HALLOWED GROUND

THE FIGHTS FOR KENTUCKY
MESSAGE from HEADQUARTERS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

S WE APPROACH the close of another year, I find myself pausing to reflect on the changes that the passage of time has brought. I know that I am often struck by some series of accomplishments that prompt me to declare the concluding year the "best" one ever, at least as far as battlefield preservation is concerned.

But this year, I think we really outdid ourselves. As I see it, there are a few of the biggest highlights.

Together, we have now protected more than 50,000 acres of battlefield land. Pause for a moment and consider that staggering figure, a monumental amount of hallowed ground that would be lost forever, but for us.

In a move enthusiastically embraced by our membership, we launched a new umbrella brand to encompass our existing activities under the Civil War Trust and Revolutionary War Trust banners.

We completed the record-most-expensive acquisition project in the organization’s 30 plus year history — a $5.6 million property at Yorktown that you can read more about on page 4.

In a first for the organization, we directly assisted in the creation of a new unit of the National Park System, Camp Nelson National Monument in Kentucky — turn the page to read how.

After being selected for the role of official nonprofit partner by the secretary of the interior, we organized and orchestrated the inaugural meeting of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, the congressionally appointed body that will oversee the commemoration of America’s 250th anniversary.

We proved time and again that battlefield preservation is an ideal that can and should be widely embraced — multiple pieces of legislation supporting the cause passed through committees and even floor votes unanimously.

None of these things could have been accomplished without a great deal of passion. My own, certainly, and that of my talented staff and our all-volunteer Board of Trustees. But most importantly, the thousands of people across this nation who have embraced the cause of battlefield preservation. Who contribute financially to our acquisition efforts. Who sign petitions to politicians and share news articles with friends. Who interact with us on social media and try to introduce young people to the fascinating stories of our past. In short: YOU.

And so, in this season of gratitude, I offer up my heartfelt thanks to you for joining us on the journey this past year. I hope that you, too, feel fulfilled as you look back on this year’s achievements. And I hope that you are ready to be part of the many exciting things that I know 2019 has in store. ★

JIM LIGHTHIZER
President, American Battlefield Trust

QUIZ Which war?

IN WHICH WAR did the United States military suffer a crushing defeat on Long Island? In which war did the United States win a decisive engagement after a peace agreement was signed? Do you know when the first African American general in American history served in the military? Test your knowledge of American history and see if you can name “which war” from our quiz. Take the quiz at www.battlefields.org/quiz2018.

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

ARE YOU SEARCHING for a gift for a history lover in your life? Our website offers many options for the season. You can give a gift membership, and your recipient will also receive copies of Battlefields & Beyond. Or, you could send a card with your donation in honor of or in memory of them. You could also contribute to our final campaigns of the year. Whatever method you choose, you may notify the recipient of their gift with a personalized e-card to be sent on the date of your choice. Plus, your contribution is tax-deductible. Learn more at www.battlefields.org/giftideas.

TEN CRUCIAL DAYS

THIS SEASON marks the 242nd anniversary of the American victories at the battles of Trenton and Princeton. The Continental Army’s triumphs in the Ten Crucial Days campaign proved instrumental to rekindling Patriot morale and keeping the cause for American independence alive in the wake of early defeats. Visit our website for articles, videos and primary sources about this monumental event at www.battlefields.org/tencrucialdays.
SUCCESS STORIES
LAND SAVED FOREVER

VICTORY

KENTUCKY’S CAMP NELSON becomes newest national monument

THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM grew richer and more able to tell the full sweep of American history on October 27, with the creation of Camp Nelson National Monument in Jessamine County, Kentucky. The 340-acre site once served as a Union supply depot, training ground and hospital, but perhaps saw its greatest significance as a recruitment center for African American soldiers and an emancipation site for them and their families. The American Battlefield Trust and the National Park Foundation helped facilitate the 380-acre donation of the site — previously known as Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park, a National Historic Landmark near Nicholasville in central Kentucky — to the National Park Service. It was designated a national monument by President Trump through his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906, becoming the 418th unit of the park system.

“Camp Nelson played an important and often forgotten role in the Civil War, and its addition to the national park system will broaden the interpretation of America’s history,” Trust President James Lighthizer said. “This site was among the nation’s largest recruitment and training centers for African American soldiers during the Civil War and shines a light onto the legacy of these soldiers. In few other places are the stories of these soldiers and their families, journeying on the difficult road to freedom, so well told.”

The fortified camp began in 1863 as a Union army supply depot, training ground and hospital. As Union policy changed to allow enrollment of black soldiers, it grew into the third-largest recruitment and training center for African American regiments — referred to as United States Colored Troops — during the Civil War.

By the end of 1865, when ratification of the U.S. Constitution’s 14th Amendment ended slavery in Kentucky, some 10,000 African American men had enlisted and been emancipated at Camp Nelson. Crucially, it served as a sanctuary for these soldiers’ wives and children — more than 3,000 by war’s end — as they found freedom in what was a slaveholding state.

Events at the camp encouraged many more African American soldiers to enlist in Kentucky and other border states critical to the Union, which prompted Congress to emancipate the families of all black Union soldiers, and led the Union army to reform how it cared for refugees at its posts.

After the war, former slaves were issued their emancipation papers at the camp, and many men and women considered Camp Nelson to be their cradle of freedom. In postwar years, the U.S. Sanitary Commission operated a soldiers’ home in former barracks there.

Today, the historic site includes earthworks fortifications, entrenchments, a depot magazine, building foundations, historical road remnants and the pre-war Oliver Perry House (now a museum). Together with the Jessamine County Fiscal Court, the Camp Nelson Reconciliation and Preservation Foundation — a local not-for-profit organization — has played a key role in the site’s restoration and interpretation, encouraging and enabling visitation.

“Camp Nelson, and all the patriots who have ties to it, holds an incredible place in America’s history, and President Trump’s action to designate Camp Nelson as a national monument will ensure the ongoing protection of the site and the story,” Secretary Zinke said. “America’s parks, battlesfields and monuments tell the story of who we are as Americans. Camp Nelson was instrumental as a refuge for escaped and emancipated slaves. The camp tells the story about Americans who risked everything they have and everyone they love to fight for their freedom, the cause of liberty and to preserve the Union.”

Camp Nelson is the first national monument designation under President Trump. The designation was made with congressional and public input and involved extensive consultation with nearby private landowners.

To provide a seamless transition from county to federal ownership and management, Jessamine County and the National Park Service have entered into an agreement to provide a cooperative framework for the protection, preservation, promotion, interpretation and maintenance of the monument. During the transition, Jessamine County will provide continuous assistance with operation and maintenance for an initial period.

In 2019, Camp Nelson was designated a National Historic Landmark and, late last year, the Department of the Interior put forward a recommendation to the White House for its elevation to national monument status. Earlier in 2018, the Kentucky congressional delegation introduced legislation supporting such a designation and, in August, the National Park Service began receiving public input on the subject.

A key requirement of the Antiquities Act is that land named as a national monument must already be property of the federal government. In the case of Camp Nelson, Jessamine County, which had been an able steward of the site for many years, transferred ownership to the American Battlefield Trust. The Trust, in turn, donated the site to the National Park Service ahead of the designation.

