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AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

HALLOWED GROUND

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HISTORIC
BATTLEFIELDS
AND THE
MODERN MILITARY



50,000 ACRES SAVED AND A NEW ERA IN BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

HALLOWED GROUND
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The American Battlefield Trust preserves our nation’s hallowed battlegrounds and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters today. We permanently protect these battlefields as a lasting and tangible memorial to the brave soldiers who fought in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Thanks to the contributions of more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide, we have preserved more than 50,000 acres at 131 sites in 24 states. For more information, call 1-888-606-1400 or visit our website at www.battlefields.org. *Hallowed Ground* is the membership magazine of the American Battlefield Trust. It is produced solely for nonprofit educational purposes and every reasonable attempt is made to provide accurate and appropriate attribution for all elements, including those in the public domain. Contemporary images are reproduced only with permission and appropriate attribution; uncredited images are courtesy the American Battlefield Trust. Feature articles reflect the research and opinion of the bylined author. ©2018 American Battlefield Trust.

CORRECTIONS: We deeply regret the following errors that appeared in the Spring 2018 edition of *Hallowed Ground*. On page 6, the body chaired by Sen. Lisa Murkowski was incorrect; it is the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. On page 12, Confederate Brig. Gen. Alfred Iverson was misidentified. And on page 39, the name of Honor Guard member Louise Leek was misspelled.

COVER: West Point cadets during a staff ride at Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.
THIS PAGE: Thick morning fog at Cedar Mountain Battlefield, Culpeper County, Va. Both photographs by ZACH ANDERSON

Retired Maj. Gen. Eric Vollmecke leads his Joint Chiefs support staff on a recent staff ride at the Cedar Mountain Battlefield, Culpeper County, Va.
ZACH ANDERSON



THERE IS SO MUCH exciting news to share with you in this issue of Hallowed Ground that I almost don't know where to begin! As you have likely heard by now, we have reached a major milestone in the historic preservation movement. With 50,000 acres of battlefield now saved forever, we became the indisputable leader in heritage landscape preservation. This achievement would have been unfathomable to the men and women who first envisioned a group designed to protect Virginia battlefields when they created the APCWS in 1987. I invite you to learn more about how we reached this milestone on page 5.

This isn't our only major news, as on May 8, we announced a new organizational structure that I believe is paramount to helping us save the next 50,000 acres of historic land. After 30 years of steady growth and evolution, we have created an umbrella entity designed to encompass the various aspects of our mission. The American Battlefield Trust is a new embodiment of the work we have carried out to date, and under its banner the Civil War Trust and the Revolutionary War Trust will pursue historically significant landscapes and set them aside for future generations. The change will also enable us to more efficiently reach broader audiences to educate them about the importance of experiencing history in the places where it happened. This issue contains information on the new umbrella organization itself on page 4 and details related to your membership on pages 42–43.

Nearly in unison with that announcement came the news that Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke had chosen the Trust as the official nonprofit partner for the federal commission commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War. I need not tell you what a tremendous honor it is to be selected following an intense and competitive proposal process. But also consider what an opportunity this is! As merely a valued partner of many state and federal agencies, we were able to protect a remarkable amount of critical land during the Civil War sesquicentennial. Imagine the benefit to the entire battlefield preservation movement in bringing our philosophy of protecting hallowed ground as outdoor classrooms and living memorials into the consciousness of every American.

In the months and years to come — the anniversary of Lexington and Concord is in 2025 — there will be much more to share with you. In the interim, I hope you will join me in learning to spell and pronounce “semiquincentennial”!

Finally, I wanted to share a few words with you as to why, even without any of the breaking news, I consider this to be a deeply important edition of our magazine. I can think of no better illustration of the overwhelming significance of historic battlefields than discussing the military education technique known as staff rides. Soldiers follow in the footsteps of those who donned the uniform before them, trying to grasp their mindset and understand the tactical decisions they made.

No entity keeps an official tally, but we conservatively estimate that there are 400 such outings to historic American battlefields each year. These span all levels of the military. In this issue, we will introduce you to a group of West Point cadets learning the significance of terrain and a cadre of seasoned Marine logistics officers contemplating issues of supply and distribution for deployed troops.

And, as proof that learning never ceases in the military, shortly before this issue went to press, a group of very senior officers who provide support and assistance to the Joint Chiefs of Staff visited the Trust property at Cedar Mountain that we hope will soon become a Virginia state park. That group's leader, retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Eric Vollmecke, told me that in his 35-year military career, he has found no better professional development tool than a staff ride — and that Cedar Mountain is one of his absolute favorite destinations. Why? As he says, it “provides incredible lessons learned related to all levels of war (strategic, operational and tactical). There is no substitute for walking the actual ground to study and understand the decisionmaking and execution that still applies in today's complex world.”★



JIM LIGHTHIZER
President, American Battlefield Trust

BATTLEFIELDS.ORG

THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

LINEAGE OF MILITARY UNITS

THROUGHOUT our history, the brave men and women of our armed forces have served valiantly to secure the freedoms we enjoy today. We've compiled a collection of articles tracing the lineage of some of the most famous military units in American history. You can read about the 21st Infantry Regiment (the “Gimlet” regiment), Alexander Hamilton's own 5th Field Artillery Regiment, the War of 1812's 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment (the “Cottonbalers” regiment) and more. Read about these famed units at www.battlefields.org/militaryunits.

STAFF RIDES & TERRAIN IN4

FOR MORE than a century, soldiers have used the battlefields of previous conflicts as outdoor classrooms, learning the lessons of history and applying them to today's military. These military field trips, commonly known as staff rides, focus on topics like leadership and the impact of topography. In our Civil War in4 videos, Col. Doug Douds, a Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide, talks about the advent of staff rides and how terrain shapes the outcome of battles. Watch the videos at www.battlefields.org/in4.

LIVE FROM FACEBOOK

WE CONTINUE to bring our supporters to the battlefield virtually via Facebook Live broadcasts. Through these Facebook Live events, viewers can see artifacts and relics, visit off-the-beaten path locations on a battlefield, post questions in the comments section, and interact with key guests and historians. We regularly hold Live broadcasts to commemorate battle anniversaries, celebrate preservation victories and explore historic sites. Visit us on Facebook to stay up to date with upcoming events, www.facebook.com/AmericanBattlefieldTrust.

WE'VE PITCHED our new digital tent at www.battlefields.org! We have updated our website to reflect our new umbrella organization and logo. You can visit the same great history articles, videos, maps and preservation opportunities. In addition to the new look and feel, we've also released a new video and frequently asked questions page that explains our updated name and mission. Explore our new look and feel at www.battlefields.org/ABTVideo.

Col. Jason Musteen while on a staff ride with West Point cadets at Antietam National Battlefield, Md., ZACH ANDERSON



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ANNOUNCING THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

New organizational structure reflects the Civil War Trust's steady growth and success



NEW ERA in the ongoing fight to protect hallowed ground began on May 8, when the nation's preeminent battlefield preservation organization — the Civil War Trust — announced the creation of the American Battlefield Trust as an umbrella entity to encompass its broadening body of work.

The American Battlefield Trust preserves America's hallowed battlegrounds and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters. Its land acquisition efforts focus on the three decisive conflicts in America's founding century — the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War — while its education mandate covers a broader swath of history.

"We at the American Battlefield Trust see preserved battlefields as outdoor classrooms that both illuminate and inspire," said the organization's president

James Lighthizer. "They allow young and old alike to walk in the footsteps of our early heroes. No Hollywood movie, documentary or museum exhibit can compare to standing amid the now-quiet trenches of Yorktown or gazing across the field of Pickett's Charge."

The Civil War Trust will continue operation as the primary land-preservation division under the American Battlefield Trust banner. A new division, the Revolutionary War Trust, will take the place of Campaign 1776, a limited-scope initiative that, in less than four years, protected nearly 700 acres at 10 battlefields in six states. The National Park Service had encouraged the organization's expansion, recognizing the unparalleled expertise that could be brought to bear on behalf of additional hallowed ground.

This move was the latest step in an ongoing process of expansion within the battlefield protection movement, which began in the mid-1980s in response to the destruction of important battlefields by spreading commercial and residential development. The new American Battlefield Trust is a direct

descendant, through a series of mergers and name changes, of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, founded in Fredericksburg, Va., in July 1987.

"Over the course of 30 years, our mission has grown gradually from an all-volunteer group focused only on Virginia sites to the greatest private force in heritage land preservation this nation has ever seen. This new identity reflects all that we have become, and all that we yet hope to be," said Lighthizer. "We are dedicated to preserving for future generations the battlegrounds where America's early citizen soldiers shed their blood to create the nation we are today. We will work to ensure that all our citizens learn this nation's history — the heroic moments as well as the darkest hours."

Please visit www.battlefields.org/questions to learn more about the new American Battlefield Trust. Additional membership information can be found on pages 42–43. ★



PRESERVE

BRIAN KEELEY PHOTOGRAPHY



EDUCATE

BUDDY SECOR

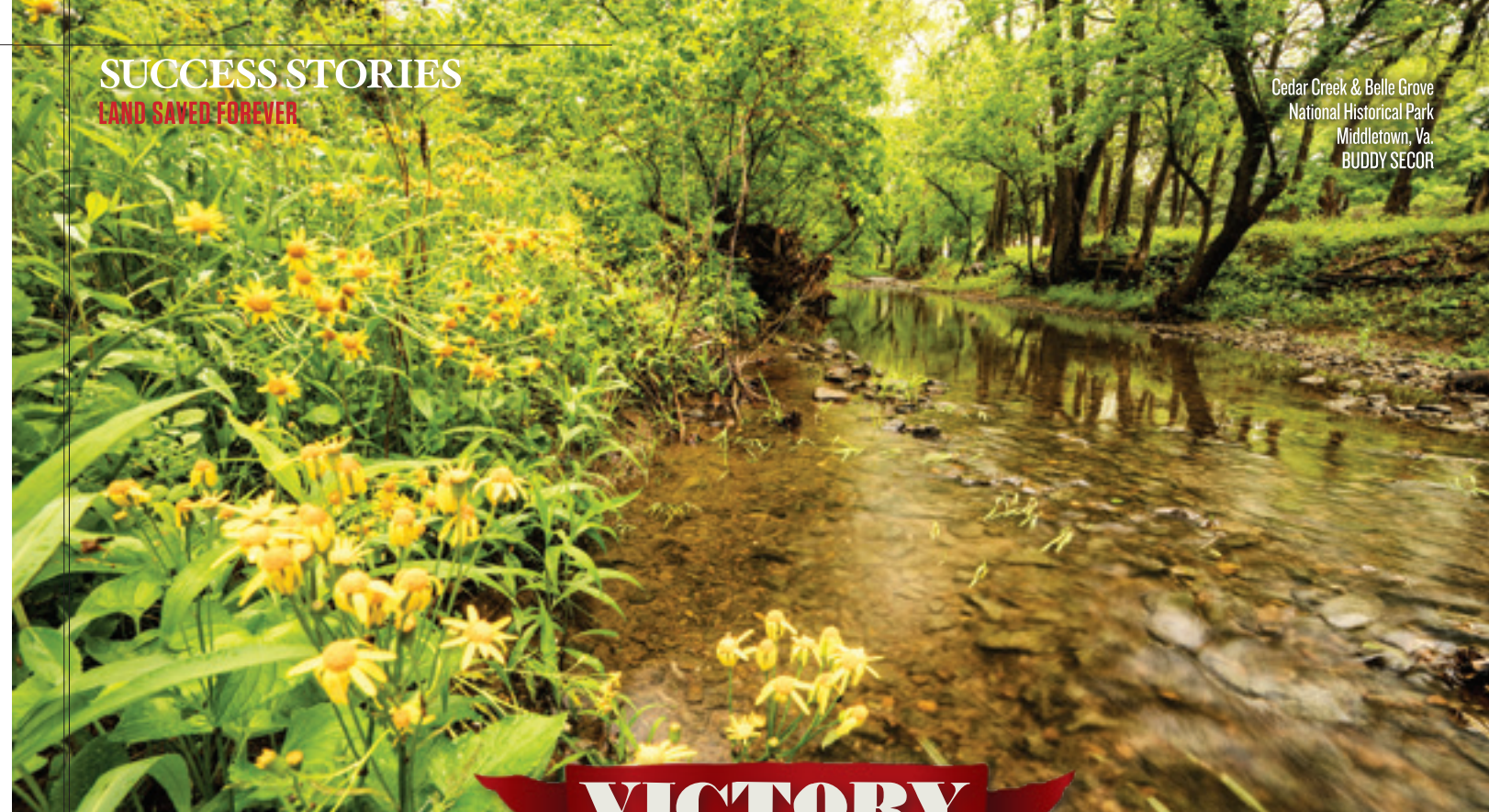


INSPIRE

NOEL KLINE

SUCCESS STORIES LAND SAVED FOREVER

Cedar Creek & Belle Grove
National Historical Park
Middletown, Va.
BUDDY SECOR



VICTORY

50,000 ACRES SAVED FOREVER!

