

SUMMER 2020 • Vol. 21 No. 2

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

# HALLOWED GROUND

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## THE PERILOUS FIGHT

THE DEFENSE OF FORT McHENRY AND THE BIRTH OF A STAR SPANGLED BANNER



**HALLOWED GROUND**  
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of the American  
Battlefield Trust  
Summer 2020,  
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The Trust regrets the following errors  
that have appeared in past issues of  
*Hallowed Ground*. In the Spring 2020 edition,  
a caption on page 20 identified a German tank  
as a "Tiger Tank," when it is a Panzerkampfwagen IV  
(PZKw 4), more commonly known as a Panzer 4. Also in  
that edition, registered Park Day sites in Arkansas  
appeared under a heading for Alabama.

The Fall 2016 issue included an article by Marshall Berdan  
on the origins of Memorial Day included claims made by the  
town of Waterloo, N.Y., regarding its assertions of holding its  
first commemorations in May 1866, claims that spread widely  
following the holiday's centennial. The claim originated from  
a 1933 article in *The Banner*; the then- monthly membership  
magazine of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.  
Further research on Berdan's part uncovered the original article  
and he now wishes to retract his support of Waterloo's claim.  
He writes: "Suffice it to say, [the document] is proof positive  
that Waterloo's claim is based on a complete literary fabrication  
... his purpose is not to set the historical record straight, but  
to exhort his fellow Sons of Union Veterans to recruit more  
members so that Memorial Day can continue to be observed  
with all established dignity and solemnity until the last  
Civil War veteran is laid to rest. And it is just one of six such  
creative appeals to appear under his name in *The Banner*  
between March and August of 1933." The article has been  
removed from the Trust's online archive to avoid further  
perpetuation of unsubstantiated myth.

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COVER: Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Baltimore, Md., MARK NELSON

THIS PAGE: Underside view of the flag-raising ceremony at Fort McHenry. SURESH RAO PHOTOGRAPHY



**R**ECENT EVENTS remind us all that the story of America is complex and full of contradictions. “All men are created equal,” our Declaration of Independence proclaimed in 1776, and yet men and women were held in bondage for another 87 years. Then, amid the trauma of a bloody civil war, came

President Abraham Lincoln’s profound clarification: Ours is a nation “conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the *proposition* that all men are created equal.” In this reframing during his Gettysburg Address, Lincoln acknowledged that America’s journey was far from over. He asked each of us to do our part in “the great task remaining before us.”

Each successive generation plays a role in embodying the most central tenet of our American experiment. The first words of our Constitution, the bedrock of our democracy, declare that “We the people, in order to form a more perfect union” will take the actions outlined therein. Each of us, for as long as the nation shall endure, is called upon to do our part to advance freedom and justice farther along the path. The more perfect a union we can imagine, the more perfect a union we can become.

America’s founding documents are not perfect, primarily because they were conceived by imperfect human beings. But they provide us with a stable framework, as unique in the world today as it was in the late 18th century, that allows each generation to address the challenges of its own time. The “unfinished work” remaining before Lincoln in 1863 persists even now.

Our nation is confronting painful chapters of our past, and there can be no single solution for how to grapple with those legacies. Some locally elected officials have, as our democracy grants them authority to do, decided to remove Confederate monuments standing in public squares and civic settings. Others have chosen to relocate them or augment them with contextual interpretation. We continue to urge, as we have previously, that these decisions must be made in thoughtful ways, understanding that taking a historical resource and placing it in a different historical context is rarely an advisable course of action. Further, we believe true learning, healing and growth require more education and interpretation, more discussion and hard conversations, and more preservation — never less.

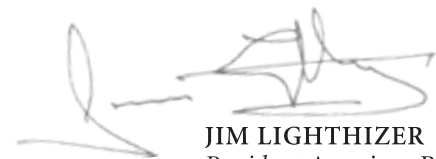
War has a terrible human cost that must not be forgotten. There have been issues in our history so important, profound and fundamental that they could be resolved in no way beside armed conflict.

The American Battlefield Trust is dedicated to the idea that the battlefields where these struggles manifested themselves should be forever protected as living memorials to those who fought there. They are also outdoor classrooms, where underlying issues can be studied and reflected upon. “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it,” wrote philosopher George Santayana. Instead, let us engage in “active remembering,” and work every moment of every day toward a better future for our nation.

Many of those ordinary citizens who fought on America’s battlefields, who drew and shed blood there, fighting in a war they did not seek but could not avoid, later took comfort and found healing in erecting monuments to their comrades and leaders who did not return home at war’s end. “To Our Honored Dead” they inscribed on the markers, obelisks, statues and tablets they placed upon the landscape.

As followers of history, we know that battlefields are inevitably vast cemeteries where the dead were buried where they fell. And while many of these soldiers were later reinterred elsewhere — sought out and claimed by bereaved family or moved to a permanent resting place, including national cemeteries — an unknown number remain buried on these battlefields. A unit’s monument on a battlefield, standing where they stood, is little different than a headstone for its fallen, the location of earthly remains perhaps unknown. These, we believe, must remain, no matter how other markers and memorials might be debated, judged or removed. To do less is to steal from the future.

History should not be glossed over or erased. It must be considered and confronted in appropriate settings and contexts — museums and battlefields among them — where honest and unflinching background can be provided. The American Battlefield Trust is committed to preserving the full scope of America’s story — honestly and impartially, the heroic and painful. Our irreplaceable hallowed battlefields offer tangible links to our past so that we can teach future generations of the cost — but also, ultimately, of the value — of freedom and justice.

  
JIM LIGHTHIZER  
President, American Battlefield Trust



President Portrait by BUDDY SECOR

## War of 1812 Overview

Ready for more reading on the “Forgotten War,” or “America’s Second War of Independence”? You can find all of our War of 1812 resources, from leader biographies to battle histories, in one handy online portal.

[www.battlefields.org/warof1812](http://www.battlefields.org/warof1812)

## Make Some History in Baltimore

From seafaring heritage to visionary art, decadent Berger cookies to steamed crabs, Baltimore, Md., has something for everyone. Check out our specialized itineraries to learn exactly what Charm City and other historic destinations have to offer.

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

## Caulk’s Field

Before the British encircled Baltimore by land and sea, they clashed with American forces up and down Chesapeake Bay. Go online for our exclusive article about one of the most important such clashes, the fight at Caulk’s Field, which saw the mortal wounding of American commander Lieutenant Colonel Peter Parker.

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

## Help Us Bring Gettysburg Alive

The Trust has made huge progress on our most ambitious mobile app yet — an augmented reality interpretation of the Battle of Gettysburg. But to bring the past to life like never before without reducing the resources we can commit to battlefield preservation, we need your help. Learn more and consider a gift today.

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



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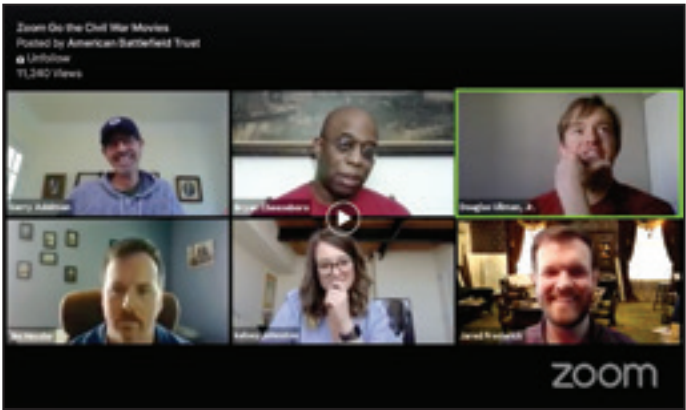


## AS AMERICA SETTLED INTO QUARANTINE, *the Trust turned to “Inspiring Minds at Home”*

**T**HIS SPRING, when public health concerns transformed millions of American homes into small-scale schools and gave many of us the opportunity to indulge individual interests, the demand for high-quality, balanced educational content rose sharply. And the American Battlefield Trust capitalized on its digital chops to share our always-free collection of outstanding digital content more widely than ever before.

The Trust’s dynamic resources — both existing and new during the crisis — were grouped together under the banner “Inspiring Minds at Home.” Featured content included lesson plans for students of multiple ages, Battle App™ guides and virtual tours, video series, virtual reality productions and a vibrant digital community on social media. Consumption of Trust digital content reached unprecedented levels: three consecutive months (our first ever!) with more than one million views on YouTube, a figure roughly double that of 2019. We gained about 60,000 new subscribers and followers, also double the increase during the same period last year. Over the course of the pandemic, website visits to the Trust’s pages for education materials, virtual tours and animated battle maps nearly tripled over usual rates.

On social media, we debuted multiple new short video series, showcasing some of our in-house historian talent and offering suggestions for family-friendly activities with a historical bent. We also launched “crash courses” in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War for people with a bit of time on their hands who want to master the subject quickly.



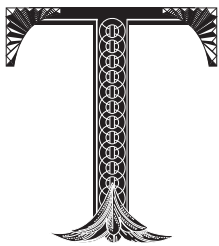
But our most successful COVID innovation was Zoom Goes the History!, where we brought historians together on a digital platform to discuss and debate, while fielding live questions from our Facebook audience. Hundreds of fans tuned in simultaneously to talk about best historical movies, get behind-the-scenes glimpses of the Trust’s work or participate in a “Fantasy Draft” to field the ultimate Civil War army. Some sessions among the dozens we offered — such as a Q&A with former Trustee and acclaimed author Jeff Shaara — were so overwhelmingly popular that we had to return for a second round!

Although easing restrictions mean that we will be more readily able to gather on the battlefield, the Trust will not be abandoning these platforms, continuing to share high-quality and interactive history content with those who seek it digitally.★



**AS THIS ISSUE of *Hallowed Ground* went to press, the Trust and the Adams County Historical Society revealed that researchers using the collection of the New York Public Library had chanced upon a remarkable documentary resource for the Battle of Antietam. The S.G. Elliott Burial Map for Antietam reveals the locations where more than 5,800 soldiers were laid to rest in the immediate aftermath of the bloodiest day in American history. Not only does this map demonstrate the true nature of the term “hallowed ground,” it opens up a host of interpretation and preservation opportunities. Look for much more coverage of this exciting research in the next issue of *Hallowed Ground*, and visit [www.battlefields.org/elliottmaps](http://www.battlefields.org/elliottmaps) to learn more in the interim.★**

## TRUST PARTNERS TO ELEVATE *stories of Black bravery in battle*



**THE CONTRIBUTIONS** of African Americans during our nation’s first century are often under-told or untold stories. To help elevate this important history, the Trust has partnered with Civil War Trails, known for its signature interpretive signage and maps with the distinctive red bugle, on a Road to Freedom map guide focused on the African American experience in Civil War-era Virginia.