MANY MEN AND WOMEN CONSIDERED CAMP NELSON TO BE THEIR CRADLE OF FREEDOM

Press conference announcement at Camp Nelson National Monument

Thanks to Stephanie Fussell, Camp Nelson National Monument

Graveyard No. 1 Memorial Camp Nelson National Monument

Some 30,000 black soldiers (some shown here) enlisted in the Union army at Camp Nelson, and thousands of their wives and children lived there.
CHARLIE SARGENT
Preservation community mourns loss of recently lauded lawmaker

URING the Grand Review’s Saturday evening banquet, Trust President James Lightner announced that the Trust would honor Charles Sargent, a veteran leader of the Tennessee House of Representatives, with its State Leadership Award for his enduring contributions to battlefield preservation during more than two decades of service as a state legislator. Sadly, just one month after that festive occasion, Sargent lost his fight with cancer, passing away on November 13.

Sargent began his legislative career in Franklin in 1994, in the state’s 61st District. As chairman of the state’s House Finance, Ways and Means Committee and a member of other key committees, Sargent was vital to the founding of Tennessee’s Civil War Preservation Fund in 2013 and also secured subsequent enhancements to the program. The first fund in the nation to set aside dedicated monies to save Civil War land each year, it was inspired by the highly effective Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund.

Former Deputy House Speaker Steve McDaniel, another preservation-minded lawmaker who worked closely with Sargent, recalled his passion for the past.

“Being a person who had come from a Northern state [New York], he came to Tennessee and he made it his business to learn about the state’s history and had a great appreciation.”

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION
RETAINS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT
Important steps for reauthorization of federal grant program

In an era of political contention, the protection of historic landscapes as living memorials to the sacrifices of America’s fighting men and women — as well as economic boons for surrounding communities and important environmental resources — remains one topic enthusiastically supported on both sides of the aisle.

The Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants Program, administered by the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection program, is a matching grants fund designed to encourage private investment in the preservation of these important historic resources. Since its inception, this mechanism has been used to protect more than 30,000 acres of hallowed ground in 20 states. Eligible properties must be at one of the 243 Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields, or 383 Civil War sites identified by formal reports to Congress, as well as outside the boundaries of any national park system sites.

The Preserving America’s Battlefields Act is a bill to reauthorize this successful program for years to come. The House version of the legislation — originally cosponsored by U.S. representatives Matt Carterright (D-Pa.), Tom Cole (R-Okl.), John Culberson (R-Texas), Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), Colleen Hanabusa (D-Hawaii), Jody Hice (R-Ga.), Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr. (D-Ga.), Derek Kilmer (D-Wa.), Barry Loudermilk (R-Ga.) and Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa) — H.R. 6108, now boasting a total of 32 cosponsors, passed the House Natural Resources Committee unanimously in late September.

Meanwhile, in October, U.S. senators Roy Blunt (Mo.), Johnny Isakson (Ga.), Tim Kaine (Va.) and Roger Wicker (Miss.) introduced companion legislation, S. 3565 in the Senate.
Victory at Yorktown!
Trust completes second-most-expensive project in its history

IN 1781, a joint Franco-American force compelled the surrender of a British army at Yorktown, Virginia, a decisive event that led to the cessation of hostilities and the beginnings of a new United States. On October 19, exactly 237 years later, word of another monumental victory emerged from Yorktown: The American Battlefield Trust had successfully completed a $38.6 million campaign to protect 49 acres surrounded by Continental National Historical Park that played a key role in the siege operation.

"I am delighted and grateful that the Trust and its partners have succeeded in preserving this land associated with the battlefield where George Washington and his allies secured American victory in the Revolutionary War," Trust President James Lightner said in announcing the project’s completion. "This was an ambitious effort that took years of dedication and hard work by many people."

In fact, the acquisition was the second-most-expensive effort in the Trust’s 31-year history, behind only the Slaughter Pen Farm at Fredericksburg—a 208-acre property purchased for $12 million in 2006. And much like that effort, the Yorktown purchase was the result of lengthy negotiations. Trust leaders first learned of a development threat to the parcel in November 2014, just as the organization first expanded its efforts beyond Civil War sites. National Park Service deputy director P. Daniel Smith, who was then superintendent at Colonial, when asked about land-use issues affecting the battlefield, shared his concern about the Battlefield Bluffs subdivision that was to be built adjoining the park. Within months, Trust staff began efforts to acquire the property.

The newly protected land includes the area where French troops advanced when the allied armies marched toward Yorktown on September 28, 1781. French soldiers first exchanged fire with British forces in the vicinity, and the French regiments then encamped on the site and its surroundings. The wooded property includes an old, narrow wagon road that likely has never been traveled by an automobile. It appears on period maps of the battlefield and was likely a key artery between the French camp and the trenches from which they bombarded the British fortifications.

The Battlefield Bluffs tract, near the Gooseying and Crawford Roads, is almost entirely surrounded by Colonial National Historical Park. The subdivision’s development would have flled the historic property’s woods, ruined views from the park and shattered visitors’ experience of the historic landscape along the park’s nearby West York Road, which follows historical road traces.

Preservation of this key property would not have been possible without support from Gov. Ralph Northam’s and former governor Terry McAuliffe’s administrations, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, the Celebrate Yorktown Committee, the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program and individual Trust members and donors.

VIRGINIA AWARDS $1.15 MILLION in grants to protect 562 Acres

HE VIRGINIA Department of Historic Resources (DHR) has announced the latest round of grants from the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, a state program that, since 2006, has helped nonprofit organizations protect more than 8,500 acres of hallowed ground throughout the Commonwealth.

This year’s $1.15 million in grants were awarded to two of the state’s most active nonprofit partners in battlefield preservation—the American Battlefield Trust and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation. The state money, leveraged with federal grant funds and private donations, will protect more than 562 acres at nine Civil War battlefields and the Revolutionary War’s Yorktown Battlefield.

Since the fund’s creation, the $175 million in grants awarded by the state have helped to preserve 8,542 acres of battlefield land worth more than $90 million, representing a greater than 5-to-1 return on the state’s investment.

In the 2018 grant round, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation will be awarded $265,000 to purchase an easement over 130 acres of farmland in Shenandoah County that figured in the Battle of Tom’s Brook and to purchase outright a two-acre tract in Frederick County that witnessed the Battle of Opequon (Third Winchester).

The American Battlefield Trust will be awarded $895,000 to acquire 430 acres at the battlefields of Cold Harbor and North Anna (both in Hanover County), Second Deep Bottom and New Market Heights (Nelson County), Remount Station (Dinwiddie County), Rappahannock Station II (Culpeper County), Petersburg and Yorktown.

The Yorktown project marks the first time the fund has been applied to a Revolutionary War battlefield, while the New Market Heights effort protects a battlefield where Union and Confederate troops earned the Medal of Honor for their actions.

As a result of the Commonwealth’s sustained commitment to the preservation and stewardship of historic battlefields, Virginia is recognized as the national leader in battlefield preservation, and battlefield preservation is among DHR’s highest priorities,” said Julie Langan, director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. "Through the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, historically significant open space has been protected, in perpetuity, for the benefit of current and future generations of residents and tourists."

A study recently completed by STACH of Asheville, N.C., and the Community Land Use and Economics Group of Arlington, Va., on behalf of the American Battlefield Trust and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, articulated the economic benefits of preservation. The Commonwealth’s $6.5 billion heritage tourism industry supports more than 105,000 jobs and provides $1.5 billion in tax revenue. State and federal battlefield parks generate about $8,772 per acre in economic output annually.**
RESTORATION EFFORTS continue in Virginia and Maryland

THE TRUST has recently completed restoration projects on two of its flagship battlefield properties, restoring them ever-closer to their wartime appearances.

