing to strike. Catching the Tories by surprise on the morning of February 14, 1779, the Patriots drove the enemy’s pickets back into their camp and launched a multipronged attack. Eventually, despite outnumbering their foe and commanding the higher ground, the Tories gave way and fled across the creek, their regiment virtually destroyed.*

*The 180-acre property acquired by the Trust in early October includes the burial site of several soldiers and will be transferred to Wilkes County, Ga., pushing the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association toward completion of the core battlefield area. Funding was provided by ABPP, Watson-Brown Foundation and the Georgia Battlefields Association for this, our first land preserved at Kettle Creek.*

#### MONOCACY, MARYLAND

While national attention was fixed on the siege around Petersburg, Va., a Confederate army stole a march north through the Shenandoah Valley, intending to threaten lightly defended Washington from the north. On July 9, 1864, a makeshift Union force attempted to arrest these Confederate divisions along the Monocacy River, just east of Frederick, Md. Although defeated, this Federal delaying action proved sufficient to buy time for veteran troops to bolster the capital’s defenses.

*The three-acre tract on the extreme right of the Confederate*

*line protected by the Trust in December has been considered a “must have” property since the creation of Monocacy National Battlefield. Funding was provided by the Maryland State Highway Administration and Maryland Heritage Areas Program; the land will be donated to the national park. Cumulatively, the Trust has protected 445 acres at Monocacy.*

#### SACKETS 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 Sackets Harbor — the main U.S. shipyard on Lake Ontario. But such an attack had been long-expected and was ultimately repulsed.

*In September, the Trust completed acquisition of our second tract at Sackets Harbor, a 0.3-acre parcel necessary to provide access to Horse Island, which was our first War of 1812 purchase. This project was made possible by funding from ABPP and the state of New York. The Trust plans to transfer these properties to the state for incorporation into Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site. The Trust has protected a total of 24.6 acres at Sackets Harbor.*

#### SECOND MANASSAS, VIRGINIA

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

*In the second half of 2017, the Trust protected two properties at Second Manassas totaling 172 acres. The smaller, six-acre property is adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield and the 5th and 10th New York monuments. The larger property was in an area used as a reserve position and for field hospitals, and was acquired mostly by donation from the seller. Additional funds were provided by ABPP and the Virginia Battlefield Sites Preservation Fund. The Trust has now protected a total 370 acres at Second Manassas.*

#### VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

In the summer of 1863, Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant’s Army of the Tennessee converged at Vicksburg on a high bluff above the Mississippi River, trapping a Confederate army under Lt. Gen. John Pemberton. After two major assaults were repulsed with heavy casualties, Grant began a siege of the city on May 25. After holding out for more than 40 days, Pemberton — faced with dwindling supplies and no possibility of reinforcement — surrendered on July 4. Grant’s brilliant campaign resulted in Union control of the entire Mississippi River, effectively splitting the Confederacy in half.

*The 0.6-acre tract protected by the Trust in October is directly adjacent to Vicksburg National Military Park, in the area where Alabamians sought shelter from Union artillery bombardment on the morning of May 22 and formed a counterattack that drove the Federals from the Railroad Redoubt. This property was protected with ABPP funding, and brings the Trust’s preservation tally to 12 acres at Vicksburg.★*

*★ indicates Campaign 1776 affiliate sites*

## DISCOVERING SIGNAL POSITIONS

from the Union's 1864 winter  
encampment

by CRAIG SWAIN

**F**OR THE FIVE MONTHS from December 1863 to May 1864, the Army of the Potomac occupied Culpeper County, Va., while the Army of Northern Virginia likewise maintained winter camps across the Rapidan River to the south. Throughout this relatively quiet season — punctuated by actions such as Morton's Ford and the Kilpatrick-Dahlgren Raid — the Union army remained vigilant. Theirs was a forward position, deep in Virginia, and commander Maj. Gen. George G. Meade needed solid communication links, both to his superiors in Washington and to his subordinate corps headquarters scattered across the region. Connections to scouts, pickets and observers brought in valuable notice of Confederate activities. Today, thanks to detailed period accounts, solid detective work conducted on the landscape and examination of contemporary photos, we can piece together this remarkable network.

Wartime telegraph installation and operation were handled by the U.S. Military Telegraph Construction Corps and U.S. Military Telegraph Corps, respectively, augmented by civilian contractors. A line, running along the Orange & Alexandria Railroad from nearby Brandy Station, provided Meade's headquarters on Fleetwood Hill with connection to authorities in Washington. Later, when Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, commanding all Federal armies, established headquarters at Culpeper Court House in April 1864, these same telegraph lines were used to communicate with department commanders, inaugurating a unified offensive across the various theaters of war.

At the time, the telegraph was too costly and cumbersome to be of tactical use in connecting the corps headquarters; a swift courier could cover the width and breadth of the area in a few hours, which was sufficient for routine communications. However, the ever-present threat of Confederate raids



**ABOVE:** In early May 1864, at the outset of what became the Overland Campaign, the U.S. Military Telegraph Construction Corps packed up its Culpeper County headquarters near Brandy Station. As the Union army moved, the Telegraph Construction Corps came up close behind, "stringing wire" back to the Brandy Station railhead. From there, telegraph lines ran along the line of the Orange & Alexandria Railroad to Washington, D.C., providing vital, sustained communications between Lt. Gen. Ulysses Grant and his Washington superiors. For Then and Now images, see inset.

necessitated a secure transmittal mechanism. To meet this vital requirement, chief signal officer Capt. Lemuel B. Norton deployed the Army of the Potomac's signal detachment to form a basic network using the method of communication commonly referred to as "wig-wag."

In this system, a team of signalers employed a set of flags, or, at night, torches, to convey messages using a specific set of movements devised by Maj. Albert J. Myer in the 1850s. Unlike the semaphore method, which required operators to memorize and recognize specific flag positions for all letters of the alphabet, wig-wag used four basic flag movements: a wave to the left, to represent "one"; a wave to the right, as a "two"; a wave forward, as a "three"; and a clockwise wave around, considered a "four." Akin to the dashes and dots used in Morse code, the signaler used pre-arranged sequences of "one" and "two" to relate letters. "Three" and "four" were used to indicate the end of words, sentences or messages, as well as other administrative responses. Operators encrypted messages by transposing letters in a pre-arranged key sequence. Overall, wig-wag allowed rapid transmission of messages, but required an open and unobstructed line of sight.

The signal stations established by Norton across Culpeper County reflected dual roles: to the north, a string of stations co-located near army and corps headquarters for internal communication; to the south, stations on high ground to observe Confederate lines across the Rapidan River. A station on Pony Mountain operated as a central "hub" to relay messages, allowing the sprawling network to effectively support com-



mand and control of the army, while at the same time amassing valuable intelligence from the front lines.

The station on Pony Mountain was built in two parts, just off the crest on a plateau. One tower provided a view to the south, connecting it to stations directly overlooking the Rapidan and Robertson Rivers and allowing Federal signal officers to monitor the main Confederate signal station and observation post on Clark Mountain, in Orange County. A second tower on Pony Mountain, somewhat masked by the crest, faced north and provided connections back to army and corps headquarters.

Corps headquarters stations included two on Fleetwood Hill, supporting the III and VI Corps. A station in Culpeper Court House linked in the I Corps. The V Corps station sat on high ground just south of Rappahannock Station (now Remington), while Cole's Hill, the location of the II Corps' station, also doubled as an observation post to the east. Finally, a station at the center of Fleetwood Hill supported army headquarters.

The network across the southern tier of Culpeper County included a permanent station on Cedar Mountain. To the south, a

part-time station on Garnett Hill overlooked key upstream fords. A station on Thoroughfare Mountain provided eyes on western approaches and also collected information from cavalry pickets. A team at Michell's Station ensured direct communications to an advanced infantry brigade. Other stations at Piney Mountain and Stony Point provided vantage over Rapidan crossing points. Officers atop Pony Mountain collected information from these southern signal stations, added their own observations and forwarded reports to the army's headquarters at Fleetwood Hill.

The air of Culpeper was filled with information that winter as the signalers steadily worked to give their commander an edge in the spring campaign sure to follow. Knowing the location of these stations, today's visitor can readily appreciate the importance of terrain and viewsheds to armies at rest as well as in battle. Visitors to the preserved southern end of Fleetwood Hill can utilize the newly installed and interpreted telescope to assess the same lines of sight used by Federal signal troops during the winter of 1864. If, as Napoleon said, "the secret of war lies in the communications," then a visit to Fleetwood Hill allows a student of the Civil War to tease out some of that mystery.★

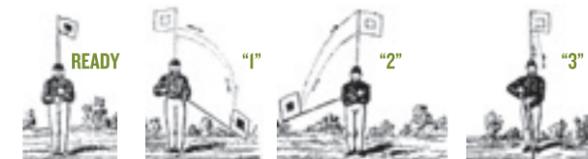
Read more about Craig Swain's efforts to place historical events on a modern landscape at his blog, *To the Sound of the Guns*.

**D**ESPITE BEING an undoubtedly important representation of Culpeper County during the war, this March 1864 image (labeled "THEN") depicting a wagon in the foreground, a Union regimental camp on a knoll, Pony Mountain on the horizon and an Orange & Alexandria Railroad turntable, had long eluded precise site identification.

But no longer! During the Army of the Potomac's 1863-1864 winter encampment, the III Corps camps centered around the hamlet of Brandy Station, but stretched up and down the railroad for many miles. New research has placed the location one mile southwest of Brandy Station, with the image taken near the front yard of "Sunbright," an antebellum home occupied III Corps division commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Carr. The house was burned down by a developer in 1989.

