DISABLED VETERANS ARE SEARCHING BATTLEFIELDS FOR CLUES TO HISTORICAL MYSTERIES AND FINDING TRUTHS ABOUT THEMSELVES.

UNEARTHING THE PAST

PLUS THE REVOLUTION'S WATERSHED MOMENT AT SARATOGA
MESSAGE from HEADQUARTERS
LEVEL 221, THE PRESIDENT

AS YOU READ this letter, I will have just celebrated my 20th anniversary at the helm of this organization. Since December 1, 1999, it has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve as your president, and I can honestly say that each and every day has been rewarding, no small part because of the many kind, passionate and generous people who care so much about saving our country’s incomparable history. As one would expect, as I approached this kind of milestone, I engaged in a great deal of reflection and, ultimately, came to an important decision.

Since the first day I stepped into this position as your president, I knew it would be the greatest job I would ever hold. And I decided soon thereafter that it would be the last job I would ever hold. Now, after careful consideration, I have decided that the time has come for me to retire from my position as the day-to-day president and CEO of the American Battlefield Trust. Know that this is not a choice I have come lightly, as I consider what we have achieved together to be the absolute pinnacle of my professional career. But I also know that the time is right; my health is fine, but I will be 74 years old in March 2020, making this a natural transition.

I have absolute faith in this incredible organization that we have built together, and I know that it will only strengthen and grow in the next phase it enters. And because I believe in this cause just as fervently as you do, let me assure you that I am not going away entirely! In fact, you may have noticed that I did not specify a date for my departure. This is because, although our Board of Trustees is currently conducting a national executive search to find the strongest possible successor, I recognize that this may be a lengthy process. And I have committed to staying on for as long as it takes to find the right person for the job.

Moreover, even once a selection is made, I will remain available to help in any way that enhances the mission of this incredible organization, hopefully for many years to come. In addition to accepting a lifetime position on the Board of Trustees as President emeritus, I will also be available to help and advise the new CEO upon request and participate in the Trust’s advocacy efforts with lawmakers and in major preservation efforts. I recognize that my successor will, rightly, want to do some things differently than I have, and I fully respect that my role will, of necessity, evolve. But I hope that my experience will remain of service.

I am confident that the organization I hand off to a worthy successor is the greatest heritage land preservation entity this country has ever seen. I consider one of my greatest legacies to be the quality of the Board and staff of the American Battlefield Trust. In my opinion, these people collectively make up — pound for pound — the best nonprofit in the world. To a person, they all have depth, experience and commitment to the mission of saving America’s hallowed ground and teaching why these places are important to us today. From the Chairman of the Board to the newest intern in the office, these are quality knowledgeable people who will ensure a smooth transition and solid future for the organization.

I know I will continue to see many of you on the battlefields as I walk them, soon as a private citizen with my grandchildren in tow. Please say “Hello” — without fail. I’ll proudly be wearing my American Battlefield Trust gear.

Jim Lightizer
President, American Battlefield Trust

ON THE GROUND with AVAR

READ firsthand accounts from participants in the AVAR dig at Saratoga and learn about how the innovative ideas of rehabilitation archaeology is helping veterans reacclimate to civilian society — and overcome their inner demons and battles with PTSD. You’ll also learn how some of them are parlaying their new skills into careers in the cultural resource field.

www.battlefields.org/bonussite

EXPLORE THE BEST of SARATOGA

EVEN if you can’t join the AVAR crew at Saratoga for the next phase of this incredible project, you can plan your own visit to one of America’s most important battlefields. Be sure to check out our suggested itinerary, filled with tips and suggestions for those who know this region best.

www.battlefields.org/itineraries

REFLECTIONS ON 20 YEARS of PRESERVATION

THIS MONTH, Jim Lightizer celebrated 20 years at the helm of the American Battlefield Trust — and announced that he is looking toward retirement, with the Board of Trustees having begun the search for his replacement. Watch a special video message from Jim marking the occasion and reflecting on his two-decade legacy of success.

www.battlefields.org/20years

FOLLOW THE LIBERTY TRAIL

THE TRUST recently joined with officials in South Carolina to launch our joint initiative, almost at present, interpreting and promoting sites associated with the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution — The Liberty Trail. You can read about that event on page 5, but be sure to watch our new videos outlining the trail’s long-term vision.

www.thelibertytrail.org

www.battlefields.org
THE LIBERTY TRAIL LAUNCHES

Despite a steady rain, more than 200 friends and partners gathered on the grounds of the Governor’s Mansion Complex in Columbia, S.C., to hear Gov. Henry McMaster, the American Battlefield Trust, the National Park Service, the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust (SCBPT) and the South Carolina American Revolution Bicentennial Commission announce a heritage tourism program and preservation initiative to promote the Palmetto State’s leading role in the founding of the United States.

“The project’s ultimate goal is lofty: linking more than 70 sites across South Carolina and preserving 5,000 additional acres of battlefield land in the process,” said Trust President James Lighthizer. “But even its first phase will yield impressive results. In the near term, the Trust and SCBPT look to open a segment composed of 16 fully fledged park sites, augmented by numerous additional roadside pull-offs.”

Doug Beattick, SCBPT executive director and CEO, emphasized that The Liberty Trail is truly a statewide effort, reflecting the full nature of the Revolutionary War conflicts fought in the state. “During our nation’s war for independence, critical battles were fought everywhere from the shores of Charleston Harbor to the hills and forests of our backcountry. The Liberty Trail will help draw visitors into more rural communities by highlighting the top-notch historic resources centered there. In the Initial Phase, we are already engaging more than one-quarter of South Carolina’s 66 counties.”

Among those 16 park sites included in The Liberty Trail’s first phase are five being created nearly whole cloth through Trust- and SCBPT-led land acquisition and interpretation efforts. The groups have already protected nearly 600 acres at Fort Fair lawn, Baxley Springs, Camden, Hanging Rock and Waxhaws. Further, five existing federal sites, three state parks and two regional parks will be enhanced with new interpretation, including state-of-the-art digital capabilities. Fourteen additional locations will be outfitted as roadside pull-offs — 10 of those sites receiving their first-ever on-site historical interpretation. Finally, the effort will see the creation of a first digital Gateway Experience site on Charleston’s Marion Square, enticing visitors to the Holy City to venture farther afield on their heritage tourism journey.

For more information on The Liberty Trail initiative, including historical background and a list of those sites that are part of the Initial Phase of the project, visit www.the libertytrail.org.

GRAND REVIEW

This year’s Grand Review, Color Bearers from across the country gathered in Boston, Mass., for a weekend full of history, fun and stunning fall foliage.

The event began with a dinner banquet at the historic Omni Parker House hotel, where the speaker, noted author (and Trust Color Bearer) Jeff Shaara addressed a topic near to his heart: “History through Storytelling: Rise to Rebellion.” In his numerous historical novels, Shaara has brought the past to life — from the Revolution through the Korean War — and helped inspire countless Americans to appreciate our unique history.

Saturday featured full-day tours to places such as Bunker Hill, Charlestown Navy Yard, Lexington, Concord and Minute Man National Historical Park. Of special interest to many attendees was the tour of the Parker’s Revenge site, land acquired through Trust efforts and studied with archaeological techniques to better understand the events of April 19, 1775. Later that evening, guests enjoyed tours of Boston’s 17th-century burying grounds, and the King’s Chapel sanctuary and crypt. Sunday featured half-day tours of the USS Constitution and Peace field (home to four generations of John Adams’ family), as well as walking and trolley excursions through the heart of the city.

Color Bearers will next gather in Savannah, Ga., February 7–9, 2020. Pre-registration is now open online at www.battlefields.org/events.

Clockwise from top: Learning about military life at Minute Man National Historical Park; Paying respects to famous patrons at King’s Chapel Burying Ground. The iconic spires of the Old North Church, from which Paul Revere sped the lanterns, indicating a British movement by sea. Board of Trustees Chairman Ken Loomer welcomes Color Bearers and distinguished guests to the city he calls home. Famous as “Old Irritander” after its being immovable in the War of 1812, the USS Constitution is still a commissioned warship in the U.S. Navy. The Old North Bridge, where poet Ralph Waldo Emerson reflected that minutemen faced the "lot of hard round the world." PHOTOS BY BUDDY SECOR
VIRTUAL CIVIL WAR
Civil War 1864 puts you in the action

XPERIENCE Civil War combat like never before with the American Battlefield Trust’s new four-part series Civil War 1864: A Virtual Reality Experience. This immersive storytelling approach will put you back in time as you navigate in 360 degrees how it may have looked, felt and sounded to be soldiers. Viewable in a variety of formats—from desktop computer to mobile device to virtual reality headset—these short films take you inside a Confederate sniper’s hide, into a Union defensive position, along on a reconnaissance patrol and inside a Union hospital.