This map guide features more than 70 sites across Virginia — from Civil War Trails signs and historic highways markers to museums and battlefields — that have permanent interpretative installations pertaining to African American history from the Civil War era. The Road to Freedom map guide also contains narrative elements that provide further context to the African American experience in Civil War-era Virginia, covering such topics as slavery, the United States Colored Troops and Reconstruction. The Trust and Civil War Trails are in the process of soliciting stakeholder feedback on the current Road to Freedom draft and hope to finalize the map guide and begin distribution — both online and at tourist destinations across Virginia — later this year.

In addition to promoting these African American stories through our partnership with Civil War Trails, Trust staff have worked with Gov. Ralph Northam’s administration to elevate the preservation of these sites. On June 10, the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources rolled out updates to *ConserveVirginia*, the Commonwealth’s groundbreaking, data-driven, statewide land conservation strategy and mapping tool. Included in those updates was the addition of battlefields from the Revolutionary War and Civil War that saw the involvement of African American troops. The Trust’s partnership with the Northam administration on this effort resulted in almost 130,000 more acres of battlefield land being included in *ConserveVirginia*.★



## TRUST LAUNCHES NEW CIVIL WAR CURRICULA

**I**N APRIL, after five years of research and revision, the American Battlefield Trust launched a pair of new Civil War Curricula — easy-to-use, interdisciplinary and resource-rich guides for elementary school, middle school and high school educators. The free online lesson plans include slide presentations and downloadable PDFs of primary source packets and worksheets, plus links to the Trust’s myriad digital resources — like animated battle maps and informational videos.

The all-new Inquiry Curriculum is designed to encourage engagement in older students through investigation into thought-provoking questions, while our Traditional lecture-based curriculum received a major overhaul to reflect educator demand and more fully integrate digital content. Both curricula were developed by the Trust’s Education Department, in consulta-



tion with award-winning history educators, and are based on the national Common Core Standards and those of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS).

“It is crucial that every young American have the opportunity to learn the stories of how our nation was forged,” said Trust President James Lighthizer. “We’re proud to have supported educators with high-quality, free content for more than two decades, but it’s especially gratifying to see how these resources are being implemented remotely in these challenging and uncertain times.”

This latest entry into the curricula produced by the Trust explores a new approach gaining popularity in pedagogical circles. “Inquiry-based learning turns the student into a historian, and they are exposed to primary documents, historical research methods and critical thinking scenarios,” explained Garry Adelman, the Trust’s chief historian. “More and more teachers are embracing the ways it allows for independent learning, while getting students fully immersed in the subject matter.”

All 47 new lesson plans, designed for grades 3–12, are now available online. We are also working to develop additional curricula meeting the same standards that address other eras in American history, including the Revolutionary War and the early republic period. Learn more at [www.battlefields.org/curriculum](http://www.battlefields.org/curriculum).★





Yorktown, Va.  
MIKE TALPLACIDO

## TRUST AND COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ANNOUNCE

*new digital Tour Guide for the Revolutionary War's Yorktown Battlefield*



**S VISITORS** begin returning to historic sites this summer, travelers to the Yorktown Battlefield at Colo-

nia National Historical Park have a new resource to explore that landscape at their own pace, on their own schedule. The new Yorktown Tour Guide app, developed by the American Battlefield Trust on behalf of the park, takes users on three distinct tours — the historic town, the battlefield and the allied encampment — with audio interpretation at each of 21 stops. While the app is GPS-enabled, providing integrated driving directions to individual sites within its map feature, images and historical content can be accessed from anywhere on the globe, bringing history to those not yet able to visit in person. The free app is now available for download via the App Store and Google Play, or online as a web app, available through a phone's web browser.

"We are thrilled to launch this new option for visitors to the Yorktown Battlefield and expand our array of interpretive resources," said Kym Hall, superintendent of Colonial National Historical Park. "From ranger-led programs to physical pamphlets and now into the digital realm, the National Park Service strives to help

each visitor find their preferred way to explore our historic resources. Working with like-minded partners, including the American Battlefield Trust, helps us fulfill this mission."

American Battlefield Trust Chief Digital Officer Larry Swiader emphasized that the beauty of an approach like this app is that it can function for those on the battlefield, as well as those learning history from home. "With photos and audio content, as well as place-based functionality, the Yorktown Tour Guide can bring history to life whenever and wherever you are when you want a peek into the past. It really is like having a tour guide in your pocket," he said.

The app includes tours of three distinct elements of the national historical park's Yorktown unit: the 1781 battlefield, the Franco-American allied encampment and historic areas of the York Town community, which dates to 1691. While users are encouraged to take all three tours, each one does function independently. The ability to view all 21 tour stops on a unified map helps users understand the interplay between the siege and the seaport community.

The Trust is no stranger to digital battlefield interpretation, having launched its first Battle App® guide in 2010. Learn more about the entire suite of Trust mobile apps at [www.battlefields.org/mobileapps](http://www.battlefields.org/mobileapps).★

## ACCOLADES ROLL IN

*for Trust Video Projects*

**T**HIS SPRING, Trust video productions earned top honors in two major, international competitions, demonstrating our commitment to excellence in educational programming. In both of these instances, we were up against entries from leaders in the media and entertainment industries — names as diverse as *National Geographic* and *Entertainment Weekly*.

First came word that our *Civil War 1864: A Virtual Reality Experience* won a Silver Telly Award in the Immersive and Mixed Reality category, while our digital fundraising piece *Walk the Perryville Battlefield with Actor Steve Zahn: You Can Help Save a Critical Tract!* won silver in the Promotional Video: Not-for-Profit category. This year marked the 41st anniversary for the Telly Awards, which honor excellence in video and television across all screens.

Moreover, we're pleased to announce that *Civil War 1864: A Virtual Reality Experience* has been accepted into the 2020 Pixii Festival! This annual international gathering showcases the best in immersive installations to industry specialists and the viewing public.

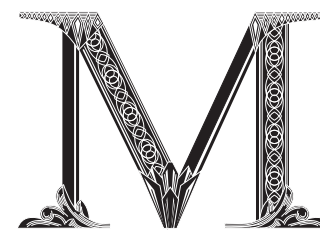
Separately, the Society of Publication Designers, in its 55th annual awards show, named our *Brothers In Valor* content produced to accompany the Spring 2019 edition of *Hallowed Ground* as the Silver Medalist in the Video of the Year category, losing out on top honors to a piece about human trafficking assembled by *The New Yorker*.★



Rappahannock Station Battlefield, Va.  
MATTHEW MINION

## PRESERVATION VICTORY

*at Culpeper Crossing!*



**MORE THAN TWO YEARS** after initially announcing the opportunity, the American Battlefield Trust has completed the final, critical step in protecting 12.44 acres — part of a larger, 200-acre acquisition project — along the Rappahannock River, paving the way for recreational

water access at a potential new state park currently being evaluated by the Commonwealth of Virginia. In placing conservation easements through the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) and Department of Historic Resources (DHR) on the property, the Trust has ensured that this pristine landscape is protected in perpetuity. Essential funding for the full \$1.8-million project was provided by the federal American Battlefield Protection Program and Commonwealth matching grants from the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, Virginia Outdoors Foundation and Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, as well as a landowner donation.

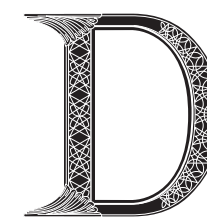
"The completion of this project is cause for celebration on multiple fronts," said Trust President Jim Lighthizer. "Important historic ground is protected; recreational opportunities for the community are expanded. Truly, this effort shows the power of partnerships in the conservation community — by coming together behind a singular vision, our coalition of federal and state agencies, plus nonprofit organizations and private donors have made a lasting impact beyond what any of us might have achieved alone."

The entire 200-acre project represents two properties acquired from local businessman Bob Currier, whose family has owned the land since 1878. Currier chose to sell the Trust a nearly 13-acre commercially zoned property situated on Route 29 with some 5,000 feet of river frontage, and donate a larger, 187-acre property nearby. Both tracts saw fighting in the First (August 22–25, 1862) and Second (November 7, 1863) Battles of Rappahannock Station, the wartime name for the modern town of Remington. The riverside property features extant entrenchments and a roadbed dating to the Revolutionary War era. During the Civil War, the Rappahannock River formed a natural barrier between Union territory to the north in Fauquier County and Confederate territory in Culpeper to the south, leading to repeated clashes across the region.

Since 1987, the American Battlefield Trust has protected a total of 4,896 acres at the battlefields of Brandy Station, Cedar Mountain, Kelly's Ford and Rappahannock Station.★

## TRUST EVENTS UPDATE

*Shifts to Annual Conference, Grand Review*



**DU**E TO restrictions on group gatherings imposed by Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, the Trust postponed its 2020 Annual Conference, originally scheduled to occur June 3–7, in Chantilly, Va. In its place, we have expanded

our already scheduled October Grand Review event into a public "Fall Conference."

When conveying the news to Conference registrants, Trust Director of Events Melissa Sadler focused on the positive. "First and foremost," she wrote, "We've decided to move the Chantilly conference to 2021 — tours, historians and all, lock, stock, and barrel." That event will take place June 2–6.

The second element of the Trust's rescheduling plan is to transform the annual Grand Review weekend — a small gathering typically reserved for major donors — into a large-scale public event for which anyone can register. That event will take place October 22–25, 2020, in Richmond, Va.

For Sadler, the reasoning behind such a shift is simple: "Two years is far too long to wait and see our Conference family."

Those who had pre-registered for the original Chantilly conference were given the choice to either receive a refund or apply their fee toward a future event, either in Richmond or Chantilly 2021. However, demonstrating the commitment of our members to the cause, many instead offered their fee as an unrestricted donation to the Trust during a difficult time.