The wartime image not only reflects typical encampment scenes, but allows one to discern the heavy impact 120,000 soldiers levied upon a rural county's geographical platform. The unknown photographer was standing atop a rail car, and his view over a devastated landscape is straight south, toward Pony Mountain. The contemporary view reveals a "recovered" landscape, and looking closely through the houses, one can view Pony Mountain, as well as the "hump" of nearby Cedar Mountain, in the center.

- Clark B. Hall, Culpeper historian





by MARK MALOY

# FIX BAYONETS!

Under cover of darkness, without loading their muskets, the determined colonists and their French comrades secretly assaulted Redoubts 9 and 10 at Yorktown, Virginia. The result would turn the British world upside down.

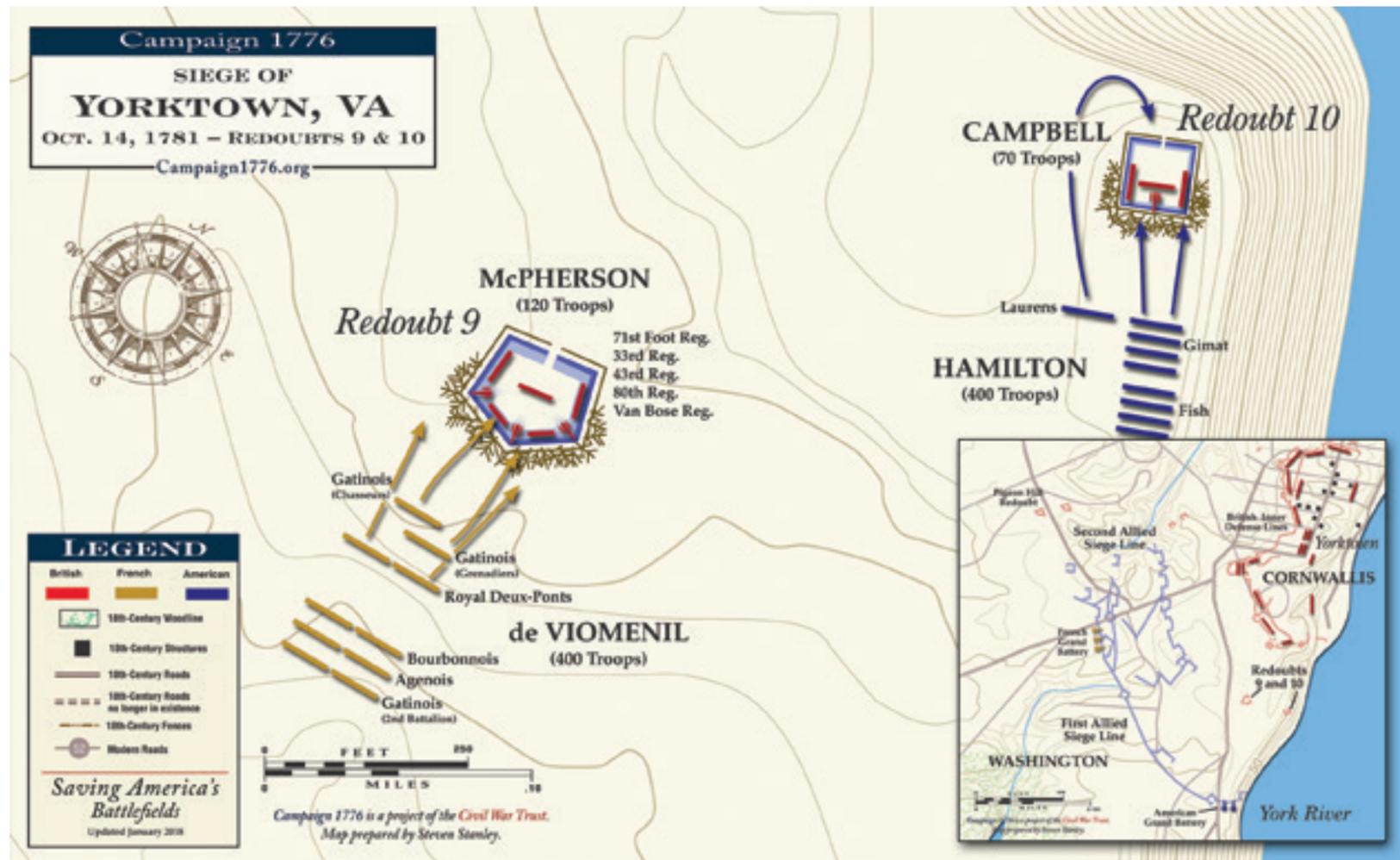


PHOTO by  
BRIAN CALLAN



The fraises on the recreated Redoubt 9 Yorktown Battlefield, part of Colonial National Historical Park Yorktown, Va.

# ON THE EVENING



of October 14, 1781, the sharp clanking of steel bayonets being fixed to muskets echoed through the dense fog that descended over the American earthworks outside of Yorktown, Va. The bayonet had been used extensively and effectively throughout the Revolutionary War, but this instance was extreme: Troops were forbidden to even load their muskets. Secrecy was paramount in this endeavor, and a single accidental musket shot could sink the whole operation. Success would mean that the Americans would be on top of the British soldiers before they could respond, a climactic assault in what had become a protracted siege.

The stakes were clearly high as General George Washington implored his men that they “act the part of firm and brave soldiers.” Captain Stephen Olney, commanding a company that would take part in the assault, later wrote that “his Excellency’s knees rather shook, but I have since doubted whether it was not mine.” Fear must have pervaded many of the men’s minds, as Olney remembered that many of the men were “no doubt, thinking, that less than one quarter of a mile would finish the journey of life with them.”

Earlier that summer, Washington had not planned on attacking the British in Yorktown at all. Instead, the Patriot commander focused on British General Henry Clinton’s army in New York City, until, in August, he was joined by a large French force under the command of the Comte de Rochambeau. After learning that a French fleet could come up from the West Indies and help in

an attack against British General Charles Cornwallis’ army in Virginia, Washington made one of his most daring decisions of the war. He would feign an attack against New York City, and move his main force south. Encircled on land and sea, Cornwallis would have no choice but to surrender.

The British had prepared numerous earthen siege lines around the town and on the opposite side of the York River at Gloucester Point to defend themselves, at least until another naval force from New York could help them. These hopes were dashed on September 5 during the Battle of the Chesapeake, at which the French fleet scored a decisive victory and removed the possibility of evacuation by sea. When an allied force of French and American troops more than 17,000 strong arrived outside Yorktown on September 28, the British occupied these entrenchments, as well as a few outlying earthen redoubts. Two such small, polygonal forts prominent on the British left flank came to be known as Redoubts 9 and 10. They were well-prepared for an attack; any infantry assault on them would be a bloody affair.

Instead, the allied forces opened siege operations. As artillery from both sides bombarded each other for the next few weeks, the allies dug a siege trench, called a parallel (as it ran parallel to the British siege lines) 600 yards from the British defenses. Next, the French began to inch closer and build a second parallel just 300 yards from the British defenses. But in order to complete this parallel, Redoubts 9 and 10 needed

to be taken — and quickly, before another British fleet could arrive to challenge French control of Chesapeake Bay and aid Cornwallis. After a two-day artillery assault on October 13–14, Washington believed the redoubts were weakened enough to be taken by an infantry assault.

The French, under the command of General Baron de Viomenil, would assault Redoubt 9 with 400 men, while the Americans, under the command of General Marquis de Lafayette, would assault Redoubt 10 with another 400 men. Lafayette gave his former aide-de-camp, French Lieutenant Colonel Jean-Joseph Sourbader de Gimat, the honor of leading the American troops against Redoubt 10. However, young Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton protested that he should have the honor of leading the Americans, as he had seniority over Gimat. When Lafayette would not change his mind, Hamilton appealed directly to Washington, who agreed and gave him the honor of leading the American light infantry.

Early on the evening of October 14, small diversionary attacks were made against the British right flank and at Gloucester Point to confuse the British. Strategy for the main assault was simple: axe-wielding pioneers (also known as sappers or miners) would work to break up the abatis and

## HAMILTON APPEALED DIRECTLY TO WASHINGTON, WHO AGREED AND GAVE HIM THE HONOR OF LEADING THE AMERICAN LIGHT INFANTRY.

fraises, making holes for the bayonet-wielding infantry to pour through. Abatis were obstacles made by placing tangled and sharpened branches in front of a fort to repel any assaulting infantry in much the same way barbed wire would do in later wars. The fraises were large, sharpened wooden poles anchored into the sides of the fort. Both obstacles could cause deadly delays for the attackers.

At 7:00 p.m., six signal guns fired into the air and the assaults commenced. Swiftly, 800 French and American troops climbed out of the first parallel and ran across the cratered no man’s land toward the earthen fortifications. As the American light infantry arrived at Redoubt 10 and the pioneers began their work, the 70 British defenders discovered the movement and quickly ran to the parapet and began firing into the dark figures. Captain Olney remembered “the enemy fired a full body of musketry. At this, our men broke silence and huzzaed.” Impatient for the pioneers to finish their work, they charged quickly through the few holes in the abatis that had been cut away or destroyed by artillery. They dropped into the ditch and began working their way up through the fraises onto the parapet of the redoubt. “Rush on, boys!” the officers cried as the men charged up the sides. Sergeant Joseph Plumb Martin remembered that as he rushed toward the redoubt “a man at my side received a ball in his head and fell under my feet, crying out bitterly.” The men clawed their way up the side of the redoubt or stood on



"Storming a Redoubt at Yorktown"  
Painting by EUGENE-LOUIS LAMI, 1840

the shoulders of others to climb upward. British soldiers began throwing hand grenades into the ditch, causing havoc. The bright flashes of musket discharges and explosions illuminated the dark night.