Cedar Creek property propels Trust past milestone

50,000
ACRES SAVED



JUST 13 ACRES, the scenic stretch of property along the banks of Cedar Creek is fairly small, but it will forever loom large in the history of battlefield preservation: With its May acquisition, the American Battlefield Trust eclipsed 50,000 acres of hallowed ground permanently protected through the efforts of it and its predecessor organizations.

"Fifty thousand acres — that's 78 square miles — is difficult to wrap your mind around," said Trust President James Lighthizer. "But rather than try to imagine what 342 copies of the National Mall would look like, perhaps we ought to envision it as an acre for every soldier killed, wounded or captured at Gettysburg. Or three acres for every American who made up the Continental army at its greatest fighting strength."

The 50,000-acre total includes all land cumulatively saved by the American Battlefield Trust and its predecessors: the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, the original and current Civil War Trust, the Civil War Preservation Trust, and the Civil War Trust's Campaign 1776 initiative. Since 2014, when the organization expanded to pursue protection of sites from the Revolutionary War and War of 1812, it has

completed the permanent protection of some 700 acres from those two conflicts.

The Cedar Creek Property joins two other Shenandoah Valley projects that hold outside significance in the annals of the Trust. The very first land protected by the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites was 8.5 acres at the Coaling at Port Republic in 1988. And the June 2000 purchase at auction of the 51-acre Widow Pence Farm at Cross Keys was the first notable post-merger accomplishment of the Civil War Preservation Trust.

Located near Middletown, the newly preserved tract saw significant combat on October 19, 1864, in both the morning and afternoon phases of the seesaw Battle of Cedar Creek. Here, Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal Early's three infantry columns reunited so that they could overwhelm the Union army. Union prisoners, captured supplies and wounded Confederates were sent south over this land, crossing the creek on the Valley Pike. But late that day, Union troops counterattacked, sending Early's soldiers fleeing across the bridge, whose remnants survive. The parcel includes one of the few remaining sections of the Valley Pike, among the nation's first engineered roads, and significant frontage along Cedar Creek itself. ★

TRUST ASSUMES LEADERSHIP ROLE *for America's 250th anniversary*



REPARATIONS are underway for the nationwide 250th anniversary commemoration of this country's founding, and the American Battlefield Trust has been selected as the official nonprofit partner (referred to as the "administrative secretariat") for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission.

The Trust's proposal was chosen by Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke following a competitive process and the

unanimous recommendation of a selection panel. As the official nonprofit partner of the federal commission, the Trust will raise funds for its work and prepare reports to the White House and Congress on progress and activities.

The Commission was established by unanimous votes in both houses of Congress in 2016. It will serve as the primary body to coordinate and facilitate activities to commemorate the 250th anniversary of American independence. The Commission includes 24 appointed members — four U.S. senators, four U.S. representatives and 16 private citizens — as well as

a variety of ex officio members, including the secretaries of the interior, state, defense and education; the U.S. Attorney General; the librarian of Congress; secretary of the Smithsonian; archivist of the United States, and the presiding officer of the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities.

In announcing his choice of the Trust, Zinke noted that the organization "has distinguished itself in fundraising and managing high-profile commemorative events, and that expertise will be invaluable to the U.S.A. 250th Commemoration planning efforts."

Trust leadership celebrated the news,

with President Jim Lighthizer declaring, "It has long been our desire to be involved in the Revolutionary War's 250th anniversary, ensuring that the battlefields where the lofty ideals of the Declaration of Independence were secured play a key part in the commemoration.

"To be selected as the nonprofit partner for such a momentous occasion is possibly the greatest honor in the field of historic preservation. We embrace this challenge and the opportunities to advance the cause of battlefield protection and high-quality history education, while remaining firmly committed to our ongoing Civil War mission."★

Since its origination in 2005, recipients of the Friend of History Award have included Colin G. Campbell, chairman emeritus of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and two former members of our Board of Trustees — Lonnie G. Bunch, III, founding director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture, and Dr. Libby O'Connell of The History Channel.

Founded in 1907, the Organization of American Historians seeks to promote excellence in the scholarship, teaching and presentation of American history, and wide discussion of historical questions. Its 7,800 members include college and university professors, pre-collegiate teachers, archivists, museum curators, public historians, students and scholars working in government and the private sector.★

FIELD TRIP FUND SENDS 20,000TH STUDENT TO HISTORIC SITE

Impressive milestone reached in just four school years



HOW BETTER to comprehend our nation's history than to follow in the footsteps of those who made it?

Early exposure to historic places has prompted many of the nation's best historians to devote their lives to investigating and writing about America's past. To give that opportunity to the next generation of budding scholars, the Field Trip Fund idea — scholarships designed to help underwrite school expeditions to these "outdoor classrooms" — was born in late 2014 to instant acclaim.

On April 10, 2018, students from Michigan's Grand Rapids Christian Middle School arrived in Gettysburg, Pa., and the 20,000th student sponsored by the Field Trip Fund set foot on a battlefield. Teachers from more than 200 schools in 39 states have used the Fund to visit historic sites in 26 states.

"It's great to get kids out onto a battlefield," said Trust President James Lighthizer. "Their visits are thought-provoking and can be life-changing."

Garry Adelman, the director of history and education who envisioned the program and oversees the application process, agrees. "I do not know whether any of these kids will become the next Bruce Catton or the next James McPherson, but my hope is that they become better citizens by understanding their history better and knowing it more personally."



Classes that receive grants from the Field Trip Fund are asked to furnish the Trust with testimonials, photos, videos or other means of showing that they seized the opportunity afforded them by visiting historic sites.

Educators almost universally agree that venturing beyond the classroom — often called experiential learning — is tremendously helpful for students. So, in an era when schools' budgets for field trips keep shrinking, it is no surprise that they deeply value these competitive grants.

"Without the Field Trip Fund, my classroom could never have made the trip from Wisconsin to Gettysburg and Antietam," said Dave Wege, a teacher at Waucousta Lutheran School in Campbellsport, Wisc. "This 'Best Field Trip Ever' allowed my students to walk hallowed ground and connect in a way that textbooks, videos and discussions just cannot do. What an experience for my kids!"

Grants from the fund may be used for transportation, meals, site admission and/or guide fees, and recipients are asked to respond with "enthusiasm equity" in activities like taking photos, writing an article or participating with their students in Park Day, the Trust's annual community cleanup event. The Field Trip Fund is entirely administered using contributions designated specifically for educational activities; no donations toward land-acquisition efforts are redirected.

The Trust's education goals and resources employ delivery methods appropriate to different age groups and skills. Some specifically target students, others teachers and still others the broader universe of lifelong learners online. Learn more about these outstanding — and typically free — resources at www.battlefields.org/education, and consider making a targeted gift to further these efforts.★

★
**TRUST NAMED
OUTSTANDING
"FRIEND OF HISTORY"**
*by prestigious
Organization
of American
Historians*



AT ITS APRIL annual meeting in Sacramento, Calif., the Organization of American Historians (OAH), the largest professional society dedicated to the study and teaching of this nation's past, presented the Civil War Trust (now a division of the American Battlefield Trust) with its 2018 Friend of History Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to the field made outside a typical academic environment.

Accepting the award on behalf of the organization, longtime Trustee and chair of the education committee Dr. Mary Munsell Abroe reflected on the evolution of our mission. "I have seen the Trust's educational efforts evolve over the past 20 years into a rich tapestry of outreach programs that employs multiple media to engage audiences," she said. "Those programs operate on the principle that preservation and education are flip sides of the same coin — and that learning is a lifelong process. Whether these educational activities are geared toward teachers, students or battlefield visitors of whatever age or background, they all use battlefields as outdoor classrooms that challenge us to find America's Civil War past."

Trust President James Lighthizer agreed, noting he was "gratified to receive this prestigious award from the OAH, but, more importantly, to be viewed as a friend of history — not only through our land acquisitions, but through our work to transform these historic places for K-12 teachers and students, as well as adult learners, into outdoor classrooms."

In selecting the Trust for this honor, the OAH cited the variety of media we employ to reach numerous audiences, from our suite of digital programming to the Traveling Trunk, which supplies reproduction artifacts to classrooms, making the past tangible for students. Also cited were our free continuing education opportunities for teachers and our acclaimed Field Trip Fund, which provides competitive grants to help K-12 teachers pay for class visits to historic sites.

West Point cadets walk along the Hagerstown Pike during their staff ride at Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland.
ZACH ANDERSON



HERE ARE as many reasons to preserve battlefields as there are supporters of the cause — experiencing history where it occurred, honoring American heroes by protecting hallowed ground, providing communities with open space to increase quality of life, promoting economic viability through heritage tourism, safeguarding critical habitats and ecosystems and educating future generations of leaders, just to name a few. Each of these rationales can be a powerful motivator for donors, elected officials and other decision-makers, and the Trust seeks to present these arguments in a succinct, authoritative way.

In the past, we have studied the direct and indirect economic benefits in the form of tax revenue and employment opportunity generated by heritage tourism to battlefield parks. These findings were showcased in our reports *Battlefields Mean Business* and *Blue, Gray and Green* as powerful arguments for surrounding — also called “gateway” — communities to embrace protection and promotion of their historic character.

This spring, the Trust began a systematic examination of how battlefields are used as a tool in military education and training, a process often known as “staff rides.” These exercises in applied history and leadership development may be targeted to cadets, junior officers or even high-ranking commanders and often include a specific area of focus related to historical events on a particular battlefield — field medicine at Antietam, where Clara Barton ministered to the wounded; tactical maneuvers at Chancellorsville, where Stonewall Jackson made his daring flank march; and command unity and disunity at Yorktown, scene of siege operations in two wars.

“While all the military services have



BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATIONISTS *come in green and camouflage*

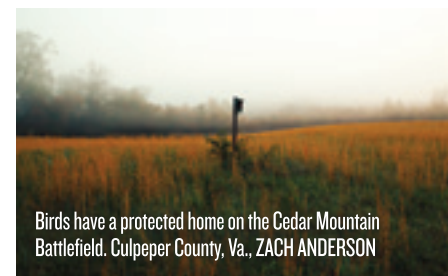
had some experience in staff rides, there is a particularly strong tradition and expectation of staff rides for the land forces — the Army and Marines. Staff rides are part of the standard training for Army and Marine officers,” reported Dr. Curtis King of the Army Combat Studies Institute to our researchers.

A conservative estimate would place some 400 staff rides serving 12,000 service members on historic American battlefields each year. Gettysburg, Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg are the most popular locations, with 30 or more instances per year; among Revolutionary War sites, the Southern Campaigns are popular, with Cowpens leading the way at 10–15 per year. Among state parks, Bentonville, N.C.,

MOREOVER, WE OFTEN SAVE LAND THAT PROVIDES CRITICAL HABITAT FOR NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA.

and Perryville, Ky., are particularly heavily used. A site’s proximity to a military base often creates a natural relationship, such as the logistics school at Fort Lee, Va., using nearby Petersburg National Battlefield.