At Fredericksburg, several modern barns were removed from the Slaughter Pen Farm. In addition to being visual intrusions, these structures were in poor condition, making their demolition a safety benefit as well. A small outbuilding resembling a cottage, which was likewise not historically relevant to the battle, was also removed. Only one post-war structure now remains on the property: the main, early 20th-century farmhouse, which plays a role in the valuation of the larger property and will not be removed. Meanwhile, at Antietam, the Trust completed restoration of two period outbuildings on the Reel Farm. Although both structures contained many original materials, they were unsound and crumbling. The Trust worked to carefully disassemble, stabilize and repair both buildings using these period elements.

BRANDY STATION & CEDAR MOUNTAIN
Officials tour potential state park site

A PART of September’s National Public Lands Week, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Matthew Sl waier and deputy secretary Joshua Saks toured the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain Battlefields in Culpeper County. The Commonwealth of Virginia is investigating the opportunity to acquire some more than 1,300 acres protected by private organizations, most notably the Trust, at these two sites for the creation of a new state park.

Beyond such a park’s historical significance, it would also provide considerable outdoor recreation infrastructure in a region of central Virginia currently underserved by state park system. The Brandy Station & Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance, of which the Trust is a member, advocates on behalf of this proposal.

MEMBERS OF U.S. SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION sworn in during Independence Hall ceremony

PLANNING FOR AMERICA’S 250TH ANNIVERSARY HAS OFFICIALLY BEGUN

The United States Semi-quincen- nennial Commission, a federally appointed body tasked with planning the 250th anniversary of American independence, gathered for its inaugural meeting on November 16 in historic Philadelphia, Pa. The bipartisan commemorative commission is comprised of 16 private citizens, eight members of Congress and nine federal government officials. At the group’s first meeting, they heard a presentation by noted historian Dr. Alan Goren, who spoke to the Commission about his experiences as a tour guide in Philadelphia during the Bicentennial, then urged Commissioners to take advantage of the opportunity the 250th presents to generate renewed interest in the nation’s founding principles. Former History Channel executive Dr. Libby O’Connell, who recently played an integral role in the centennial commemoration of U.S. involvement in World War I, the evening’s ceremony was held in Independence Hall before the group adjourned for its business meeting. Additional events were held at the historic Union League of Philadelphia.

The U.S. Semi-quincennial Commission was formed in July 2016 after both chambers of Congress unanimously passed the United States Semi-quincennial Commission Act. The group’s primary responsibility is to create a national program for the commemoration, which will include a full history of the U.S. leading up to the 250th anniversary and beyond. The Commission will develop an overall plan and recommendations that will be submitted to the president and Congress for review and oversee the execution of the plan through the 250th anniversary year in 2026.

“As a Commission, we seek to ensure that America’s 250th anniversary is a true celebration of our history, our values and who we are as a nation past, present and future,” said Dan DiLella, chairman of the Commission. “We do not take this responsibility lightly and have been hard at work to ensure this first meeting is as productive as possible.”

The Commission has already accomplished a number of critical initiatives designed to support a successful commemoration process. Frank Giordano, president and CEO of Six Flags POPS, was named interim executive director by Commission chair Dan DiLella, and American Battlefield Trust was selected by the Department of the Interior as the Commission’s national non-profit partner, supporting administrative and fundraising efforts.

Prior to the Commission meeting, Giordano spoke at a tree-planting ceremony to introduce the DAR Pathway of the Patriots along the Schuylkill River Trail. The Pathway, a partnership of DAR, the U.S. Semi-quincennial Commission, USA250 and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, is a gift to the nation on behalf of the DAR, which will result in 250 new trees planted along the trail.
ECONOMIC STUDY shows impact of Kentucky battlefields

HE FIRST CENTURY of American history saw many battles fought in Kentucky. These sites continue to shape the state’s future through the impressive contributions that heritage tourism makes to the state and local economies.

The Kentucky Battlefield Study was produced by the Kentucky Civil War Sites Association—a coalition of organizations dedicated to the state’s historic sites. Through a planning grant from the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program, among the key findings:

Visitors to Kentucky’s recorded historic sites spent more than $10 million annually. The survey is based on findings of 728 individual surveys completed by non-local visitors between July and October 2017. Of those visitors, 30 percent reported that they had been to the battlefield the primary reason for their presence in the area, and with another 22 percent counting it among several reasons for their trip. Beyond that, 20 percent found themselves at the battlefield after encountering tourism information in the region.

Regardless of their inspiration for visiting, the data indicated that out-of-state visitors to Kentucky’s battlefields and related sites produced economic activity capable of supporting 155 jobs. Overall, tourism spending—from food and lodging to admissions and shopping— contributed $7.1 million to the state’s GDP. But perhaps most importantly, the survey found incredible support among these visitors for the idea of historic preservation, with 89 percent of Kentuckians stating a willingness for their tax dollars to be spent on such projects. Legislation to create a state-level preservation grant program is currently under consideration in Frankfort.

HURRICANES DESTROY KEY AREAS of battlefields in the Carolinas

HE 2018 HURRICANE season brought torrential rains and flooding to battlefield parks and historic sites, most notably Moore’s Creek National Battlefield, where portions of the 88-acre park stood under 10 feet of water in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, which dropped 35 inches of rain on North Carolina.

The park remained closed for a month following the storm’s September 14, 2018, arrival, with the main road washed out in several places. Linger ing damage caused the cancellation of all autumn living history events and the popular candlelight tour. While, thankfully, the visitor center, administration building and maintenance building did not receive any damage, the picnic area, Patriots Hall, demountable barrack area and heavily damaged and remain closed to the public for the foreseeable future.

The Battle of Moore’s Creek Bridge took place on February 27, 1776. “Stunned, outnumbered and leaderless, the Loyalists surrendered,retreating in confusion,” according to the National Park Service website. “This dramatic victory ended British authority in the colony and greatly influenced North Carolina to become the first colony to vote for independence.”

Among the park’s most recognizable monuments are the Patriot Monument, the Loyalist Monument, the Moore Monument and the Grady Monument, which commemorates the first North Carolina patriot killed in the war.

APP PLANNING GRANTS benefit battlefields in 13 states

HE AMERICAN Battlefield Protection Program, an arm of the National Park Service, recently announced the recipients of its 2018 planning grants. This year, a total of $1.04 million in funding was allotted to 20 individual projects in 13 states.

Congratulations to this year’s recipients: Pechanga Band of the Luiseño Mission, Indigo, California; Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; Gulf Archaeology Research Institute, Florida; American Veterans, Hawaii; Town of Montague, Massachusetts; Anacostia Tribes Heritage Area, Maryland; Preservation Maryland, Maryland; Friends of the Vickburg National Military Park and Campaign, Mississippi; University of Mississippi, Mississippi; Regents of the University of New Mexico, New Mexico; Hudson Crossing Park, Inc., New York; Fort Plain Museum, New York; The Research Foundation for the State University of New York, New York; Town of Plattsburgh, New York; The LAMAR Institute, New York; Ball State University, Ohio; City of Cape Coral, South Carolina; South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust, Inc., South Carolina; Gloucester County, Georgia; and Shenandoah Forum, Virginia.

CIVIL WAR TRAILS GOES GREEN

Virginia and Maryland endorse new standard of sustainability

S CIVIL WAR TRAILS, Inc. expanded to offer more than 3,600 sites across six states and 100,000 square miles, we have claimed the title of the world’s largest “open-air museum.” As such, we need to ensure that the visitors experience from site to site is not only exciting and relevant to all visitors, but also well maintained. And with our signs exposed to the elements, the need for upkeep is nearly constant. Trails operate on such a scale — more than 10,000 directional signs pointing guests to sites — that the “environmental footprint” of that upkeep and replacement would have been immense. Recognizing this, several years ago, operations manager Jason Shaffer, set the organization on track to become the first signage program to be 100% recyclable.