Captain Olney made it to the top of the parapet and yelled, "Olney's company form on me!" He was immediately met with numerous British bayonets. Using his spontoon (a large spear officers carried), he was able to fight off a few, but received two bayonet wounds, in his leg and stomach. In a seeming miracle, just as Olney prepared to be overwhelmed by the enemy, two American soldiers who had fortuitously loaded their muskets while in the ditch popped up and fired into the British, who quickly ran away or surrendered.

A desperate struggle ensued on the parapet of Redoubt 10, as American and British soldiers locked in a deadly hand-to-hand brawl with musket butts, bayonets, pistol shots and musket fire. Despite the mounting casualties, the American troops were unrelenting. The officers led by example: Hamilton was conspicuously gallant in the assault, and Gimat was wounded by a musket ball in his foot as he led his men forward. As the American troops flowed over the walls of the redoubt, many of the British troops began to retreat toward their main lines. Lieutenant Colonel John Laurens of South Carolina led a detachment of 80 men around to the rear of the redoubt to cut off British defenders trying to retreat. In less than 10 minutes, the remaining British troops threw down their muskets and surrendered to the Americans. Hamilton noted that "incapable of imitating examples of barbarity, and forgetting recent provocations" all the de-

**CONFUSION AND HORROR ENGULFED THE SMALL FORT AS SABER AND BAYONET THRUSTS WERE EXCHANGED BY THE TWO DESPERATE SIDES.**

fenders were given quarter. The Americans had lost nine men killed and 25 men wounded; the British had eight men killed and 20 taken prisoner, including the redoubt's commander, Major James Campbell. As the last shots were fired inside Redoubt 10, Lafayette joyously sent a message to Viomenil reporting his victory and asking, "Where are you?" Viomenil's men had begun their assault at the same time as the American troops, with loaded muskets and fixed bayonets. However, when the French troops arrived at the abatis outside Redoubt 9, they discovered that almost none of it had been destroyed in the bombardment. The French pioneers began to break up the obstacles, and the soldiers stopped in their tracks and waited, forbidden to fire until they were inside the fort. A sentry from the redoubt called out for the shadowy figures to identify themselves, and when there came no answer, the 120 British and Hessian troops inside fired into the French soldiers.

The French pioneers stubbornly removed the abatis while they and their fellow soldiers endured a hailstorm of lead. Unlike the Americans, the disciplined French soldiers stood patiently as musket balls zipped through their lines. One French soldier remembered the fire being so galling that it seemed "it was raining bullets" and "we fell just like snowflakes." After a few minutes, a hole was cleared, and the French soldiers surged forward.

Once they made it to the top of the parapet, they opened fire into the garrison's defenders. The British and Hessian defenders attempted a bayonet charge, but the resilient French forced them back. A scene of confusion and horror engulfed



The recreated earthworks of Redoubt 9,  
Yorktown Battlefield, part of Colonial National Historical Park  
Yorktown, Va.  
ANDY BACKOWSKI

the small fort as saber and bayonet thrusts were exchanged by the two desperate sides. After a few minutes of this havoc, the British and Hessian soldiers threw down their arms and surrendered or escaped back to their main lines. The entire affair took about 30 minutes, and was far bloodier than the fighting at Redoubt 10. The French lost 15 men killed and 77 wounded; the British and Hessians lost 18 men killed and 50 captured.

With the works firmly under American and French control, the allies were able to finish the second parallel and bring artillery to within 300 yards of the British main defenses. Washington was elated with the conduct of his men, reporting two days later to the Continental Congress that "Nothing could exceed the firmness and bravery of the troops. They

advanced under the fire of the enemy without returning a shot, and effected the business with the bayonet only."

Cornwallis, realizing that escape was impossible and further resistance pointless, requested a ceasefire on October 17 and, on October 19, more than 8,000 British and Hessian soldiers surrendered to the allied forces. The humiliating disgrace for the Crown forces became Washington's largest victory. Although the war continued for another two years, Yorktown marked the last major land combat of the Revolution and drained all support of the war in London. When the British prime minister heard of the defeat, he exclaimed, "Oh, God! It is all over!"

Today, the National Park Service owns and preserves this hallowed ground in perpetuity. While the original earthworks of Redoubts 9 and 10 no longer exist, re-creations constructed in the 20th century, largely by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression, mark their locations. Once the sight of brutal hand-to-hand combat, these war-torn fields now provide a place for quiet reflection on one of the most dramatic moments in our nation's founding. ★



"Surrender of Lord Cornwallis"  
Oil painting by JOHN TRUMBULL, 1820

*Mark Maloy's decade-long career in public history and archaeology has seen him explore and interpret many pivotal sites from our country's first centuries — from Pocahontas's village at Werowocomoco to his current Park Service posting at George Washington Memorial Parkway, which administers Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial. An active contributor to the Emerging Revolutionary War Era community, his book, Victory or Death: The Battles of Trenton and Princeton is now available from Savas Beatie.*

# THE DECISION AT CRANEY ISLAND

BY CHRISTOPHER  
PIECZYNSKI

*This American triumph, engineered by the other Armistead brother, was easily overshadowed by disasters elsewhere in the summer of 1813. But it almost didn't happen in the first place.*

**N** the fortifications still under construction at Craney Island. The strategic importance of Craney Island was easy to recognize. Had a battery been erected there during the Revolutionary War, it likely would have been sufficient to stop Lord Dunmore's ships from entering the Elizabeth River and bombarding Norfolk. Faced with a new British threat, Brigadier General Robert Barraud Taylor, commander of all militia forces in the area, and Captain Charles Stewart of the *Constellation* sought approval from their respective chains of command to further fortify Craney.

Cockburn was undeniably the greatest expert in North America on the type of amphibious operations required to reduce the defenses of a shoal island and open the river. He had even developed a trademark style in earlier raids around Chesapeake Bay: overwhelming force, first-light landings to provide the element of surprise, armed boats to offer fire support against artillery and coastal defenses ashore during the infantry assault and the presence of Congreve Rocket boats leading the assault to strike terror into both defender and citizen alike. In larger cities, where a more robust network of defenses prevented immediate

attack, he conducted extensive reconnaissance of the defenses, sounding water routes and prospective landing areas; collected intelligence on the strengths and design of the defenses; and determined the number, and readiness, of the defenders.

Cockburn's plan for attacking Norfolk was based on his months of preparation.

First, he would overwhelm the defenses on Craney Island, land forces on the east and west banks of the Elizabeth River and proceed overland to attack Forts Norfolk and Nelson from their undefended rears, while ships would proceed upriver to attack the *Constellation*. Using his own well-trained troops, plus additional soldiers supplied by Brigadier General Sir Thomas Sidney Beckwith aboard additional ships provided by Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren, commander of all naval forces in North America, Cockburn was all but assured a victory.

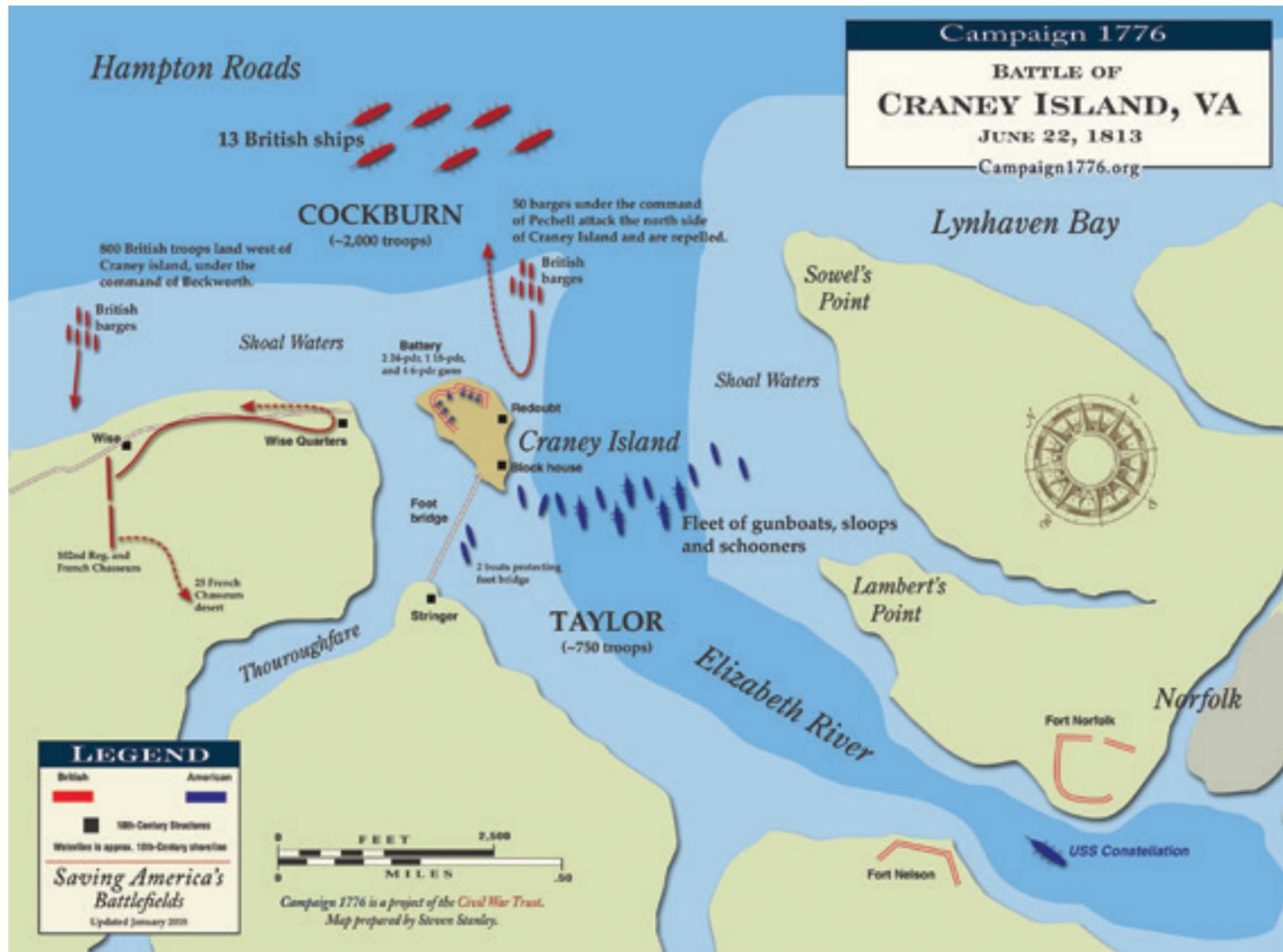
But fate — in the form of the British military's bureaucracy — intervened. Warren was censured by the Admiralty for allowing his commanders to focus more on raiding than on maintaining the blockade. In the repercussions, Cockburn was placed on the frigate *Barossa*, a lesser command; after months of planning, he would not lead the operation. Instead, while Beckwith landed about 800 troops to the west of Craney Island "in tolerable confusion," the amphibious assault on the island was left to Captain Samuel John B. Pechall of the *San Domingo*. Even Warren's barge, nicknamed the *Centipede*, equipped with a brass 3-pound cannon, parasol and pet dog, was used to lead the boats containing men to shore.