We also began seeking to more thoroughly quantify the importance of battlefield preservation in more of these ancillary categories. We began an internal



audit of our land records to establish the environmental impact of the vast amount of land we have protected, sharing preliminary results on Earth Day, April 22. In the abstract, had the 50,000 acres we have protected instead been developed, that would have increased air and water pollution in communities often already experiencing a

tremendous pace of growth and development, weighing on ecosystems.

Over the past 30 years, our supporters have helped to protect roughly 2.45 million linear feet of streams and rivers in the United States. This encompasses land in an incredible 87 different watersheds, including the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the Mississippi and Tennessee River Basins. Historically, these waterways played a key role in military operations; today, they provide recreational opportunities as well as contribute to the health of their respective areas of the country.

Moreover, we often save land that provides critical habitat for native flora and fauna. For instance, the 180 acres we recently saved at Kettle Creek, Ga., are home

to the type of longleaf pine trees present at the time of the 1779 Revolutionary War battle. Once common over much of the area involved in the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution, protected American longleaf pine forests now cover only a quarter of their original range. At Cool Spring, Va., an 1864 battlefield that now comprises the River Campus of Shenandoah University, an impressive array of wildlife flourishes, from a rookery with dozens of great blue heron families, to a half-dozen species of turtle, three dozen types of wildflower and even bald eagles. The university has planted hundreds of trees to reforest tributary streams on the property, which had largely been cleared in its previous life as a golf course. ★

TRUST AND UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY PARTNER to protect 18 critical acres on Seminary Ridge at Gettysburg

THE FIRST PROJECT undertaken by the Civil War Trust as a division under the American Battlefield Trust banner will build upon the transformation of Robert E. Lee's Headquarters from suburban development to an accurate portrayal of how that building appeared at the time history unfolded around it. Before the end of 2018, the Trust will work to acquire 18 additional acres on Seminary Ridge from the United Lutheran Seminary (ULS).

"I don't mind telling you that — in my humble opinion — this is without a doubt one of the most important historic preservation efforts in American history," said Trust President James Lighthizer.

The \$3.5 million project will permanently protect one of the largest and most significant remaining expanses of this area of the battlefield. If its 17,000 casualties were calculated independently, the First Day at Gettysburg would be the 12th costliest battle of the Civil War. The fight for Seminary Ridge was particularly fierce, and Schmucker Hall, constructed in 1832 and widely recognized for its cupola, was perhaps the most visible landmark of July 1 battlefield. Today, the building houses the Seminary Ridge Museum.

"We feel, as stewards of this site for more than 180 years, that we have a sacred responsibility to see it is protected for future generations," ULS acting president Bishop James Dunlop said. "We believe this land needs to be preserved for the next generations of seminarians, and others, to reflect upon, learn from and appreciate."

Despite that long legacy of stewardship, there were no formal protections in place on the Seminary land and the Trust's involvement will ensure that it will forever retain its status as historic open space. The Gettysburg community, meanwhile, will retain

this favorite gathering place for annual events, including Independence Day fireworks viewing, the Gettysburg Brass Band Festival and Gettysburg Brewfest.

Under the terms of the purchase agreement, which has been under discussion since 2015, the American Battlefield Trust will acquire 11 acres outright, as well as a conservation easement on an additional seven acres along the Chambersburg Pike. The land is adjacent to Gettysburg National Military Park and the Lee's Headquarters acreage protected by the Trust in 2015.

Founded as the Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1826 — making it the oldest continuously operating Lutheran seminary in the nation — the educational institution moved to its present site in 1832. In July 2017, it consolidated with the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia to become the United Lutheran Seminary.

Learn more at www.battlefields.org/gettysburg18.★



Trustee Lt. Gen. Richard Mills,
USMC (Ret.) and Louisiana's
Rep. Ralph Abraham



Trustee Vince Dooley and
Georgia's Rep. Sanford Bishop

LOBBY DAY meetings yield enthusiasm

THIS MARCH, Color Bears and Trustees from around the country descended on our nation's capital to meet with elected officials to discuss battlefield preservation. More than 100 meetings were held across Capitol Hill with representatives and senators, many of whom represent districts with battlefields protected by the Trust. Over the years, the Trust and its supporters have developed strong relationships in Washington, which has led to full funding of the Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant Program for three years in a row. Thank you to everyone who joined us this year! We hope even more members will join us to advocate on behalf of historic battlefields next year.★

FAMILY HISTORY

Photo contest winners selected



DURING OUR MOST recent social media photo contest, the Trust asked followers to share images that showcased their personal, genealogical connection to the Civil War. The response was tremendous, clearly

demonstrating the profound impact that learning about the experiences of an ancestor can have on a person's lasting interest in history. The contest's two winners each received three-month subscriptions to ancestry.com and Fold3, two premier digital research tools for investigating your family tree.

Andy Likins of Colorado Springs, Colo., is a new member of the Trust, but a longtime lover of history. Since childhood, he has loved being able to form connections between events of the past and to earlier generations of his family. Through research, he has uncovered three direct-line ancestors who served in the Civil War: great-great grandfather James Dison Woodburn (8th Indiana Cavalry, Co. F), who lied about his age to enlist; great-great-grandfather George W. Noel (39th Iowa Vol. Inf., Co. H), who was taken prisoner at Corinth, Miss., and never heard from again; and great-great grandfather Thomas Neal Likins (13th Iowa Vol. Inf, Co. B), killed in action during fighting around Atlanta.

It is about Thomas Likins that the most touching details have emerged — enough that Likins is working on a book about his wartime experience. Among the items he has uncovered are letters exchanged between Thomas and his wife, Margaret, throughout the war. The final missive was penned by Thomas just two days before his death and was typical of the soldier's positive attitude, even in the face of hardship, being signed, "Thomas N. Likins, a littel tired, a littel hungry, a littel sleepy, a little lousey, and auffal dirty, but in good helth and in good spirits."

For those just beginning genealogical research, Likins has practical advice: Pool resources with your distant cousins. "Thomas Likins did not have many descendants, because he died so young. I contacted my father's second cousin from that line

of the family about 10 years ago," he relates. "After she died, some other cousins of hers — not related to me — found my letter and a box of old letters and photo which included another photo of Thomas and Margaret, as well as the letters Margaret received from Thomas during the last few months of his life. So, you never know what might come from the connections you make!"

Digging deeper, Likins got access to Thomas's compiled service records, his carded medical records and the pension records for his dependents — as well as the letters and journals of men who fought alongside him — for context. "A few years ago, my wife and I were able to visit Atlanta and see the places where Thomas spent his last days, and we got to see where he was buried. Next month, I'm going on a road trip with a buddy to visit [where he fought at] Shiloh, Corinth and Vicksburg."

Sherrie Westmoreland, a Washington native, who relocated to

northern California almost two decades ago, is an active member of the Trust's digital community on social media platforms. Having learned so many tactics researching her own family's genealogy, she now shares them with others via her Instagram account @findingfamily.

Her own journey to find ancestors began in 2005, when, with the passing of both her grandmothers in quick succession, she realized that entire generation was gone and unable to share its stories. Looking at her family tree, she identified the earliest known ancestor — James Dion — and started digging.

"Through the years, I found his parents, siblings, grandparents and ancestors all the way back to the settling of Quebec by the French," she recalls. "It was very exciting!"

Through muster rolls, she was able to trace his service in the Civil War, using Trust maps to identify where on the battlefields he saw action. She learned that he was taken to Andersonville in 1864 after being wounded and captured at Spotsylvania, then moved to Florence Stockade when Sherman captured Atlanta. But even after 11 years of research, Westmoreland had not uncovered a picture of the man she'd come to think of as "her soldier." Then, after connecting with a distant relative online, she finally had the opportunity to view a collection of family treasures — original daguerreotypes, tintypes, cabinet cards and old

letters from their common ancestors.

"As he showed me all the wonderful heirlooms in the box, my eyes were constantly searching for one picture in particular — I wanted to see James. Finally, he reached into the box and lifted up an old tintype and handed it to me. I knew who it was before he told me. ... I was so excited to see the face of the man I had been researching for 11 years. It was like seeing an old friend."★



Thomas Neal Likins, 13th Iowa Infantry, and his wife Margaret, pictured with one of their two sons, corresponded throughout the war. His last letter was dated two days before his death.



Tintype of James Dion, 2nd Vermont Infantry, along with an original letter to his wife — written in their native French — after the 2nd Battle of Fredericksburg.

PARK DAY 2018 SETS records for site participation



Princeton Battlefield State Park
Princeton, N.J.



Buford's Massacre Site
Waxhaws Battlefield
Lancaster, S.C.



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park
Kennesaw, Ga.



Wilson's Creek National Battlefield
Republic, Mo.



Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Historic Landmark
Brownsville, Texas

NOT EVEN the wet and unseasonably cold weather experienced in some parts of the country on April 7 could keep our annual Park Day from setting records! An all-time high of 157 battlefields and historic sites in 32 states and the District of Columbia, representing the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Civil War, participated in the 22nd year of this volunteer maintenance event.

Across the nation, history lovers recognize that keeping our battlefields, parks, museums and other sites pristine and accessible is a responsibility requiring communal effort. This year, nearly 7,000 volunteers came out to do their part, donating more than 25,000 hours of labor. The projects they undertook and completed were as diverse as the participating sites.

At Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in Republic, Mo., 56 volunteers helped with fence construction, stream cleanup and housekeeping work in the park's library and its living-history clothing and equipment cache. Ultimately, an entire dump-truck load of trash was removed, and a total of 265 feet of rail fence was put up.

At the Buford's Massacre Site in Lancaster, S.C., 70 JROTC students and members of the community came out to help clear brush, rake leaves and pick up trash. Volunteers also cleaned markers and picnic tables.

In Pleasanton, Kan., 37 volunteers helped wash windows, clear 2.5 miles of trails and clean storage areas at the Mine Creek Battlefield.

Many sites are already planning their ambitious projects for Park Day 2019, which will be held on April 6, 2019. Site managers, including new participants, may visit www.battlefields.org/parkday for more information on how to enroll. ★

NATIONAL GATHERINGS FOSTER COMMUNITY

among roundtable study groups



CROSS THE NATION, scores of local and regional groups meet on a regular basis to study, discuss and debate American history. Often hosting authors and other experts, as well as supporting a variety of preservation and conservation projects, these groups are invaluable allies in ongoing efforts to perpetuate appreciation for the important events of our past.

Following the event's outstanding debut last year, the Civil War Round Table (CWRT) community is eagerly anticipating the 2018 CWRT Congress, scheduled for August 17–19 at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pa. Receptions, dinners and networking events will give participants the opportunity to form connections with leaders from other groups, pool resources and share ideas. Attendees will be treated to a special behind-the-scenes tour of the museum with director Wayne Motts, including access to items intimately connected to the Battle of Gettysburg — like the personal items belonging to three recipients of the Medal of Honor for actions in that fighting. Licensed battlefield guide Motts will also lead a tour of the battlefield to close the weekend-long event.

The highlight of the weekend will be the day-long Congress, during which individual CWRT leaders will present on a specific topic at which their group has excelled, sharing actionable items and best practices with tangible outcomes. From fundraising tactics, to networking to low-cost, high-reward marketing with social media outreach, a huge array of topics will be covered. Presenting organizations include the Brunswick CWRT, Bull Run CWRT, Kernstown Battlefield Association, Puget Sound CWRT, the R.E. Lee CWRT of New Jersey and the Scottsdale CWRT. More information and details on how to register are available through the Puget Sound CWRT at www.pscwrt.org.

In early April, the 2018 Congress of American Revolution Round Tables was held in Yorktown, Va. This biennial event brings together representatives from American Revolution round tables (ARRTs) in a format loosely modeled after our founding Continental Congress to discuss challenges faced across the broader community and best practices to engage members and support the creation of new chapters.

This spring, Virginia's Historic Triangle also witnessed the 7th Annual Conference of the American Revolution, hosted by America's History, LLC. The yearly gathering drew more than 250 participants to hear rising and acclaimed historians, including Edward Lengel, James Kirby Martin, Nathaniel Philbrick, Eric Schnitzer, Richard Sommers and Glenn F. Williams.