The American Battlefield Trust has long worked to educate people in a variety of ways: in hopes of opening windows of understanding and providing potentially transformative experiences. Through battlefield tours and events, videos, media stories, on-site interpretation, 3D photography and standard articles, we have done well. But most of these approaches lack the same potential to put people back in time as does virtual reality (VR). The VR experience is a different form of storytelling that puts the viewer in a scene.

MOBILE, ALA.
JULY 9 – 12, 2020
Register Now!

PARK DAY 2020
Join us to celebrate 24 years of volunteer stewardship

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and be sure to join us on April 4, 2020, for the 26th annual Park Day volunteer event. Sites from Maine to California will participate in this cooperative program, readying battlefield parks, museums and other historic venues for the upcoming tourist season. Last year, an estimated 7,000 volunteers took part, spread across 160 locations nationwide. And we believe that this anniversary year will break previous records for involvement.

A full list of participating sites will be posted online in February so potential volunteers can plan their involvement. In the meantime, registration is now open for site managers, and new sites are always welcome to join the movement. Visit www.battlefields.org/parkday to enroll your location.

SENATOR KAINE Honored for his preservation legacy

HARMAN emeritus Theodore Sedgwick (left) and Board member William Vedra (right) present U.S. Senator Tim Kaine with the American Battlefield Trust’s National Leadership Award in recognition of his tremendous contributions to the battlefield preservation movement. Kaine has been a staunch Trust ally throughout his political career, including as governor of Virginia, where he oversaw creation of the first state-wide matching gift program specifically designed for battlefield protection.

“We are always arriving to bring people closer to historical events in hopes that they can better understand or even enjoy them,” said Garry Adelman, the Trust’s chief historian. “The immersive nature of virtual reality can help us approximate the personal experience of Civil War soldiers like nothing else has before.”

To employ this emerging technology, we partnered with our longtime friends at Wide Awake Films, a Kansas City, Mo.-based creative media group focused on innovative, efficient execution of historical, commercial and corporate films. Our goal was to produce shorts that approximated the everyday experiences of Civil War soldiers and civilians. Wide Awake used professional actors and created sets, including trenches, on a Kansas City-area farm. For even greater authenticity, we worked with Robert Clouet to perform additional 360 animation, like flying cannons.
EXCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIP
with Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours launches in 2020

HEN MOST history enthusiasts hear the name "Stephen Ambrose" they immediately think of his epic World War II HBO mini-series Band of Brothers, which was produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg and based on his book. Or they look to their bookshelves to find his New York Times-bestselling work, D-Day: June 6, 1944: The Climactic Battle of World War II. Since Ambrose’s name is synonymous with the Second World War, it might surprise some to learn that, as a young historian, he cut his teeth penning biographies of Civil War personalities Henry Halleck and Eomery Upton. It also may come as a surprise to learn that, in 1976, the famed historian founded Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours. Over the last 40 years, that group has conducted hundreds of tours, bringing thousands of heritage tours to iconic sites in American history.

Today, the American Battlefield Trust is proud to announce that it has partnered with Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours on an exciting project we hope will allow our members to explore more new battlefields than ever before, by offering an exclusive discount on tour packages. "It's an exciting opportunity to partner with a renowned tour company, founded by one of the leading American historians of the 20th century," said Trust senior education manager Christopher White.

In April 2020, the first tour offering will take participants through the Western Theater of the Civil War — stopping at Shiloh, Vicksburg, New Orleans — and many places in between. In May, an Eastern Theater tour will travel to Manassas, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and beyond. Tour guides will include faces familiar to Trust members, including retired major general Parker Hill, and Mark Rieck, director of Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours.

"We are looking forward to working with American Battlefield Trust to bring members and friends of the Trust to these sacred Civil War battlefields," said Rieck. "We feel that in learning and experiencing the history where it took place, we can help in furthering the goal of preservation of these hallowed grounds and remembering the sacrifices made there."

As part of this partnership, Trust members receive a 10 percent discount when booking tours. For more dates and pricing information, or to book your next Civil War vacation call 888-903-3329 or visit www.stephenambrosetourseventimes.com/abt.

PERMANENT RECOGNITIONS
installed at two Virginia battlefields

ROM TIME TO TIME, the Trust erects permanent markers on protected battlefield land to recognize exemplary leadership gifts made toward those projects. This autumn, we dedicated one to the Volgengau Foundation near the Breakthrough at Petersburg (ABOVE) and one to members of the Gottwald Family at Richmond, Va. (BELOW).★

SYMPOSIUM GOES "BENEATH THE PAINT" to uncover the legacy of Civil War graffiti

The Trail is made up of six sites — Den Lomond Historic Site in Prince William County, the Graffiti House at Brandy Station, Historic Bleechim in the City of Fairfax, Liberia in the City of Manassas, Mt. Zion Historic Park in Alde and the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum in Winchester — where the signatures, notes and sketches of Civil War soldiers have been uncovered. These buildings typically served as hospitals, headquarters or other places where soldiers would spend time, rather than just passing through.

At these locations, hundreds of individuals added their personal touch in pencil or charcoal from a fireplace to the walls. Some artists will forever remain a mystery, others signed their work with significant detail, including unit or rank. Still others have been identified by modern researchers by comparing initials on a drawing to things like medical records of those who commenter in a specific hospital.

In November, the Trust hosted a symposium to bring together those interested in the work that has uncovered and stabilized graffiti, as well as the broader history of the medium. “Beneath the Paint” brought together students, scholars and scientists to discuss the technical aspects of conservation and the emotional resonance of these personal artifacts. Congratulations to our friends and partners on what we hope will become an annual event.★

MOURNING THE LOSS of JAMES I. ROBERTSON

THE CIVIL WAR commuity was saddened to learn of the November 2, 2019, passing of legendary historian and Virginia Tech professor James I. “Bud” Robertson, following a long illness. He was 89.

A towering figure in the field, Robertson was beloved by generations of students, admired by all who read his monumental works and recognized by millennia who had not only read his commentary in numerous radio and television shows or documentaries. He grew up poor in Danville, Va., and was encouraged to attend college before pursuing his desired career in the railroad industry. But Dr. "Bud" didn't stop with a degree in history from Randolph-Macon College, achieving master’s and doctorate degrees in the same field from Emory University. At the request of President John F. Kennedy, Robertson served as the executive director of the United States Civil War Centennial Commission. Ever diplomatic, Robertson brought together 34 state commissions in a tense period amid the backdrop of the nascent Civil Rights Movement. Fifty years later, he served as a member of the executive committee of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission.

Reflecting on the passing of this exceptional educator and supporter of battlefield preservation, Trust President James Lightizer said, “Over the course of his 44-year academic career, Bud taught some 25,000 students at Virginia Tech. He wrote or edited more than 50 books on our subjects — some of them the definitive volumes on a given subject. Truly, he shaped the way the Civil War will be remembered and understood for generations to come.”★
MONG THE BUILDINGS that dot the landscape of Manassas National Battlefield Park, only three are known to have witnessed the Civil War. The newly acquired M.E. Dogan House will likely make the fourth—period sources note a handful of homes at the crossroads of Groveton while the twin battles raged, and the National Park Service (NPS) believes that a portion of this structure could be one of them.

Located near the positions of the 5th and 10th New York Infantry as they were decimated during the Battle of Second Manassas, and next door to the wartime Lucinda Dogan House, the M.E. Dogan House was, until recently, owned by the private cemetery adjacent to it. After a long acquisition process, the house was turned over to the National Park Service late last year.

The Manassas Battlefield Trust (MBT), official philanthropic partner of Manassas National Battlefield Park, has pledged to fund the documentation, stabilization, and exterior restoration of the M.E. Dogan House, recognizing that it is likely the last opportunity to save a wartime building on the battlefield. The MBT has received a Centennial Challenge Grant from NPS to cover half the cost of the project and has undertaken a fundraising campaign to raise the match. A generous donor has given $100,000 toward the project, but $175,000 more is needed by 2021.