**THE BATTLE OF CRANEY ISLAND** — the June 22, 1813, American victory at the mouth of Virginia's Elizabeth River — has an identity crisis. Normally, such good news would have been welcomed by the American public, but the triumph was quickly overshadowed by two other military disasters, diminishing its significance. The American commander's delay in submitting his report containing details of the battle until July 4 made the engagement almost instantly old news, which has relegated it to the footnotes of War of 1812 history, despite its strategic significance.

Infantry operations along the Atlantic Coast in 1813 were primarily a diversion to draw American troops away from campaigns along the Canadian border. These efforts were supported by a British blockade of Chesapeake Bay by Admiral Sir George Cockburn, a man of action not particularly enthusiastic about such duty when American frigates were reigning victorious against British ships on the high seas. But on February 4, 1813, the frigate *Constellation*, attempting to exit the Bay on a war patrol, was forced into the safety of the Elizabeth River by a squadron of British ships. *Constellation*, anchored in the river between the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth, became a target of opportunity for Cockburn.

Numerous raids around the Chesapeake Bay had shown its coastal communities generally lacked defenses; the tepid responses by local militiamen convinced the British that attacking Norfolk and destroying the *Constellation* would be easy. Guarding the entrance to the Elizabeth River, however, were





Missteps in the assaults on both land and sea combined to result in an abysmal failure. Beckwith's attack from the landward side was stifled when high tide prevented the crossing of the "thoroughfare" between the mainland and the island. Sustained artillery fire from the Americans inflicted heavy casualties, and most of the British Congreve rockets fired from this position landed harmlessly in the water. Without any artillery of their own, the British were unable to counter the American barrage. Chaos, insubordination and desertions from the Independent Companies led to a hasty retreat back to the boats.

Out on Hampton Roads, several hours later, the boats began their approach as the tide was ebbing and grounded well offshore, but within range of American cannon. Several boats were destroyed, since the new troops did not know that wading the final distance ashore was required and had not rehearsed loading and unloading boats. No one appeared to be in charge; the boats mounted with cannon and Congreve rockets were in the rear and could not bring their weapons to bear. Eventually, the boats turned and retreated back to their vessels.

Apparently, such difficulties and how to mitigate them were known only to Cockburn; whether he tried to com-

**N** communicate on these matters and was marginalized, or willingly decided to withhold his expertise upon being removed from leading the operation, is a matter of speculation.

Despite the prodigious British failings, the Americans almost committed a fatal error that could have had lasting repercussions on the remaining course, if not outcome, of the war: They very nearly abandoned Craney Island on the eve of the British attack.

On June 18, 1813, Taylor was informed of 13 British ships carrying about 2,400 British soldiers and marines, plus two companies of Independent Foreigners arriving in Lynnhaven Bay. He convened a war council of his top commanders the next day and posed one simple question: "Under present circumstances, is it proper to evacuate the Post at Craney Island, if the disposition of the Enemy, should indicate an attack on the Island or on the Forts on the Harbor of Norfolk?" The 13 commanders present voted unanimously to abandon the island, which would have left the entrance to the Elizabeth River unguarded and open for attack by the British.

Taylor supported the vote, citing his adversity to hazarding the forces there on the island, primarily minimally trained and largely untested militia, in the face of an overwhelming threat. One officer, however, not present at the war council, had a different opinion.

Colonel Walker K. Armistead was an army engineer, the third graduate of West Point and architect of the island's defenses. He had developed plans for fortifying Craney Island as early as 1809, and was the undeniable expert on its defensibility. Presumably having been on Craney Island overseeing construction of the defenses during the first war council, upon his return, Armistead convinced Taylor that, with as few as 300 men, the existing defenses could hold the island.

Taylor reconvened his war council on June 20 and allowed Armistead to plead his case. There were two other new faces at the table: Captain John Cassin, the senior-most naval officer in the region, commanding Gosport Navy Yard, and Captain Joseph Tarbell, commanding officer of the frigate *Constellation*. After hearing of the navy's just-concluded successful gunboat attack on the HMS *Junon* in Hampton Roads and Armistead's confident testimony, the war council took on a very different tone. When asked, "Whether under present circumstances it be advisable to withdraw the Forces from Craney Island?" only two officers voted to abandon the island; 12 voted to maintain the defenses, plus an additional vote to maintain them if reinforced.

In response, Cassin promised gunboat support in the surrounding waters, and Tarbell pledged 100 sailors and 50 Marines from the *Constellation*. These veteran gunners were well-trained to handle the 18- and 24-pound cannon on the island.

From a decision that could have easily spelled doom for the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth, the frigate *Constellation* and the Gosport Navy Yard, the Americans had pivoted to mount a defense easily strong enough to counter the lackluster attack on Craney Island. While the British suffered heavy losses in killed, wounded or captured, the Americans lost none.

But three days later, Cockburn was reinstated to lead a simultaneous assault against nearby Hampton. As the town had minimal value as a military target, one might speculate the operation was conducted to have a victory to make up for the loss at Craney Island. Cockburn's typical overwhelming firepower reduced the primary defenses, and the town was quickly captured. The subsequent behavior of the Independent Company of Foreigners, French soldiers captured in the wars against Napoleon and enlisted to fight for the British, however, deeply impacted the interpretation of the two battles on both sides of the Atlantic. One British officer wrote that "Every horror was perpetrated with impunity — rape, murder, pillage — and

not a man was punished." Although triumphant, the American victory at Craney Island paled in the face of such outrage. Further sorrow arrived with the news of the early June defeat of the frigate *Chesapeake* and the death of her gallant captain, James Lawrence, whose final words, "Don't give up the ship!" have become a rallying cry of the U.S. Navy.

On the part of the British, the loss at Craney Island began to shift their overall strategy in the region. The day after the battle, Warren wrote to John Croker, secretary of the Admiralty, that capturing Norfolk-area objectives "cannot now be affected with less than 5 or 6,000 men." By August, raids on towns and military objects had all but ceased for the rest of 1813 and the first half of 1814, in favor of greater enforcement of the blockade. This was partly because of the loss of those forces designed to conduct these raids — namely, the Independent Companies of

Foreigners. Their use had been a bold experiment, but less than two weeks after Craney Island, Warren indicated that "the state of the Foreign Company is such as to render their longer continuance with the troops here impossible."

Cockburn was forced to conclude that the small number of Marines, artillery companies and trained sailors he had aboard his ships was not enough to capture the major cities like

Annapolis, Baltimore and Washington that he had been eyeing. He would have to wait.