Trust representatives were honored to be on hand at both events to brief attendees on our recent successes in Revolutionary War battlefield preservation and offer insights into new opportunities on the horizon. ★



RECREATING THE CRITTENDEN GATE

at Cedar Mountain Battlefield



THE SCOUTS have done it again! BSA Troop 225 recently completed a fifth Eagle Scout project on the Cedar Mountain Battlefield in Culpeper County, Va.

Zach Wright (at center) coordinated the latest effort, alongside is father Dale (left) and fellow Cedar Mountain-supporting scout Travis Badger (right), in coordination with Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield board member and scout liaison Sam Pruitt.

Wright's creation replaces the previous representation of the Crittenden Gate with a more authentic interpretation of the split gate design. The project also included working with state forestry to remove non-native species flora and replacing it with native species. The area near the monuments and the lane directly behind the gate was cleared and 20 Eastern Redbuds were planted.

Crittenden Gate, which stood at the center of the Confederate battle line, was the site of heavy fighting August 9, 1862, and a principle landmark on the battlefield.

BSA Troop 225 is a valuable partner for the Cedar Mountain Battlefield Association's ongoing restoration efforts. Past Eagle Scout projects have included building a bridge connecting an interpretive trail to the pond on site, building picnic tables and developing a picnic area, clearing and developing a trail to an early cemetery and placing benches along the trails. The Eagle Scout designation is the highest achievement in the scouting program of BSA (formerly Boy Scouts of America) and typically requires years to complete, including an extensive community service project, like the one undertaken by Wright. ★



TRENCHES AND TANKS:

Civil War battlefields become World War I training grounds

1: One of two tanks available for infantry training at Camp Colt on the Gettysburg Battlefield. **2:** The medical officers who trained at Camp Greenleaf on the Chickamauga Battlefield would, much like their Civil War predecessors, significantly advance the discipline of field medicine. **3:** Officer candidates undergo weapons training at what will eventually become the site of the Chickamauga park visitor center.



WHEN THE U.S. entered World War I in 1917, the country faced a mobilization crisis. Existing military camps and training grounds were insufficient to accommodate the exponential growth to the nation's armed services. At that time, national military parks were under the jurisdiction of the War Department, making them logical choices for use in this capacity, as had been done on a smaller scale during the Spanish-American War.

The most famous of these facilities was

located at the Civil War's most famous battlefield — Gettysburg. Camp Colt was situated at the heart of the battlefield, including a portion of the land that had witnessed Pickett's Charge 50 years earlier, and served as a training ground for America's fledgling tank corps. Only two French tanks were available to the 10,000 soldiers stationed there at the camp's height.

Reminders of the great battle were everywhere: Bodies were unearthed during the installation of sanitary services, and a variety of relics were turned up. The physical landscape also played a role, with the burned remnants of the Bliss Farm providing physical obstacles to

practice maneuvering across. And viewed from our modern perspective, personnel at Camp Colt created a bridge all the way from the Civil War to WWII — it was commanded by Capt. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Three camps were established at the Chickamauga Battlefield. Camp Forrest was the smallest, and trained engineers. The barracks of Camp Warden McLean, a reserve officer training center, were located at what is now the site of the national park visitor center. The largest installation, Camp Greenleaf, trained army medical personnel at the Dyer Fields. Just outside the park, Fort Oglethorpe was a detention

camp for captured German soldiers and Americans arrested under the Espionage Act.

Camp Lee, an iteration of which is a still-active military installation near the Petersburg Battlefield, was first created in response to the WWI mobilization need. Ultimately, more soldiers passed through Fort Lee — 138,000 — than any other training site. It was perhaps fitting that the Civil War battlefield most associated with trench warfare witnessed the creation of a large-scale training exercise in which recruits built their own system of defenses to practice the type of warfare experienced on the Western Front. ★

4: French Renault FT-17 tanks in action at Camp Colt. **5:** Learning how to reinforce and engineer trench walls at Camp Lee, near the Petersburg Battlefield. **6:** Recruits arrive at Camp Lee, the largest of all WWI Mobilization Centers. **7:** A view taken from the Pennsylvania Monument at Gettysburg shows a training facility capable of handling 10,000 soldiers on the fields of Pickett's Charge.

On Great Fields SOMETHING STAYS...



USING HISTORIC BATTLEFIELDS FOR "STAFF RIDES"

THERE IS NO TRULY ADEQUATE training for war, no way for professional soldiers to determine how they might respond tactically, operationally or strategically when called to the field. A close approximation, however, is the staff ride, an immersive learning technique that provides a vicarious experience by placing soldiers on the ground where important events took place and asking them to consider and analyze the actions of their predecessors.

"Staff rides represent a unique and persuasive method of conveying the lesson of the past to the present-day Army leadership," wrote former chief of staff of the Army Gen. John Wickham, Jr. "Properly conducted, these exercises bring to life, on the very terrain where historic encounters took place, examples, applicable today as in the past, of leadership tactics and strategy, communications, use of terrain, and, above all, the psychology of men in battle."

PHOTOGRAPH BY ZACH ANDERSON

Cadets from the United States Military Academy prepare to re-create the advance on Bloody Lane during a recent staff ride at Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Md.

THE EVOLUTION AND HISTORY OF STAFF RIDES

BY KEITH B. SNYDER



Column of Marines at the Wilderness Battlefield, Va. 1921.

THE MARYLAND CAMPAIGN OF 1862, which culminated in the Battle of Antietam, was a major turning point in the American Civil War and in the history of this nation. Because of early efforts to save the battlefields of the campaign, the historic terrain provides soldiers an exceptional opportunity to study the battles on the actual ground where the critical events occurred.

The earliest preservation efforts on the Antietam battlefield were a direct result of the carnage, after which burial details performed their grisly task with more speed than care. Graves ranged from single burials to long, shallow trenches accommodating hundreds, and markings were haphazard; within 18 months, erosion had exposed many burials. On March 23, 1865, the state purchased 11.25 acres to create a national cemetery. The original plan allowed for burial of soldiers from both sides, but ultimately, some 2,800 Confederate remains — more than 60 percent of them unknown — were reinterred elsewhere. On the battle's anniversary in 1880, a massive monument was dedicated at the cemetery's center, its inscription fitting for soldiers of all times: "Not for themselves but for their country."

When the veterans of Antietam aged into their 50s and 60s, they used their increased political and financial power to protect and mark it and the other major battlefields where they had fought a generation before. During the 1890s, Congress passed legislation to authorize the establishment of four national military parks. These first four battlefields were Chickamauga and Chattanooga (1890), Shiloh (1894), Gettysburg (1895) and Vicksburg (1899). Although legislation to formally commemorate Antietam was passed in 1890, it was not made a full-fledged national military park, but would still be funded and managed by the War Department.

The legislation to create the first national military park, Chickamauga and Chattanooga, stated that the purpose of the park is "preserving and suitably marking for historical and professional military study the fields of some of the most remarkable maneuvers and most brilliant fighting in the war of the rebellion." As Ronald F. Lee, chief historian of the National Park Service, noted in his seminal work, *Origin and Evolution of the National Military Park Idea*, when the Civil War battlefields were being acquired and marked, it was considered "highly desirable to study, document, map, and mark every troop position in unmistakable detail on the ground itself" to serve the needs of professional soldiers and historians to whom it was "vital to study the strategy and tactics of the great campaigns and battles in detail on the ground."

At Antietam, an Act of Congress dated August 30, 1890, authorized \$15,000 for the "purpose of surveying, locating, and preserving the lines of battle of the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia, and for marking the same." Like the other battlefield parks, a commission was established to oversee the work. Unlike at other parks, no major tracts of land were acquired, because the board president advocated that the best way to preserve

a battlefield was to perpetuate the agricultural nature of the surrounding community. The secretary of war embraced this vision, writing, "It is earnestly recommended that Congress authorize the marking of remaining important battlefields in a manner adopted at Antietam, which can be completed in a few years at a moderate cost, while the project of more national military parks, of thousands of acres bought by the government, involves the expenditure of millions of dollars and an indefinite lapse of time before completion." Sadly, historians at the turn of the 20th century could not have foreseen the population and development explosion that threatens so many battlefield parks at the beginning of this century.

Key achievements of the board in those early years included: manufacture and installation of 408 cast-iron tablets that define and explain the movements of both armies across the campaign;

construction of five miles of tour roads connected to the existing public roads and designed to "make the entire field accessible and, at the same time, enable the principal lines of battle to be so marked as to convey a clear idea of the several phases of the engagement"; monuments marking the death or mortal wounding of six general officers; and completion of the 60-foot observation tower at the corner of the Sunken Road.

In the first years of the 20th century, two collections were published that greatly enhanced the use of the historic landscape at Antietam by professional soldiers for military education. After almost 40 years and a cost of more than \$3 million, the Publications Office for War Records completed *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* in 1901. The result was truly comprehensive; Series 1, Volume 19, which covers the Maryland Campaign, includes 899 pages, featuring more than 300 officer after-action reports. And in 1904, the army chief of engineers released a series of 14 iconic battle maps by veterans Brig. Gen. Ezra Carman and Col. E.B. Cope that are still in use at the park today. Just as the waters of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers join at Harpers Ferry, the confluence of documentation and preservation set the stage for the use of Civil War battlefields as places of study and reflection that are best embodied in the form of the military staff ride.

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EARLY CAMPAIGN STAFF RIDES

The military staff ride has long been a part of the training experience for professional American soldiers, and it was on the great battlefields of the Civil War where that idea for outdoor, battlefield education began. As Carol Reardon notes in her essay *From Antietam to Argonne*, "Senior Army leaders planned from the start to use sacred grounds like Antietam not just as shrines to American valor and patriotism but also as open-air classrooms for the education of officers in the U.S. Army and National Guard."

Elihu Root, who was secretary of war from August 1899 to January 1904, led many reforms that changed the entire fabric of the U.S. Army from a largely frontier-based, Indian-fighting force into



Marines chat with Civil War veterans during an October 1921 staff ride at the Wilderness Battlefield, Va.

the modern force that would help win WWI. Root emphasized military education and was the founder of the Army War College in 1903. He reorganized the militia into the National Guard and, via the Staff Act, obligated the General Staff Corps to perform duties involving “the preparation of plans and campaigns, of reports of campaigns, battles, engagements, and expeditions, and of technical histories of the military history of the United States.” To meet this requirement, since the War College was producing the officers credentialed for the General Staff, sending its students to visit military parks made sense.

Root’s influence was also felt at the U.S. Military Academy. The superintendent’s report of 1902 stated:

“...A notable change is one initiated by the Secretary of War, which supplements the instruction the first class receives in the operations of war by permitting it to visit one of the great battlefields of the Civil War. In April 1902, the first class, after a previous study of the Gettysburg campaign, spent two days in practical study on that battlefield, with much resulting good.... The practice of supplementing the theoretical and historical study of the art of war by a practical study of its principles on one of our famous battlefields is of such incalculable importance in the training of our young officers that I trust it is permanently incorporated in the Military Academy’s curriculum.”

Other early staff ride leaders in the American military were Col. Arthur Wagner and Maj. Eben Swift. These two officers were on the staff at the Infantry and Cavalry School at Leavenworth, Kan. They believed “that the road to an understanding of military science began with the study of military history.” Through their leadership, the staff ride became an integral part of the curriculum.

In the beginning, War College students made day trips from the capital. But starting in 1909, the entire college spent the final month of its curriculum on horseback covering the battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Grant’s 1864 Overland Campaign and the Shenandoah Valley. Gettysburg and Antietam were added later, making the month-long trip close to 600 miles.

One early training method used by the War College at Antietam was to divide the class into two groups, and, using generic names to focus the discussion on principles rather than specifics, they would examine the movements of the “Red” and “Blue” armies as they marched through Virginia and Maryland. Using the events of the Maryland Campaign as a guide, the instructors injected variations of events to force the students to think through problems of maneuver and supply based on the terrain and their training, rather than reciting historical events.