Please see page 42 for further information on the Richmond Fall Conference. Full details, including registration materials, are available at [www.battlefields.org/fallconference](http://www.battlefields.org/fallconference).★



Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site  
Perryville, Ky.  
BUDDY SECOR



## NATIONAL TEACHER INSTITUTE *goes digital for 2020*

**A**S UNCERTAINTIES about travel restrictions and access limitations at planned tour destinations persisted into May, the American Battlefield Trust made the difficult decision to transition its popular National Teacher Institute to an online format in 2020, hosting a series of webinars and interactive sessions July 7–10. While we are excited to return to in-person events in future years, this first of its kind Virtual Teacher Institute has its own benefits, chiefly the capacity to accommodate more than twice as many educators.

“As disappointing as it is not to be able to gather in person in Mobile (Alabama) this summer, this was the best course of action, given the uncertainties we face during this time,” said Trust Chief Historian Garry Adelman. “The work our teachers do matters tremendously, and the Trust prides itself on holding outstanding events for them. So, as we heard that tour sites and restaurants we planned to visit might not be accessible, and that our great presenters were facing difficulties in travelling, it became clear that we had to postpone — not cancel! — our visit to the Azalea City. We are already looking forward to our rescheduled event there in 2022.”

Participants in the Virtual Teacher Institute can choose to attend those individual sessions that interest them, but pre-registration for each workshop is required. Those who attend four or more sessions are eligible to receive continuing education units, paid for by the Trust, through Virginia Tech.

While there has never been a fee to attend the in-person institute, a refundable deposit is traditionally required to hold a spot at the event, which frequently reaches capacity and requires a waiting list. Refunds are being processed for all 2020 registrants. Recipients of scholarships to cover travel expenses will have that award applied to attendance at either the 2021 or 2022 events in Baltimore, Md., or Mobile, Ala., respectively. ★



Teacher Institute 2019  
DAVID DAVIS

## FIELD REPORTS LOCAL PARTNERS AND ALLIES

Cedar Mountain Battlefield  
Culpeper County, Va.  
CHRIS LANDON



## ANNOUNCING FRIENDS OF CULPEPER BATTLEFIELDS™

*New umbrella group builds on success of the Brandy Station & Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance, with a perpetual mission of preservation and advocacy*

**C**ULPEPER COUNTY, Virginia's battlefields boast many champions. And as a new era dawns for activism and conservation in the region, so, too, arrives a new entity to serve as a unifying organization supporting battlefield-focused preservation, stewardship and heritage tourism across the historic region: Friends of Culpeper Battlefields™.

“Culpeper is blessed with a history as breathtaking as its natural beauty, and both require our careful stewardship,” said the group's founding chair, Camilla Strongin of Cedar Mountain Farm. “The success of the Friends of Culpeper Battlefields will rest not simply on helping to protect this special place, but also on supporting those who have worked tirelessly to preserve what makes Culpeper so special, for this and future generations.”

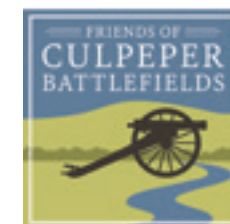
The new group's governing board includes representatives of the American Battlefield Trust, the Brandy Station Foundation, the Culpeper Department of Tourism, the Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield, the Museum of Culpeper History and the Piedmont Environmental Council.

Since 2015, a coalition of groups in the Culpeper region has

worked under the aegis of the Brandy Station & Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance to gather support for that venture, which continues to build momentum. The launch of the Friends of Culpeper Battlefields comes as a result of this progress, which has underscored the need for a permanent, locally led and locally rooted successor organization to the more temporary Alliance. The new group will feature a wider lens and longer vision, as all of Culpeper's battlefields — inclusive of significant sites like Morton's Ford, Rappahannock Station and others — will require organized advocates on many fronts, both until and long after a Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park is formally established.

Among other activities, the Friends of Culpeper Battlefields will facilitate regular communication between allied groups, organize and promote battlefield-related activities, build relationships with local landowners and community leaders and work to counter development threats to battlefield lands. The group will not supplant any existing group, but instead support and supplement these entities, providing a place for battlefield advocates to come together and synchronize efforts — maximizing the benefits to the battlefields and all involved.

Learn more at [www.culpeperbattlefields.org](http://www.culpeperbattlefields.org). ★



## RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

*2020 federal battlefield planning grants*

**I**N ADDITION to the Battlefield Land Acquisition grants frequently used by the Trust to match against private donations in the preservation of battlefield landscapes, the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) also administers a second, equally important historic preservation mechanism. Battlefield Planning Grants are competitively awarded annually to assist in research, documentation and interpretive planning for endangered battlefields from the full sweep of American history. Federal, tribal, state and local governments, nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education are eligible for these annual grants, which are among more than a dozen different historic preservation funding sources administered by the National Park Service.

The ABPP Battlefield Planning 2020 grants, announced on May 15, allocate nearly \$1.198 million to 14 sites in nine states, covering some 400 years of American history. Since 1996, the ABPP has awarded 652 grant awards totaling \$23,034,400.84 to help preserve significant historic battlefields associated with wars on American soil.

Congratulations to this year's recipients:

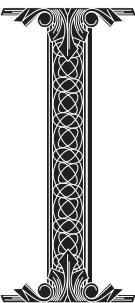
Georgia Southern University for “The Devil Came to Georgia: LiDAR Survey and Remote Sensing Investigation of Two 1864 American Civil War Skirmishes in Jenkins/Burke Counties, Georgia”; Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield, Va., for “Rapidan Front Landscape Study: Raccoon Ford, Morton's Ford, and Somerville Ford Battlefields: 1863–64 Union Winter Encampment”; Clarke County Historic Preservation Commission, Va., for “Battle of Berryville: A Research and KOCOA Military Terrain Analysis”; Fairfield Historical Society, Conn., for “The 1637 Battle of Pequot (Munnacomock) Swamp Interpretation and Preservation”; Ridgefield Historical Society, Conn., for “Revolutionary War Battle of Ridgefield: Research and Long-term Stewardship”; Preservation Maryland for “Building a Brand for the Civil War South Mountain Battlefield”; Preservation Maryland for “Documenting and Exploring the Interpretation Potential of St. George's Island: Maryland's Largest Revolutionary War Battlefield”; University of Florida for “The 1614 Spanish Campaign against the Calusas”; Palisades Park Conservancy, N.Y., for “Fort Lee Historic Park: A Battle to Save Revolutionary History and Celebrate the Future”. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Vt., for “Arnold's Bay Revolutionary War Project”; Florida State University for “Archaeological Excavations & Analyses of the Apalachee Revolt of 1647”; Southern Illinois University for “Archival and Remote Sensing Investigations at Fort Henry, Tenn.”; Ball State University for “1781 Battle of Peckuwe, Ohio, Expanded Understanding and Interpretation: Site Identification and Documentation”; Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley for “Community Visioning to Preserve the 1862 Cross Keys and Port Republic Battlefields.” ★





## BREAKING GROUND AT OLUSTEE

*New Visitor Center Will Tell the Story of Florida's  
Largest Civil War Battle*



**I**N FEBRUARY 1864, the commander of the federal Department of the South, Maj. Gen. Quincy A. Gillmore, launched an expedition into Florida to secure pro-Union enclaves, sever Rebel supply routes and recruit black soldiers. Union troops under Brig. Gen. Truman Seymour moved deep into the state, occupying, destroying and liberating as they went. Initially, the Federal incursion met little resistance, but on February 20, Seymour approached Brig. Gen. Joseph Finegan's 5,000 Confederates entrenched near the town of Olustee, about 50 miles west of Jacksonville.

One brigade of Confederate infantry pushed out to meet Seymour's advance units. The Union forces attacked but were repulsed. Battle raged throughout the day; of the roughly 10,500 troops — including United States Colored Troops, the now-famous 54th Massachusetts among them (USCTs) — who were engaged, 2,800 became counted as casualties. The battle was notably bloody for the Union, which suffered two-thirds of the casualties, despite the forces being almost evenly matched in size. Ultimately, just as Finegan committed the last of his reserves, the Union line broke and began to retreat. But Finegan did not exploit the situation and most of the fleeing Union forces safely reached Jacksonville, where they remained until the war's end 14 months later.

Today, Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park commemorates the largest Civil War battle in Florida. Interestingly, the park is also the Sunshine State's oldest official state park, making it the genesis of a system now 175 units strong. Initial preservation

activities began around the turn of the 20th century, when the Florida division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy began raising funds to build a monument at Olustee. The state acquired rights to three acres in 1909, and the monument dedication, attended by veterans of the battle, was held on the engagement's 48th anniversary in 1912. Today the preserved area has grown to more than 690 acres between what is owned by the state and the United States Forest Service. It has been used as filming location for period movies, including scenes from *Glory*, which tells the story of the 54th Massachusetts.

On February 16, 2020, the local Citizens Support Organization, which provides financial assistance for park programs, gathered with State of Florida park staff, Trustees of the HTR Foundation and the American Battlefield Trust to break ground for a new Olustee Battlefield visitor center. The new facility will expand and improve upon the small, existing interpretive center and will allow visitors to engage with crucial content, even when the visitor center is not open. The HTR Foundation — created to honor the memory of Arthur Copeland "Copie" Hill, CEO of Hill Truck Rentals, through ongoing philanthropy toward subjects dear to his heart — has provided almost all the necessary funding for the new facility.

In each of the past 44 years, Olustee Battlefield State Historic Site has hosted an impressive reenactment on the battlefield, while neighboring Lake City, Fla., coordinates a two-day arts and entertainment festival with the commemoration. The living history takes an impressively broad scope, telling the stories of the USCTs and other African Americans, life for those on the homefront, and the noncombat experiences of soldiers while in camp or hospital. Learn more at [www.battleofolustee.org](http://www.battleofolustee.org).

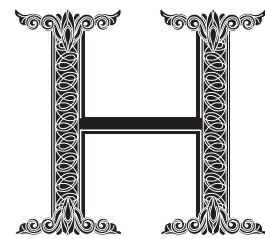


Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park  
Sanderson, Fla.  
TIM PETERS



## PROFILES *in* PRESERVATION

### RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT



**HEROES COME** in many shapes and sizes. Some rush into burning buildings; others serve on the front lines of military conflicts around the world. In the recent Coronavirus pandemic, the heroes wear doctors' and nurses' scrubs and work around the clock helping victims of the virus.