While Craney Island may not have eliminated the threat of British attacks along coastal areas, it did significantly stifle the British momentum and initiative in the region. Meanwhile, it gave the Americans time to increase and strengthen defenses in many areas. Fifteen months after the Battle of Craney Island, British forces marched on and burned parts of Washington after militia forces defending the city fled. Later, they tried to take Baltimore but were unable to penetrate the city's defenses, which had been designed by another Armistead, older brother George.★

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*Craney Island  
Hampton Roads, Va.  
ANDY BACKOWSKI*

**ARMISTEAD  
CONVINCED  
TAYLOR THAT,  
WITH AS FEW  
AS 300 MEN,  
THE EXISTING  
DEFENSES  
COULD HOLD  
THE ISLAND.**

# FREEDOM IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

*The region witnessed  
the beginning of slavery in America.  
And the beginning  
of its end.*

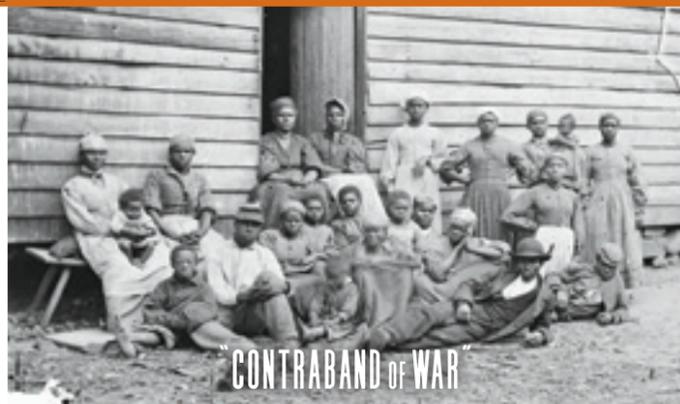
**A**RRIVING in Virginia, English settlers immediately recognized the strategic significance of a spot near the mouth of Chesapeake Bay shielded from Atlantic storms and located on a deepwater channel. They named it Point Comfort and established the first military presence there within two years of landing at Jamestown.

In August 1619, the site witnessed a tragic chapter in American history — the arrival of the first Africans transported to Virginia unwillingly. They had been seized of a Portuguese slave ship by a privateer bearing a Dutch letter of marque and, although they were con-

## FORT MONROE

GIBRALTAR OF THE CHESAPEAKE

by MARY KOIK



sidered indentured servants at the time, the incident is recognized as the beginning of slavery in the British North American colonies.

Military installations at Old Point Comfort were built, repaired and expanded at various times throughout the colonial period, including an artillery battery established by the French West Indian Fleet during the 1781 Siege of Yorktown. British naval incursions up the Chesapeake Bay during the War of 1812 prompted the United States to plan a new system of coastal defenses all along the Eastern Seaboard.

To watch over the important waters of Hampton Roads, President James Monroe commissioned the largest stone fort ever built in the United States. Construction began in 1819 and, upon its substantive completion in 1834, Fort Monroe — with its 32-pound guns that could fire more than a mile to protect critical shipping channels — was deemed the Gibraltar of the Chesapeake. It functioned as an assembly, training and embarkation point for American forces during the Seminole Wars, suppression of Nat Turner's Rebellion, Black Hawk War and Mexican War. A series of artillery schools established at Fort Monroe educated many of America's finest gunners.

In the spring of 1861, following Virginia's secession from the Union, President Abraham Lincoln quickly



moved to reinforce Fort Monroe, lest it face a similar fate as Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. This action meant the bastion remained in Union hands throughout the war; for a time, the last Federal foothold in Tidewater Virginia, the navy having burned and abandoned the Norfolk Navy Yard to the Confederates.

Fort Monroe played an important part in numerous Union initiatives: a crucial link in the Anaconda Plan's naval blockade, the launch point for the 1862 Peninsula Campaign, logistical support for gunboat operations based out of City Point during the late-war Petersburg Campaign. Despite these military contributions, Fort Monroe only once fired at an enemy, ineffectual rounds that bounced off the ironclad CSS *Virginia* during the March 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads. It was a logistical hub, too — a major hospital and official point of transfer for mail sent between locations in Union and Confederate territory.

Perhaps Fort Monroe's greatest contribution to American history, however, came in an unlikely context; a seemingly bureaucratic decision that ultimately helped shape the tenor and tone of the Civil War.

At the outset of the war, a number of enslaved workers had been leased to the Confederate army to construct defensive batteries. On the night of May 23, 1861, Frank Baker, James Townsend and Shepard Mallory escaped, stole a small

boat and rowed to Fort Monroe to seek asylum. The Confederates, per the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, demanded their return. The legally trained Union commander, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler, refused; as he explained in a May 27 letter, since Virginia had seceded from the United States, that statute could not be applied. Further, since the men had been employed in an act of war against the United States, he could seize them as enemy property, or contraband of war.

The decision was problematic, in that it tacitly recognized the sovereignty of the Confederacy by acknowledging that a U.S. law was not applicable. Moreover, no fundamental change in status was immediately achieved for the three men; they were not declared free and were put to work by the army without pay. However, the so-called Fort Monroe Doctrine set in motion an evolution in thinking that would continue through the First and Second Confiscation Acts, the Emancipation Proclamation and the establishment of the United States Colored Troops.

Rapidly becoming known as Freedom's Fortress, Fort Monroe was a powerful symbol for enslaved people, offering them a legitimate way to seek their own liberation. By autumn, the Grand Contraband Camp had been established nearby. The facility that would ultimately be home to more than 10,000 formerly enslaved persons quickly became a locus for education of African Americans, which had been forbidden in Virginia, ultimately leading to the founding of Hampton University.

Fort Monroe remained an active military post until 2011, when it was decommissioned as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process and its functions transferred to nearby Fort

Eustis. On November 1, 2011, President Barack Obama used his authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act to declare Fort Monroe a national monument and the 396th unit of the National Park System. In August 2015, on the anniversary of the first Africans' arrival in Virginia, the Commonwealth donated 121 acres to the park, including many of the fort's most important historic buildings.★

**A**T THE ONSET of the American Civil War, Fort Wool found itself a partisan political flashpoint. It had originally been named for John C. Calhoun, the revered South Carolina statesman who was secretary of war when it was commissioned. But over time, Calhoun's political outlook evolved, and he became a champion

of states' rights over federal authority. Across the northern states, Calhoun's name — although he was 11 years in the grave when war came — embodied the defense of slavery and the tangled path to bloodstained rebellion. On March 18, 1862, the War Department rechristened the site in honor of Brig. Gen. John E. Wool, commander of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, based at Fort Monroe.

The thousands of annual visitors to Fort Wool look directly across the channel at Fort Monroe and its 1803 sandstone lighthouse. They stand where Robert E. Lee and Presidents Andrew

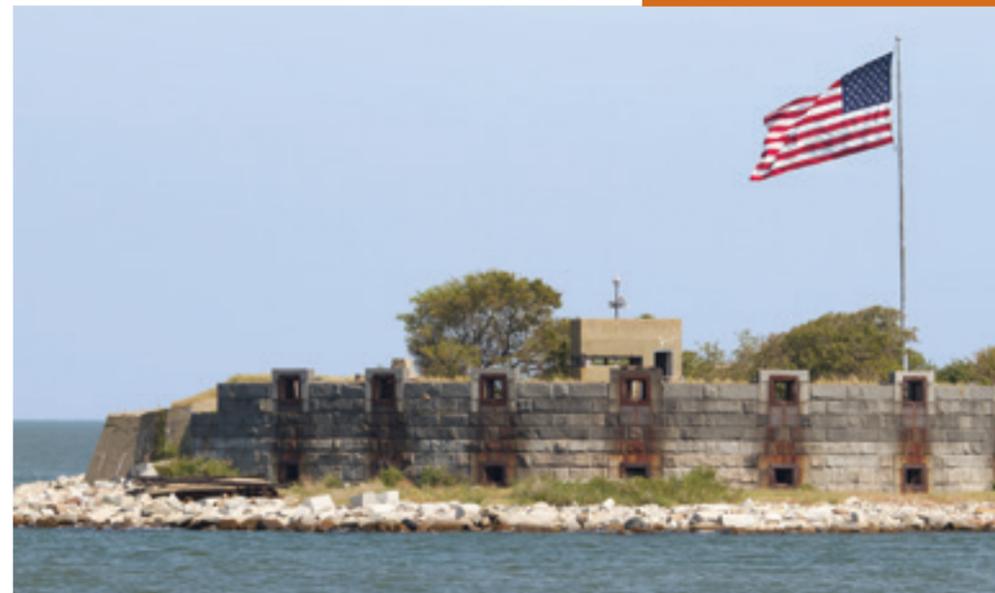
the nation's coast against European attack from the sea. Fort Wool and Fort Monroe were designed to guard the entrance to the strategic Hampton Roads Harbor. Fort Monroe — located on Old Point Comfort, a peninsula created by the confluence of the James and York Rivers — built upon existing defenses dating to as early as 1609. Construction of Fort Wool's artificial island about a mile away, across the deepwater channel, began in 1818.

At that time, Fort Wool held great promise to be an imposing and formidable defense, standing four courses high, with 232 cannon trained on the surrounding waters. On September 26, 1827, when Maj. Gen. Jacob Brown laid the first massive granite

## FORT WOOL

STANDING GUARD OVER HISTORY

by MIKE COBB



Jackson, John Tyler and Abraham Lincoln once stood. They can easily imagine Fort Wool's Sawyer Rifle cannon firing southward toward the Confederate positions on Sewell's Point, (today's Naval Station Norfolk). They are captivated by the westward view of the waters where the USS *Monitor* and CSS *Virginia* clashed. They are impressed by the massive granite walls and the ingenuity that built and maintained them.

Fort Wool's architectural history melds three periods of American military construction and engineering innovation: Jacksonian-era coastal defenses constructed to protect a growing nation, concrete batteries built to house six-inch disappearing guns added in the early 20th century and Battery 229 and the Battery Control Tower, built during World War II.

Following the War of 1812, Congress authorized construction of 41 masonry fortifications to defend

block, Baltimore-based news magazine *Niles' Register* recorded the moment: "Star Spangled banner rising in majestic grandeur through the dense canopy of smoke that o'erhung the island, proclaimed to the world the birth day of another bulwark of liberty."