Students were often asked to prepare the written orders to concentrate the scattered parts of the Red army at Sharpsburg, or move the Blue army from Washington to Frederick. A 1907 group was required to write the orders to bring each corps of the Blue army onto the battlefield as the Army of the Potomac had done using McClellan’s intent expressed in his after-action report. Other assignments included an examination and a simulated establishment of logistical support for the Army of the Po-

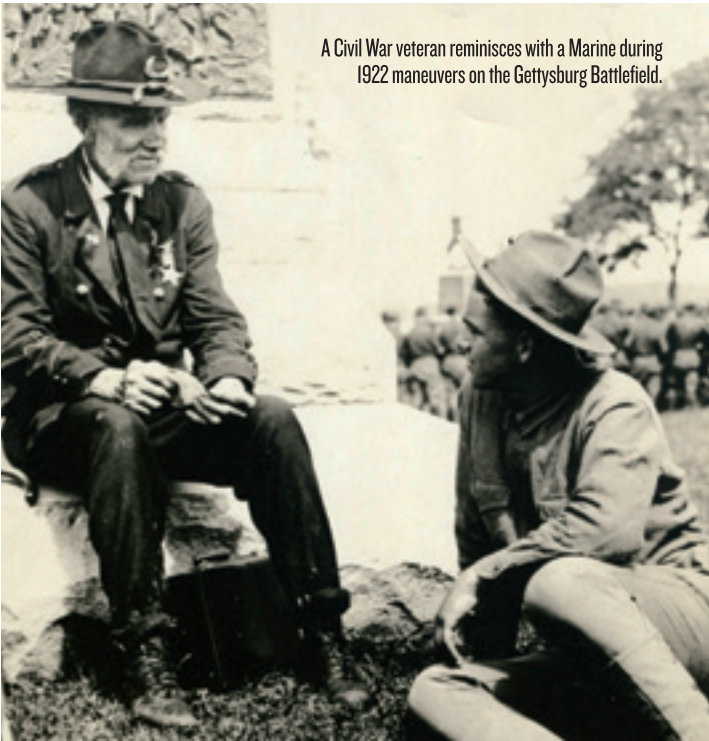
THEY BELIEVED
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MILITARY HISTORY.”



tomac using trains, depots and roads. One class was required to determine a division-level communications plan. However, the most important part the training involved critiquing the decisions made by commanders on the field where their decisions were made, and trying to scrutinize them with the information available to an officer at the time.

With the onset of WWI, there was a hiatus in staff ride training. After the “War to End All Wars,” the U.S. Marines started using the Civil War battlefields for training and for publicity. The Corps began to use them for maneuvers and exercises that incorporated modern weapons and tactics. The public was invited to watch Marines stationed at Quantico Marine Base in Virginia stage battle reenactments. In 1921, President Warren G. Harding watched five regiments of Marines at the Wilderness Battlefield stage the largest field exercise since WWI. The next year, they traveled to Gettysburg, and in 1923, they concentrated their efforts in the Shenandoah Valley. It was at Antietam in 1924 that Marines held the last of this series of maneuvers and reenactments. They marched from Quantico on August 24 and stopped in Frederick, Md., for three days of liberty. After arriving at Sharpsburg, the Marines conducted training exercises that concluded with a reenactment on September 12 before a crowd of 40,000 spectators.

In 1920, the War College also returned to the Civil War battlefields, this time riding in motorized vehicles instead of on horse-



back. It is not surprising that, given the recent WWI experience, the classes focused on the trenches and earthworks in Virginia. The practice of staff rides at the War College waxed and waned during the interwar period, but typically involved each student being assigned a particular phase of a campaign or battle, and they would be responsible for research and preparation for a briefing to their classmates at the appropriate stop. Students worked in pairs — one taking the Union side, the other the Confederate.

The interwar period also saw major changes in the long-term preservation and management of Antietam and the other Civil War parks, and once again the War College played a role. During the 1920s, a time of peace and prosperity, numerous bills were introduced into Congress to establish more battlefield parks at sites such as Fredericksburg and Petersburg. With so many bills being introduced, the Committee on Military Affairs needed a comprehensive study before it would take action. President Calvin Coolidge signed H.R. 11613 on June 11, 1926, which directed the secretary of war to complete a broad historic sites survey. The House committee that passed the legislation based a great deal of the language on a report prepared by Lt. Col. C.A. Bach, chief, Historical Section, Army War College, and signed by the secretary of war in 1925. Bach’s memorandum reviewed Congress’s past actions that shaped battlefield preservation policy, set forth a comprehensive system for classifying battles according to their importance and proposed preservation action corresponding to the classification system. It also stated that the national military parks should be “so marked and improved as to make them real parks available for detailed study by military authorities, the battle lines and operations being clearly indicated on the ground.”

The act created a classification system for evaluating the importance and priority of battlefields. Once again a three-man commission was established, with representatives from the Quartermaster General, Chief of Engineers and the historical section of the Army War College. Their job was to evaluate and



rank, survey and produce historical studies of proposed battlefield sites. This work was crucial because “no real estate shall be purchased for military park purposes by the Government unless report thereon shall have been made by the Secretary of War.” For four years, the historical section of the War College diligently conducted a national battlefield survey. With the data provided by the secretary of war, Congress added 14 battlefield sites and national military parks from 1926 to 1931.

On August 10, 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt signed legislation that transferred all of the national military parks, battlefield sites, national monuments and national cemeteries to the National Park Service (NPS), which had been established in 1916 as part of the Department of the Interior to “promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations ... which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” The transfer was primarily a move to consolidate administration of the battlefields and their historic preservation under one agency. The battlefields would now be part of a larger vision of national heritage, managed by the National Park Service for the benefit and inspiration of all the people of the United States.★

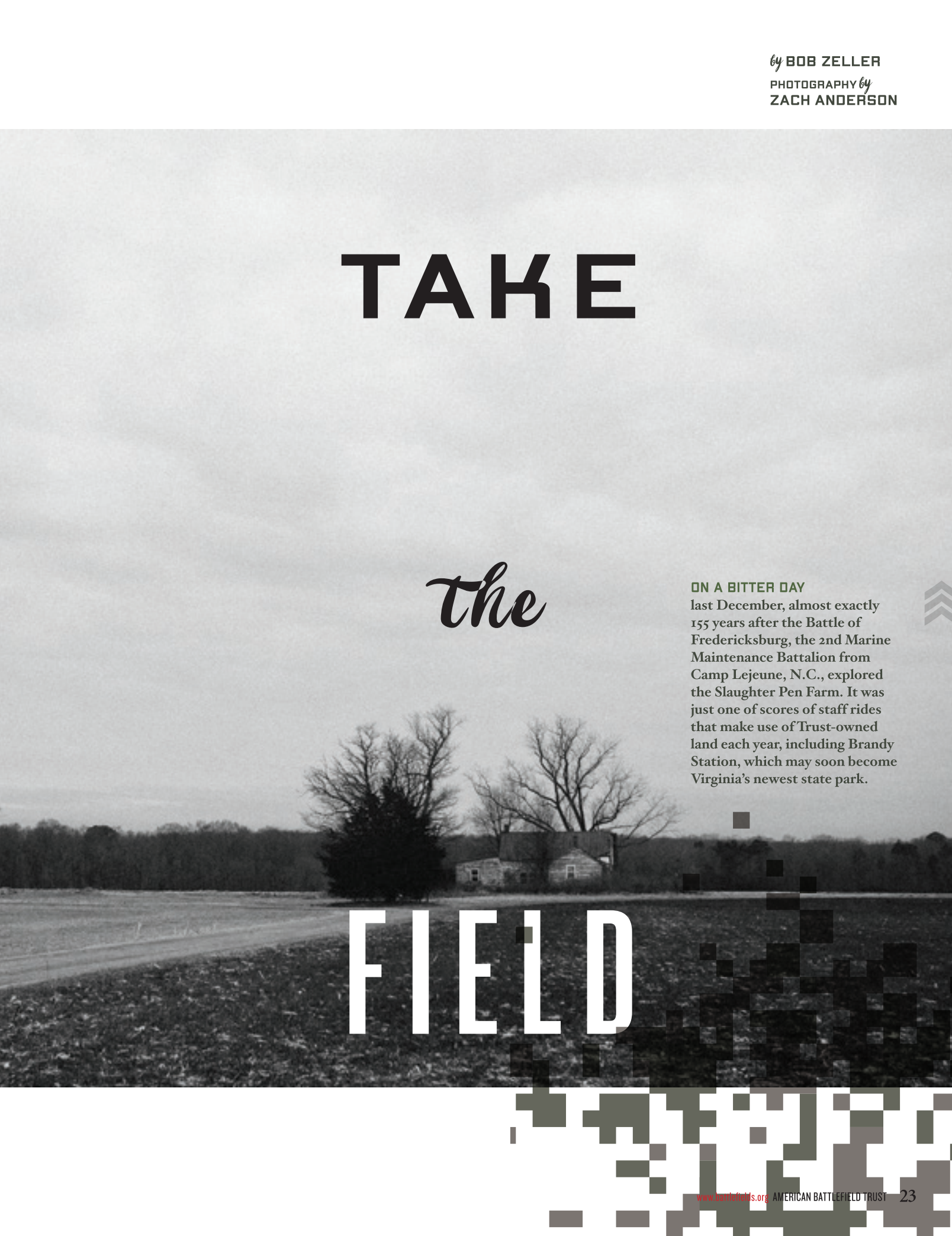
Keith B. Snyder is chief of resource education at Antietam National Battlefield, having retired from the U.S. Air Force as a colonel. This article is adapted from research he conducted while studying at the U.S. Army War College in 2003.



WHEN

the

DEVIL DOGS



TAKE

the

FIELD

by BOB ZELLER
PHOTOGRAPHY by
ZACH ANDERSON

ON A BITTER DAY
last December, almost exactly
155 years after the Battle of
Fredericksburg, the 2nd Marine
Maintenance Battalion from
Camp Lejeune, N.C., explored
the Slaughter Pen Farm. It was
just one of scores of staff rides
that make use of Trust-owned
land each year, including Brandy
Station, which may soon become
Virginia's newest state park.



tracks and the road and riding up the hill. “Matters looked serious!” McClellan wrote in *The Life and Campaigns of Major-General J.E.B. Stuart*, published in 1885. What was he to do?

PUTTING BOOTS ON THE GROUND

NOW IT IS 2018 — a temperate February 22 — and on Fleetwood Hill, Marine instructor Phillip R. Gibbons faces 60 Marine gunnery sergeants, all with 12 to 15 years in the service, many of them combat veterans.

Gibbons, a task analyst at the College of Enlisted Marine Education, Marine Corps University, Quantico, Va., has just described McClellan’s predicament, with no small amount of drama. Now he wants answers — and fast — from his students, each of whom figuratively stands in McClellan’s shoes.

“Major McClellan!” Gibbons barks, “What are your orders?”

Putting Marines in McClellan’s shoes to test and teach decisionmaking skills under stress is a central theme in military “staff rides” that unfold at battlefields all over the country and even abroad.

Brandy Station, a property saved and owned by the American Battlefield Trust, is a favorite for the Marine Corps University at the Quantico Marine Base in Virginia.

But other fields of conflict are frequently used, too — including Trust-owned sites like Cedar Mountain and Fredericksburg, where photographer Zach Anderson captured the the 2nd Marine Maintenance Battalion out of Camp Lejeune, N.C., in December 2017.

At Brandy Station, where he conducts up to a dozen staff rides each year, Gibbons is assisted by a team of civilian and active duty staff instructors. Back in 2012, he brought 700 second lieutenants on one ride, dividing them into smaller units. Now Gibbons brings smaller groups, having found that to be more effective and less of a logistical challenge.

AN UNMARRED LANDSCAPE AND A FRESH CANVAS

ALTHOUGH the Battle of Brandy Station was the largest cavalry battle of the Civil War, it is still overshadowed by the likes of Gettysburg, Antietam and others. With most students unaware of the battle’s details, Gibbons is working on a fresh canvas when he prompts his modern Marines to design their version of McClellan’s plan of action.

“There’s a huge variety of responses,” Gibbons said in an interview. “In fact, every time I go out to Brandy Station and do this, I hear at least one new and different response. Every time, and I’m there myself with different staff rides and tours at least six times a year.”