Other heroes, however, labor with quiet intensity behind the scenes, seeking no recognition, making the world a better place, not only for those of us alive today, but also for all future generations. Richard "Dick" Gilder is one of those heroes, because he spent a lifetime working to save our country's rich history in ways that most Americans will never know about. The history community — and the nation at large — lost a stalwart friend when he passed away on May 12, 2020, days shy of his 88th birthday.

Although he is best known for his work with the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History, preserving the most important documents to effectively teach people about our history, Gilder was active in preserving another important aspect of our past, one just as fragile. More than 20 years ago, he, like many Americans, became alarmed at the pace of inappropriate commercial development that was threatening and — in some cases — destroying unprotected American battlefield land. Hallowed ground where American soldiers fought and fell at places such as Gettysburg, Antietam and Shiloh, was being threatened by construction of shopping centers, housing developments, highways and even casinos.

Gilder realized that it would be an irreparable loss to our nation if these historic places of valor, sacrifice and courage were denied to future generations. True to his generous nature, he provided absolutely essential early financial support to the nascent battlefield preservation movement, the "venture capital" that allowed the American Battlefield Trust, America's leading battlefield preservation nonprofit, to get organized and achieve many early preservation victories. Those initial victories have led directly to decades of even greater success, with nearly 53,000 acres of previously endangered battlefield land — the equivalent of nearly four Manhattans — now protected forever. The story could have been very different, but Dick Gilder was exactly the right man in exactly the right place at exactly the right time.



Richard Gilder and his wife Lois Chiles

## REMEMBERING RICHARD GILDER,

### *Battlefield Preservation Hero*

That critical early involvement alone would have been enough to earn him the perpetual gratitude of all those who care about preserving our country's battlefields. But over the following two decades, time and time again, Gilder provided timely, substantial support to various preservation campaigns, some of which would not have succeeded but for his generosity. The list of American battlefields at which he was instrumental in saving key portions reads like a "who's who" of the most important conflicts in our nation's history:

**Harpers Ferry**, site of John Brown's raid prior to the Civil War, and later, during the war, the site of the largest surrender of U.S. soldiers until World War II.

**Antietam**, still the bloodiest single day in America's history; the Union victory in September 1862 that gave President Abraham Lincoln the opportunity he needed to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, changing both the nature of the Civil War and the course of American history.

**Gettysburg**, where he provided a leadership gift to save a small but absolutely crucial part of that battlefield, the headquarters of Gen. Robert E. Lee, a site which had already been compromised by modern development. Gilder's generosity not only allowed the Trust to acquire the site, it also helped in the restoration, which included removal of a modern hotel

structure and brewpub, parking lots and even a swimming pool. Today, the site looks as it did on July 1, 1863.

Additional gifts over the years for more land at **The Wilderness** and **Chancellorsville** in Virginia, **Vicksburg** in Mississippi and **Shiloh** in Tennessee show better than anything else Gilder's deep appreciation for these historic places, and his determination to see them preserved.

And perhaps most important, the Revolutionary War Battle of **Princeton**: Gilder's quiet leadership ensured that the field where General George Washington led the charge that turned the tide of the war would not be covered with modern houses, tangibly exhibiting his passion for and deep interest in every era of our nation's history.

It is no exaggeration to say that thousands of acres of irreplaceable American hallowed ground have been preserved thanks to Dick Gilder. That land, and the stories of the people who hallowed that ground, would have been denied to all future generations but for the vision, the commitment and the generosity of Dick Gilder.

Every one of us who cares about our nation's history owes Gilder a debt of gratitude. But like a true hero, he would have modestly waved away any personal accolades, and merely asked, "What are you working on next?" Today, we answer simply, "Honoring your legacy."★

## WARRIOR LEGACY

### A BROTHERHOOD OF SERVICE

**"T**O JIM LIGHTHIZER," the handwritten note began, "This contribution is greater than most of my contributions because my great grandfather Stephen Perry was a soldier in the 70th New York regiment at the Battle of Williamsburg." The mis-sive went on to detail Perry's Civil War service, from the time he enlisted in 1861 until he was mustered out in 1865 following the surrender at Appomattox, including stints spent in the hospital for a wound suffered before Petersburg and intestinal illness. "He was always a private, leading me to wonder if he could read and write, as he left no written record."

The level of research into and introspection regarding an ancestor evident in the note are not uncommon for Trust members. Nor are tales of travelling to visit the places where those ancestors fought and finding the experience a moving one, as the letter went on to describe. Instead, it was the closing sentence, penned by Ceo Bauer of Ithaca, Mich., that made the note extraordinary: "This September (virus permitting), our WWII 95th Infantry Division Association has scheduled our annual reunion at Williamsburg and my hope is to visit the battle sites again."

Bauer is part of a shrinking subset of the American Battlefield Trust's membership, soldiers of the Greatest Generation who fought in World War II. He is also a member of another distinguished group, our Steadfast Patriot Brigade, recognizing more than 200 lifetime gifts to the Trust, illustrating the resonance this former soldier finds in our mission.

Born in Montcalm County, Mich., Bauer was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943 at age 19. "I had intended to join the Army but hadn't gotten around to it yet when I got drafted," he told his local paper, the *Daily News*, last year. "I was young. I had graduated from high school, but we were much less sophisticated than you are now. We had mainly spent our times in either school or on farms, and we hadn't been much of anywhere else."

## CEO BAUER

*From Williamsburg to Metz, a family tradition of service*

When his training was complete, he was assigned to the 377th Regiment of the 95th Infantry Division, soon immortalized as the Iron Men of Metz. On November 8, 1944, during the ultimately successful assault against that city in northern France, he was hit by shrapnel across much of his body — arms, legs, torso and head. Bauer, who never married, received the Purple Heart in recognition of his sacrifice and, just last year, was honored with the French Legion of Honor.

Men like Ceo Bauer exemplify the Warrior Legacy that extends across history, connecting today's soldiers and their families with those of past generations.★



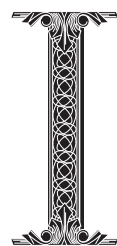
★★★ **THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST** is committed to showcasing the Warrior Legacy that connects our fighting men and women across generations. This includes redoubling our efforts to honor and recognize those Trust donors who are veterans themselves. If you served our nation in uniform, please take a moment to help us update your donor record to reflect this important information. You can do so by emailing [warriorlegacy@battlefields.org](mailto:warriorlegacy@battlefields.org).





## SAVING HISTORY AT NORTH ANNA

*Trust efforts result in Ellington Manor's listing on the National Register of Historic Places*



**I**N LATE MAY, the Trust completed stabilization work at Ellington Manor on the North Anna Battlefield, representing the culmination of a three-year effort to preserve this historic structure along with more than 100 associated acres of battlefield land. As part of this landmark preservation success, the Trust, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, pursued and received a listing for the property on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

The Trust was first alerted to this urgent preservation opportunity in May 2017. Including both waterfront on the North Anna River and more than a mile of highway frontage, the 123-acre historic Fox-Ellington property was advertised as a prime development opportunity, particularly suited for light industrial development. Upon being made aware of this incredible, but time-sensitive opportunity, the Trust immediately consulted with several notable historians, all of whom emphasized the property's importance and the need to save it.

Involved in all three days of the Battle of North Anna, the Fox-Ellington property was first occupied by Confederate forces when the battle began on May 23, 1864. After the capture of Henagan's Redoubt on the north side of the North Anna River, jubilant Union troops stormed across the Chesterfield Bridge and attacked the Confederate entrenchments on the property. During the following two days, the property was within the lines of Union Maj. Gen. Winfield S. Hancock's II Corps. Fighting on the property waxed and waned daily. The heaviest action occurred on May 24, when men from the divisions of Union Brig. Gens.



BEFORE



BEFORE



BEFORE



AFTER



AFTER



AFTER



John Gibbon and Francis C. Barlow attacked southward across the property and collided with Confederates from the command of Maj. Gen. Charles W. Field.

Amazingly, when the Fox-Ellington property came up for sale in 2017 — more than 150 years after the battle that had raged across it had ended — still extant on the property was the circa 1830s

Reverend Fox manor house known as “Ellington,” as well as a brick schoolhouse and remnants of the Chesterfield Bridge and the original Telegraph Road. Legend has it that Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee was drinking buttermilk on the porch of Ellington when a Union shell shattered his glass. More certain is that a Union shell shattered one of Ellington's chimneys, and falling bricks nearly killed Confederate Brig. Gen. E. Porter Alexander.

After several months of negotiations, the Trust struck a deal to acquire the property in a “bargain sale” in which the owners could get state and federal tax benefits from selling the property at less than the appraised value. To finance the purchase, the Trust appealed to our ever-generous membership and also successfully obtained grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Program.

Following our acquisition of the Fox-Ellington property, Trust staff worked with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to place a conservation easement on the property to ensure its protection in perpetuity. As part of that process, the Trust, in partnership with the state, pursued a listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. In November 2019, the Fox-Ellington property joined Mount Vernon, Monticello and other highly significant Virginia historical sites with this designation.

After recording our conservation easement, the Trust worked with the Department of Historic Resources to craft a stabilization plan to prevent further deterioration of the property. To fund this important effort, the Trust approached the Flippo Lumber Company, a large privately held company located just a mile away that has been family-owned for generations. Not surprisingly, the owners were very aware and supportive of the Trust's effort to preserve this important piece of local and national history. As a result, the Jane and Arthur Flippo Foundation generously funded the Trust's entire stabilization grant request. A restoration company based out of Fredericksburg, Virginia, was engaged to perform the stabilization work that included replacing the roofs of Ellington and the schoolhouse, clearing invasive trees and overgrowth and mothballing these unique structures to U.S. Department of the Interior standards.