Of course paper map-guides are fully recyclable, as are those distinctive “trail blazer” but the last component of Trails’ product, the detailed interpretive panels, proved difficult. While many companies have looked toward fiberglass, metal or laminate panels for their signs Civil War Trails, Inc., broke the mold again. While some acrylics are recyclable, the printing methods and or specific compounds are not. After several years of trial and error, research and development, Trail’s weathered panels are now 100 percent recyclable and able to be reconstituted back into new acrylic sheeting. This is coupled with a revolutionary pedestal designed engineered for ease of maintenance, replacement of parts and repainting — a first in the industry.

Earlier this year, after this immense effort, Civil War Trails recycled more than 3,060 pounds or 1.5 tons — of old interpretive sign panels. In addition, we recycled 642 pounds of aluminum, including pedestal parts and pieces that could not be reused, and old directional “trail blazer” signs and posts. We also recycled 6,000 pounds of paper in the form of outdated map-guides. These materials had been stored for years as we identified recycling schemes for each component. Moving forward, we will continue to warehouse old materials for reuse or recycling.

While Civil War Trails’ program revolves around the past, it has now ensured that mission includes a bright and sustainable future. In setting a standard to be emulated by museums, parks and municipals nationwide, Trails has been certified as a partner of the Virginia Green Travel Alliance, and named to the Maryland Department of the Environment “Maryland Green Registry.”

2019 PARK DAY schedule announced

ARK your calendars! Our 24th annual Park Day will be held on April 6, 2019, at sites from Maine to California. Last year, an estimated 7,000 volunteers participated at a record-breaking event at about 160 battlefields and historic sites across the nation. Registration is now open for site managers; visit www.battlefields.org/parkday to enroll. A full list of participating locations will be available online in February.

CLEANUP EFFORT draws local youth

N PACER, the Central Virginia Battlegrounds Trust (CVBT) sponsored a Youth Community Service Day, encouraging volunteers to help restore a portion of the Chaunceyville Battlefield that has suffered from vandalism and neglect. The Zoo Church Ridge on the eastern end of the bat- filed contains an interpretive plaza and walking trail that were carved out to protect Confederate earthworks during the construction of the Harrison Crossing shopping plaza. Unfortunately, with little oversight, it has become cluttered with litter, much from nearby fast-food restaurants. A re- created split rail fence was partially removed to facilitate a shortcut path between the plaza and neighboring Riverview High School. Perhaps worse, one of the educational signage was spray painted with graffiti and will need to be replaced.

The cleanup effort was spearheaded by CVBT education director Eric Powell and targeted young people, particularly Riverview students. It was a tremendous success.

www.battlefields.org AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST
The tumultuous political and military position occupied by the Commonwealth of Kentucky during the Civil War era can be encapsulated in a single, deceptively simple fact: Five men can claim to have held the title of governor between 1861 and 1865. The Civil War Governor of Kentucky Digital Documentary Edition, a project of the Kentucky Historical Society, has digitized, transcribed, and annotated more than 10,000 documents, tagging the people, places, and entities referenced therein to illustrate relationships within the Bluegrass State during the conflict. Although the project’s editorial focus is on the office of the governor, it is designed to uncover the voices of everyday Kentuckians struggling to cope with unprecedented societal chaos. These people reached out to their government in letters, court cases and other official documents, leaving a tangible imprint on the written historical record. Via its web of hundreds of thousands of networked nodes, the project shows scholars new patterns and hidden relationships, and recognizes the humanity and agency of historically marginalized people.

“I have developed a profound empathy for both the plain citizen bearing horrifying tales of death, crime, sexual violence, destitution and starvation, as well as for the representatives of government at all levels who are chronically unable to muster sufficient resources to address the systemic problems they saw,” said program director Patrick Lewis. “It is easy to see the Civil War as a crisis of elected government—at a legislative, gubernatorial, congressional, and especially Presidential level—but I have come to appreciate the war as it drug down an underprepared and underpowered civil service under the weight of modern, total war.”

The desire to craft a cross-referenced and searchable digital clearinghouse of information grew out of the Lincoln Bicentennial and Civil War Sesquicentennial, and the project is intended as a lasting contribution to the academic record from those commemorations. Full-time editorial work, funded thanks to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the National Endowment for the Humanities, began in 2012. The robust and dynamic website launched in 2016, and continues to grow as new documents are added and linked, allowing deeper levels of connection and understanding to emerge.

The project has proven a treasure trove for researchers, whether traditional academics or amateur genealogists. It has also become a rich resource for students and classroom educators, providing a massive selection of primary source documents representing a diverse range of attitudes and experiences in a user-friendly format:

“History has too few characters. We don’t know enough names. We don’t know enough stories. This limits what we can say about the past,” said Lewis. “The Civil War Governors of Kentucky Digital Documentary Edition proposes a bold new solution to this problem. We find the characters, hidden in archives across the country. We publish their stories in the form of 30-40,000 historical documents. And we treat every individual—man or woman, free or slave, Union and Confederate—as an historical actor worthy of study. This is the closest thing we can get to a time machine.” ⭐
Such country as this is not readily imagined by a European ...

REVOLUTION
ON THE FRONTIER

FOR MANY DECADES, the typical narrative of the American Revolution given in schools focused on the key battles fought in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic. Gradually, the critical Southern Campaigns are receiving their due recognition, but the war on the Hedgeling nation’s western frontier remains thoroughly overshadowed.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DON SIEGOWSKI
THE NATURE of the war west of the Appalachian Mountains is tied as directly to the French and Indian War as it is to the militiamen’s stand at Lexington and Concord. In the aftermath of the former conflict, the British government had issued the Proclamation of 1763, halting colonists’ westward expansion beyond the mountains in an effort to avoid conflict with the Native American tribes beyond.

Colonists chafed at the restriction, leading to the Treaty of Fort Stanwix and Treaty of Hard Labour in 1788, which allowed for settlement south of the Ohio River. The first permanent white settlement in modern Kentucky was established at Fort Harrod (now Harrodsburg) in 1774. Unfortunately, as these treaties had been made with the Iroquois, and not with the tribes that lived and hunted in that area, principally the Shawnee, this new presence led to a conflict known as Lord Dunmore’s War — named for the last royal governor of Virginia, which claimed Kentucky as a county.

When the Revolutionary War began, many of the tribes in the Ohio Valley took it as an opportunity to renew their aggression against colonists. Other tribes hoped to remain neutral, a difficult position when sandwiched between the Americans to the east and British settlers on the Great Lakes. Amid raids launched by the British from Detroit and others from hostile tribes, many settlers chose to return east, those few hundred who stayed moved to the fortifications at Boonsborough, Harrodsburg and Logan’s Station.

From Fort Pitt (modern Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) south, the entire American western frontier was vulnerable to raids from the British, their allied Indians and other Native tribes angry at their treatment by settlers. In 1777, settlers appealed to the Continental Congress for protection, but the long and sparsely defended border defied a defensive strategy, and in 1778, the Americans took the offensive. The first thrust against Fort Pitt ended disastrously, with several key players defecting to join the British side.