For the purpose of staff rides, not all battlefields



LOWER RIGHT: After a short hike to the top of Prospect Hill, the highest point on the battlefield, TOP: the Marines are told how Gen. Robert E. Lee devised his defensive strategy from the area. MIDDLE: The Trust’s Kris White specialized in facilitating staff rides while a ranger at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania NMP. LOWER LEFT: Maps are critical to understanding the troop movements on a staff ride.

10:30 A.M., ON JUNE 9, 1863, the Battle of Brandy Station had been underway for six hours, but the most important high ground in the area, Fleetwood Hill, was almost deserted.

Before dawn, it had been home to the headquarters of Confederate Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart. But when the cavalry battle began about two miles northeast at 4:30 a.m., Stuart and the headquarters command rushed forward to direct the fighting. The tents were struck, the baggage wagons dispatched to safer quarters in Culpeper and two regiments previously assigned to guard the hill rode off to protect that line of march.

Maj. Henry B. McClellan, Stuart’s 22-year-old adjutant, was all but alone on Fleetwood Hill, save for a few couriers who were relaying messages back and forth to the battle front and other positions. The most dominant topographical feature — the key to controlling the position and winning the battle — was undefended. The only weapon in McClellan’s sight was a lone six-pound howitzer, withdrawn from the fighting line early to resupply after problems with imperfect ammunition.

A courier arrived warning of another Federal advance. As McClellan peered in the opposite direction of the fighting, toward Brandy Station, he could see a large column of Federal cavalry advancing. He saw that they would reach the undefended station in mere minutes, and then it was simply a matter of crossing the

While standing on the Slaughter Pen Farm, Marines listen to stories of valor from the five men awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions on that field. LOWER LEFT: Demonstrating the technique that allowed the rear rank to fire over its comrades while in tight, period-appropriate formation.



are created equal. Brandy Station has another major advantage besides its comparative obscurity — its preservation. As Gibbons's troupe stands on Fleetwood Hill, the terrain that spreads out before them is largely unchanged from what McClellan saw. The train station is still in view. The rail line is still there, as is the road to Culpeper.

"When you get to a place like Brandy Station, where the terrain looks like it did back when the Civil War was fought,

The lessons
OF HISTORY ARE EASIER TO VISUALIZE AND MORE BENEFICIAL WHEN THEY CAN STAND ON THE ACTUAL GROUND.

you get a feel for where to place troops, and how far apart, and basic decisions like those," said Lt. Gen. Richard P Mills, USMC (Ret.), president and chief executive officer of the Marine Corps University Foundation. "That's the real value of preserved battlefields for our training."

"I can't tell you how many hundreds of Marines I've had out there on that hill," Gibbons said. "It's great, because when I talk about it, they can see it. A whole new level of learning occurs out there, because you've got a three-dimensional battlefield. You can see why commanders made the decisions they made."

PRESERVATION BREEDS EDUCATION

THE BRANDY Station Battlefield could have been obliterated. It could have become Elkwood Downs, a vast business and residential complex sprawled over 1,500 acres, including core battlefield land. It could have been a Formula One racetrack.

But after a decade of fighting one of the longest, hardest fights in the history of modern Civil War battlefield preservation, the preservationists won, thwarting the

development plans and the race track. The American Battlefield Trust and its predecessor organizations began to acquire land at Brandy Station in 1997. Since then, the Trust and its partners have saved more than 2,000 acres in almost a score of different acquisitions.

When Gibbons first started taking Marines to Brandy Station, he didn't take them to the crest of Fleetwood Hill. It was still privately owned, and a mansion occupied the high ground. So Gibbons kept his students below the heights on land owned by the Brandy Station Foundation. In 2013, however, the Trust bought the 56-acre hilltop property and home and, by 2015, had removed the mansion and cleared the hill. Gibbons now teaches on the very ground where McClellan stood, pondering his predicament:

"They were pressing steadily toward the railroad station, which must in a few moments be in their possession," McClellan wrote. "How could they be prevented from also occupying the Fleetwood Hill, the key to the whole position? In point of fact there was not one man upon the hill beside those belonging to [Lt. John W.] Carter's howitzer and myself, for I had sent away even my last courier, with an urgent appeal for speedy help. Matters looked serious! But good results can sometimes be accomplished with the smallest means. Lieutenant Carter's howitzer was brought up, and boldly pushed beyond the crest of the hill; a few imperfect shells and some round shot were found in the limber chest; a slow fire was at once opened upon the marching column, and courier after courier was dispatched to General Stuart to inform him of the peril...."

Carter's lone gun prompted the Federal forces to pause and evaluate the threat, giving Stuart time to send troops back to defend Fleetwood Hill. As they arrived, Carter's gun, now entirely out of ammunition, was withdrawing, and Union troopers were advancing up the hill.

A furious clash ensued, and the entire battle shifted to Fleetwood Hill, which was taken by the Union forces, then lost, then retaken and finally lost in a bloody, dust-filled melee of slashing sabers, wild-eyed bucking horses and erupting firearms. The battle ended with the Confederates holding the hill, but they had just barely avoided defeat.

LIVING CLASSROOM AND POTENTIAL PARK

AS GIBBONS presses his students for decisions, it's not usually a matter of having a right or wrong answer. He evaluates with his gunnery sergeants the responses they come up with, analyzing the potential consequences in the face of fast-changing, chaotic combat.

The technologies of modern warfare, of course, are much different than those of the Civil War. But many aspects are fundamentally the same. For Gibbons's students, the lessons of history are easier to visualize and more beneficial when they can stand on the actual ground.

Although that training comes in many forms, the most common type is what Gibbons does, the staff ride as a formal and rigorous training exercise in three phases: a detailed preliminary study of a battle or campaign, an extensive visit to the battlefield or campaign sites and an integration of the lessons learned from both.

There is no formal park at Brandy Station, so Gibbons and his students are often on their own as they go around the battlefield. A proposal to create a Brandy Station–Cedar Mountain State Park from the donation of battlefield properties currently owned by the American Battlefield Trust and the Brandy Station Foundation to the Commonwealth of Virginia is under consideration by the legislature in Richmond. The plan has gained significant support in the local community, leading to the creation of the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance to advocate for its passage.

The Marines are on board too. "When I heard about the initiative to create a Virginia state park at Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain, I became an instant supporter," Mills wrote in a *Richmond Times-Dispatch* op-ed. "Establishing a state park will make both battlefields far more accessible and inviting to the public at large."

But until that park is created, Gibbons depends on the assistance of the Brandy Station Foundation, which he says has been a terrific host.

"They've always said 'yes,' 100 percent of the time," Gibbons said of the foundation. "One time, they had a cookout for the Marines." Gibbons commonly arranges with the foundation to open the Graffiti House at Brandy Station, where they meet before the tour and then return to review what they've learned on the battlefield.



The Marines are formed in ranks to simulate the Federal assault on Marye's Heights. They advanced toward the stone wall until the point when Confederate artillery would have halted their progress.

A MILITARY TRADITION

THE BATTLEFIELDS at Chancellorsville and the Wilderness were the birthplace of modern military battlefield training. They were wholly unprotected battlefields in 1920, even though federal battlefield parks existed at Gettysburg, Antietam, Shiloh, Chickamauga/ Chattanooga and Vicksburg and other locations. A citizens group led by prominent veterans of both sides raised money in the 1890s, bought thousands of acres of the Virginia battlefields and offered them for free to the federal government, but the offer was rejected.

The colorful U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Smedley Butler, twice awarded the Medal of Honor, staged an elaborate

reenactment of the Battle of the Wilderness on the first weekend of October 1921 to draw attention to the battlefields and encourage their preservation.

"It will be the biggest show any military crowd has ever pulled off in the U.S. in peace times," Butler promised. The Marines came with troops, airplanes, dirigibles, 37mm guns, 3-inch Stokes mortars, machine guns and 75mm and 150mm French guns that weighed 19 tons each and had to detour around some bridges to get there. Planes strafed enemy "battleships" outlined with chalk near Wilderness Run. Hordes of visitors flocked to the noisy scene, including President Warren G. Harding, who spent the night in a tent on the battlefield.

The Marine camp covered the ground around Ellwood Manor at the Wilderness, and when Butler saw the marker for Stonewall Jack-

son's arm in the family cemetery, he questioned its veracity and ordered Marines to start digging.

"Butler dug it up, to make sure it was there, reburied it in a box, and — characteristically — put a bronze plaque to himself atop the 1903 marker to commemorate his exhumation," said Robert K. Krick, retired historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

Butler's reenactment was successful on several fronts. It promoted the military. It built momentum for the protection of the area's battlefields, leading to legislation in 1926 that created the national military park.

And out of Butler's grand demonstration also came more formalized methods of using battlefields for training and study, which led to the modern staff ride.

A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITIES

"ALL OF THE battlefields in the Washington, D.C.—area and from Richmond to Philadelphia are used extensively by the Marine Corps University, which teaches everybody from sergeants to lieutenant colonels," Mills said.

In other parts of the country, other battlefields are used. "If those gunnery sergeants are at Camp Pendleton in California, then they go to the San Pasqual Battlefield, a Mexican War battlefield in Escondido," Gibbons said. "If they're in Okinawa, they tour the Okinawa battle sites from World War II."

Each year at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, NPS historian Jim Ogden

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OF MODERN INTRUSIONS

conducts "one of the more interesting staff rides that I do each year," as part of a U.S. Army training program for military officers in partner nations in Central and South America. "The course is conducted in Spanish" by a translator with a headset, Ogden said. "All the students have ear pieces, and the translator turns what I say in English into Spanish for them," and vice versa.

Chancellorsville and the Wilderness are also still used by the military for staff rides. The American Battlefield Trust has saved much core battlefield land at Chancellorsville along Route 3 outside Fredericksburg, including much of the first day's battlefield and the site of Stonewall Jackson's epic flank attack on the second day.

But Gibbons prefers Brandy Station, even though it's 18 miles farther from Quantico.

"If your desired outcome is an immersive experience, you need to have preserved ground without a lot of modern intrusions," Gibbons said. "I know a lot of Marines can and do go out and study Jackson's flank attack at Chancellorsville now that they can walk the ground. It's great that we've saved those places. But the noise from the traffic going through there on Route 3 makes it hard to hear. So, Brandy Station is kind of my favorite place to go."★

Bob Zeller is the president of the Center for Civil War Photography and the author of several books on the subject. He is also the author of Fighting the Second Civil War: A History of Battlefield Preservation and the Emergence of the Civil War Trust.



Forward march through the past

HOW DO YOU STUDY A BATTLE in breadth, depth and context? Certainly, reading widely about a particular engagement — both the primary sources left by participants and the secondary sources that analyze them — is critical, and maps can help you visualize the field. But the best way to gain an understanding and appreciation for a battle is to follow in the literal footsteps of those who fought there, incorporating excerpts from those resources in context on the open fields and woodlots. My thesis applies especially to the cadets under my instruction, young men and women who may someday themselves lead troops in battle.



STAFF RIDES organized by the West Point Department of History combine classroom study and immersive on-field experience. Major excursions held over spring and summer breaks require an application process, as demand dwarfs our ability to provide the intimate atmosphere the process requires. In 2018, groups were formed to study the American Army and the West, the 1944 Normandy Campaign, the Cold War (visiting Berlin, Prague, Budapest, Krakow and Warsaw), the rise and expansion of Japanese imperial power and WWI in literature and memory. Programs designed for classes tend to stay closer, frequently making use of the Civil War battlefields.

I have been lucky to orchestrate two recent staff rides with the cooperation of the Trust. Our September 2017 visit to Gettysburg is described in this essay, which is illustrated with images from our April 2018 journey to Antietam.

Imagine standing at the Snyder Farm near the southern end of the Gettysburg National Military Park Battlefield in the late afternoon. The sun is behind you, and looking east from Seminary Ridge, you can see Little Round Top in the distance, its bare, rocky face standing in stark relief against the dark green leaves of the surrounding trees and the lighter grass and crops between your position and the hilltop in the distance. From this vantage point, the ground between the Snyder Farm and Little Round Top appears to consist of a gentle downward slope, until one reaches the boulder-strewn face of the hill in

the distance. Perhaps an attack over this ground will not be terribly difficult? The terrain appears manageable, but the Union sharpshooters posted around the Snyder Farm could pose a problem.