As it is always the Trust's desire to turn over the properties that it preserves to responsible stewards who will care for them and provide for consistent public access, we hope to transfer the Fox-Ellington property to such a steward in the coming years, once identified. As part of the requirements of the conservation easement, any potential owner would need to restore the historic buildings on the property in seven years.★





# THE BOMBS BURSTING IN AIR

FEATURE ARTICLES *by* SCOTT S. SHEADS

*BRITISH WARSHIPS did not just appear outside Baltimore in September 1814, ready to rain rockets down upon the city. The bombardment of Fort McHenry was the culmination of an 18-month campaign against the Chesapeake Bay.*

FORT McHENRY NATIONAL MONUMENT AND HISTORIC SHRINE, BALTIMORE, MD.

PHOTOGRAPH *by* TIM ERVIN, VIP NPS





# LET IT RAIN MILITIA

[ THE CRITICAL BATTLE FOR THE CHESAPEAKE ]

Battle of Caulk's Field  
Kent County, Md.

PHOTOGRAPHY *by*  
MATT BRANT



*It seemed that winning one war for national independence wasn't enough. When British warships invaded the Chesapeake Bay, Americans rallied to defend their freedom.*

MORE THAN THREE DECADES since the Treaty of Paris ended the Revolutionary War and 25 years since the U.S. Constitution was signed, the nation was still without a strong central government. Questions remained about trade, economy and the unresolved issue of slavery. No less important were the calls for "Free Trade and Sailors' Rights" by the merchant seafarers and the push of the young war-hawk Republicans for westward expansion. These and other issues came to a head in the spring of 1812, as Americans debated the possibility of a second war with Great Britain. Hot button topics included England's impressment of sailors and a desired

final solution to securing the Northwest Territory, left unresolved in the 1783 Treaty of Paris.

On June 18, 1812, with America no longer able to protect its maritime neutrality amidst the Napoleonic Wars, a declaration of war was enacted to preserve and protect America's global trade. Within months, President James Madison's military call of "Onward to Canada" along the frontier ended in failure, due to poor leadership, lack of support from New England, poor equipment and lack of preparation. But the American invasion was not without success: In April 1813, Americans captured the Canadian capital city of York, burning much of the city and raising the American colors over Government House. Meanwhile, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's signal victory over a superior British squadron on Lake Erie in September 1813 and other victories proved American naval strength and discipline.

England's war strategy for 1814 drifted southward from the Canadian frontier to the Chesapeake Bay region. America's largest estuary was the nation's heart of farming, commerce, ship-building and government, making it a high prize of war. In March 1814, a British squadron arrived to enforce the admiralty's blockade declaration of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, making use of extensive surveys conducted of those waterways by the Royal Navy during the Revolutionary War.

On April 28, 1814, British Vice Admiral Alexander Cochrane directed Rear Admiral Cockburn to begin a devastating naval attack on the Chesapeake.

"Their Sea Port Towns laid in Ashes & the Country wasted will be some sort of a retaliation for their savage Conduct in Canada [at York].... [I]t is ... therefore but just, that Retaliation shall be made near to the Seat of their Government from whence those Orders emanated, you may depend upon my most cordial Support in whatever you may undertake against the Enemy."

The offensive was driven by more than vengeance. The global geopolitical game had fundamentally changed. Following his disastrous 1812 Russian campaign and resounding loss at the October 1813 Battle of Leipzig, Napoleon had surrendered in Paris to the allied

British frigate, HMS *Menelaus*,  
raided along Chesapeake Bay.







*“The clouds of war gather fast and heavy in the east ... and all hands are called.”*

coalition on March 31, a capitulation so complete that the emperor was forced into exile on the isle of Elba. England found itself able to focus upon a final campaign with renewed strength to chastise the Americans into submission once and for all.

Change was palpable to the Americans as well. Former Maryland Congressman Joseph H. Nicholson wrote to U.S. Naval Secretary William Jones, “We should have to fight hereafter, not for free trade and sailor’s rights, not for the conquest of the Canadas, but for our national existence.”

**CROSS-HAIRS ON THE CHESAPEAKE**

In the summer of 1814, after 18 months of British occupation and raids against port towns, the British campaign



against the American mid-Atlantic was building to a climax, with Baltimore in the cross-hairs. “The Clouds of war gather Fast and Heavy in the East,” wrote American Marine Captain George Stiles that July, “and all Hands are called.”

A large invasion fleet had been reported moving north from the British naval base at Bermuda to Lynnhaven Bay, the entrance to the Chesapeake. They were able to resupply at the fortified British base on Tangier Island, Virginia, from which Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane sought to entice runaway enslaved persons to form a Corps of Colonial Marines, with the promise of freedom in Canada at the conclusion of their service.

On August 19, 1814, British land and sea forces landed at

Benedict, Maryland, and swiftly forced the destruction of the U.S. Chesapeake Flotilla on the Upper Patuxent River. The primary objective — destruction of this elusive flotilla of gunboats — met, Major General Robert Ross and Rear Admiral George Cockburn extended their goals. The British routed the ill-prepared American army under Brigadier General William H. Winder at Bladensburg, Maryland, on August 24, entered the nation’s capital and burned many key buildings. The conflagration’s fiery glow was seen 50 miles to the north by Baltimore citizens who gathered atop Federal Hill and steeled themselves for the inevitable invasion.

On the evening of the August 25, amidst a severe summer thunderstorm, the British withdrew from Washington and retraced their march to Benedict, arriving on the 28th, then continued on to their naval base on Tangier Island, Virginia. to regroup, take on fresh water and care for their wounded.

Meanwhile, Captain Sir Peter Parker and his HMS *Menelaus* had been dispatched from the main British force to raid along the northern and western shores of Chesapeake Bay, especially Kent County, Maryland. His aim was to drawing American troops away from the primary objectives around Washington and Baltimore, meaning, as British Midshipman Frederick Chamier later wrote, “Our duty consisted in an eternal annoyance of the enemy, and therefore night and day we were employed in offensive operations.”

Among the goods and supplies captured by a raiding party on the evening of August 30, Parker found himself receiving intelligence from four slaves liberated from a nearby plantation. Warned of American militia nearby, Parker was so eager for action he did not even await daylight to dispatch a force of soldiers and Marines against them. Shortly before midnight, the 21st Regiment American Militia caught sight of the raiding party and determined themselves to be the target, rather than another nearby farm. Fighting began around 1:00 a.m., and, although there was a full moon, the Americans — whose commander Lieutenant Colonel Philip Reed, a Revolutionary War field officer and former U.S. senator whose home was nearby and who had served as county sheriff — had the advantage of knowing the land. Amidst the fighting, Parker took a wound to the thigh





and perished on the field, the bullet having severed his femoral artery. Although elements of the British force had made it as far as the American camp, even seizing a cannon, the loss of their leader prompted a retreat back to the ship.

**BALTIMORE: MIDDLE GROUND OF THE CHESAPEAKE**

Modern Baltimore can trace its earliest origins to 17th-century English proprietary land grants to Maryland’s oldest planter-class families. The County of Baltimore was erected by 1659, and what became the city was settled in 1661. A key geographic feature of the location is the mouth of the Patapsco River, which forms the strong harbor for which Baltimore is known. The word Patapsco, meaning “back water,” is derived from the Algonquian woodland culture of the region. The area around the river made for a flourishing hunting, fish-

ing and market-farm culture, with tidal creeks creating a marsh patchwork between farms of corn, rye and fruit orchards. Thanks to woodlands of white oak and pine, a flourishing shipbuilding economy emerged, making Baltimore a major economic center.

By 1810, the city had developed into a major and prosperous international seaport, with a population of slightly less than 50,000 — one-fifth of whom were black, including many free blacks employed as caulkers and carpenters in the Fell’s Point

shipyards of Kemp, Despeaux and Price.

Other Baltimoreans signed aboard privateers granted Letters-of-Marque & Reprisal to prey on and engage English merchantmen. The attacks were so numerous that London’s Evening Star opined: “The American navy must be annihilated — her arsenals and dockyards must be consumed; and the turbulent inhabitants of Baltimore must be tamed with the weapons which shook the wooden turrets of Copenhagen.... America must be BEATEN INTO SUBMISSION.”

*Volunteer units made up of old and young, black and white, free men and enslaved immediately engaged in digging a five-mile entrenchment around the city, bolstered by artillery redoubts.*



According to American reports, a dozen British soldiers were buried on the battlefield, but the location of these graves remains unknown. This battlefield remains in private hands and agricultural cultivation. Battle of Caulk’s Field Kent County, Md.



North Point State Battlefield Park Dundalk, Md.

**TIGHTENING THE NOOSE**

Following the American debacle at Bladensburg, American Brigadier General William Henry Winder was replaced with Major General Samuel Smith, a U.S. senator and successful shipping merchant. Although the native Baltimore Brigade had suffered losses at Bladensburg, the city turned overnight into a huge military camp — more than 25,000 militia encamped within a 10-mile radius. It was the largest gathering of militia to defend an American port since minutemen flocked to Boston in 1775, exceeding the forces gathered at Long Island, Charleston or Savannah later in the Revolution.

Merchant and citizen-soldier George Douglas wrote to a friend: “Every American heart is bursting with shame and indignation at the catastrophe [at Washington]... All hearts and hands have cordially united to the common cause.... Bodies of troops are marching in.... The whole of the hills and rising grounds to the eastward of the city are covered with horse-foot and artillery exercises and training from morning until night.”

Baltimore Mayor Edward Johnston organized a Committee of Vigilance & Safety to coordinate defense preparations. For a year, the city had been stockpiling enormous supplies of tents, blankets, canteens, muskets, cartridge boxes, camp kettles, medical supplies and other essential equipment to meet the needs of the hourly arriving independent volunteers. Four thousand Pennsylvania militia arrived with such company names as the Brownsville Blues, York and Marietta Volunteers. From western Maryland came the Hagerstown Homespun Volunteers, Jefferson Blues and Washington Rifle Green, plus more companies from western Virginia. No less than 400 independent companies responded to Baltimore’s defense.

From their camps centered around Hampstead Hill, volunteer units made up of old and young, black and white, free men and enslaved immediately engaged in digging a five-mile entrenchment around the city, bolstered by artillery redoubts. A mile behind this defensive line, U.S. Corps of Engineers Captain Samuel Babcock superintended “a last stand” fortification within the large, rising granite walls of the nation’s first Catholic cathedral in the city’s center. If the American lines failed from the expected British land assault, this would be

the last bastion of defense.

