

FALL 2020 ★ Vol. 21 No. 3

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

# HALLOWED GROUND

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## DISCOVERING THE ELLIOTT BURIAL MAP

*Long-lost Secrets of the Battle of Antietam Revealed*

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INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRESIDENT ★ REMEMBERING THE LEGENDARY ED BEARSS

**HALLOWED GROUND**  
A quarterly publication  
of the American  
Battlefield Trust  
Fall 2020,  
Vol. 21, No. 3

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We deeply regret the following errors that appeared in the Summer 2020 issue of *Hallowed Ground*: On Page 24, the map legend incorrectly labeled opposing forces as Union and Confederate, as opposed to American and British; a corrected map is available for download at [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org). On Page 37, the overflow location where Mary Pickersgill and her team sewed the Star-Spangled Banner should have been listed as Brown's Brewery; the Claggett's didn't purchase and rename the facility until 1818.

The American Battlefield Trust preserves our nation's hallowed battlegrounds and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters today. We permanently protect these battlefields as a lasting and tangible memorial to the brave soldiers who fought in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Thanks to the contributions of more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide, we have preserved more than 53,000 acres, 143 sites in 24 states. For more information, call 1-888-606-1400 or visit our website at [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org). *Hallowed Ground* is the membership magazine of the American Battlefield Trust. It is produced solely for nonprofit educational purposes and every reasonable attempt is made to provide accurate and appropriate attribution for all elements, including those in the public domain. Contemporary images are reproduced only with permission and appropriate attributions; uncredited images are courtesy the American Battlefield Trust. Feature articles reflect the research and opinion of the bylined author. ©2020 American Battlefield Trust.

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**AS I ASSUME** the presidency of the American Battlefield Trust from my longtime mentor Jim Lighthizer, I hope to offer you, my fellow members of more than a quarter-century, a little insight into how I intend to lead our amazing organization forward.

You should know that I operate under a basic premise: This country, while not perfect, because it is the product of imperfect human beings, has still been the greatest force for good, for prosperity and for freedom for the greatest number of people in the history of the world. That is why I have dedicated more than one-third of my life to this mission and this cause. I study history because I enjoy it; I work in historic preservation because I believe it is vital to the future of our nation.

I believe we must use history to gain insight and guidance on how we should live and govern our lives today as free people. We should use history to uplift and inspire, to light a way forward, not to beat down and discourage, or to cause us to lose our way. The American Battlefield Trust uses preserved battlefields to tell stories, not take sides. We must remember every tragic and glorious moment of our past, so that future generations can learn from them in equal measure.

America's history is expansive, with so many meaningful narratives to draw upon as we tell this nation's amazing, inspiring, sometimes heartbreaking story. As I assume the presidency of the Trust, I urge us all to pay attention to those better angels of our nature, to continue to preserve, educate and inspire, and pass along to our children and grandchildren a nation better, stronger and freer than the one entrusted to us.

In the end, to me, this is what this essential work is all about. As preservationists, you and I are in the "forever" business. It is our charge to accept those treasures transmitted to us from previous generations of Americans, to protect and defend them to the best of our ability — adding to them whenever possible, but never subtracting from them — and then pass them on to the next generation. If we do this, we have been good and faithful stewards of the lands and legacies entrusted to us, and we have done our duty.

DAVID N. DUNCAN  
President, American Battlefield Trust

**FROM THE FIRST DAY** I reported to work at what was then known as the Civil War Preservation Trust, I knew that serving as your president was the greatest job I could ever hold. And I quickly decided it would be the last job I would ever hold. I followed through with that choice on October 1, retiring and paving the way for my friend and longtime lieutenant David Duncan to take the reins.

I have every confidence in David's ability to lead this organization on to further successes — after all, he laid the groundwork alongside me. And I am grateful to him for allowing me this opportunity to write to you on the opening page of *Hallowed Ground* one last time. Not to reminisce, but to say thank you.

Twenty years passed almost in the blink of an eye on this incredible journey we took together, building a legacy that both honors our ancestors and will inspire future generations. I hope you know that I was conscious each and every day that not a single one of the 53,000 acres we saved would have been possible without you, the members of this organization.