The project is timely, as neglect has taken its toll, with portions of the structure on the verge of collapse. The first phase—a stabilization building—was completed by NPS preservationists this summer. Beginning this winter, experts in archaeology, dendrochronology (dating through growth rings in timber), paint analysis and more will investigate and document the secrets hidden in the building’s architecture. This process will help determine its age and inform the remaining restoration work and future use of the building. The final step will be an exterior restoration.

The house, possibly incorporating an older structure, was built by Mary Jane Dogan, who operated a store from the site. She was influential in establishing the Groveton Ladies Memorial Association and nearby Groveton Confederate Cemetery. William H. and Lucinda Dogan had four children. Mary Ellen had ministered to wounded soldiers as a teen during the war was later a Dogan family spokesperson when Congress was considering purchasing battlefield land.

To learn more or visit www.savethedogan.org or contact cferman@manassasbattlefield.org Follow the Manassas Battlefield Trust on Facebook for project updates.

HE CIVIL WAR may be the defining story in our country’s history, but it is not just a single story—it’s more than three million! Each participant has their own story, one that impacted family, community and all the generations who came after. Stitched together, these individual stories define who we became as a nation.

Ancestry® and Fold3® have been helping people understand their ancestors and the individuals who fought for causes large and small for decades. Now, Ancestry®, Fold3® and American Battlefield Trust are joining forces so that you can find the veterans in your family’s past and understand their stories and their impact on the generations who followed. The Trust will build upon Ancestry and Fold3’s focus on the “who” of your family tree, adding context as to the “where.” Imagine a user discovering integrating information about the places that individual fought, or the places where modern Americans can stand in the footsteps of their ancestors. Future expansions will offer 8th Civil War information related to the Revolutionary War and War of 1812. Learn more at www.fold3.com/ projectengineering.

To showcase the story-telling potential present in this effort, upcoming issues of Hallowed Ground will share the story of a member who has uncovered fascinating ancestral connections.

HONORING GEORGE CASPAR HUPP’S LEGACY THROUGH PRESENTATION

George Caspar Hupp joined the 8th Illinois Cavalry in September 1861, and was immediately selected as the 8th Illinois Cavalry’s musician. After his initial term was up, he reenlisted and served out the war, mustering out as a first lieutenant in July 1865. He served on many battlefields, but a duty after the guns fell silent at Appomattox was particularly notable.

The evening of April 14, 1865, a bullet from the assassin John Wilkes Booth ended President Lincoln’s life, and the 8th Illinois Cavalry was pressed into service.

“Monday, April 17th, General Gamble receives orders to proceed with his staff, the Eighth Illinois Cavalry and Sixteenth New York Cavalry to Washington to attend the funeral and search for the assassin of President Lincoln,” wrote the unit’s surgeon Abner Hard. “The Eighth were at once sent down the Maryland side of the Potomac, in the vicinity of Port Tobacco, which country they thoroughly searched, leaving no nook or corner in which the assassin could be secreted.”

Later, as Lincoln lay in state in the Capitol Rotunda, members of the 8th Illinois Cavalry were among those who stood guard. Whether Hupp drew such duty is unknown, but he would have been nearby, his heart, no doubt, heavy.

Prior to the war, Hupp had lived in LaSalle County, Ill., with his mother, Mary DeBolt Hupp, and several siblings. His father, John, disappears from the historical record in the late 1850s, several years after venturing west. In 1857, a journey that claimed the life of an older son, Wilson.

The 8th Illinois Cavalry was attached to the Army of the Potomac for the duration of the war. George fought at Williamsburg, Fair Oaks east of Richmond, Antietam, Fredericksburg and Gravel Run, where he was wounded. Late in the war, the unit was stationed in Burke’s Station, Va. Continually harassed by Confederate Col. John Mosby’s rangers, they were able to hold their own, causing Mosby to later write that the 8th Illinois was “the best cavalry regiment in the Army of the Potomac.”

After the war, Hupp returned to Illinois and married Mary Callahan, the daughter of Irish immigrants. Together, they had six children and ran a farm. He passed away at the age of 70 in Somonauk, Ill.

Subsequent generations of the Hupp family have not forgotten George’s sacrifice to preserve our nation. His third great-son, William Hupp, is member of the American Battlefield Trust’s board and a marker honoring the contributions of both men stands at Findlay Hill in Brandon Station, a site of significant preservation victory for the Trust.

VALOROUS TV

offers exclusive discount to American Battlefield Trust members

N TODAY’S MEDIA landscape, there are plenty of streaming services. But only one, Valorous TV, focuses exclusively on sharing stories of uncommon courage via great movies, films, documentaries, news, current events, stories, photo galleries, interviews and information from all around the world. It’s a home for real war stories, but from the men and women of acts of bravery, struggle and courage under hardship, including those from law enforcement, emergency responders, medical personnel, firefighters and ordinary citizens.

In the past year, Valorous TV has begun sharing video content created by the American Battlefield Trust — including our “Brothers in Valor” series, which looks at the connection between historic and modern recipients of the Medal of Honor. But now, we are deepening our partnership in terms of content and access.

“We are very honored to partner with the American Battlefield Trust,” said Valorous TV president and CEO Earl Benjamin. “We both share the same mission to continue to preserve our nation’s history, and we’re proud to showcase their great work on Valorous TV to help preserve America’s hallowed battlefields of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War.”

To help Trust members learn more of the inspirational stories we all enjoy, and that the channel brings so dynamically to life, Valorous TV is extending a 25 percent discount on an annual subscription to Trust members! To take advantage of this exclusive offer, simply enter the code TRUSTTV when you subscribe.

Valorous TV is available for viewing on numerous devices, from Apple TV to Amazon Fire TV Stick to Roku. Learn more about the service and how to connect via your favorite device at www.valorous.tv.mom
Recipients of 2019 American Battlefield Protection Program Planning Grants Announced

HIS YEAR, the American Battlefield Protection Program distributed a total of $1.17 million in funding for projects at 16 battlefields in 10 states. These sites represent events from the first period of Spanish contact in the Americas through World War II. Congratulations to this year’s recipients: American Battlefield Trust for group bust practices, national; Chestnut Courtyard for Brandywine Battlefield (Revolutionary War), Pennsylvania; East Carolina University for Kewaunee Atoll Battlefield (WWII), Republic of the Marshall Islands; Fort Phil Kearny for Battle of Bannock Trail Association for Fetterman Battle, Crazy Woman Battle and Cattle & Cenepeto Reef (Red Cloud’s War), Wyoming; Fort Totten for Association for the Carillon Battlefield (French and Indian War), New York; Great Bridge Battlefield Foundation for Great Bridge Battlefield (Revolutionary War), Virginia; LAMAR Institute for Buffalo’s Mill Battlefield (Civil War), Georgia; Maryland Department of Natural Resources for Fort Frederick (French and Indian War), Maryland; New York Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation for Sackets Harbor Battlefield (War of 1812), New York; North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for USCT battlefields (Civil War), North Carolina; Public Land Law Review Commission, Bureau of Land Management and Navajo Tribal Unit for Rose Bowl and Sillvella sites (Spanish-Pueblo conflicts), New Mexico; Preservation Maryland for Falling Waters Battlefield (Civil War), Maryland; Research Foundation for the State University of New York for Oneida Castle Battlefield (Revolutionary War), New York; Temple University for an administrative history of federal battlefield preservation; University of South Carolina for Camden Battlefield (Revolutionary War), South Carolina; University of California, Berkeley for Battle Hollow (Dakota and Ojibwe conflicts), Wisconsin.

Dr. Stephen Humphreys
AVAR Chief Executive Officer

Bringing a vision for the holistic care of disabled veterans to life, while advancing our understanding of historic sites around the world

Stephen Humphreys took a circuitous path to his current position as a tutor in archaeology at the United Kingdom’s University of Durham, where he completed his doctorate earlier this year, and CEO of American Veteran Archaeological Relief (AVAR). From his youth in Texas, he detoured through a deployment to the Middle East as an officer in the U.S. Air Force and earned a master’s degree in theology before finding his passion in archaeology and his life’s calling in using that science to help disabled veterans find purpose after leaving the military.