From a naval assault, the city was defended by Fort McHenry. Within the star-bastioned fort — named in 1797 for then Secretary of War Colonel James McHenry — Major George Armistead (1780–1818) commanded 1,000 soldiers, militia and sailors with 60 cannon to protect the harbor entrance to Baltimore. In addition, U.S. naval gunboats blocked the entrance behind sunken merchant vessels and a chain-mast boom, all creating a crucial front line of defenses. Also arriving were a thousand sailors and 170 Marines from various independent naval commands, and a makeshift naval regiment under command of Commodore John Rodgers with his 450 sailors and 50 U.S. Marines from the Delaware River defenses. Attached to this command upon its September 9 arrival was Commodore Joshua Barney’s U.S. Chesapeake Flotilla, which, with the District Marines, had made a heroic last stand at Bladensburg, giving a much-needed morale boost to the city.

**SAILS ON THE HORIZON**

At dawn on September 10, cavalry Major William Barney patrolled the catwalk of the State House dome in Annapolis, eyes on the Bay to watch for British naval movements. As early light broke through the morning mist, he glimpsed the vanguard of 50 British warships sailing north under a light wind. After 19 months of tidewater occupation, the British were making for

Baltimore. Four admirals accompanied the fleet — Vice-Admiral Alexander I. E. Cochrane, who conveyed Admiralty orders; Rear Admiral George Cockburn, who administered the naval deployment; Rear Admiral Pulteney Malcolm, who conveyed the troop ships to the Chesapeake; and Rear Admiral Edward Codrington, Captain of the Fleet, who administered the expedition’s conveyance and maintenance in the Chesapeake. Once ashore Major General Robert Ross, R.A., had overall command of the land forces (seamen and Marines) under advice of Admiral Cockburn, who accompanied the land forces.

Around noon on Sunday, September 11, as the British fleet appeared off North Point on the Bay side, a large blue pennant flag was seen atop the old Ridgely House, one of several coastal militia reconnaissance lookouts. The signal was observed at Fort McHenry, more than 10 miles distant, which, in turn, fired three cannon to signal the city of the enemy’s approach. The London-cast belfry bells in Christ Church joined in sounding the alarm. The battle for Baltimore had begun.

At 3:00 p.m., Brigadier General John Stricker’s Baltimore Third Brigade of 3,185 militia marched six miles from Baltimore, encamping at the Trappe-North Point Road near a red-framed Methodist Meeting House nestled against a woodland known as “Godly Woods.” Before them stood a large, level, partially cleared field across which the British would have to pass.





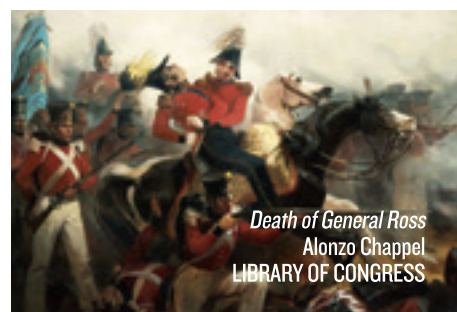
That evening, Stricker advanced a reconnaissance force of the 1st Rifle Battalion two miles ahead, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel James Biays' 5th Maryland Cavalry, who were deployed near the unfinished earthworks at Humphrey's Creek. Stricker's strategy was to carry on a succession of delaying skirmishes, rather than a pitched battle. As such, he left behind some 30 pieces of artillery, taking only Captain John Montgomery's Baltimore Union Artillery militia unit's four six-pounder field guns.

The popular name for the engagement that took place the next morning — the Battle of North Point — does not reflect the geography of where fighting occurred. North Point lies at the southern tip of the Patapsco Neck on the Bay shore, some five miles south of the battlefield. Those who fought there would have known the clash as the Battle of Patapsco Neck, the Battle of Long Log Lane or the Battle of Godly Wood.

### THE "SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE CHESAPEAKE"

With only a blanket, a canteen and three days' rations apiece, the British columns moved up the North Point Road. In the forefront were Ross and Cockburn; the infantry's second in command, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Brooke, would follow after supervising the landing parties at North Point. The British continued through a line of unfinished American breastworks (the site originally intended for the engagement), overcoming civilian workers and taking prisoner three American cavalry. Disdaining reports of the strong militia ahead, Ross allegedly boasted, "I don't care if it rains militia, I shall sup in Baltimore tonight or in hell."

At 1:00 p.m., Ross and Cockburn mounted their horses with an advance of 50 soldiers of the 85th King's Light Infantry to reconnoiter a British picket who had made contact with the Americans ahead. Within



moments, the British campaign was turned on its head: Without adequate protection, Ross — "gaily dressed, and glittering in all the bravery of scarlet and gold" of a major general — rode forward and was mortally wounded by sharpshooters in the woods.

The victor at Bladensburg and Washington expired as he was carried back to the fleet. Brooke assumed command and pressed the "forlorn hope" back to Stricker's main defense lines.

Brigadier General John Stricker's bri-

*Disdaining reports of the strong militia ahead, Ross allegedly boasted, "I don't care if it rains militia, I shall sup in Baltimore tonight or in hell."*

gade, with its effective force of 3,185 men, had quickly formed into three defense lines that morning when word was received of the British landing. The first, best-disciplined line would receive the initial attack, then fall back 300 yards to the second line. The 6th Maryland regiment was held a mile to the rear in reserve. Meanwhile, two miles south of these lines, at the mouth of Bear Creek, Major Beall Randall's Rifle Battalion — sent by Stricker the day before to reconnoiter the water approaches to the battlefield — came under barrage by British artillery and Congreve rockets and, fearful of envelopment, returned to Hampstead Hill, protecting the right flank near the shoreline as it withdrew.

Captain John Montgomery's militia Baltimore Union Artillery commenced the battle, followed by mass musket volleys of the flanking 5th and 27th Maryland Regiments. The British enjoined and began a flanking movement to turn the American left, which began to waver. Two of the Union Artillery six-pounders were moved from the center to bolster the left, along with the 51st and 39th Maryland, which were brought up to support the 27th, as it reeled from the onslaught.

At this critical juncture, the 51st was

panic struck, carrying with it the 39th Maryland and reducing the American lines to just 1,000 men. After two hours of unrelenting volleys and unable to secure his failing flank and center, Stricker ordered a steady withdrawal from the field. Both lines moved to the rear, where the 6th Maryland was arrayed on a small rise on the north side of Bread and Cheese Creek. The combined American regiments stopped further British



advance by late afternoon and removed steadily to the high promontory defenses of Hampstead Hill (today Patterson Park). From here, reinforced with the Naval Regiment under Commodore John Rodgers and 15,000 militia with 42 pieces of artillery, the Americans commanded the landscape. To prevent any British structural cover in front of the lines, a 1,000-foot-long wooden ropewalk was set alight.

It rained that night and into the next morning, saturating the landscapes while soldiers on both sides huddled around campfires or in farm outbuildings in an attempt to keep dry. From the heights of Hampstead Hill, all eyes looked east and south along the North Point Road. Two miles below, arrayed around Fort McHenry, ships' masts took shape out of the gloom, signaling preparations for bombardment. The British army formed up on the North Point Road and, by 7:00 a.m., had set off through the open fields of manor estates toward the "Gates of Baltimore," five miles distant. ★

*Scott S. Sheads is a retired ranger-historian and Historic Weapons Officer at Fort McHenry National Historic Site and Shrine in Baltimore, Md., a position he took up in 1979. He served as a co-historian for the Smithsonian Institution's "Saving the Star-Spangled Banner Project," and for the National Park Service's "The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail" study. He has published several books and numerous articles.*



# SAY CAN YOU SEE

**THE STRIKING VISUAL** *has pervaded our national imagination: The first rays of a new day reveal the symbol of a nation — young but strong — standing defiant in the face of our foes. But just what did that flag, that fort and those defenders endure?*



15-star flag above Fort McHenry  
National Monument and  
Historic Shrine, Baltimore, Md.  
PHOTOGRAPH *by* ALANSTUDT.COM



# ATT

*6:30 a.m., on September 13, 1814, the first of an estimated 1,800 cast-iron bomb shells were hurled at the masonry walls of Fort McHenry. The British attack on Baltimore had begun in earnest.*

A NATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION magazine published locally, *Niles' Weekly Register*, recorded that "the houses in the city were shaken to their foundations for never, perhaps from the time of invention of cannon to the present day, were the same number of pieces fired with so rapid a succession." The vivid display of early 19th-century shock and awe could be heard 100 miles away in Philadelphia.

Among the 20 low-draft vessels, primarily frigates and schooners, of the British squadron, five were particularly ominous. They were infamous bomb ships, with names that hawked of their ominous purpose — HMS *Devastation*, *Meteor*, *Aetna*, *Volcano* and *Terror* — capable of hurtling a 200-pound shell one mile high before it plunged in its downward arc over the Patapsco River to its target. The newest bomb ships of the Vesuvius class were three-masted vessels carrying a massive central weight of 325 tons, with a length of 102 feet, ideal for heavy weather and shore bombardment. It was England's most powerful naval armament, floating siege ships capable of inflicting severe damage and further supported by the rocket ship HMS *Erebus* with her 32-pounder Congreve rockets, and several light draft frigates and brigs. Their goal was to push through the narrow passage, past Fort McHenry and through to the city itself, in concert with the planned infantry assault from the northwest.

The British naval arc stretched across the Patapsco two miles below Fort McHenry, keeping distance from the fort's powerful 36-pounder French naval shore batteries. For three hours, the bombardment proceeded through lashing rain, thunder and lightning. But by 9:30 a.m., Admiral Cochrane knew his fleet would be mired for the foreseeable future — those shore batteries, coupled with a chain-mast boom, sunken vessels, U.S. gun boats and the Lazaretto Battery, presented a formidable harbor defensive line — and any infantry assault would lack naval support. Still, the decision for ground troops to either advance or retreat fell to Colonel Arthur Brooke, who had assumed command following the death of the much-esteemed General Robert Ross at North Point the previous day. Cochrane dispatched the assessment





to his colleagues ashore:

“It is impossible for the Ships to render you any assistance — the Town [of Baltimore] is so far retired within the Forts. It is for Colonel Brooke to consider under such circumstances whether he has Force sufficient to defeat so large a number as it [is] said the Enemy has collected; say 20,000 strong. Without this can be done it will only be throwing the Men’s lives away.”