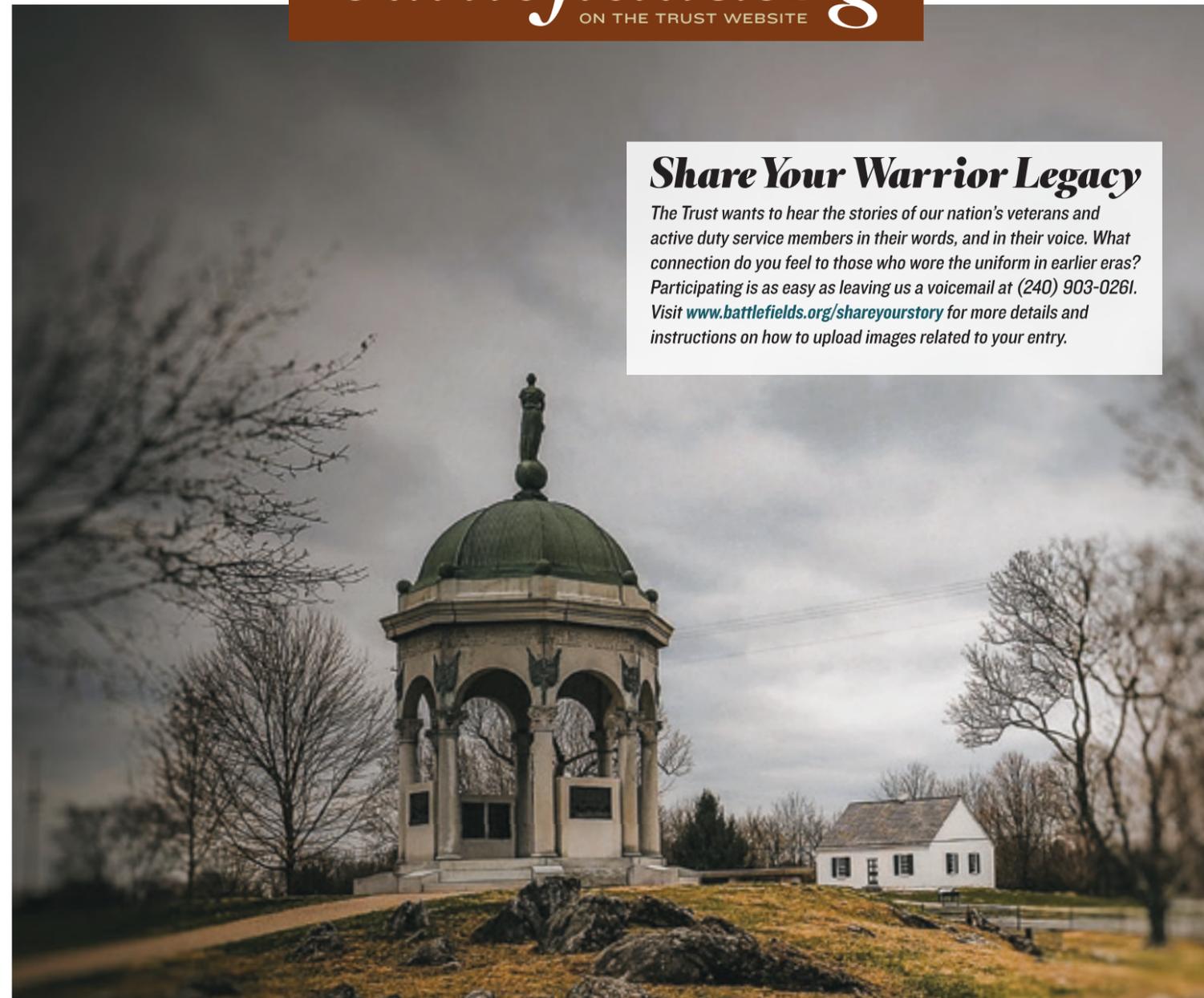
Spending the past 20 years as your president has been a privilege beyond what I could have imagined when I first fell in love with history and discovered that there were organizations out there working to protect it. Thank you for your unwavering support and generosity to this cause. Thank you for the confidence you placed in me and my team as we took on one ambitious goal after the next. YOU are the heart and the soul of this organization, not the Board or the staff. Or even me, though I long stood at the helm.