He joined the Air Force as a 22-year-old lieutenant, fresh from undergraduate studies in history at the University of North Texas. During his six years in uniform, Humphreys served as an aircraft maintenance officer, leading teams of up to 70 airmen and, when deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, bearing direct responsibility for assets valued at up to $2.6 billion. Through his service, he rose to the rank of captain and became an assistant professor of aerospace studies at Texas A&M University teaching courses on the evolution of American air and space power.

Despite these successes, Humphreys recognized, “I really wasn’t that interested in jets — I was interested in taking care of my folks. So after a few years, I separated from the Air Force as I could become a chaplain. Then I would go back to the military in that capacity and really focus on taking care of those troops, the thing I was most passionate about.”

Soon, however, fate intervened. While Humphreys was enrolled at Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary’s Divinity Program — a master’s in that discipline being a military personnel prerequisite for a chaplaincy — he had the opportunity to volunteer on an archaeological dig in Israel.

“As soon as I started digging, it changed my life. I learned about and changed all my coursework to pursue a master’s in archaeology.” With his research interest focused on the early Christian church and the development of the idea of charity, and some coursework already completed, he also completed a second master’s in theology.

The turning point that brought Humphreys to found AVAR occurred in 2015, early in his doctoral program, when he was sought out to join a phase of an ongoing excavation at Vandover, Massachusetts.

“They are the ones who came up with the idea of putting disabled vets on digs; they started doing it (with Operation Nightingale) and the Defense Archaeology Group) in 2011. And they found that most military officers doing overseas research right next to them in Durham and got in contact. So I went out with them and immediately thought, ‘Wow, this is something we’ve got to do. This would work as well, if not better, with American veterans.’”

Since founding AVAR the following year, Humphreys has seen how deeply AVAR’s mission — using archaeology as a tangible way to reintegrate disabled veterans into society and the community via reintegration into civilian life — resonates with participants and supporters. Dig opportunities typically fill up months in advance, and partnerships with outstanding entities take shape regularly. A 2018 dig at a Shaker settlement in New York state in partnership with crowdfunding organization DigVentures received grant funding from National Geographic. During the 2019 season, in addition to a joint effort with the Trust and the National Park Service at Saratoga, AVAR undertook the excavation of a 1944 American B-24 Liberator crash site alongside the University of York and a similar British veterans group, Breaking Ground Heritage.

The mission — collect information that could lead to the identification and recovery of U.S. service members still unaccounted for — was pursued in official partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense’s POW/MIA Accounting Office. Through it, Humphreys and AVAR colleagues have had the opportunity to walk some of the 20,000 acres of land with 12,000 unattributed graves, to guide people to an understanding of their ancestry and the history of the military. But it is the human stories, the personal stories that make the work so important.

“With Stephen as our leader, we hope to have a greater impact to the community, the American veterans, and to those who support the mission. We have so many stories to tell and tell them through AVAR!”

*Hallowed Ground Winter 2019*
VETERANS for BATTLEFIELDS
A BROTHERHOOD of SERVICE

ALL ABOUT AVAR
A veteran-driven nonprofit promoting psychological healing through field archaeology

AMERICAN Veterans Archaeological Recovery (AVAR) was founded in 2016, the brainchild of two veterans who came to believe in the power of this interactive experience to empower former servicemen and women, and aid them in their reintegrations into civilian society. While any veteran or active duty personnel, regardless of branch of service, is eligible to register for AVAR-sponsored projects, the majority of participants are veterans with a disability rating for service-related physical and mental health disabilities.

The organization is inspired by Operation Nightingale™, a British program of the Defence Archaeology Group under the Ministry of Defence (MOD) that partners professional archaeologists with wounded, injured or sick service personnel to conduct research on MOD-owned properties. This is a significant mission, as MOD owns approximately one percent of the United Kingdom mainland, including 777 scheduled monuments and portions of 10 UNESCO World Heritage Sites — including Hadrian’s Wall and Stonehenge. The Ministry’s work is often supported by Breaking Ground Heritage, and after being invited to participate on one of those digs during his doctoral studies in the United Kingdom, AVAR CEO Stephen Humplhrey knew that a similar program would also thrive in America.

A typical archaeological project involves many volunteers who have no prior dig experience. By placing veterans in these volunteer spots, the corps is instantly imbued with traits that commonly exist in those who have served in the military in quantities exceeding the general population — outstanding work ethic, tolerance for difficult physical conditions, precision in following intricate directives. Thus, veterans make natural archaeologists — in fact, there is a long tradition of famous figures moving between the two fields.

But AVAR goes far beyond simply capitalizing on this natural inclination. Whereas even the most community-based conventional expedition is primarily focused on how its amateur participants can benefit the professionals and advance the research, an AVAR project seeks the reverse: It uses the experience to benefit these volunteers. It’s a concept AVAR calls “rehabilitation archaeology,” which, at its heart, is about capturing what ways they can use existing skills to further a cause. Emphasis is placed on providing a strong foundation in archaeological techniques, including cutting-edge technologies, under the guidance of recognized technical experts who are present at every stage of the expedition. All Tier I projects have been located in the United States, but Saratoga was the organization’s first opportunity to dig on an American battlefield; previous sites include the Shaker settlement at Mount Lebanon, N.Y.

Some participants may wish to only join Tier 1 projects, but those who show deep interest in the field of archaeology and the AVAR mission may move on to Tier 2. These recent excavations place veterans in more exotic locations — often outside the United States — based on their specific interests and skills.

AVAR incorporates cultural immersion activities into these excavations, so that our veterans build friendships with our host country personnel while they act as ambassadors for the United States military veteran community. Recent excavations prioritize skills progression, exposure to new cultures and development of expertise in peer support. After completing the Saratoga project in June 2019, the AVAR team went to the United Kingdom in September to work alongside numerous partners, including the U.S. Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, to excavate the site of a 1944 B-24 aircraft crash. Another team joined the Beit Lehi Regional Project in Israel, in partnership with Hebrew University, the Israel Antiquities Authority, and the Beit Lehi Foundation.

Finally, Tier 3 (Solo) projects more fully integrate experienced AVAR veterans into the broader archaeological community by providing competitive scholarships to participate in projects of their own choosing. Those at this level have shown themselves capable of functioning without AVAR’s support and showcase the special skills that veterans bring onto a dig team. By funding their independent work, AVAR is giving these veterans a significant advantage in their pursuit of archaeology as a career or hobby, and welcoming them to a new phase in the AVAR community, where they become mentors to those beginning their journey in rehabilitation archaeology. In 2019, AVAR sent two accomplished diggers to assist at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Colorado and another to Tel Abel Beth Maacah, Israel.
WHEN GOLIATH BLINKED

No British field army in history had ever surrendered. Trapped on the hills overlooking the Hudson River, surrounded and running short of supplies, Lieutenant General John Burgoyne contemplated the impossible.

by ERIC SCHNITZER

PHOTOGRAPHY by DOUG MENUEZ
In truth, the Battles of Saratoga themselves — the collective designation for the Battle of Freeman’s Farm and the Battle of Bemis Heights — were not war-winning. The first was a strategic win but a tactical loss for the cause of independence. And, while the second was a decisive victory, others, including Bennington, VT, and Kings Mountain, S.C., were even more so. But because military victories are often measured by their political consequences — warfare is, after all, usually a manifestation of political designs — the Battles of Saratoga were second to none.

Having lost the Battle of Bemis Heights, Burgoyne retreated north about eight miles to a hamlet then called Saratoga — now known as the Village of Schuylerville — and bunkered down in strangely apathetic fashion. This nonchalance allowed the American army to pursue, surround, and besiege Burgoyne, forcing him to send a flag of truce and enter into negotiations with the Americans who, by then, outnumbered him nearly three-to-one. After days of negotiations, Burgoyne surrendered his army of nearly 7,000 to Gates on October 17, 1777.

The ramifications were immediate and far-reaching. Burgoyne did not simply surrender a British army — he surrendered the first British army in world history. The removal of this army simultaneously quashed British plans to conquer upstate New York and freed up thousands of Continental troops so they could be redeploed to join Washington’s forces near Philadelphia, placing most in winter quarters at Valley Forge. After a string of demoralizing defeats in 1776 and 1777, this victory inspired, encouraged, and motivated America’s depressed and dispiriting forces. The resounding battlefield defeat of a British army was, in fact, possible.