This response would not reach Colonel Brooke until noon, when he had advanced within two miles east of the American lines while he and Cockburn surveyed the American lines.

A MILITARY CONFERENCE

By noon, Brooke had come within two miles east of the American lines, surveying any opportunities for an infantry breakthrough, but found none. He withdrew without firing a shot, but outlined a proposal for two flanking night assaults on the vulnerable American right flank, while a third column would make a feint on the American left after midnight on September 14. He sent sent a



Francis Scott Key watches aboard the sloop *President*

message, via Admiral Cockburn, to Cochrane regarding how the two could act in concert together, one by land, one by sea. Tensions were high in the British command infrastructure. Directives from London were clear that once troops went ashore, combat decisions belonged with the army rather than the navy, but such guidance had not anticipated that those soldiers might be under the command of a mere colonel. Chafing at the need to coordinate with an officer so junior to his rank, all Cochrane could do was reiterate his assessment and make his disapproval known, hoping that it would sway Brooke.

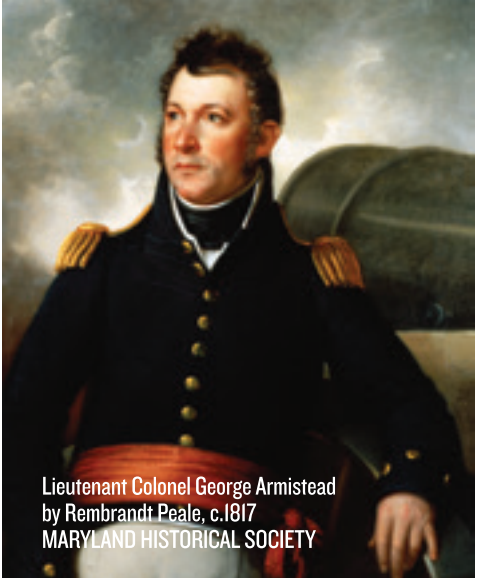
The situation was complicated by the long lag time in communications. Cochrane sent his note around nightfall, without any expectation he would receive a response before the plan he had in hand would require him to act. The commander in chief had no way of knowing that in response to his latest note, Brooke had, in fact, ordered the infantry retreat from Baltimore to begin by dawn. Accordingly, he launched a late evening diversionary barge attack on the western shore, the backdoor of the American land defenses.



JIM POWERS / WIND WATCHER



View from Fort Look-out  
Bombardment of Fort McHenry  
by Alfred Jacob Miller  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Lieutenant Colonel George Armistead  
by Rembrandt Peale, c.1817  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A storm still raged around Baltimore as the most tremendous cannonade of the battle took place. “The hissing rockets and the fiery shells glittered in the air, threatening destruction as they fell,” later recalled a young British sailor, in a description that sounds straight out of a poem, “Whilst to add solemnity to this scene of devastation, the rain fell in torrents — the thunder broke in mighty peals after each successive flash of lightening, that for a moment illuminated the surrounding darkness” But with no coordinated infantry assaults, Cochrane began to draw down his thrust.

By early morning of September 14, it was over. The British army broke camp and began its retreat; the last of the failed naval barges returned to the fleet. At 4:30 a.m., the American batteries fell silent, followed at 7:30 a.m. by the last British bomb to arc over the Patapsco River toward Fort McHenry. Two days later, having reembarked the land forces, the fleet sailed down the Chesapeake, soon to receive new Admiralty orders to attack the port of New Orleans, an engagement that took place before word could arrive that peace had been secured through a conference in Ghent, Belgium.

At 9:00 a.m., Fort McHenry’s massive garrison flag — measuring an imposing 30’x 42’ — was raised over the ramparts, as four young fifers and drummers played the national tune “Yankee Doodle.” Aboard the frigate HMS *Hebrus*, a young midshipman remembered: “And as the last vessel spread her canvas to the wind, the Americans hoisted a most superb and splendid ensign on their

*And as the last vessel spread her canvas to the wind, the Americans hoisted a most superb and splendid ensign on their battery, and fired at the same time a gun of defiance.*



**ABOVE:** In 1914, as part of the National Star-Spangled Banner Centennial Celebration, the city of Baltimore dedicated this tablet to the defenders of Baltimore. Designed by Hans Schuler, originally from Germany, the bronze shield depicts an American flag and myrtle (symbol of love and immortality) surrounding a portrait of Key.

battery, and fired at the same time a gun of defiance.” The great ensign, receiving the sun’s early light, could be seen plainly for miles. Its message was clear: The British threat had passed, and Baltimore was saved.

Often lost in the near-mythic symbolism attached to this moment in the American consciousness is the fact that Fort McHenry’s commander, Major George Armistead, did not order the flag hoisted in a special act of triumph or defiance. It was simply raised according to the 1808 U.S. Regulations of the War Department: Each morning began with a round from a six-pounder and musical accompaniment as the flag was lifted aloft.

From the harbor below Fort McHenry, these events were witnessed — without understanding that they were standard practice — by those aboard a Baltimore packet vessel, *President*, now serving as the U.S. flag-of-truce vessel. The ship carried Colonel John S. Skinner, U.S. State Department prisoner exchange agent, and 35-year-old Georgetown attorney Francis Scott Key. Their vessel had been held in security by Cochrane’s flagship HMS *Surprise* out of range of the American guns. Skinner and Key had been dispatched to obtain the release of the elderly Dr. William Beanes, who had been taken prisoner during the Washington campaign for confronting three British soldiers.

In the twilight hours of Friday, September 16, the *President* was released and docked alongside Hughes Wharf at Fell’s Point. Key took quarters for the night at the Indian Queen Hotel, bringing with him the rough draft of a poem he had composed during his ordeal. That night, Key finalized the four stanzas of the “Defense of Fort McHenry.”





Three days later, the poem was printed on a broadside alongside the melody to a popular English tavern 1780 tune, “To Anacreon in Heaven.” A thousand copies were distributed to the garrison of Fort McHenry: A young militia soldier wrote his family “We have a Song composed by Mr. Key of G[eorge] Town which was presented to every individual in the fort.” By mid-autumn, further printings contained musical notations and a new title: “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

In 1834, Key spoke at a public gathering in Frederick, Maryland — where he was born and now rests in peace — offering his only personal remarks about those three days in September 1814.

“Through the clouds of the war the stars of that banner still shone in my view, and I saw the discomfited host of its assailants driven back in ignominy to their

*“My heart spoke ...  
does not such a country  
and such defenders  
of their country  
deserve a song?”*



MARK NELSON PHOTOGRAPHY

ships. Then, in that hour of deliverance and joyful triumph, my heart spoke, and ‘Does not such a country and such defenders of their country deserve a song?’ was its question.”

More than two hundred years since the “perilous fight” over Baltimore, the legacies of the “Old Defenders of Baltimore of 1814” are remembered annually on “Defenders’ Day.” And the American flag — now with 50 stars rather than 15 — flies, by presidential proclamation, over Fort McHenry day and night.★



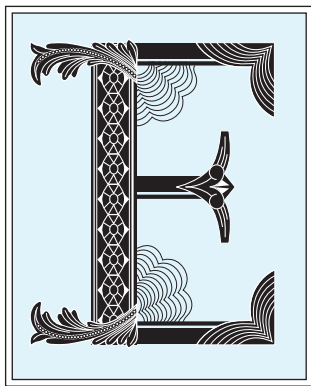
ALANSTUDT.com



## FINDING A UNIONIST SHEEP IN THE FAMILY

by W. Todd Groce, President of the Georgia Historical Society

.....  
*Ancestry and Fold3 are top-of-the-line genealogy research tools, made even more dynamic by their recent partnership with the American Battlefield Trust. Learn how a professional historian and researcher used them to make a monumental discovery in his own family tree.*



**EVER SINCE** I was bitten by the genealogy bug back in high school 40 years ago, I have been an avid family history researcher, tracking down distant and remote ancestors. Doing so has satisfied a curiosity about my personal history and how my family fits into the larger story of our nation's past. Over the

years, I spent many a summer vacation pouring through yellowing, musty records in county courthouses, libraries and state archives in Virginia and North Carolina, logging thousands of miles in my quest to learn more about those who came before me, whose experiences and decisions shaped my own destiny.

The introduction of the internet about 20 years ago completely revolutionized how genealogy research is conducted. No longer is it necessary to travel to distant places to examine rare and ancient records in a remote repository. A few clicks of a button can place at your fingertips thousands of documents that previously would have taken years and considerable funds to find and study. Two sites in particular — Ancestry and Fold3 — have been highly instrumental in helping me to make new discoveries and solve old mysteries.

Using these websites, a few years ago I was able to track down and then make a startling discovery about an ancestor from my native city of Portsmouth, Virginia, who had disappeared from the family history. In the process, it altered how I viewed my own past and present — and offered a new topic for my academic research.

The Thompsons were people of the sea, birthing many generations of sailors and shipbuilders. The progenitor of the Virginia branch of the family, Ebenezer, Sr., was born in that part

of Massachusetts that is today Maine. After service with the U.S. Army during the War of 1812, he settled in the Old Dominion, married a woman from Southampton County and became a slaveholder.