THERE WERE SEVEN SIGNIFICANT BATTLES Fought in What Became the State of Kentucky

The second offensive into the Illinois Country, however, was much more successful. The young militiaman George Rogers Clark mounted a daring winter-time march that captured the British fort at Vincennes, securing the broader territory for the Americans. In doing so, he captured British Colonel Henry Hamilton, known as the “scalp buyer” for the belief that he encouraged such violence against civilian settlers. Being transport-ed back to Williamsburg to be tried for war crimes, Hamilton described the Kentucky landmarks he was forced to traverse: “The difficulty of marching through such country as this is not readily imagined by a European. The Coves grow very close together. . . . As they are very strong and supply the rider must be constantly on watch to guard his face from them as they fly back with great force. . . . The soil where they grow is rich and deep so you plod thru in a narrow track like a cow path, while the musketballs are not idle.”

The American Battlefield Protection Program identified seven significant battles fought in what became the State of Kentucky during the Revolutionary War, all of them involving Native American tribes. The most famous of these was the 1778 Siege of Boonesborough, the surrounding events of which were key incidents in the life of legendary frontiersman Daniel Boone. At the direction of leaders from the Detroit militia, the Shawnee unsuccessfully attempted non-traditional methods of fighting, including tunneling under the fort’s walls to ignite gunpowder and trigger an explosion. Illustrative of how the war in the West encapsulated issues of political revolution and long-simmering conflicts over settlement policy, the bloodiest battle of the Revolution in Kentucky took place almost a year after the British surrender at Yorktown, even as the Treaty of Paris was being negotiated. At Blue Licks, in Robertson County, a small contingent of loyalists, along with 300 Native allies, ambushed and routed a force of about 180 Kentucky militiamen. ♦
BATTLE OF LOGAN'S FORT

TWO DECADES before it became the 13th state, the Kentucky frontier was in a state of upheaval — with an obscure log fort serving as its first line of defense.

by LYNYA WILLIAMS CLOSSON

EARLY SETTLERS OF KENTUCKY

often referred to the year 1777 as the “Bloody Seven.” If the major defensive outposts on the frontier had not survived that year of attack from British allied Indians — particularly those led by Chillicothe Shawnee war chief Blackfish — the early history of the state would have been greatly altered.

Logan’s Fort was the first line of defense against any British threat coming from the south. It began when Benjamin Logan arrived in Kentucky with a survey party led by John Floyd on May 1, 1775, and erected a “little town,” they named St. Charles. He built a cabin and planted a crop of corn, which he would later use as proof to make his claim to 400 acres and a pemmican for 600 acres, despite returning to Virginia and not returning until March 1776 with his family.

Following the July 1776 capture and rescue of three girls from Boonesborough — an incident that contributed to the notoriety of frontiersman Daniel Boone, whose daughter, Jemima, was among those abducted — Logan began appealing to other area settlers to join him in building a fort. Logan’s cabin was the first structure completed and occupied by February 1777.

The original log fort sat on a slight elevation about 50 yards west of the small spring at St. Asaph’s. It was 30 x 150 feet in size, with gates at each end that were lowered and raised by leather toggles. The main gate faced east. On the south side, two blockhouses were built on each end with three cabins between. There was one blockhouse on the northwest corner, adjourned by four cabins, while the northeast corner was occupied by a conventional cabin. According to a sketch done by a Captain Briggs, the cabins were occupied by families, while six single men occupied the blockhouses. The fort had two small rifle ports with sprigged boarding around each, blacked before a siege and a gristmill built on the south side along St. Asaph’s branch, providing bread for inhabitants.

Due to signs of Indians in the area and attacks on Fort Harrod and Fort Boonesborough in early spring of 1777, Benjamin Logan made preparations for an attack. Captain James Logan made great propaganda against the Indians. He dug a deep ditch from the fort to the spring, and covered it all over so that water could be got in a pit. He told the women and children immediately to hustle themselves and bring into the fort last year’s pumpkins, fill their vats all full of water. He said there was but little doubt but that the Indians would come to our fort.”

Indians were spotted by scouts near Logan’s Fort on May 18, 1777. Twelve days later, the hammer fell. “Early on Friday morning the 30th of May, though confident that Indians were about, Mrs. Ann Logan, Mrs. Whitley, and a Negro woman ventured out of the fort to milk the cows, guarded by William Hudon, Burr Harron, John Kennedy and James Craig. They were fired upon by their stealthy foe, and Hudon, shot through the head and killed instantly, whileHarison was shot down and Ken- nedy, though wounded with four balls, reached the fort so did also Craig, and the women uninjured. The Indians were 57 in number, who kept up a constant fire on the fort until evening, screened behind trees and banks, while the 12 uninjured men in the garrison made such a defense as deterred the enemy from too near an approach to the stockade.”

To arm the defenders, some of the women began melting their pewter plates and fashioning them into bullets. As firing ceased in the evening, eagle Whithwy noticed Burr Harron, who had been left behind the fort and assumed dead in the summary move. After further communication confirmed Harron to be alive, Logan ventured out to bring him to safety, using a bag of wool to shroud himself on the approach and running back with Harron in his arms.

According to Draper Manuscripts, “The Indians, now renewed the attack and continued it until sometime in the night, during which they killed all the cat- tle and hogs they could find. They hovered around the fort, though (they) kept quiet till Sunday morning [June 1], when they departed.”

Law on murmurations, Logan departed for the Halilim Settlement on June 6, returning three weeks later. Colonel John Bowman and his 100 militiamen arrived at Logan’s Fort on July 28, 1777, under orders from the Vir- ginia governor to escort settlers back across the mountains if he felt they could not be adequately defended. Had Logan’s Fort (or the other strongholds at Fort Harrod or Fort Boonesborough) fallen — either in May or during a second attack in late August — it is likely Boomer would have exercised that option, extracting Kentucky’s population back to the east. Instead, Kentucky became the 13th state to join the Union in 1792.

Although small, the fort’s important historical significance continued well beyond the 1777 battle. Additional militiamen, under the command of Major George Rogers Clark, were stationed there in March 1779 in preparation for an offensive campaign into the Illinois Country, and the fort became a major center for provisions. In a 12-week span that summer, the Illinois Company, the fort’s quartermaster sergeant, recorded incoming supplies, either bought or acquired by hunting, amounting to 74 barrels of corn, 724 pounds of pork, 3,779 pounds of tame beef and 2,420 pounds of buffalo beef. Logan’s Fort played host to the court martial of Daniel Boone, who was accused of treason following the September 1777 siege at Boonesborough. Boone was ultimately acquitted of the charge, which had been brought by Richard Calloway and supported by Benjamin Logan.

In April 1779, Clark returned to Lo- gan’s Fort, transporting British Colonel Henry Harples’ loot, the “sculp buyer,” back to Williamsburg for trial, having taken him prisoner in recapturing the fort at Vincennes, Illinois. In October, the Virginia Lawton Committee opened in its office at Logan’s Fort, offering settlers their first opportunity to claim the land they had struggled to defend. 320 homesteads that had been established and made to the land prior to October 14, 1779, were entitled to settle- ment rights. Settlers could travel to Logan’s Fort and, after proving proof, claim 400 acres of land and could be eligible for a pre- emption of 1,000 acres.