Just as significant, the impact stretched well beyond American shores. Gates’s victory over Burgoyne was the primary impetus King Louis XVI needed to recognize the independence of the United States of America, making France the first world power to do so. Further, the ancient régime joined the United States in a formal military and commercial alliance. French aid, in the form of arms, camp equipage, ammunition, money and clothing, as well as French army and naval support, were essential for U.S. victory in the war. This was particularly manifested at Yorktown, Va. The French Navy...
Saratoga, NY
October 16-17, 1777

Gates’s Victory Over Burgoyne Was the Primary Impetus King Louis XVI Needed to Recognize the Independence of the United States of America.

and the Netherlands went to war with Britain in 1780. Battles on land and sea were fought in places as far-flung as modern-day Florida, the Mississippi River Basin, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Nicaragua, Guyana, the Channel Islands, Gibraltar, Senegal, Ghana, the Gambia and Sri Lanka. The French-allied Kingdom of Mysoor (in modern India) declared war against the British too, resulting in major fighting throughout India’s southern interior in 1780–1784.

Great Britain was overwhelmed with enemies the world over. The diffusion of its forces to protect and strike at colonial possessions was too great a strain to sustain. Needing to extricate itself from the scenario of no-win global warfare, Great Britain agreed to make peace with the newly recognized United States in 1783. American victory over the British was made possible by the French alliance — and Saratoga had made that alliance possible.

The success of the American war for independence in turn inspired colonial uprisings around the globe and enshrined representative democracy as the dominant political philosophy of the entire Western Hemisphere. For this reason, R. W. Appel, chief correspondent for the New York Times Magazine’s “Best of” Millennium Edition in 1999, deemed Saratoga “the most important battle ever fought in the world within the last 1,000 years.”

Eric Schnitzer has been an interpreter and historian at Saratoga National Historical Park for more than 20 years. Earlier this year, he collaborated with the celebrated military history artist to publish the richly illustrated Don Troiani’s Campaign to Saratoga — 1777.
UNEARTHING

RELICS OF WAR

AND FINDING PEACE.

IN COOPERATION with the American Battlefield Trust, a new veteran-led organization is bringing former service members suffering from PTSD and other disabilities to historic battlefields. Through the process of rehabilitation archaeology, we are learning more about past wars and offering healing to today’s warriors.

by MARY KOIK
PHOTOGRAPHY by DOUG MENUEZ

Monty, the constant companion of John Poole—who, after returning from service with the U.S. Army, became an archaeological technician with the U.S. Forest Service—surveys the colored-coded flags that mark anomalies targeted for further investigation.
HUN LIGHTS BEGIN TO APPEAR

in the windows of the rented house in upstate New York, dusk has yet to penetrate the forested landscape. Those inside may not all share blood, but they are tied together by a different sort of unbreakable bond. And, though they met as strangers, when their time here ends, they will consider each other family.

For four weeks in May and June 2019, this house became home for a crew of 30 veterans from the conflicts in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan — many of them disabled physically or psychologically — brought together by American Veterans Archaeological Recovery (AVAR), a nonprofit dedicated to promoting the well-being of disabled veterans transitioning to civilian life through field archaeology. They have come to assist the National Park Service, NPS, in its investigation of a key site associated with the Revolutionary War Battle of Saratoga, serving in two different teams to gain exposure to all aspects of the archaeological process — from high-tech surveys, to physical excavation, to the careful recordation of data.

While AVAR has previously been able to bring participants to archaeological sites in America and military sites overseas, this is the organization’s first opportunity to experience balloted ground in its home nation.

To dig in an actual historic American battlefield... warrants that sense of “more” that you get from being in the military,” acknowledges participant Zeth Lujan, an Army combat veteran. “You think about how many millions of people have worn that uniform. And that millions are going to come after us, after our service is done.”

A combat veteran standing on a historic battlefield has a vastly different experience than someone who has never come under fire. Not only do they instinctively connect with that landscape in terms of military science — scanning for defensible positions, mapping out avenues of approach — they can imprint their own field experience unto soldiers of the past. To a veteran, the thousands of soldiers who waited for an order to charge aren’t statistics in a history book, they are fully realized individuals. The soldiers they envision wear the faces of real-life comrades, friends they lost on the fields of Iraq or the mountains of Afghanistan, even if they carry a musket and powder horn.

“When I first set foot on the Saratoga Battlefield, it took me back,” says Gun-ner Sgt. Oscar Fuentes, who is still an active duty Marine, although his wife has completed her service and they participate in AVAR together. “I could imagine those soldiers getting ready for that battle. I remember what I would do the night before going forwards, how I felt when we were at base camp. I know that feeling, thinking that tomorrow is uncertain. The weaponry does not compare to what we have now, and the tactics are way different. But that feeling is overwhelming. I can imagine myself on that battlefield.”

Bringing veterans to such a place is a powerful goal in itself, but by letting them physically delve into the past, AVAR is a means for today’s warriors to reach out and touch the soldiers who came before them. To tell their stories through these tangible artifacts left behind, and in doing so to discover something new about themselves.

“To dig up a button or something that an American militiaman actually wore on his uniform, it blows my mind,” says retired Air Force Captain Karen Reed of Sandusky, Ohio. “to AVAR newbie on her first dig. “As a war veteran, that’s my heritage, because we trace our military lineage back to those militias. So to be able to sit under a tree where a first American — not a British colonist, but an American — sat, and most likely died, in that fight for us is a very, very sobering feeling.”

F THERE are certain points in time upon which history hinges, one of them undoubtedly occurred in the autumn of 1777, on Battle over the Hudson River near the modern village of Schaghticoke, N.Y. Following two engagements fought here at Freeman’s Farm and Bemis Heights, British General John Burgoyne surrendered his command to the Continentals under General Horatio Gates on October 17. It was the first time an entire British field army had ever capitulated, and the unprecedented event caught the attention of King Louis XVI, resulting in the formal allegiance of France to the American cause. This international support, which later came to also include the Spanish and Dutch, was instrumental in securing the American victory.

Despite the broad sweep of the battle being well understood, many specifics have been lost to time, a typical situation with engagements from this period. Thanks to a confluence of factors, the Revolutionary War battles are relatively undocumented, compared to those of later eras. No robust system of after-action simple passage of time: two-and-a-half centuries is ample time for what documentary evidence created to have been lost.

One of those missing moments is the fight for the Barber Wheatfield, the opening clash of the Second Battle of Saratoga on October 7, 1777. Some things are certain: British and German troops advanced into the field to gather food. They were met by an aggressive advance, as American troops pushed out from their fortified position and drove the British back to their lines. The fighting was fierce. In less than an hour, the British lost 90 dead, 180 wounded and 180 captured, while the Americans suffered 130 total casualties. Beyond that: Plenty of mystery.

ENTER ARCHAEOLOGY, a scientific process that can turn the battlefield itself into a powerful primary source. Surveying a battlefield may uncover both revelatory individual artifacts and distribution patterns that implicate specific scenarios. A heavy, linear concentration of un-impacted musket balls could indicate where troops were positioned, as many soldiers accidentally dropped ammunition while they sought to reload. The scatter pattern of artillery frag- ments can be analyzed to triangulate where a battery was placed.

And while analysis has been conducted for some portions of the battlefield, and signif-
ificant findings have been recorded, experts agree that much work remains to be done. It’s simply a matter of finding the means — the time, the team, the funding — to pursue it.

“...We have the historical sources that indicate how the battle unfolded,” said Bill Graveland, who led the Saratoga project on behalf of the Park Service’s Northeast Region Archeology Program. “It’s just that we’ve never been able to really ground proof with features on the landscape.
Every footprint — each boot 
offered by footfall engineer 
is dutifully recorded.

The process begins with an aerial survey of the site, in which specially permitted unmanned aircraft systems utilize light detection and ranging (LiDAR) equipment to generate a detailed 3D model of the landscape and capture oblique aerial photography. This process helps identify historical features of the landscape not visible from the ground, including road traces and building foundations.

Next comes a ground survey, conducted by specialists from NPS’s Midwest Archeol- ogy Center, in which an all-terrain vehicle tows a specially-designed magnetometer with multiple sensors across the landscape. Beyond ground-penetrating radar, this process also captures magnetic gradient, conductivity and multipletspectral imaging. Then it is time for boots on the ground, as AVAR participants receive training in state-of-the-art equipment with volunteer instructors from Advanced Metal Detecting for the Archaeologist and begin to systematically survey the field. Once all of these data are compiled and layered together does anyone lift a shovel, causing minimal disturbance of these historic landscapes. Traditional archaeological methods, including the digging of test plots, serve to confirm the initial investigations and carefully extract pre-identified anomalies to determine their nature and significance. Details about each excavated item are carefully logged, ultimately creating the most robust view of the battlefield possible. Further analysis in the lab will aid in verifying — or refuting — troop locations as they are portrayed on historical maps.