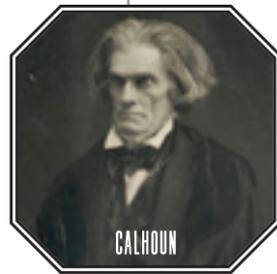
Shortly after the groundbreaking, under supervision of U.S. Army engineers, more than 100 skilled stone- and brickmasons and laborers were set hard to work. Well-known satirical journalist Seba Smith noted, "not an inch of area had been reserved for a spear of grass ... great cranes are erected to elevate the stone to the desired level. These are furnished with ropes, chains, pulleys, and hooks, by which stones weighing more than a ton are carried from the water edge..."

Sadly, Fort Wool's grand design was never to be realized. The stone walls and casemates were less than half completed when it was determined that the island was settling. The government spent more than two decades bringing in sand and stone in a vain attempt to stabilize the underlying soil.

While it never realized its full potential as the envisioned bastion, Fort Wool did become a significant presidential haven. From his personal space, actually a little hut built for him on the fort's crest, Andrew Jackson governed America for extended times from 1829 to 1837. He sought isolation at his favored retreat, "For the benefit of my health, by sea bathing, and to get free from that continued bustle with which I am always surrounded in Washington, and elsewhere, unless when I shut myself up on these rocks."

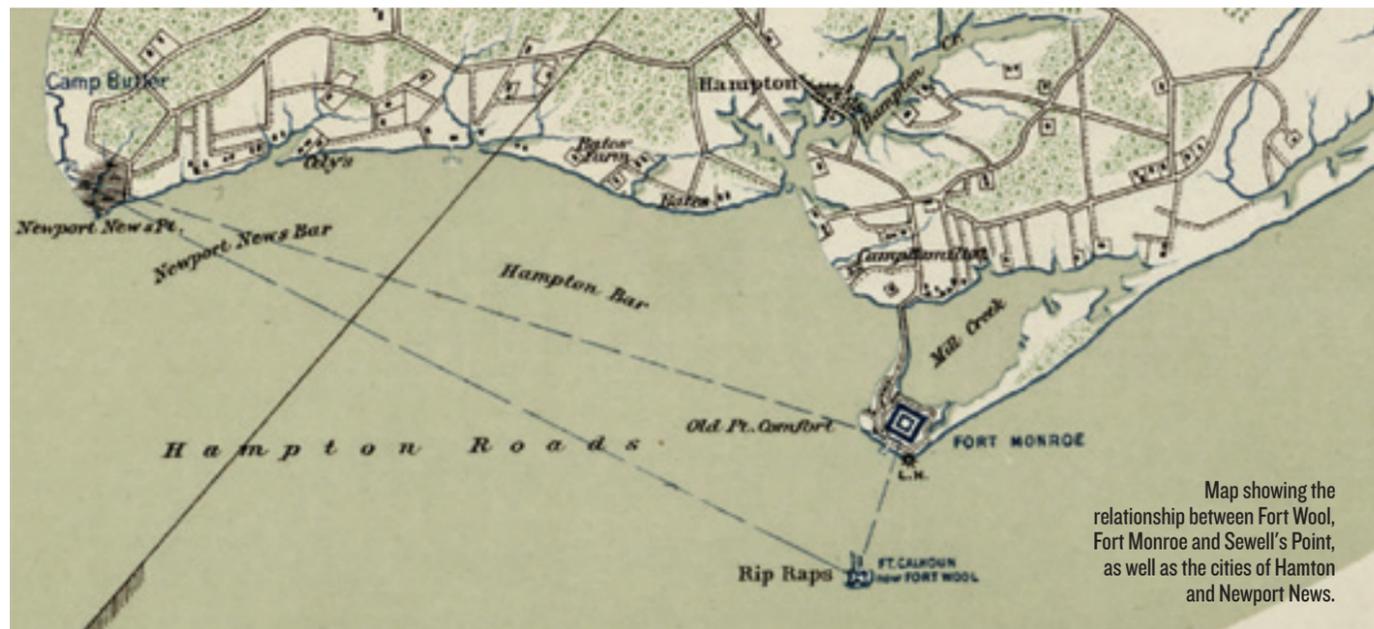
**ABOVE:**  
The original walls of Fort Wool were augmented by later technologies, but still watch over Hampton Roads.  
ROB SHENK

Scores of letters from Jackson, written at Fort Wool, confirm he spent his time pondering and confronting the greatest questions of the time, including the Peggy Eaton Affair, the Bank War, the Annexation of Texas and the tragic policy of the removal of the Native Americans from their lands. Here, Jackson confronted a crisis that clearly foreshadowed the events of 1861 — John C. Calhoun’s threat to take South Carolina out of the Union. Known as the Nullification Crisis, the clash questioned the ability of states to deem federal laws void within their borders. Jackson penned in early August 1833: “In the end (nullification),



Atlantic Blocking Squadron, called for Fort Wool to be “put in good fighting order forthwith. It is far from being in such a state just now. . . . The main thing is to get the place cleared away and prepared.”

Fort Monroe was found to be “in excellent defensible condition,” though Fort Wool was “under construction; not ready for armament or garrison.” Only one course and about half of the second level of casemates were in place. Not a single cannon muzzle pointed through an embrasure. Once hostilities began, Louis M. Goldsborough, commander of the North



Map showing the relationship between Fort Wool, Fort Monroe and Sewell's Point, as well as the cities of Hampton and Newport News.

if not frowned down by every lover of liberty and government of laws, (will) destroy our happy form of government that secures to all prosperity and happiness; whilst nullification leads to disunion, wretchedness [sic] and civil war.”

Jackson’s position on the matter was supported by the young second lieutenant of engineers assigned to oversee the island’s stabilization, a Virginian named Robert E. Lee. Voicing his frustration over the sectional impasse, Lee said, “There is nothing new here or in these parts, [except] Nullification! Nullification!! Nullification!!!” He was, however, less welcoming of the strong-willed president’s requested alterations, which “played the Devil” with the fort’s plan. Plagued with construction problems, he sensed that completing the fort “might be too great a labor, even for a Hercules.”

In the winter of 1861, anticipating open conflict with the South, the War Department ordered a report on the state of readiness of all the Federal coastal fortifications. In Hampton Roads,

**ON MARCH 8—9, 1862, THE EPIC ENCOUNTER BETWEEN THE USS MONITOR AND THE CSS VIRGINIA WAS FOUGHT WITHIN VIEW OF FORT WOOL.**

Throughout the Civil War, only a handful of cannon were mounted at Fort Wool, easily the most effective of which was the Sawyer Rifle. It was pointed southward toward the strategic Confederate batteries less than two miles away on Sewell’s Point, near Norfolk, against which Fort Wool was strongly positioned.

In a late August 1861 issue, *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper* circulated a field artist’s sketch of the Sawyer Rifle in action at Fort Wool. The engraving showed the thick-timbered wharf, with a Union army officer closely watching as a gunner yanks the enormous cannon’s lanyard, hurling a projectile toward the formidable Confederate positions amid a thick ring of smoke. The drawing and accompanying story attracted the notice of Northerners impatient for news of the developing war in the Tidewater region.

“The immense Rifle Cannon at the Rip-Raps (Fort Wool) thundered angrily, and to our amazement, a heavy shell exploded



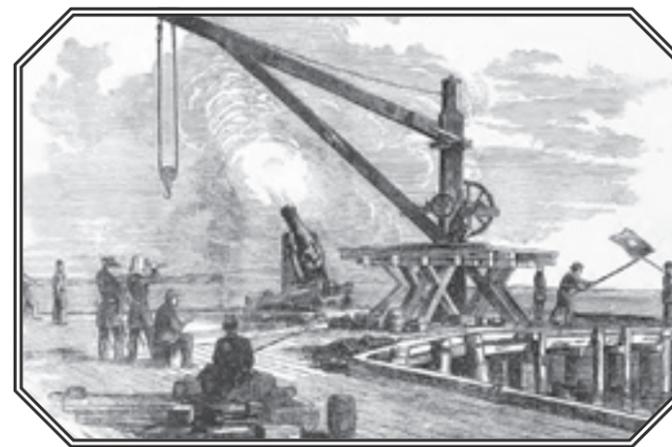
a few yards from us. I turned my glass at once on the Rip-Raps, and distinctly saw the muzzle of the villainous gun,” wrote novelist Augusta Jane Evans, who was visiting Confederate troops at Sewell’s Point in the summer of 1861. As she watched, the gunners reloaded and fired another “missile of death right at us. . . . My fingers fairly itched to touch off a red hot ball in answer to their chivalric civilities.”

In late October 1861, 11 enslaved men seeking liberty arrived at Fort Wool and reported all they knew about Sewell’s Point, providing important intelligence for the region’s defenders. They were part of a steady stream of African Americans arriving in the region since Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler’s so-called Contraband Decision that spring.

On March 9, 1862, the epic encounter between the USS *Monitor* and the CSS *Virginia* was fought within view of Fort Wool. At dawn, New Yorkers of the Union Coast Guard stood by, “grouped on the parapet around our cannons, spying toward Sewell’s Point and the *Minnesota*, yet veiled by fog.” But the *Virginia* was too far away for their shelling to have any damaging effect.

In early May 1862, President Abraham Lincoln came to Fort Monroe to plan the offensive movement against Norfolk and took a tugboat to Fort Wool for a close look at the rebel fortifications at Sewell’s Point. Thirty years after Jackson railed against South Carolina’s threat of secession from this rocky island, Lincoln personally ordered the firing of the Sawyer Rifle in a war for the preservation of the Union.