This is the impression given to cadets standing at the junction of the Emmitsburg Pike and West Confederate Avenue, roughly the starting point for the 1st Texas Regiment (part of Jerome Robertson's Brigade in Hood's Division) as it began Longstreet's attack late on the afternoon of July 2, 1863. Cadets are organized into the proper Civil War-era linear formation — two ranks, about one foot apart, standing shoulder to shoulder to maximize firepower to the front while supporting good command and control for the leadership — while we discuss the situations Hood's soldiers likely encountered on the march and as they arrived on the field. Asking the cadets to visualize their own ranks multiplied manifold to stretch unbroken as far as the eye could see in either direction, more than 14,000 men strong, we begin our march.

Following the route taken by the 426 soldiers of the 1st Texas, our formation moves down a gentle slope and over a Virginia worm fence, only to discover a creek we will need to cross. Thus far, the advance has not been arduous, although scrub brush, large rocks and other occasional obstacles challenge the cadets' tight formation. Once across the creek and through the woods, we take the time to dress our ranks and visualize pushing back the U.S. sharpshooters while visualizing trying to keep pace with the units on our right and left. The unforeseen obstacles have challenged the cadets physically and intellectually. As we resume our march, they are confronted with a steep upslope that had not been visible when we started.

As we struggle to the crest of this rough little rise, we are greeted with another unpleasant surprise. In front of us is a steep, boulder-covered downhill, ending at a creek (Rose Run) and a cleared but rocky field (Triangular Field), followed by an even steeper uphill. Houcks Ridge, its crest dominated by artillery and a Union brigade, had been almost indiscernible from the Snyder Farm, visually camouflaged by the taller heights of Little Round Top behind it.

It is not unusual for cadets to gasp as they struggle to comprehend the personal courage required to lead soldiers in their attempt to wrest control of Houck's Ridge from more than 2,000 Federal soldiers, posted behind a strong rock wall. Their reactions to the dawning comprehension of the challenges Hood's soldiers faced is a priceless moment not found in any book.

A good staff ride strays from the well-worn paths on an approved map from the visitor center. The depth of understanding we require of our cadets requires going off-road, far from where a tour bus can venture. In doing so, we can address specific questions of commanders' decisions and mindset, as well as soldier experience. Analyzing Dan Sickles's decision to move III Corps from his initial position along Cemetery Ridge to the infamous Peach Or-

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Many cadets took notes during the Antietam staff ride.



For simulation, Siry armed each cadet with three tennis balls and split them into two groups. The sides then marched, shoulder to shoulder, toward each other. When the lead officer gave the order, the front row of each group released one tennis ball. If hit, the cadets laid down on the ground, demonstrating how quickly leadership could collapse if officers were killed or wounded.



chard salient is particularly illustrative.

Upon asking my students, “Is this a good position defense?” from a point slightly north of John Sedgwick’s statue, I will receive a variety of answers. I note for them the woodlot between the George and John Weikert Farms. How far is it to the woodlot? What is the range of your muskets? Your artillery? How much standoff do you have? How many

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times could you load and fire at an enemy approaching from the near edge of the woods? Now I ask them more pointedly: ‘From this position, can you accomplish the mission Meade gave Sickles, tying in to the left flank of II Corps and to Little Round Top?’

Then, I move through the woodlot to the western edge, passing the hand-carved memorial to David Acheson of the 140th Pennsylvania. Looking west across the field, does this position allow better fields of fire? Can you still tie in to II Corps and Little Round Top? Walk toward the Trostle Farm, and stop at the fence line across the road from Bigelow’s battery. What can you see from here? There are wide open fields of fire, but you are on a reverse slope. How far away is the crest of the ridge? Can you still tie in to the left flank of II Corps and Little Round Top? Finally, walk southwest to the Peach Orchard. The fields of fire are great, but you are now too far away from both Hancock and Little Round Top. Can Sickles’s assigned tasks still be accomplished?

The questions posed to students and the lessons they can learn from this exercise are best learned by walking the terrain and putting themselves in the commander’s shoes. Is it possible to address the same questions from the classroom or another point on the battlefield? Of course, but the depth gained from walking the terrain magnifies the understanding of the battlefield and the decisions made by the commanders on the ground.

Leaving a staff ride, I always hope that my cadets have gained a deeper appreciation for the experience of individual soldiers, as well as insight into the decisionmaking process of their commanders. Both of these goals will serve our military’s future leaders well. We are lucky to have access to historic battlefields where the landscape remains able to support this type of invaluable education. ➔



LEFT: Sean Patterson, Perry, Fla. TOP: While standing at the infamous Bloody Lane, Maj. Tom Herman explains how topography informed troop movements and fierce fighting. MIDDLE: Cadets listen to Lt. Col. Siry provide background on the earlier phases of the campaign before setting out on their staff ride. BOTTOM: At the Burnside Bridge, Trust Director of History and Education Garry Adelman explains to the cadets — and the young attendees of the simultaneous Generations event (see page 39) — the futile Union attempts to cross Burnside Bridge.

★ THE LONG GRAY LINE ★



Alex Weisser
Columbia, S.C.



Jamar Williams
Dalzell, S.C.



Rachele Smith
Colorado Springs, Colo.



Abigail Yeager
Holland, Ohio



Charles Cathel
Glendora, Ca.



We are deeply grateful to the West Point Department of History, its instructors and cadets, for allowing us to join them at Antietam National Battlefield.

Planning A STAFF RIDE

STAFF RIDES are a wonderful way to gain an in-depth understanding of commanders' decisionmaking and soldiers' experiences on a battlefield, but they do require a great degree of thoughtful planning. Here are a few of the aspects that must be considered:

LOGISTICS

How long does it take to adequately conduct the movement? Many worthwhile marches take an hour or more to accomplish, and you may have to sacrifice other stops if you choose to make long overland treks.

TIME OF DAY

If you can execute these walking experiences at approximately the same time they occurred during the fight, you will experience similar light conditions, which can have a major impact on visibility, and thus, decisionmaking.

TERRAIN

Depending on your route, you may encounter crops, tall grass, brambles, briars and streams. Many times, these are easily navigable, but participants may have to jump a creek or climb over a fallen tree. Tell participants if bringing any extra gear — spare dry socks, for example — is advisable.

PHYSICAL ABILITY

The physical abilities of participants may vary widely within a group. Trust each participant to assess their own ability to conduct the movement based on your briefing. Be sure to have a way to transport anyone not able to make the walk, and provide them with a comparable experience as they wait at the end-point of the movement.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Prior to stepping off, allow an opportunity for participants to use sunscreen and tick protection. Proper protection will result in a better experience for all concerned.

PERSONAL COMFORT

The effects of the sun, heat and possible dehydration also come into play. Brief your participants, and make sure they have the opportunity to bring water with them. Conversely, in cold or wet weather, your participants will need to dress accordingly. The quickest way to lose interest on a long walk is if a participant is more concerned about their extremities and personal comfort than with the shared experience.



Lt. Col. Dave Siry

ACCESSIBILITY

The best way to plan your overland movement is to consult primary sources, such as the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* and determine the historic route you will follow. Ensure that the land is part of an official park or, if necessary, secure permission from the owner to traverse the land.★

Lt. Col. David Siry is the director of the Center for Oral History at the United States Military Academy, West Point, and an assistant professor in the Department of History. A 1994 graduate of USMA, Lt. Col. Siry branched Armor, and he has served in Iraq, Kuwait, Bosnia and Haiti.





Trust education staff took social media fans on a series of virtual visits behind the scenes at a host of Golden State historic sites, including (clockwise from right): The Mexican-American War battlefield at San Pasqual; Fort Point in the shadow of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge; the Huntington Library collection includes President Lincoln's "death warrant," which was issued to his personal bodyguard Ward Lamon; CBS Studios, where they explored how history is portrayed on film; and Alcatraz Island, with its military installation dating to the 1850s and a Civil War legacy as both military and civilian prison.



CALIFORNIA'S CIVIL WAR HISTORY GOES "LIVE"

Series of on-site broadcasts shares often untold stories



WHILE THE TRUST education team was in California to accept a prestigious award from the Organization of American Historians (see page 6), they also took the opportunity to explore some of the fascinating Civil War sites in the Golden

State — and brought Facebook fans along with them!

Between April 12 and 15, seven major virtual events were broadcast from interesting and relevant sites near San Francisco and Los Angeles — with a bonus stop near San Diego at the 1846 San Pasqual Battlefield, a pyrrhic American victory during the Mexican-American War. Those following along online from their homes were treated to behind-the-scenes access at the Huntington Library and Drum Barracks Civil War Museum, plus targeted tours of Alcatraz Island and Fort Point, National Park Service sites on San Francisco Bay more often associated with very different stories. And although not dating to the Civil War itself, a stop at CBS Studios reflected on how the conflict is portrayed on the silver screen.

All of these events are archived on the Trust Facebook page, so if you missed them live, you can watch at your convenience. Visit www.facebook.com/americanbattlefieldtrust.★



GENERATIONS EVENTS OFFER
plenty of adventure and historical detail



YOUNG PEOPLE with a budding interest in history were treated to two incredible opportunities in April, thanks to outstanding events hosted by the Trust's Generations program. These free events are designed to help parents, grandparents and friends share their passion for the past with future scholars and preservationists. We strive to make these memorable and interactive expeditions that form especially deep connections to the past by catering specifically to younger audiences in a way that many large group programs cannot.

On April 8, some 65 people participated in the Charge Burnside's Bridge event at Antietam National Battlefield. Attendees took part in a 1.5-mile hike, during which they learned about the Civil War, the Battle of Antietam and the particularly dramatic action at this creek crossing.

As a special surprise, the Generations group was joined by a group from West Point participating in a staff ride of the battlefield that the Trust helped coordinate. This unique interaction was a treat for children, parents and cadets alike. (Additional images from the cadets' time on the battlefield are featured throughout this issue of *Hallowed Ground*.)

"Seeing so many young people enthralled by the events of the past was inspirational. The event at Burnside Bridge would have been memorable in and of itself, but having the children make the charge alongside cadets from West Point was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said one parent who attended.

Two weeks later, on April 21, a group of 121 gathered at Gettysburg National Military Park to conduct Walk Pickett's Charge. Following in the footsteps of soldiers making the Civil War's most famous attack can be an unforgettable experience, and it has proven to be one of our most popular event types, generating several repeat productions.

Future Generations events are taking shape, including our first in Richmond, Va. Keep a lookout for more exciting opportunities to participate in these family-friendly outings at battlefields and other historic sites on social media and at www.battlefields.org/generations.★

In April, nearly 200 kids, parents, and grandparents joined the Trust education department at Antietam and Gettysburg for our first Generations events of the year. At Antietam, we brought along some special guests, the cadets of West Point.

Top three photographs: NOEL KLINE
Bottom photograph: ZACH ANDERSON





THE MEMBERS of the American Battlefield Trust's Board each possess unique skills and background they can apply to our work. One Trustee, in particular, has a deep and abiding understanding of the importance that a preserved battlefield can have as a memorial to American soldiers, having commanded Marines in combat zones in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan — Lt. Gen. Richard P. Mills.

The New York native received his commission as a second lieutenant in 1975 and held a variety of roles as he rose

LT. GEN. RICHARD MILLS

A Voice of Experience



through the ranks, including an official military observer with the United Nations in Palestine, on the staff of the commander of the United States Sixth Fleet and as assistant chief of staff to the United States European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. Over the course of his career, Mills has engaged in numerous periods of specialized study, including at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College and the UK Royal College of Defense Studies.

Now retired from the military, Mills is the president and CEO of the Marine Corps University Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the professional education of officers and enlisted Marines, both at the university's headquarters at Quantico, Va., and other bases. The foundation seeks to provide outstanding training in security and war fighting systems and to train the next generation of Marine leadership. Some of the organization's achievements include working to provide cutting-edge library technology that allows information sharing and dissemination across the globe and the establishment of academic positions for research and teaching.