No one plays Revell to rouse the AVAR crew, but years spent in uniform make waking with the sun, if not before, feel natural. By 6:30 a.m., the pair on current rotation to prepare breakfast is hard at work. The meal is a communal affair and includes a briefing on expected weather for the day, not to deter- mine whether their efforts could be curtailed, only to assess what gear might be needed to muscle through. Then everyone piles into vehicles for the hour plus journey — driving is another duty that rotates through the ranks — to the dig site.

At Saratoga, conscious of the physical limitations of some disabled veterans, AVAR staff begins the day with a team stretching ses- sion. Fieldwork typically occurs in two-hour blocks, with scheduled breaks for food or rest. I am no surprise, with an occasional pause, sometimes with a presentation on how to build a resume suited for pursuing a career in archaeology, or the benefits of another veteran-focused program that a participant has enjoyed. AVAR pays for participant meals through private donations, but lunches are sometimes donated by local groups, sandwiches may be delivered by a Girl Scout troop, for example.

Conditions, as described by Reed, are all that you would expect for a job that puts you in the thick of the summertime isolated, digging in the dirt of an open field: “It’s hot, and there’s ticks, and there’s mosquitos and, there’s sunburn. And ‘Oh my God, I’m sweating.’ It’s grooling on your knees; you’re up, you’re down... A lot of people out here have had bad joints, so everything hurts.”

Despite the remarkable assistance rendered by modern technologies, the labor re- quired once even limited excavation begins is grueling. “People are surprised at how physically demanding excavations are. It varies a little from one site to the next. But, in general, about 80 percent of a dig is moving dirt with a pickaxe, a shovel and a bunch of buckets or wheelbarrows; the other 20 percent is fine detail work,” says AVAR CEO Stephen Humph- reys, himself a former Air Force captain and veteran. “When you find something, it’s because you’ve earned it. That difficulty is key for therapeutic impact... a lot of our participants struggle with insomnia, but we find that those hours of digging will usually cure that.”

AVAR puts into practice the concept of rehabilitation archaeology, which posits that being involved in this veteran-focused group setting can be beneficial to those seeking to re-mediate into civilian life after a military career. Uncovering the stories hidden for more than two centuries, the veterans are playing a role in protecting the battlefield. But, as Humphreys says, “The research that we’re doing also indicates that that battlefield is saving our veterans.”

And America’s veterans need saving. According to a survey by the RAND Center for Military Health Policy Research, almost one-third of those who have returned from deployments in the 21st century suffer from the invisible wounds of mental illness or traumatic brain injury directly tied to their ser- vice. Worse still, only half of those who suffer from these conditions seek medical help for them — and only half of those receive fully adequate care. Even those whose experienc- es have not resulted in diagnosable mental health conditions face an uphill battle to rein- tegrate into civilian life.

In quantitative terms, AVAR utilizes the Department of Defense’s Pain Assessment Screening Tool and Outcomes Registry to measure the program’s physical and mental impact. But, AVAR management emphasizes that qualitative measures specific to individu- als are far more important to them. “We’re vets too, so our participants are like family to us. If one of our participants was willing to make the most of their time on a couch starts a degree program after going on
a dig — even if that degree isn’t in archaeology — we call that a win,” says Humphreys. “It’s a vet who felt lost and alone, and was contemplating becoming one of those 22 who take their own life every day, comes out of a dig with a new group of people who have their back, that’s a huge win.”

Participants inherently recognize that community is the very heart of the AVAR project. But through AVAR, I’ve learned that I’m strong. And I can still give 110 percent even though I’m a disabled veteran myself.”

While most AVAR participants would classify themselves as armchair historians — one-time digger to AVAR’s chief operating officer. “For two years, I was floundering around. But through AVAR, I’ve learned that I’m strong. And I can still give 110 percent even though I’m a disabled veteran myself.”

“MOMENT. But the reality is so different and spectacu- lar. If you’re in the field and something rolls out that there’s a spirit to the object or what, but you pull it out of the ground, and you have an instant connection to that object. It’s telling you a story; it’s now part of all our stories as Americans. I’ve heard people cheering — a whole trench area cheering — because they just found something. What AVAR gives to its participants is obvious. But what does it contribute to the broader field of archaeology? Simply put, an unparalleled work ethic that drastically increases an expedition’s efficiency and output. “I don’t know how to say it without sounding derogatory towards civilians, and I don’t want to do that,” says Reed. “But when you get a group of veterans together who have done the hard grunt work — 5 o’clock in the morning until 4 o’clock the next morning — thrown together, all of a sudden, everything is getting done without even being asked.”

Beyond the perseverance and tenacity created by serving in uniform, participant Greg Aschroft, a medically separated Army specialist from Utah, notes that the military connection to soldiers of the past is also a driving force. “We feel a responsibility to put our best effort toward what we’re doing. So that we can accomplish the mission and find all the artifacts. Then the story can be told accurately and we have it for posterity.”

Regardless of why the results are evident.

“This was just a great partnerships,” says NPS archaeologist Griewold. “Working with AVAR really allows us to extend our available dollars and undertake a much bigger project than we had originally planned. We’re getting far more information out here than we would have been able to if we would have had to contract out the project, or just handle it locally… So it’s a win/win/win win all around.”

Not only did the participation of the AVAR team mean more ground was covered in 2019 than had been anticipated, but the resounding success has paved the way for future partnerships. NPS almost immediately expressed interest in a second phase at Saratoga, potentially in 2020, as well as other future efforts. The American Battlefield Trust stands ready to continue its commitment to facilitating this important work.
CATALOGUING & ANALYSIS

FINDINGS FROM THE AVAR SARATOGA DIG

When the equipment is cleared and the landscape restored, a new phase of the archaeological process begins. This lab work provides insight and context for the items recovered from the field.

* PHOTOGRAPH BY DOUG MENEZ *

Each artifact type receives different types of analysis. Take musket balls, which are classified as either dropped — which can indicate troop positions — or fired. Researchers identify musket-ball caliber to help associate them with specific weapons carried by the different forces on the field. External impact marks and dents can identify what a musket ball struck after it was fired. Impacted balls will also be cataloged against the degree of deformation using a Lead Bullet Deformation Index developed based on experiments with colonial firearms, which has proven a correlation between muzzle velocity and degree of bullet deformation, providing insight into the distance traveled by recovered bullets.

“We want to answer the question: Do recoverable artifact patterns survive that reflect the actions and specific events that produced them on the field of battle? Using geographic information systems, we will compile the artifact data with the GPS points that we collected during recovery and overlay them on the aerial views...to provide a visual representation of artifact distribution across the landscape,” said Dukas. “The distribution of case shot across the site already looks promising for helping us triangulate back to the potential placement of the German 12-pound guns.”

Final reporting on the Saratoga project will not be available for some time, but to mark Independence Day, NPS’s Northeast Region Archaeology Program offered a sneak peak of the findings on its Facebook page:

“October 7th, 1777 British and Allied German forces led a scouting mission to determine if they should attack nearby Continental troops. They advanced to a structure in a wheat field on the Barber Farm. American troops noticed their approach and proceeded to attack, soon overwhelming the British and German troops and gaining a decisive victory.

“According to written reports, such as the one by General George Paush of the German artillery, there were both 12 and 6 pound cannons in the field and near the structure. The General had to abandon these cannons when he was pushed back by Continental troops. Although Saratoga National Historical Site has long known the general location of the Barber Wheatfield, until recently, there was no way to know the exact location of the forces, the structure, and the cannons.”

“This summer’s survey aimed to change that. One of the goals was to learn more about movements on the field and the lay out of the battle — including the location of the cannons. During the survey at Saratoga, dozens of case shot (small iron balls placed in a cannon) were recovered. The location of a recovered shot was determined using a GPS, and the spot was recorded on a map.