The location of Logan’s Fort gave the settlers great significance throughout his era. The Cumberland River, which led to Nashville, Tenn., began at Logan’s Fort. The Great Road (also known as the Wilderness Road) from Logan’s Trace, which led to the Ken- tucky River and many other lesser known paths all merged on this little outpost in the wilderness. One could be safe in saying that all roads leading into Kentucky from the south, west, and north, passed through Logan’s Fort. Citing the convenience of its loca- tion, the Lincoln County (Virginia) Court was moved to Logan’s Fort in March 1781, following two sessions held at Fort Harrod. In its Revolutionary War and War of 1812 preservation study, the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program ranked the Battle of Logan’s Fort as second in relative historical significance among Kentucky’s Revolutionary War bat- tlefields. It is exciting to know that, as we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of American’s fight for independence, the importance of this chapter in that struggle will receive increased focus and attention.

Lynda Williams Closson is a founder and former president of the Logan’s Fort Founda- tion. She is a past national officer of the National Society Daughters of the Ameri- can Revolution and an Honorary State Regent of the Kentucky DAR. Closson presently serves as a volunteer genealogist for the 250 Membership Task Force, NDSAR.

LOGAN’S FORT WAS THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST ANY BRITISH THREAT COMING FROM THE SOUTH.
LIFE
AFTER
DEATH

THE CREATION of THE MILL SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD PARK

IN LESS THAN three decades, community support and strategic partnerships have transformed a local commemorative park into a battlefield destination worthy of national recognition—a fitting tribute to the men who fell in the war’s first significant Union victory.
JANUARY 19, 1862
N
ARLY IN THE WAR, the Lincoln administration knew well the importance of Kentucky's status as a border state. Legend has it that the president himself said, "I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky." Whether that was ever truly the case, the sentiment is similarly reflected in a letter to Gen. Perry L. Harrison: "I trust to have Kentucky nearly as safe as once the whole of Georgia." In late 1861, Confederate Brig. Gen. Felix K. Zollicoffer was assigned to hold the critically important Cumberland Gap through the Appalachian Mountains. That November, he advanced west into Kentucky to strengthen the Confederate presence in the area. Zollicoffer knew that a strong defensive position at Mill Springs would decide it his winter quarters, fortifying the area on both sides of the Cumberland Gap. Union Brig. Gen. George Thomas received orders to drive the Rebels across the Cumberland River and break up Maj. Gen. George B. Crook's army. This attack was to be launched from a point near the town and slowly marched through rain-soaked country, arriving at Logan's Crossroads on January 17, where he waited for Brig. Gen. A. Schoop's troops from Somerset to join him.

Zollicoffer had arrived at Mill Springs, ready to face the enemy. The Rebels threatened Union forces at the crossroads and decided to make it his winter quarters, fortifying the area on both sides of the Cumberland Gap. Union Brig. Gen. George Thomas received orders to drive the Rebels across the Cumberland River and break up Maj. Gen. George B. Crook's army. This attack was to be launched from a point near the town and slowly marched through rain-soaked country, arriving at Logan's Crossroads on January 17, where he waited for Brig. Gen. A. Schoop's troops from Somerset to join him.

At this time, Zollicoffer was killed while conducting reconnaissance on a road in the face of the enemy. The Rebels fought back, eventually launching an attack on the Confederate line, which was met with a counterattack led by Thomas at Logan's Crossroads. The Rebels were driven back, and the Union forces pressed their advantage, securing a decisive victory.

The battle was instrumental in the acquisition of all this land. With the hold on the battlefield protected, the Union forces turned their attention to the remaining Confederate fortifications and captured the area.

The battle demonstrated the effectiveness of the Union forces and their ability to overcome the Confederate position.

By the end of the battle, the Union forces had secured the area, and the Confederates were forced to retreat. The battle was a significant victory for the Union, and it helped secure the Union's position in the eastern part of the state.
developed. Better yet, and unlike our earlier efforts, it had been divided into only five tracts. The purchase of this site would protect an area where more than 800 Confederate cadets once stood, their indentations remaining on the ground itself. When we walked the property, we were amazed at the condition of more than a mile of Southern fortifications.

In 2010, the American Battlefield Trust had its annual conference in Lexington, Kentucky. A Mill Springs tour was part of that event, and, a short time later, the Trust notified us that it had purchased the first 89 acres of the Beech Grove property. Other property owners also agreed to sell, and the Trust purchased the majority of this site on our behalf. The last tract of land that is part of the Confederate campsite is currently for sale, and we have asked the Trust to help us one more time to protect the final portion of Beech Grove.

The Association continues to work with the American Battlefield Trust, our local, county government, the state historic preservation office, and the ARPP to purchase battlefield land and to interpret what happened on that cold February day in 1862. Using information gathered from letters, reports, diaries, and other primary sources, we now have an eight-mile driving tour complete with pull-offs and interpretive signs at each stop. There are also two half-mile walking trails interpreted by 24 signs.

In 2005, thanks to the help of Congressman Harold Rogers, we received a federal grant to build a 10,000-square-foot visitors center and museum adjacent to the Mill Springs National Cemetery. The museum houses an extensive collection of artifacts from the battle, on loan from private individuals. There is also an excellent research library and a community room available for private events.

Since our inception, MSBA has benefited from partnership with national battlefield preservation entities. Together, we have purchased 800 acres of core battlefield land, and two-thirds of the available land at related sites. The Brown-Lanier House was the headquarters for both Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer and, later, Union General George H. Thomas. The West Metcalfe House was used as a Confederate hospital site. Also protected are 200 acres of Confederate campsites, which include cabin sites and fortifications.

In total, the American Battlefield Trust has helped the Mill Springs Battlefield Association buy nearly 900 acres. Without the Trust — and its network of donors — the preservation of the Mill Springs Battlefield, an important turning point in the Civil War, would not have been possible.

William R. Neikirk is one of the founding members of the Mill Springs Battlefield Association. He was the organization’s president from its inception in 1992 until 2012. He is still involved in the organization’s preservation efforts under the title of “President Emeritus.”
THE NATURE OF WAR

THE ENVIRONMENTAL RENAISSANCE OF PERRYVILLE

A BATTLEFIELD can be many things—a solemn memorial, an outdoor classroom, a heritage tourism destination. It can also be a thing of great beauty, a haven for native species and a case study in environmental conservation.

BY JOAN HOUSE
PHOTO BY DON SnieGOWSKI
CULTURAL RESOURCES associated with the American Civil War are typically viewed through a modern lens, but the preservation of these landscapes has been a part of public discourse since the war ended. The fields upon which those battles raged have continued to be in the country’s conscience. Although much of that has been lost, there are great preservation victories.

One of the true preservation success stories is the battlefield at Perryville. The sprawling battlefield courses over the Kentucky hills and weaves its way along creeks and up “hollows,” where you can truly be transported to another time and place. It was a long journey to save this hallowed ground, and it required the help of dedicated people who had the ability to ask questions and then to act, guided by the convictions that the answers forced upon us.

Throughout this process, the basic question that kept reoccurring in our conversations was, “What is it that we are trying to preserve?” Of course, the simple answer was the battlefield. But the bigger answer is much more complex: Are we trying to preserve the land? A way of life? The nostalgic “simpler times” we all envision the “old days” to be?

How, we asked ourselves, do you pick a moment in time and freeze it? And, beyond that, should we? Certainly, we have no desire to exhibit the true horrible nature of battle, but we must be able to interpret the military actions that occurred upon the land. It is impossible, both financially and by manpower, to return the land to a picture of what was occurring just a few hours before the battle. And it is not appropriate to let the land go feral and let nature totally reclaim it and turn it into something that did not exist in its original state, rife with invasive insect and plant species.

A great responsibility comes to all who are charged with tak-
wildlife. We were thrilled with our experiment, but extending the habitat across the park was cost prohibitive.