Abraham Lincoln used



**ABOVE:** Union troops witness a revolution in naval warfare with the duel between the USS *Monitor* and CSS *Virginia*. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

**BELOW:** Artist’s sketch of the Sawyer Rifle in action at Fort Wool. FRANK LESLIE’S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER.

Fort Wool to watch the Federal fleet’s offensive movement. He was joined by his secretaries of treasury and war, Salmon P. Chase and Edwin M. Stanton, the latter of whom telegraphed that, “The President is at this moment at Fort Wool witnessing our gunboats. . . . The Sawyer Gun in Fort Wool has silenced one battery on Sewell’s Point. The James Rifle mounted on Fort Wool also does good work. It was a beautiful sight to witness the boats moving on to Sewell’s Point, and one after another opening fire and blazing away every minute.”

Today, Fort Wool has been designated a State and National Historic Landmark, but its future status is at a critical juncture. The 19th-century casemates — the same ones that sought to disable the CSS *Virginia* during the duel of the ironclads — are in immediate danger of collapsing. A small fissure in the brick vaulted ceiling, first noticed in Robert E. Lee’s time, has continued to expand. The WWII battery control tower (one of only two in America) is also in desperate need of stabilization. To learn more about how you can become involved in efforts to preserve this important site, contact [fortwoolinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fortwoolinfo@gmail.com).★

*J. Michael Cobb is curator emeritus of the Hampton History Museum, director of Fort Wool Historic Site and vice president of the Petersburg Battlefields Foundation. He holds a master’s degree in American studies from the College of William and Mary and has authored Fort Wool: Star Spangled Banner Rising and co-authored The Battle of Big Bethel: Crucial Clash in Early Civil War Virginia.*

## FAUQUIER AND LOUDOUN GARDEN CLUB

*Exemplary Steward*

**N**EVERY PRESERVATION announcement by the Trust is the culmination of a lengthy process wherein many individuals and groups play a role. In all cases, the lynchpin of such efforts is the property owner who made the choice to ensure their land's permanent protection, often after spending years or decades providing careful stewardship of their own. The protection of Goose Creek Bridge at the Upperville Battlefield (see page 6) is a particularly noteworthy example of this interplay. For 42 years, the Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club (FLGC) oversaw the care, upkeep, restoration and interpretation of this remarkable site.

The oldest remaining turnpike bridge in the area, Goose Creek Bridge dates to the presidential administration of Thomas Jefferson. It was a working landmark until 1957, when the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) realigned the Ashby Gap Turnpike (U.S. Route 50) and built a new crossing upstream.

Understanding that the span's significance remained, even though it was no longer in use — after all, it had been an integral part of daily life for 150 years — members of the community stepped forward to protect it. Out of sheer love of history, the Morison family, whose Welbourne Farm borders Goose Creek to the east and north of the bridge, took back possession of half of the bridge from VDOT. When preparations for the celebration of America's bicentennial sparked a renewed interest in our past, Sally Morison inspired her fellow preservation-minded Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club members to take ownership of the other half of Goose Creek Bridge from VDOT.

Thus began a remarkable four-decade legacy of care and stewardship. From the very outset, FLGC knew this would be a challenging undertaking and took its responsibilities seriously, focusing its efforts in three areas: preserving the bridge, enhancing its features and sharing the resource with the community.

Making something old structurally sound again takes

LEFT: Goose Creek Bridge, Upperville Battlefield, Loudoun County, Va.  
BELOW: Sign that has greeted all visitors to the park.

money — lots of money — and FLGC members engaged in a steady stream of grant applications, matching-fund drives and special events beginning in the mid-1970s, a full decade before the idea of a national battlefield preservation group took shape. All told, FLGC has raised more than \$200,000 in grants, augmented by private donations, including tens of thousands of dollars in the early 1990s for structural repairs and construction of an access road and scenic overlook. Proceeds from their biennial Gardening Symposium held in Middleburg funded routine maintenance.

The site was significantly enhanced in 1995, when a neighbor, then-U.S. Sen. John Warner, donated 12 acres south of the bridge between Goose Creek and the new U.S. 50 to the Garden Club, providing a protected view of the bridge from the highway. Through a great deal of energy, time, money, effort and expertise, FLGC members restored the land around the bridge to what it would have looked like in the 1800s, receiving the Garden Club of America's prestigious Conservation Award in 2011 for their efforts.

Today, the area around Goose Creek Bridge showcases exceptional



native beauty and educates visitors about the benefits of land conservation. Beside the road from Lemmon's Bottom and beyond the scenic overlook is a wildflower meadow, where a rich tapestry of native plants attracts a variety of birds and pollinators. Once established, such benign conservation techniques offer a historically accurate backdrop for visitors without requiring pesticides, fertilizers or constant watering and mowing.

Along Goose Creek is a thriving riparian corridor, where native trees and plants filter sediment and hold the creek bank firm, improving water quality and habitat. The bridge itself provides an excellent view of a woodland hedgerow, where tree canopies can mature within a tangle of shrub cover. For FLGC members, the area around the bridge is a living classroom, demonstrating stream monitoring, the use of prescribed burns as a restoration tool, and the interplay between bird species and native plants.

And while the visitors' log listed names from all over the country, Goose Creek Bridge remained, at its heart, a community resource. People walked, picnicked, launched canoes, walked dogs — even shot movies and got married. The members of FLGC are pleased this tradition will continue as it becomes integrated into the NOVA Parks network.★

## CAMP of INSTRUCTION STUDENTS OF PRESERVATION

MARK BRADFORD  
Pickett's Charge

# A GETTYSBURG CYCLORAMA FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

*modern technology and artistry reinterpret the iconic circular painting*



Museum, a unit of the Smithsonian Institution.

Experience it two ways: One — at your fingertips on a smartphone, desktop or tablet — offers an interactive, animated and narrated video overview of the famed artwork. The other — a curved, floor-to-ceiling series of eight contemporary-art paintings that interpret the monumental panorama — enlivens the inner-circle galleries on the top floor of the museum prominently located on the National Mall.

The Trust created a first-ever, annotated, 360-degree video to help introduce viewers to an artistic media that was the IMAX cinema of its time. "In the 19th century, people experienced cycloramas in the way we do some products now such as movies, art or virtual reality," said Trust director of history and education Garry Adelman. "It's not only a trip through time, but an educational piece. When you see it, you leave wanting to learn more about Pickett's Charge and American history."

Union Maj. Gen. John Gibbon, who was among the officers who Philippoteaux interviewed to inform his mammoth work, said of it: "The perspective and representation of the landscape is simply perfect. It was difficult to disabuse my mind of the impression that I was actually on the ground."

The Hirshhorn commissioned internationally acclaimed artist Mark Bradford's mammoth "Pickett's Charge" series for the circular atrium gallery on the art museum's third floor. It is his first solo exhibition in

Washington, D.C., and his first major American solo show after his presentation as the U.S. representative for the 57th Venice Biennale, made possible by the Department of State.

Bradford, who is based in Los Angeles, began his nearly 400-foot-long "Pickett's Charge" three years ago. The series weaves together past and present, illusion and abstraction, inviting visitors to reconsider how narratives about American history are shaped and contested. The questions his work elicits "are particularly timely in contemporary America," the Hirshhorn said. "And considering that the Hirshhorn is situated on the National Mall, these questions are made even timelier."

"The Hirshhorn exhibition presented us with an opportunity to think about how to participate, to raise awareness of the Cyclorama and to encourage people to visit Gettysburg and see the original artwork," said Civil War Trust President James Lighthizer.

Inspired by Bradford's effort, the Trust worked with Wide Awake Films of Kansas City, Mo., to create a five-minute, immersive video in a way that would complement both the original, restored painting on display at Gettysburg National Military Park and Bradford's contemporary interpretation.

"The 360-degree video doesn't replace a visit to the real thing, but it gets as close to the experience as one can without making the trip, adding enhancements like battle sounds, smoke and dirt flying about, along with a narration to guide you around the painting," Lighthizer noted.

The Hirshhorn has also invited the Trust's Adelman to present talks in the gallery about the late 19th-century cyclorama craze, and the ways the Gettysburg painting and its associated diorama fooled the eyes and brains of its viewers to transport them through time and space.

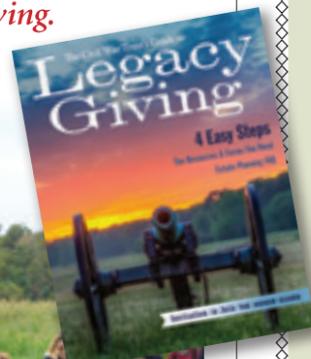
Bradford's exhibit runs through November 12, 2018. The Trust's video is available at [www.civilwar.org/cyclorama](http://www.civilwar.org/cyclorama).★

## MAKE BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION YOUR LEGACY

*More than 1,000 Civil War Trust members have made battlefield preservation their legacy by joining our Honor Guard legacy giving society. If you care about ensuring the continuation of battlefield preservation for years to come, please consider joining them!*

### LEGACY GIVING

Leaving a gift through your estate to the Civil War Trust may be easier than you think, and you may not even need to visit a lawyer. To get started request our *Guide to Legacy Giving* (by returning the form on the outside of this magazine or e-mailing [legacy@civilwar.org](mailto:legacy@civilwar.org)) or visit [www.civilwar.org/legacygiving](http://www.civilwar.org/legacygiving).