“After the field was completely surveyed, archaeologists noticed two overlapping patterns fanned out on an almost baseball diamond shape. One pattern was for the 12 pounder case shot and one pattern was for the smaller 6 pounder case shot. Following the patterns to the points (near home plate), archaeologists calculated the location of these cannons that tried unsuccessfully to stop the Continental troops!”
Many veterans need some type of therapy when they come back because they see horrendous things when they go off to war in Iraq or Afghanistan. Things that people back home don’t understand. Veteran culture itself keeps them from talking, but many have conditions that compound this tendency. Post-traumatic stress disorder is one that you hear about a fair amount, but traumatic brain injury is also common among our participants. Someone who doesn’t have these conditions really doesn’t understand what they feel like — how they isolate you and impact your life and your family. These people have gone from being incredibly capable, tip-of-the-spear individuals, to being labeled as disabled individuals. Together, we show they can do incredible things despite having a disability rating, or despite having these labels. We prove to them that other people have these same conditions and experiences: “I deal with that, too. My spouse hates how I wake up in the middle of the night. My kids feel distant from me since I’ve come home.” They have a new fight, in a sense — against the conditions that plague them after service, and it’s much easier for them to fight as a group.

We absolutely strive to create a safe environment in all AVAR programs. We have a mental health advisor, a licensed master of social work and clinical dependency counselor, who overseas all the applications and is on-site the first week of a project, making sure everything is going to work for the veterans.

AVAR is committed to putting veterans on the battlefield because that is home turf for them, a place onto which they can project their own experiences. We are very intentional and respectful in how we proceed, striving to gather data without digging up and destroying the battlefield. In a real sense, these veterans are still protecting a battlefield at home, just like they would in the Middle East.

There is no way to put into words the experience of watching another veteran find something for the first time, because you see that flicker come back on in their eyes again. For a lot of these guys, going on an archaeology dig is the experience of a lifetime. They’ve watched Indiana Jones and television documentaries, but this is something they never thought they could do. They go from sitting on a couch for too long or having a job they don’t particularly enjoy — nothing compared to the adrenaline and stress of what they were doing when they were in uniform — to holding something in their hands that nobody has touched for 250 years, when it was in some way important to a different soldier.

I’ve learned that it’s really difficult to help people. There’s no formula that tells you how to go about taking someone from point A to point B. Instead, it all comes down to compassion. We try to integrate compassion into every aspect of what we do. We put the best interests of each individual above process and procedure. We only want each person to have an enjoyable experience. More than that, it’s about that one person moving forward and being able to do something different and better with their life when they leave. If you care about your brother the way you did when you were in uniform, everything else falls into place.
ILLUSTRATIONS of an ineradicable connection or natural intersection between the military and archaeology run far deeper than the recent resonance and success of AVAR. In fact, many of the most famous archaeological expeditions of the 20th century had military backgrounds, placing AVAR teams in a grand tradition.

Roque Joaquin de Alcubierre was a military engineer and, ultimately, the governor of the Spanish army, who spent part of his career in Italy. There, while digging the foundation for a new palace on the estate of the King of Naples (later, King Charles III of Spain), he uncovered remains of the Roman city of Herculaneum in 1738. Working under the monarch's eager patronage, Alcubierre went on to uncover Pompeii itself.

Augustus Henry Lane-Fox (who later adopted the surname Pitt Rivers, after inheriting vast estates from a relative, the sixth, first, and only Earl of Lichfield) served more than three decades in the British Army, primarily as the Grenadier Guard, and showed notable bravery on the front lines of the Battle of Alma during the Crimean War. He ultimately retired with the honorary rank of lieutenant general in recognition of his role in adopting widespread use of the smoothbore musket and refining its practice. He had become interested in archaeology during military postings overseas and his inherited wealth allowed him to pursue the passion with vigor, becoming noted for his specialized knowledge of the development of weaponry. While still serving in the military he amassed a collection so vast that its donation to Oxford — some 20,000 artifacts — necessitated the creation of the Pitt Rivers Museum, still a treasure of the university. After leaving the army, and recognizing that his own property was likely to hold a wealth of Roman and Saxon materials, he spent 17 seasons excavating his own lands, instituting the most methodical standards for recordation to date, insisting that all artifacts and not just the beautiful or rare ones be catalogued, leading to a deeper understanding of everyday life in past periods.

Meanwhile on the continent, Eduard von Kalle rose through the ranks to become a major general in the army of the Kingdom of Württemberg, prior to the unification of the German states, commanding troops in several battles of the Austro-Prussian War. After 1869, he was asked directly into the military to assess the potential strategic significance of locations and decide whether they would be worth defending. As a result, he led a series of tours of Roman lines, the frontier forts that marked the farthest reaches of that vast empire, which are now recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Charles Warren, a lieutenant general of the British Royal Engineers, was an early archaeologist of the Holy Land, particularly Templar Mount and the site of the biblical city of Jericho. He commanded troops in South Africa during the Transvaal War (1877–1879) and the Second Boer War (1899–1902), spending eight in the interlude as assistant instructor in surveying at the Royal School of Military Engineering, commander of the garrison in Singapore and commissioner of police of the metropolis in London during the Jack the Ripper investigation. In retirement, he was instrumental in the foundation of the Boy Scouts.

When the Franco-Prussian War broke out in 1870, the same year that he married his beloved Henrietta, Durell Durell chose to discharge himself as a man and accompany him to the front lines. When the war ended, the Durells began traveling abroad on archaeological quests to Egypt, Morocco and Peru; ultimately, two rooms at the Locarno would be devoted to artifacts uncovered by the pair. She died in 1916, after contracting amebic dysentery while in Morocco on behalf of the French government during World War I. Having actively campaigned for greater women’s involvement in the war effort.

T.E. Lawrence found fascination with archaeology as a teenager, monitoring local building sites and turning over any artifacts to the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, which made note of his youthful contributior in its annual report. After graduating Jesus College, Oxford, with First Class Honours, that museum’s director secured Lawrence a place on a British Museum expedition in Lebanon and Syria, where he met Leonard Woolley. The two men later became close friends, with Lawrence assisting in the establishment of the technical standards for British intelligence operations, surreptitiously mapping strategic areas and observing infrastructure construction. Upon enlisting in the British army at the outbreak of World War I, they were assigned to the Arab Bureau intelligence unit in Cairo. It was from this station that Lawrence became the legendary figure of ‘Great Arab Revolt’ against the Ottoman Empire in 1916-1917. “Lawrence of Arabia.” Woolley, however, was captured by Turkish forces while on a naval intelligence mission and spent two years as a PoW. After the war, he returned to excavating, later publishing a theory that the biblical flood of Noah was a historical event centered around the Sumarian city-state of Uruk, having found a flood-stratified 400 miles long and 100 miles wide. Decades later, he returned to military service in the Allied Monuments, Fine Arts, andArchives program during World War II.

Even before OSG Crawford saw action on the western front with the London Scottish Regiment, he had been on expeditions to dig in Egypt and later to research baseball from influenced and maligned projects in the trenches, he was commissioned a maps officer in the Royal Berkshire Regiment before his successful application to the Royal Flying Corps, drawing maps and taking pictures while also being trained as a pilot. He was wounded on his maiden flight and later shot down, spending the final eight months of the war at a German prison camp. After the Armistice, he began a long career managing the Ordinance Survey and, thanks to his wartime work, became an advocate for the new field of aerial archaeology.

If William Campbell had not been exposed to mustard gas in Europe just two days before the WWI Armistice, it is unlikely that he and wife Elizabeth Warer Crucer Campbell would have sought out the dry desert of California, but that the little town of Palm Springs had the first use of environmental archaeology, positing that the geologic features associated with artifacts could be used in dating geological time via the radiocarbon dating technique. Arancho- mist and anthropologist Raymond Ar- turo Tart served medico in the Australian Army, but is best known for his work as a field archaeologist of Australian prehistory, who led a team which represented a “missing link” in human evolution. Ovid Sellers served as a chaplain in the American Expeditionary Forces decades before, as an Old Testament languages expert, he was a central figure in the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Mortimer Wheeler rose through the ranks of the Royal Field Ar- tillery to become a major, even receiving the Military Cross for his heroism. Between the wars, he rose to prominence in the field of ar- chaeology, leading the National Museum of Wales, London Museum and the Institute of Archaeology. Unlike many of his fellow academics, who served in various intelligence capacities during World War II, Wheeler volunteered for active duty in the artillery, serving in the North African Campaigns and helping plan the invasion of Italy. In several instances, he successfully lobbied that military plans be adapt- ed to protect antiquities.