A few years later, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife (KDFW) called. It seemed there had been some changes in the rules governing several federal conservation programs, and KDFW was interested in working with our Friends group in establishing areas designed to increase the population of the North American quail. Suddenly, there was federal funding to realize our vision! After several long and complicated meetings, the Friends of Perryville agreed to manage large tracts of land, which made the group eligible to receive the funding that the state government could not.

It is inspiring to sign a $380,000 grant from the government of the United States of America, especially with the understanding that if any of the plantings failed, you would be financially responsible for replanting them. But sign the Friends did, and then the hard work started.

The first thing we had to do was kill all the forage grasses that covered the landscape, irreparably changing the park was going to look like a vast brown wasteland for a time. Complicating matters was the fact that we were hosting a national Civil War reenactment for the battle anniversary in October. Expecting several thousand reenactors and tens of thousands visitors to the park during the event, we were aware that our work would debut on a national stage.

After an intense process to decide where to place the habitat, spraying began. We waited anxiously with our barren landscape until Roundstone Seed Company descended on the park with an army of tractors and seed drills. Within a few weeks, a green coat was obvious on the fields. By the time our guests arrived for the reenactment, the first round of field fill was complete.

The leaves were coming in, and the clone of wildflowers and native plants that blossomed on the fields were beautiful. The amazing thing is that the wildlife is flourishing in the park.

One day during the late fall a couple years ago, I was driving around looking at fields to see what needed to be done, and came upon this odd-looking bird. When it flushed, I first thought it was a red-tailed hawk that had made a kill, but it wasn’t — it was a northern harrier, a small, silent owl. Apparently, its family group made a home at Perryville, and now they return every winter and can be seen gliding over the fields. Knowing nothing about these birds, I had posted the sighting on several bird-watching sites to seek information. Suddenly, and in the middle of the winter, the battlefield was hopping with visitors toting giant cameras in search of these owls. Birding and nature groups are now visiting the park with regularity to see some of the rare grassland birds that have returned to Perryville.

When I was a kid, the song of Mr. Bobwhite could be heard all across Kentucky’s hills. I only rarely heard it as an adult — until our reenactment work at Perryville. Wildlife has exploded at the park. You can now see mink, bobcats, deer and any number of rare bird species. In the fall of 2016, we were getting ready for the big reenactment and part of my preparation, I headed to where the Boy Scouts were camping, just to make sure that we had enough wood. As I drove along a treeline, hundreds of monarch butterflies exploded out of the trees. I had never seen anything like it and quickly called the Monarch Watch. I learned we had hosted a “gathering.” The butterflies were hatching in our fields and waiting in the trees to catch the southern breeze to continue their migration south.

Within that moment, I understood what it meant to stop and pause and be swept away from the intense grind of my responsibilities. It occurred to me that what the Civil War veterans meant — the field was transformed by an unforgetable experience that impressed on my very soul the true importance of that place.

Preservation and conservation: What an incredible marriage! I often tell people that it is my evil plan. If you come to look at the natural beauty of the place, you cannot leave without understanding the importance that it played in our nation’s history. It then becomes a very important and worthy place for preservation for a whole new set of people. We strive, as preservationists, to imprint upon people the importance of these places, and we must be open to any device that accomplishes that without compromising the historic story we are trying to tell.

The habitat project has been widely accepted by visitors and locals alike. Of course, I’ve heard a few rounds of “Why are you planting flowers all over the battlefield? It wasn’t like that during the battle.” Certainly, the occasional comment comes up that we should be exiting the hay off the park like we used to. But I can honestly say that the habitat planting has not interfered with our ability to tell the story of the battle and of those men who fought here. I believe we succeeded in our effort to create a “landscape so detached from the ordinary hodgepodge of suburbia that it has an almost mystical power to inspire emotion and curiosity.”

One day after a particularly long spell on the tractor in the late June heat, I dragged myself back into the office to check e-mail. There was a message from one of our board members, a retired marine not given to sentimentalism. As he rarely e-mails, I opened his note first. “I drove through the park today,” he wrote, “And just wanted you to know that the flowers are beautiful. The battlefield is wrapped in a living wreath and I cannot think of anything more appropriate to the men who fought here.”

That was it. I shut off the computer and went home — you cannot hope to do better than that.
BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

If a picture is worth a thousand words, video is priceless

HAT ARE the most versatile tools in the Trust's education arsenal? Much attention is rightfully given to those resources specifically produced to aid classroom teachers, but they only scratch the surface of our educational outreach. Instead, that honor goes to the hosts of high-quality video series produced by the Trust and appreciated by a vast array of audiences. In fact, one online fan went so far as to call them "quite possibly the BEST educational resources available" on the subject.

Readily available online for no charge, these productions take a variety of forms to meet different needs. Long-form animated maps may cover a full military campaign or an entire war, utilizing 3-D motion graphics to illustrate the movement of armies, whereas Battlefiled Live segments broadcast directly to our 350,000 Facebook fans without any chance at a "Tiger Two."

What makes video such an ideal 21st-century way to share our battlefield knowledge? First and foremost, its visual nature helps make the very reason that these historic places should be protected in the first place — because there is no substitute for the land itself. And we recognize that even if a property is protected, not everyone wants to visit, to make footage filmed on site the best possible approximation.

They also let us showcase the talent of our incredible network of historians — both their expert-level subject knowledge and their engaging delivery. We strive to work with historians, site managers, living historians and archivists who can make the past come alive with their delivery and interact with the historic resources around them.

As one Facebook fan commented, "It is refreshing to see people like myself, energized about the history they are teaching, bringing us on this virtual tour of one of my favorite places in the country.... I only wish I could be on site with these people following them around as they record these." Another added, "It's like having the best in the business as a group giving you a private tour."

Because video content can be shared across multiple platforms — our website, e-mail newsletters, various social media channels and even high-level presentations to grant-making foundations or potential donors — they help us extend our reach efficiently, even exponentially. This is especially true as technology has advanced to allow us to produce an ever-increasing amount of quality content in-house by Trust staff. Plus, even if military history probably won't go as viral as a cat video, these products are ready-made for sharing among friends with just a few clicks.

Individual consumers of our videos tell us they enjoy watching them for a variety of reasons. Traffic to our website and interactions with social media posts paint a clear picture in that regard — users watched our videos 4.5 million times for a total of 17 million minutes (or more than 320 years). On average, we released one video every two days in 2014.

In 4 MINUTES

THESE SHORT, basic and compelling treatments represent our largest collection of videos, with more than 100 entries on subjects ranging from famous battles and personalities to equipment, weapons and tactics. As introductions, they simultaneously teach and whet the appetite for more learning.

BATTLEFIELD LIVE BROADCASTS

WHAT DOES a historian want to do when visiting a battlefield? Share the experience with friends! In our case, 350,000 Facebook followers can follow along and ask questions live. Our fast-paced live videos are unlike any others, featuring special guests, battlefield artifacts, photos and insights offered while interacting in real-time with viewers.

BATTLE APP GUIDES

WISH YOU COULD have a tour guide in your pocket? With our Battle App guides, visitors can visit a historic place and, using their mobile device, see a historian standing where they are standing, talking about what they are seeing. These GIS-enabled multimedia tours are a perfect marriage of history and technology.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT

CREATED to appeal to those history aficionados ready to delve deeper into the past, these longer pieces move beyond simple facts and into historians’ interpretations and analyses of events and their lasting impact.

www.battlefields.org/learn/videos

We also know that these statistics don’t fully illustrate the impact of Trust videos. We hear regularly from teachers — some even submitting requests for future subjects to be covered — that our informative and easily digestible short videos are perfect for their classrooms. As in so many other things, reaching new audiences has a multiplying effect, as they touch 20 or more students in each class, and ultimately, thousands of students in their careers. We have a lot of fun creating our videos, but they take real time and effort — shooting the raw footage may require travel for multiple people, while the editing process can be lengthy, depending on the segment's format. Moreover, there is real cost to the finished product. Each minute of an animated map costs more than $5,000, and every installment of the In4 series runs about $4,000. War Department videos can run several thousand dollars each.