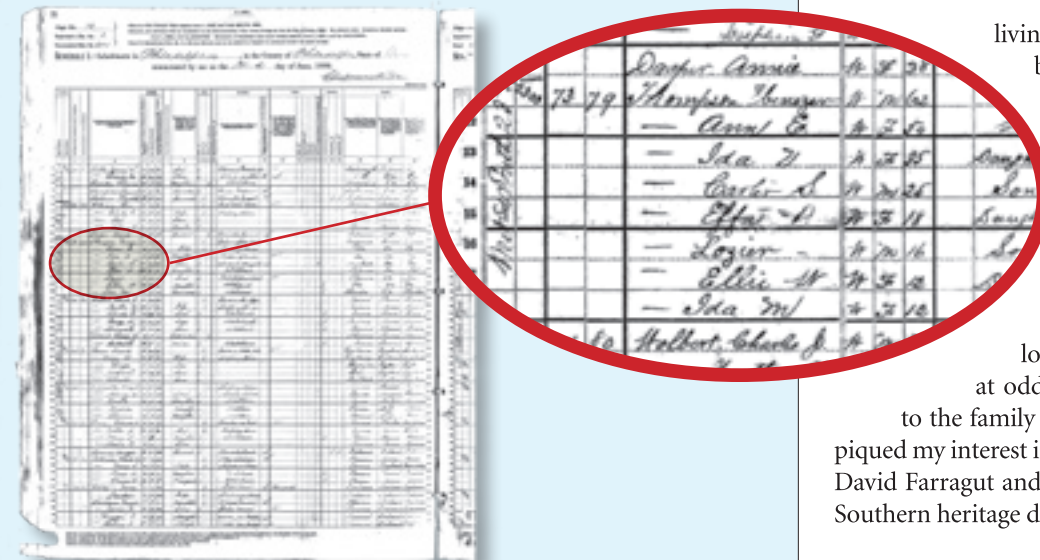
Through research, I discovered that Ebenezer had four children — Robert; Ebenezer, Jr.; John; and Almira, my third great grandmother. Robert, the oldest, was a blacksmith and a long-time member of the Portsmouth City Council, who was too old to serve in the Civil War. The youngest, John, was a rigger by trade.

I easily tracked down John's Confederate service: He enlisted in 1861 as second lieutenant of the Portsmouth Light Artillery, also known as Grimes Battery, and was promoted to first lieutenant and then captain and battery commander after Capt. Cary F. Grimes was killed in action at Antietam. When his unit was disbanded during the reorganization of the Army of Northern Virginia in the fall of 1862, he was transferred to the provost marshal's department. In an article published after the war in the

*Southern Historical Society Papers*, John claimed he was offered command of a new POW camp just being established at a little town in South Georgia called Andersonville. Fortunately for him, he turned it down, as the man who took up that mantle, Capt. Henry Wirz, was one of only two Confederate soldiers convicted and executed by the U.S. government for war crimes.

But the middle brother, Ebenezer, eluded me. I searched diligently for what seemed like an eternity in every conceivable place and still could not find him. That is, until Ancestry and Fold3 made it possible. After Ancestry posted a searchable U.S. Census database, I entered Ebenezer's name, birth date and place of birth, plus those of his parents (Virginia for himself and mother, Maine for his father). I was totally stunned at what I found.

An Ebenezer Thompson fitting this description popped up in the 1880 Census living not in Virginia, but Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I thought the chances of this guy being my uncle



were remote, but he had all the right stats, so I decided to look anyway. I vividly remember scanning my eye across the page, and when I read his occupation — “retired officer USN” — I was stunned. “Oh, my God!” I exclaimed, “A black sheep — and a Southern Unionist on top of that!”

Here, at last, was the reason why Ebenezer had disappeared from the family story. The family must have looked upon him as dead, not unlike how Southern-born U.S. Gen. George Thomas's Virginia sisters treated him. Indeed, in a letter written a year after the war ended (recently discovered in a private collection), Ebenezer lamented to his daughter Ida, “I am truly sorry to learn that your uncles Robert and John ... have lost a proper sympathy [sic] towards me but as I am concious [sic] of no wrong towards any of them ... [I] therefore feel very much grieved at the coldness shown to me and your dear mother.”

Using other military, government and newspaper records on both Ancestry and Fold3, I discovered Ebenezer had joined the U.S. Navy in 1849 at the behest of then Commander David Farragut, who was stationed at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, where Ebenezer had gone to learn how to build ships. He was appointed to the rank of carpenter (a warrant officer responsible for the maintenance of the ship's masts and hull) and served several tours afloat, including service with the East India Squadron as an officer aboard the flagship of USN *Commodore Josiah Tattnall*, later of the Confederate Navy.

When the Civil War began, like many Southern-born naval officers Ebenezer decided not to resign and remained loyal to the United States. He served aboard the USS *Minnesota* during the famous battle with the CSS *Virginia* (commanded by Ebenezer's former commander, Tattnall) and the USS *Fort Jackson* during the January 1865 joint US Army-Navy operation against Fort Fisher. His reports about the damage and repairs to the USS *Minnesota* following the engagement with the CSS *Virginia* can be found in the *Official Records*.

After the war, Ebenezer was stationed briefly at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard before going back to sea. According to his obituary, he designed the first modern battleship in the Japanese Navy. In 1879, he was placed on the retired list and settled in Philadelphia. When he died there in 1912 at the age of 94, he was the oldest

living carpenter in the U.S. Navy. His body was brought back to Portsmouth by his daughter Ida for burial in the family plot in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

If not for Ancestry and Fold3, I might never have made this remarkable discovery, one that forced me to rethink the Civil War and my family's role in it. With this one notable exception, all of my ancestors were Confederates. Ebenezer's steadfast loyalty to the United States placed him squarely at odds with his people and state, and ran counter to the family narrative. Finding him and learning his story piqued my interest in Southern Unionists such as George Thomas, David Farragut and Sam Houston, and helped me to realize that Southern heritage does not have to mean Confederate. ★



The evidence that solved the mystery. **TOP:** A detail from the 1880 U.S. Census from Ancestry.com. **RIGHT:** Ebenezer Thompson correspondence and John Thompson's Compiled Service Record from Fold3.

★★ Trust members are eligible for exclusive discounts on an Ancestry subscription. Learn more at <https://go.fold3.com/abt>.

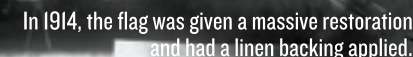




*Long may she wave*

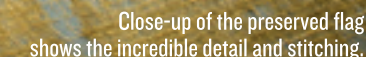
In the terminology of the time, as national flags, both emblems would have been termed “ensigns”; as an especially oversized version, the larger one was a “garrison flag.” In fact, before it received its more poetic moniker, Fort McHenry’s example was known as the “Great Garrison Flag.”

Both flags that figure into the Battle of Baltimore were ordered by the fort's commandant in the summer of 1813. Although only newly arrived from the war at the Canadian frontier, Major George Armistead was confident that the British forces would turn their might toward Baltimore and wrote to his superiors that it was "my desire to have a flag so large that the British will have no difficulty seeing it from a distance."



Just how big was the flag flying over Fort McHenry at dawn on September 14, 1814? It measured 30 by 42 feet, making it reportedly the largest flag flown in combat up to that time. Each of the 15 red and white stripes measured two feet across (until 1818, a star and a stripe were added for each state that joined the Union), as do the 15 stars, arrayed in five offset rows. The whole project took about 400 yards of fabric (English wool bunting for the stripes and blue canton, white cotton for the stars) and weighed more than 50 pounds. It took 11 men to hoist the Great Garrison Flag to the top of its 90-foot pole.

After the war, the flag passed into the possession of the Armistead family, where it stayed for around 90 years, occasionally displayed for patriotic gatherings. During this time, as was typical before any formal regulations for treatment of the national flag



were adopted, pieces of the ensign were clipped off to use as gifts. Increasingly concerned about the flag's fragility, in 1907 Armistead's grandson Eben Appleton loaned the Star-Spangled Banner to the Smithsonian Institution, making it an outright gift five years later. In 1914, the Smithsonian began a massive restoration, as legendary embroiderer Amelia Fowler and a team of assistants applied 1.7 million patented honeycomb stitches to mount the flag to a linen backing.



Over the ensuing century, the science of material conservation has evolved considerably (from attempting to replicate its

original appearance to ensuring its long-term stability), and the flag has gone through multiple evolutions of display. Determined to keep the relic on display without compromising its integrity unnecessarily, in 1996, the Smithsonian began preparations to give the flag a full conservation treatment. The multimillion-dollar project began in 1998, and museum visitors were able to watch the painstaking work of undoing previous, well-intentioned repairs — even today, there remain 37 visible patches — through a massive window. Specialized techniques were used to clean and stabilize the flag, and to protect it as the surrounding museum underwent its own renovation. The Smithsonian eventually welcomed visitors to see the flag “what so proudly we hailed” in 2008, when the revitalized museum reopened. ★



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ROB SHENK



## America's History, LLC 2020 Calendar of History Tours

March 20–22—**9th Annual Conference on the American Revolution**—Stephen Brumwell, Michael Gabriel, T. Cole Jones, Larry Kidder, Mark Edward Lender, Edward Lengel, James Kirby Martin, Nathaniel Philbrick, Eric Schnitzer and Gary Sellick—Williamsburg, VA

March 20—**Southside Revolutionary Virginia 1775: Great Bridge, Norfolk and Kemp's Landing**—Patrick H. "Pat" Hannum, Lt Col USMC (Ret)—Williamsburg, VA

May 6–9—**Ten Crucial Days: Washington's Campaign against Trenton and Princeton**—William "Larry" Kidder, Bill Welsch and Roger Williams—Princeton, NJ

June 14–22—**Wellington vs. Napoleon: The Waterloo Campaign of 1815**—Call America's History for details—Waterloo, Belgium

August 26–29—**The Revolutionary World of Dr. Joseph Warren: Boston, Lexington, Concord, Bunker Hill and much more**—Christian DiSpigna—Billerica, MA

September 16–19—**Wilderness Warfare: The French & Indian War from Lake George to Crown Point**—David Preston—Lake George, NY

September 25—**The Road to Bennington: New Insights on Stark's Victory**—Robert Selig—in conjunction with the Fort Ticonderoga American Revolution Seminar—Ticonderoga, NY

October 19–24—**Grant Takes Command, Part I: Paducah to Shiloh**—A. Wilson "Will" Greene—Nashville (all inclusive tour-all meals and hotel rooms)

October 30—**World War II Conference Bus Tour**—TBD—Gettysburg, PA

October 30–November 1—**2nd Annual World War II Conference—Speakers TBA**—Gettysburg, PA

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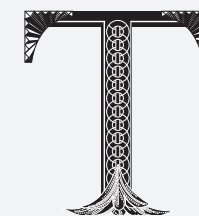
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structive surgery. The hospital closed in 1923, and the War Department began managing the fort as a historical park in 1925. Fort McHenry, like many other battlefield parks, was transferred via executive order to the National Park Service in 1933. In WWII, the fort was called back into service, with a portion of the site leased to the U.S. Coast Guard for port security and training work.

Please note: Access to Fort McHenry and other historic sites may be limited at present because of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please research restrictions to access and reductions in scheduled programming as you plan your trip. ★

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