Shoulding arrowhead, Durell Durell earned a degree in history from University of Cambridge, at a time when few people attended university. From 1938 to 1952, she was the Dimey Professor of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge and the first woman to hold the position. In 1943, she had the opportunity to work on the site of Tell el-Yahudiyeh from 1941 to 1947 to serve in the Women’s Auxiliary Air Force, working in photographic intelligence.

ARCHAEOLOGY & THE MILITARY: A LONG TRADITION

Those who have worn a uniform have been excavating historic sites for centuries

Colored T.E. Lawrence, more commonly known as Lawrence of Arabia, after the book and movie based on his exploits.

In fact, the Royal Air Force (RAF) base at Medesham had an entire group specializing in aerial reconnaissance, populated with exceptional archaeologists, whose meticulous skill in picking out minute details from a broader picture made them perfect for the job. Other members included: Graham Clark, who, despite the paper rationing and the inability of members of the Prehistoric Society to conduct field research, kept the group’s journal in publication. Guys Daniel, who later became a public face for archaeology, popularizing the field as a television presenter; and Stuart Piggott, who, when assigned to re-create several key scenes in the film Lawrence of Arabia, developed expertise in archaeology on the subcontinent in his spare time.

After meeting during service in the Royal Air Force and upon dis- covering a mutual interest in archaeology, Ernest Greenfield and Philip Rahbaik became fast friends. They encouraged each other to pursue field professionally and went on to successfully careerv excavating important sites around Britain, including the Great Whitemoor Roman Villa, Graustown Tor and Old Sarum, the first settlement at Salisbury, Philip Rahbaik, another RAF veteran, also found archaeology after the war. He went on to write the comprehensive guide to field technique and exca- vation methodology, and founded the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Another unit that drew academic heavyweights from around the globe was the Monuments, Fine Arts, andArchives program under the Civil Affairs and Military Government Sections of the Allied armies — more commonly known today as the “Monuments Men.” Some 400 strong, this group of art historians, architects, museum curators, archaeologists and others with specialized knowledge worked to safeguard historic and cultural treasures and, as the war drew to a close, recover and repatriate items that had been stolen or hidden. For example, when the Allies prepared to take Florence, which served as Nazi distribution center, MPAA personnel annotated aerial photographs so that cultural treasures would be avoided.*

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ARCHAEOLOGY 101
Fancy Indiana Jones taught you everything you need to know about archaeology? Think again.

MODERN MACHINES have revolutionized the field and made it a truly 21st-century science. Where once, huge grids were systematically excavated in the hopes of finding a single artifact, today's technology allows professionals to peak beneath the surface and know they've found a target-rich environment before ever lifting a trowel.

Here are some key things to know:

ARCHAEOLOGISTS AREN'T SPECIALISTS IN HISTORIES. "Archaeology is a history that is very different things," says AVAR CEO Stephen Humphreys, who holds a doctorate in the former field. "An archaeologist is a professional digger, in a sense, and can, conceivably, go to a site anywhere on the planet and, with a little indoctrination, set to work. It absolutely does incorporate history in a contextual sense, but for us, it's much more tactile. Our goal is finding the things that they didn't write about in the history books, which can be colored by bias that crept into the textual records. Archaeologists come in and ground what we know in the site itself."

So while an archaeologist might be able to identify an artifact on sight the instant it gets the dirt brushed off, even if they have significant experience in that era, they need to work with historians to fully contextualize the items they uncover.

ARTIFACT VERSUS FEATURE
An artifact is any discreet item made, modified or used by people that can be removed from its archaeological context. A feature is a physical structure or element — such as a wall, post hole, pit or floor — that is made or altered by humans but is not portable and cannot be removed from a site.

CONSERVATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Conservation is the branch of archaeology that occurs in the lab after field work is completed. It involves stabilization, preservation, repair or reconstruction of artifacts. Layers of rust, for example, might need to be removed before an artifact is clearly visible. Drastic fragments pieced together to determine what kind of vessel they originally formed. Cultural resource management (CRM) is the broader profession that focuses on the management and preservation of cultural resources, including both archaeological sites and artifacts.

DATA VERSUS DATUM
A tremendous amount of information, or data, is systematically recorded for each artifact removed from a site, among which is the position in which it was found relative to a fixed reference point, called the datum. To aid in organization and analysis, each artifact is given a unique identification number that conveys where it was found on the site.

DIG, SURVEY, EXCAVATION
Until fairly recently, the key characteristic of archaeological work was digging in the dirt across the entirety of a pre-identified area. These days, there is significantly less time spent with trowels in hand, but the field work process is still almost universally called a "dig." Descriptive and evocative terms that seem unlikely to be lost, even as the process continues to evolve. More properly, all of initial investigative work done on a site is called the survey, and the systematic removal of soil in search of objects in areas identified by the survey is the excavation. To be scientifically worthwhile, the excavation process must also record the provenience, context and three-dimensional location of finds.

THE DIRT ON DIRT
Technically speaking, any substance in which artifacts are found suspended — although it's typically soil — is called the matrix. As excavation proceeds downward, layers or strata, are revealed. The profile is the exposed cross section showing these layers in relation to each other. When a wall of dirt is left between two excavated areas, partly to keep a record of these layers, it is called a balk. Before large-scale excavations begin, a test pit may be dug solely to determine the depth and character of these strata.

HAND TOOLS OF THE TRADE
Even in the 21st century, archaeologists do excavate by hand using fairly ordinary tools — shovels, trowels and the like. Having been buried for centuries, artifacts rarely emerge pristine; paintbrushes or toothbrushes are helpful in dissolving dirt so that an item's identity can emerge. Soil is also passed through mesh screens to separate any small artifacts, often transported to the screening area in wheelbarrows.

PROVENANCE AND PROVENIENCE
Despite remarkably similar pronunciations, these terms have distinct meanings. Provenance is the chain of ownership, including origin, of an archaeological or historical object. Provenience is the three-dimensional context (including geographical location) of an archaeological find.

REMOTE SENSING METHODS
Technology has created a variety of nonintrusive survey methods used to find archaeological sites and identify potential artifact locations. These include:

Lidar: Originally a portmanteau of "light" and "radar," Lidar is now used as an acronym for light detection and ranging. It uses intense, narrow pulses of light to measure distances to the earth, producing incredibly detailed 3D maps and images of that surface — an aircraft equipped with Lidar can detect a single likely gravestone.

Ground Penetrating Radar: Often abbreviated GPR, ground-penetrating radar lets archaeologists see what's underground before digging in. High-frequency electromagnetic pulses are directed down into the soil and, if they strike an object, bounce back. The time elapsed provides information on depth, and the angle of the return can indicate shape, material composition and other details to a specialist operator.

Electrical Resistivity: Similar to radar techniques, archaeologists can also measure changes in the flow of electrical or radio waves as a means of identifying anomalies that may indicate buried artifacts or features.

Magnetometry: Mapping any variation in a site's magnetic field can also pinpoint potential artifacts. The utility of such surveys is helping even handheld metal detectors, once considered the domain of amateur relic hunters search for personal treasures or lost in search of profit, undergo a rehabilitation in the eyes of professional archaeologists.

SLICING A SITE
Before excavation begins, the identified site is sectioned off into a grid, with each subsection called a square. A transect is a linear area of land that is sampled to determine the presence of artifacts. Trench is a slightly more flexible denotation for a single excavation area, having come into use before archaeology, was scientifically rigorous, and is used particularly when excavation units are rectangular.

Photography by DOUG MENDEZ

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A FIRST GLANCE, the tranquil fields of Saratoga National Historical Park hardly convey their role as a major turning point in American history. It was here that General Sir John Burgoyne became the first British field commander to surrender his army, an action that drew French involvement and transformed what had been seen as a colonial uprising into a global conflict.

Located in the scenic upper Hudson Valley, the battlefield is surrounded by quaint towns and pristine countryside. Views of the river from bluffs within the park — whether surrounded by summer wildflowers or autumn foliage — are among the loveliest on any battlefield. A 10-stop driving tour allows visitors to explore the sites of both critical engagements fought in the vicinity, as well as the Surrender Field.

The park visitor center features an orientation film describing the complex machinations of the Northern Campaign of 1777 that led to an unsupported and undersupplied British force laying down its arms to what its commanders considered an inferior enemy. Young visitors in particular will enjoy donning re-creations of the uniforms worn by the forces engaged at Saratoga — Continentals, British and their Hessian allies.