The foundation also financially supports the Marine Corp's use of staff rides as a training tool for officers. Mills is a tremendous advocate for this proud tradition, which led him to first become involved with the American Battlefield Trust during its efforts to advocate on behalf of the Revolutionary War's Princeton Battlefield. Appreciating the Trust's mission, his involvement quickly deepened, and he joined the Board in early 2017.

"So many veterans like myself look over our shoulders for inspiration from past triumphs on past battlefields," Mills told *Stars and Stripes*, a military publication, during the Princeton controversy. "More importantly, it is crucial that we take our young people to these battlefields. Only then can they really get a feel for our history. The battlefield, as an outdoor classroom, reveals its subtle dips and depressions, places that provided mere inches of life-saving cover during an enemy volley. Only on a preserved battlefield itself can you walk the walk. That's why it's so important to save hallowed ground."

Through Mills, the Trust and the Marine Corps University have formed a more permanent partnership, including standing arrangements related to use of Trust properties for staff rides.

Meanwhile, Mills has leveraged the tremendous authority afforded him by his joint positions to amplify his own advocacy for on-the-ground military education and appreciation of battlefield land, publishing his views in both the *Richmond Times Dispatch* and the *Fredericksburg Free-Lance Star* already this year.

"In this age of tanks, helicopters, jets, rockets and drones, how can we learn from a battle fought on horseback or on foot? When you take it down to the basic principles, war hasn't changed," he wrote, demonstrating his unique understanding of both history and the modern military. "The training touches a deeper chord, too. We use history to build the values and traditions of military service and reinforce its discipline and standards. The history ... helps us instill unit cohesion and unit pride. You stand up to the challenge because the soldiers on both sides of you stood up." ★

Photo by BUDDY SECOR

VETERANS *for* BATTLEFIELDS

A BROTHERHOOD OF SERVICE

A PRESERVED BATTLEFIELD is a tangible and living memorial to not just the soldiers who struggled there, but to all the men and women who have answered the call to serve their country. Our commitment to safeguarding these sites is tantamount to a promise that the sacrifices of today's armed forces are, likewise, never forgotten.

This new, recurring department in each issue of *Hallowed Ground* will showcase that brotherhood of service by highlighting Trust donors and family who are active duty or veteran members of the U.S. military. To nominate someone for inclusion — or to update your member record so we can recognize you for your service in other ways — email veterans@battlefields.org.



HAT Maj. Gen. Julian Burns (Ret.) would grow to serve with distinction in the U.S. military and have a deep personal commitment to battlefield preservation was, perhaps, destined from birth. He was born at the site of the Revolutionary War's Second Battle of Camden, also known as Hobkirk's Hill, and his family tree includes a litany of valorous veterans, including his own father, who fought under George Patton at the Battle of the Bulge. Among several of Burns's Revolutionary War ancestors is General William Moultrie, who, flying the palmetto flag, turned back a British attempt to occupy Charleston.

"I was immersed in the study of military history from my earliest days," he notes. "I was captured by books on the great campaigns, some of which my family fought, including the Revolution, the French and Indian Wars, the Civil War and World War I and II. Helmets and guns and maps were everywhere present in my home as a child. And Camden and Kershaw County and South Carolina itself were replete with daily examples of battles that were either well-preserved or were regrettably fading with time."

In such a family that knew the nobility of sacrifice and of service in the Armed Forces, it was natural for Burns to pursue a commission to West Point. Upon graduation, he was a cavalry officer at the outset of his own distinguished career. He retired in 2005 as a major general and became a vice president of joined the American arm of British Aerospace. During his 35-year army career, he married another commissioned officer, Ruth Ann, and raised three daughters, one of whom continues the family tradition of service.

Among his many tours of duty, he spent time abroad in Korea, Europe, the

JULIAN BURNS

Carries on Family Tradition



Balkans, Israel and the Arabian Peninsula. During the Balkans conflict during the 1990s, he served as chief of plans and operations for NATO Allied Forces Southern Europe.

Now having returned home to Camden, S.C., Burns is involved in a different type of service — he is the senior elected official of Kershaw County and an active preservationist and history advocate, serving on the boards of the War College Museum and

the Infantry and Armor Museums, remaining active with the Society of the Cincinnati and assisting in efforts to preserve Southern Campaign battlefields with the Trust's Liberty Trail initiative.

Preserving battlefields is "our duty to the fallen," Burns believes, espousing "that we preserve and honor their sacrifices by the reverent remembrance of the places where our liberties were contested and preserved." He comes by the passion honestly: His father was one among the small group that located and restored the redoubts near British General Cornwallis's headquarters in Camden, and his mother was a founder of the area historical society.

While he firmly believes that battlefield visits are illuminating to all types of people, he admits that modern soldiers get something deeper from them. "To the military eye, a battlefield is replete with lessons.... I never fail to learn something about the military profession and the valor and skill of the commanders."

In addition to seeking additional land preservation, Burns is working to encourage military leaders at nearby Shaw Air Force Base, Fort Jackson and the Army National Guard to study and visit Kershaw County's Revolutionary War battlefields. ★

AS THE RECIPIENT of the Robert M. Kelly Scholarship established through the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Trust staffer Kristen Pawlak was asked to address the Foundation's Philadelphia Celebratory Ball in late April. Robert Kelly was a Marine killed in action in 2010 and was the son of Gen. John Kelly, President Trump's current chief of staff. ★



Lower right: Photo courtesy Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation

YOUR AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST MEMBERSHIP

Frequently Asked Questions



THE LAUNCH of the American Battlefield Trust is an exciting moment in the preservation movement. We recognize that, as with any transition, members may have questions about the impact that this new structure may have on their interactions with the organization. The following Frequently Asked Questions are designed to respond to this need. For more information, visit www.battlefields.org/questions.

Q: What is the American Battlefield Trust?

The American Battlefield Trust preserves America’s hallowed battlegrounds and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters. It is an umbrella organization created by the Civil War Trust that also encompasses the Revolutionary War Trust (formerly Campaign 1776). It is a nonpartisan, nonprofit entity that will build upon those organizations’ previous successes in protecting our nation’s endangered battlefields.

Q: Why take this step?

The name American Battlefield Trust more accurately reflects our mission to protect battlefields of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War. Since that expansion occurred in November 2014, it has been clear that the name “Civil War Trust” no longer fully conveys what we do. The broader name more accurately and succinctly describes our mission and philosophy to new and wider audiences.

Q: Was the response to our Revolutionary War efforts enthusiastic enough to merit this?

In several surveys, roughly 80 percent of members reported that they were pleased we had become involved in protecting land from other conflicts. This feeling translated into tangible financial support, leading to the protection of nearly 700 acres of land from the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 in less than four years. The expansion led to a demonstrable increase in both number of active donors toward battlefield preservation and the gross amount contributed.

Q: How did you come to this decision?

Years of careful consideration by our staff and Board — in consultation with our federal and state partners, and supported by extensive member survey research — have led us

to conclude that the creation of an umbrella organization will allow us to further advance the cause of battlefield preservation. Before our Trustees made the final decision to initiate this change, we conducted at least five relevant surveys among segments of our membership, as well as in-person focus groups. Similarly, we received input from members and dozens of other stakeholders who anticipated this step after our entry into Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefield preservation.

Q: What conflicts does the American Battlefield Trust cover?

At present, the American Battlefield Trust limits its land-preservation efforts to the three formative conflicts of our nation’s first century: The Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Civil War. We do so, in part, because these are the three wars that have been thoroughly studied and prioritized by the National Park Service, helping ensure that our resources are focused on the most historically sensitive land. However, to tell the full story of these conflicts and related events, where appropriate, we will offer educational resources covering other episodes and eras in American military history.

Q: What becomes of the Civil War Trust?

The Civil War Trust isn’t going away — it remains the principal division of the American Battlefield Trust. You’ll continue to see its name and logo whenever we announce a new acquisition opportunity at a Civil War battlefield. Our commitment to protecting those landscapes will not waver and will continue to comprise a clear majority of our efforts.

Q: What becomes of Campaign 1776?

Campaign 1776 — which was envisioned as an initiative of limited scope and duration, designed to determine the feasibility of Revolutionary War battlefield preservation — has become the Revolutionary War Trust, a fully fledged new division under the American Battlefield Trust umbrella. It will focus only on preserving lands associated with the American Revolution, as well as educating the public about our country’s struggle for independence.

Q: Which division supports War of 1812 battlefield preservation?

The Civil War Trust and Revolutionary War Trust protect only the sites implicit in their names. Moving forward, preservation of War of 1812 sites will occur under the overarching banner of the American Battlefield Trust. A stand-alone division for War of 1812 sites would not be sustainable given that proportion of naval battles in the conflict.

Q: What does this mean for my membership?

Rather than have separate membership divisions, the American Battlefield Trust will be our only official membership organization moving forward. For current and lapsed members, you will notice this change when you receive your renewal notification in the next year. For a limited time, you will have the opportunity to become a Founding Member of the American Battlefield Trust. Founding Members will receive a special discount on new American Battlefield Trust merchandise for purchase on our website, so you can proudly display your support of the new umbrella organization. Merchandise specific to the Civil War and Revolutionary War will also be available.

Q: What if I wish to exclusively support efforts related to one conflict?

We have a long history of enabling members to support those projects that speak most deeply to them — acquiring land at a favorite battlefield or at only sites associated with a particular unit or leader. More recently, members have been able to give specifically toward education and restoration. In keeping with this tradition, those renewing as Founding Members of the American Battlefield Trust can choose to give wherever the need is greatest — or specify that their money only go for Civil War or Revolutionary War projects. We have also worked closely with our auditors and financial institutions to create infrastructure to support your ability to customize your gifts — so you can be confident that your money goes where you want it to go.



Q: Will you maintain both the Color Bearers and the Standard Bearers?

These two major donor societies have been merged, retaining the Color Bearer Society name, as it was the much larger and more established group. All donors impacted by this change will be personally contacted by Trust development staff.

Q: I currently contribute through the Combined Federal Campaign or a state-level equivalent. Do I have the opportunity to target only the Revolutionary War or Civil War with my gift?

The infrastructure of these programs does not allow you to target your membership gift at the time of its deduction from your salary. Please contact our Development Department if you wish to discuss this option, as specifics differ among programs.

Q: Might this have any impact on our stellar ratings in various charity watchdog groups?

No. We have structured this transition so that the federal identification number issued by the IRS — the means by which all of these institutions track organizations — transfers to the American Battlefield Trust. We worked with our legal counsel to ensure this process was seamless and solid.

Q: Is there any change to the organization’s governing structure?

There are no changes to our staff or leadership as a result of this process. Our Board of Trustees remains a single unified entity. Jim Lighthizer remains our president and the Board retains its current membership.

Q: Do I need to update a will or other bequest to the Civil War Trust or Campaign 1776?

Because the American Battlefield Trust is the same legal entity and has the same federal tax ID, you do not need to update or change your estate plans that may currently list the Civil War Trust, the Civil War Preservation Trust or Campaign 1776 as the beneficiary. Please contact the planned giving office if you want to restrict your gift to a particular part of our mission. For those without stated restrictions, the gift will be used where the need is greatest.

Q: Will events and publications now cover all three wars equally?

We strive to host dynamic events that appeal to a broad audience of history lovers. This includes going to a variety of destinations, which allows us to offer relevant tours and lectures. We will seek the input of our members as we choose the locations for future events, which will drive the mix of topics covered. As it has done in recent years, *Hallowed Ground* will include feature content covering all three wars, with heaviest emphasis on Civil War battles, as that remains our principle era of operation.

Q: I make a recurring, monthly gift by credit card, do I need to notify my bank?

You may wish to do so in order to avoid any possible disruption, but it should not be necessary.

Q: I have used Amazon Smile to contribute in the past. Do I need to change anything?

Because our Tax ID has not changed, your shopping will still benefit our work. However, if you prefer to see the new name of the American Battlefield Trust as your designation, go to smile.amazon.com, roll over your current selection and click change. Then search for and select the American Battlefield Trust.★

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