Color Bearer Weekend  
BRUCE GUTHRIE

#### STEP 1:

##### **Make an inventory of your assets.**

The Civil War Trust's *Guide to Legacy Giving* has a chart that you can use as a guide to help in this process.

#### STEP 2:

##### **Decide where your assets should go and how.**

Our guide helps you consider the five main categories of beneficiaries, and also outlines the types of charitable gifts you can consider.

#### STEP 3:

##### **Meet with your estate planning attorney, accountant and financial adviser.**

See our suggested bequest language and be sure to provide our federal tax ID number.

#### STEP 4:

##### **Tell the Civil War Trust if you have included us in your estate plans.**

Contact Alice Mullis at [legacy@civilwar.org](mailto:legacy@civilwar.org) or 202-367-1861 ext. 7219 or return the enclosed envelope.

#### Sample Bequest Language:

Sample Bequest Language: "I bequeath to the Civil War Trust, a tax-exempt nonprofit organization located in Washington, DC, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or percentage\_\_\_\_% of my total probate/trust estate, or properly described herein). This Fund is to be used as the organization deems advisable."\*

*The Civil War Trust is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.  
The federal tax ID number is 54-1426643.*

*\*You may also wish to restrict your gift to fund a certain purpose, please contact Alice Mullis to discuss options ([legacy@civilwar.org](mailto:legacy@civilwar.org)).*

## GIVE THROUGH YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN



TO GIVE through your retirement plan all you need to do is change the information on your retirement plan beneficiary form. Simply request a form from your plan administrator and make the Civil War Trust a beneficiary. Therefore, designating a gift through your retirement plan is simple, quick, and may not require a trip to see your lawyer. Also, it makes tax-wise sense--your assets will not be taxed when donated to us because we are tax-exempt organization though they may be taxed when donating them to your heirs.

## "Why I Have Decided to Leave a Legacy of Preservation."

David and Elaine West are longtime Civil War Trust members from California who have decided to leave a legacy of battlefield preservation by joining the Honor Guard.

**"As both a casual history buff and child of Northern Virginia, my interest in the Civil War is longstanding. The boy in me marvels at the courage of those who fought it and the adult in me marvels at the pervasive impact it, and the issues that drove it, still have on modern America. Together my wife Elaine and I have visited several battlefields, each of which has greatly deepened both our childish and mature reflections on this critical time in American history. It is only logical to search for ways to pass that sense of connectedness on to those who follow. What better way than a legacy donation to the Civil War Trust?"**

David and Elaine West  
Honor Guard Members



73rd New York Infantry Monument  
Gettysburg National Military Park  
Gettysburg, Pa.  
NOEL KLINE

## PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE INCLUDED THE CIVIL WAR TRUST IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS



HAVE YOU included the Civil War Trust in your estate plans and haven't already told us? We encourage you to tell us, so that we can use this information for our internal planning purposes. Please let us know by completing our online confidential Declaration of Intent form online at [www.civilwar.org/declarationintent](http://www.civilwar.org/declarationintent) or by e-mailing Alice Mullis at [legacy@civilwar.org](mailto:legacy@civilwar.org).

### THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

**You can change your mind.** We understand that circumstances change and that you may want to alter your gift.

**You can request that we don't contact you about planned giving**

**You can be anonymous:** We list of our Honor Guard members as our way of recognizing their generosity, but you can request anonymity and your name will not be listed.

*This information should not be construed as tax, investment or estate planning advice. Please consult your estate planning attorney, accountant and financial adviser before making financial decisions.*

*Enjoy what you've read?*

## THEN JOIN US FOR THE 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: "Marching Toward Freedom: The Wars of America's First Century in Virginia's Historic Triangle"



FOR FOUR DAYS, Civil War Trust members, staff and friends will come together to explore an area deeply embroiled in the conflicts that established and confirmed America's independence. From where the "World Turned Upside Down" for the British army at Yorktown, to the site of the world's first clash between ironclad naval vessels, this is where the story of America unfolded.

Our 2018 Annual Conference, *Marching Toward Freedom:*

*The Wars of America's First Century in Virginia's Historic Triangle*, will run from May 30 to June 3. Tours will cover more than 100 years of history across the region, and range from lengthy hikes to vehicle-based excursions. Advance reading suggestions to help you prepare for the experience are available online.

The event will be based out of the Newport News Marriott hotel, where a group rate is available. Guests must make their own hotel reservations, either there or at another venue of their choice; lodging is not included in the conference registration fee.★

Full details on the conference and registration procedures are available at [www.civilwar.org/annualconference](http://www.civilwar.org/annualconference).

## THREE TAX-SMART WAYS TO GIVE to the Civil War Trust

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DONATE TO THE CIVIL WAR TRUST through a donor-advised fund, an account held by a financial institution that you can use to support your favorite charitable organizations. You contribute to the fund, the funds are invested and grow tax-free, and then you determine which charities receive the funds.

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[www.civilwar.org/DAF](http://www.civilwar.org/DAF)

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IF YOU ARE over 70 ½ and have an IRA, you can donate a gift directly to the Civil War Trust from your IRA so that you don't pay taxes on your distribution. Simply contact your IRA provider and then let the Trust know that you are making the distribution.

[www.civilwar.org/IRARollover](http://www.civilwar.org/IRARollover)

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Merrill Lynch

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Fax: 804-201-4804

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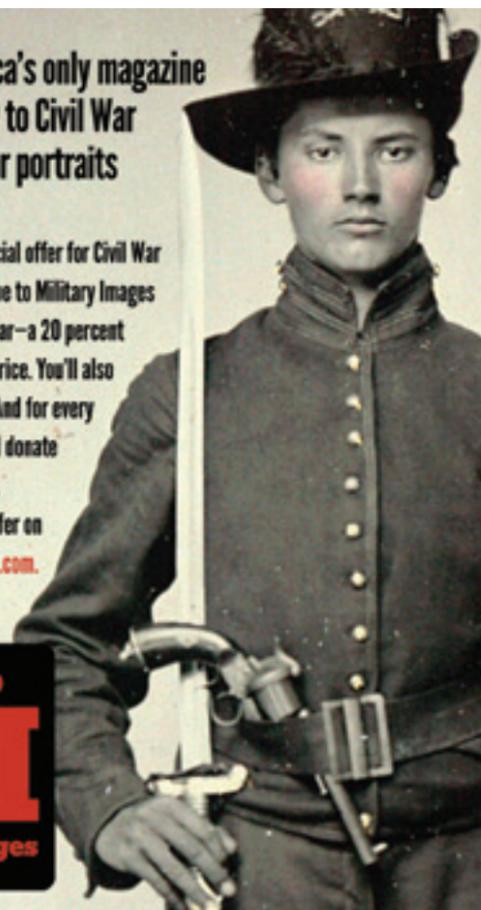
Please let your broker know to include your name when stock is transferred to the Civil War Trust. Please contact Ruth Hudspeth, CFO, 301-665-1400 ext. 203.

[www.civilwar.org/donatestock](http://www.civilwar.org/donatestock)

*The Civil War Trust's tax ID number is 54-1426643. If you have any questions please contact [legacy@civilwar.org](mailto:legacy@civilwar.org). This information should not be construed as tax, investment, or estate planning advice. Please consult with your estate planning attorney, accounting, and financial advisor before making financial decisions.★*

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# CENTRAL VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELDS TRUST

## 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

★ ★ ★ ★

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#### April 20-22, 2018

FEATURING TOURS of Trevilian Station with Eric Wittenberg and North Anna with Bobby Krick, as well as downtown Fredericksburg. Saturday dinner showcases 3D photography as a research tool.

Register online through April 13 at [www.cvbt.org](http://www.cvbt.org)

Central Virginia Battlefields Trust



## A PARTING SHOT

CIVIL WAR DISCOVERY TRAIL

## MARINERS' MUSEUM



IF THE STORY of America is deeply tied to Virginia's "Historic Triangle," then that tale is inherently written in the waters of Chesapeake Bay and Hampton Roads. This coastline dictated the first settlements. Control of its mouth was a critical step in determining American independence. Its waters witnessed one of the greatest technological breakthroughs in naval history.

For more than 80 years, this maritime heritage has been celebrated at the Mariners' Museum, which strives to tell the story of mankind's broader relationship to the ocean, with special emphasis on the region in particular. The museum's permanent collection features more than 32,000 objects, augmented by the Mariners' Museum Library and Archives, which is home to more than 78,000 books; 800,000 photographs, films and negatives;

and more than one million pieces of archival material, making it the largest maritime library in the Western Hemisphere.

The 90,000-square-foot gallery is located on a 550-acre campus that is also home to the 167-acre man-made Lake Maury (named for 19th-century Virginia oceanographer Matthew Fontaine Maury) and a popular five-mile shoreline trail.

The museum is also home to the USS *Monitor* Center, the official repository for the 210 tons of artifacts recovered from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary. Here is done the ongoing work of stabilizing, restoring and researching the remains of the famous Union ironclad. Groundbreaking work undertaken at the Center has led to a better understanding of this technological marvel, and put faces and names to the crew lost when it sank in December 1862.★



THE MARINERS' MUSEUM AND PARK

100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606

CONTACT [www.marinersmuseum.org](http://www.marinersmuseum.org)

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN CALLAN

This is one of the more than 600 sites on the Civil War Discovery Trail. Explore Civil War history and plan your next trip online at [www.civilwardiscoverytrail.org](http://www.civilwardiscoverytrail.org).



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