But if you, like us, feel that these videos’ educational value is immeasurable, you can help! Even a small donation to our education programs makes a significant difference to this growing outreach vehicle. A $15 donation underwrites the video for a virtual visit within one of our Battle App guides. And as little as $20 can pay for 20 seconds of Facebook Live video, enough time for us to answer one of the many questions posed to us in real time out in the field.

Go to www.battlefields.org/supporteducation to make a difference to our video efforts!*

YOURS STATE IN THE CIVIL WAR

THE PLACES with connections to the Civil War aren't limited to battlefields. Soldiers came from across the nation, and many communities far from the front lines were sites for hospitals, prisons or cemeteries. Learn about how different places contributed to the war, and how it shaped them in return with these short videos.

*All donations are tax deductible.
NUMEROUS STUDIES have unanimously concluded that committing to battlefield preservation and heritage tourism offers a great return on investment for communities, especially when paired by public-private partnerships. Virginia became the first state to create a state-level matching grant program to support this type of land conservation in 2006, establishing a widely successful program that was adopted and adopted by Tennessee in 2013.

Now, efforts are gaining steam in Kentucky to encourage policy makers to make the Bluegrass State the third state to create a battlefield protection grant program. In the 2018 legislative session, a bill, SCR 158, directing the Kentuckian Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet to collaborate with the Kentucky Civil War Sites Association (KCWSA) and the American Battlefield Trust to identify historically significant Revolutionary War and Civil War heritage tourism sites in Kentucky, passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. In May 2018, representatives of the Tourism Cabinet along with battlefield preservationists from across the Commonwealth attended a stakeholders’ meeting convened by the Trust in Frankfort to discuss preservation needs at these sites. Pursuant to SCR 158, the Trust recently submitted a request to the Tourism Cabinet and Kentucky General Assembly discussing preservation needs at the state’s Revolutionary War and Civil War battlefields and identifies the matching grants programs of Virginia and Tennessee as models for Kentucky to consider.

Alongside many of our traditional preservation partners, the Trust has been an active supporter of establishing a Kentucky battlefield preservation fund, with staff traveling to Frankfort in October to testify with the KCWSA before Interim Joint Committee on Tourism, Small Business, and Information Technology. A key message of this hearing was the verifiable economic impact that a well-preserved and well-interpreted battlefield can offer to the surrounding community, as illustrated in a new study released by the KCWSA. (See page 12)

But the true driving force behind this forward-looking legislation is a trio of lawmakers who understand that history is what makes Kentucky communities unique. As vice-chair of the state Senate’s Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor Committee, Rick Girdler’s support of battlefield preservation lends significant weight. In addition to having a personal respect for historic sites, Girdler represents both the Perryville and Mill Springs battlefields, both of which have benefitted significantly from public-private preservation partnerships.

Alice Forgy Kerr has represented the people of Lexington as their state senator since 1999. Coming from such a historic community, she is keenly aware of the special bond that places connecting us to the past have in the hearts of residents. Her legislative interest in education, and her active role as chair of the state senate’s Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor Committee, make her a natural and ideal ally for historic preservation initiatives.

Chairman of the House Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee Tommy Turner has been another key ally, helping shepherd SCR 158 through the lower chamber. With his support, the measure passed the House unanimously.

Understanding of American history

Veterans from the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam will perform a metal detector survey and limited excavation, followed by artifact cataloging and documentation, under guidance from Advanced Metal Detecting for the Archaeologist (AMDA) and NPS archaeologists. These activities will take place in the Barber Wheatfield, seeking to determine the line of fire in the Second Battle of Saratoga, fought October 7, 1777.

“Saratoga National Historical Park is honored to host the American Veterans Archaeological Recovery,” said Amy Bracewell, superintendent of Saratoga. “This project will give us a fuller understanding of the battle and events that unfolded at Saratoga. The fact that modern veterans are helping with these efforts brings our nation’s history full circle and emphasizes the importance of this project.”

“Just as the American Revolution was central to our nation’s founding, supporting our veterans is crucial to our future,” said Jim Lightbody, Trust president. “Through this partnership, we have a unique opportunity to recognize today’s veterans while discovering the lost secrets of those who fought and fell at Saratoga. We are proud of our role and thrilled to provide a bridge between modern and historic military.”

In addition to the Trust, AMVet and the Park Service, this program will be made possible through support from Wounded Warriors and AMDA.

Look for extensive coverage of this exciting project in future editions of Hallowed Ground.

CALING ALL PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS!

Be a part of our tribute

AVE YOU been awarded the Purple Heart after being wounded in our nation’s armed services? Tracing its origins to the Revolutionary War — and George Washington’s personal desire to recognize superlative valor — the Purple Heart is America’s oldest military award still presented.

An upcoming initiative seeks to honor and recognize those Trust members who have sacrificed their physical well-being in the service of our country. If you would like to be included in this tribute, please contact us at veterans@battlefields.org.

NAME and RANK

BRANCH of SERVICE

DATES of SERVICE
SUPPORT THE TRUST’S MISSION
and discover new ways to give

T HE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST, we work hard to be a responsible steward of your donation dollars, earning coveted four-star ratings from the nonprofit watchdog group Charity Navigator in each of the last seven years for our efforts.

As 2018 draws to a close and you contemplate year-end giving, remember that there are many ways you can contribute to the American Battlefield Trust and meet your personal philanthropic goals. A tax-deductible gift of cash made by check or credit card — whether to a particular acquisition effort or education programs — is just the beginning. Learn more at www.battlefields.org/give.*

CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR

LOOKING FOR A GIFT that will outlast even the firmest New Year’s resolution? Helping protect battlefield land in the name of someone on your list is a creative way of giving loved ones a meaningful gift that is uniquely tangible and symbolic of their interests. Customize the amount of your gift and send a personalized eCard to the recipient. Plus, as the giver, you will be eligible for tax deductions on your contribution to the Trust. Full details are available at www.battlefields.org/gifts.

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

IF YOU ARE OVER 70 1/2, you can donate directly to the Trust through the IRA Charitable Rollover without paying taxes on your distribution. And, your gift goes toward all or part of your minimum distribution requirement. You benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions. This program has been permanently extended and allows for distributions of up to $100,000 total per year. Gifts may be made from Roth or traditional IRAs. www.battlefields.org/irasrollover.

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

IF YOU ARE a federal employee, you can donate to the Trust directly from your paycheck through the Combined Federal Campaign. Many individual states have similar programs. www.battlefields.org/cfc.

Contributions in Memory or in Honor

GIVE AN ACRE

A GIFT MEMBERSHIP to the American Battlefield Trust can be a great way to introduce a budding historian to the importance of preservation or to empower an individual to take action on behalf of the places where the American experience unfolded, all starting at less than 10 cents a day! Your recipient will receive all standard membership benefits, including a subscription to Hallowed Ground, commensurate with the donation level you select, including Color Bearer status. Visit www.battlefields.org/giftmembership to give the gift of history with a one-year Civil War Trust membership or membership extension.

MONTHLY GIVING

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

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