I look forward to being a part of all the great things we will continue to achieve together. I love this organization and will remain part of it — as a mentor and adviser, with a lifetime seat on the Board of Trustees as President *Emeritus*. When you attend Trust events, I'll be in the crowd alongside you. And we may cross paths in battlefield parks, as I spend time taking my grandchildren to the places you and I saved together.

JIM LIGHTHIZER  
President Emeritus, American Battlefield Trust

## Share Your Warrior Legacy

The Trust wants to hear the stories of our nation's veterans and active duty service members in their words, and in their voice. What connection do you feel to those who wore the uniform in earlier eras? Participating is as easy as leaving us a voicemail at (240) 903-0261. Visit [www.battlefields.org/shareyourstory](http://www.battlefields.org/shareyourstory) for more details and instructions on how to upload images related to your entry.



## Farewell to Jim Lighthizer

On October 1, 2020, our beloved Jim Lighthizer retired from day-to-day operations at the Trust. Please join us in contributing your memories and well-wishes as he begins a new chapter as President *Emeritus*. [www.battlefields.org/farewelljim](http://www.battlefields.org/farewelljim)

## Honoring Ed Bearss

Legendary historian Edwin Cole Bearss passed away on September 15, 2020, at age 97. Learn about his remarkable life and how you can contribute to perpetuating his legacy. [www.battlefields.org/RememberingBearss](http://www.battlefields.org/RememberingBearss)

## Explore the Elliott Map

Digital renderings let you explore the S.G. Elliott Map for Antietam — and the sister resource for the Gettysburg Battlefield — at home. [www.battlefields.org/elliottmaps](http://www.battlefields.org/elliottmaps)



## MEET THE 2020–2021 YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM

*These 15 teens from across the country will spend the next year advocating for historic preservation in their own communities and nationally*



**AFTER A RIGOROUS** selection process and two days of training workshops, members of the American Battlefield Trust's Youth Leadership Team (YLT) have begun their year-long advocacy work, helping share historic preservation philosophies in their communi-

ties. The 15 participants in the 2020–2021 class are ready to engage classmates, neighbors and local decisionmakers by taking on custom-designed projects that pursue preservation and interpretation goals and make a lasting impact.

"The passion of these young people is tangible," said Connor Townsend, the Trust's senior manager of audience development and the YLT project lead. "They are deeply committed to the subject of history — not merely studying it, but also showcasing its continued relevance and resonance in our modern lives."

Participants were selected through a competitive application process, and the successful candidates underwent training in many aspects of the Trust's mission — from the mechanics of land transactions to the philosophies of place-based education — and in advocacy skills, like interacting with the media and petitioning support from public officials. The Trust's professional staff will continue to work with each student to craft a project to be undertaken in their local community, tailored to fit their

passions and interests.

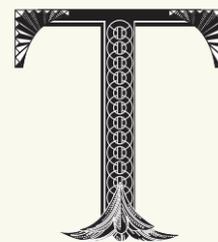
The inaugural YLT class last academic year was wildly successful, leading the program to expand by 50 percent for the upcoming cycle, thanks to a generous grant from the Pipkin Foundation. Also new for 2020–2021: a challenge grant from renowned historical fiction author and former American Battlefield Trust Board member Jeff Shaara that will augment the baseline stipend for the best project with a storytelling focus.

Planned projects for the coming academic year include digital scavenger hunt apps for regional historic sites, infrastructure for physical and digital field trips to battlefields "lost" to the growth of major cities, investigations into War of 1812 "witness trees" and promoting under-told historical narratives, like those of women, Black soldiers and prisoners of war.

The full roster of the 2020 Youth Leadership Team includes: Ashley Alarcon, 17, of Estero, Fla.; Benjamin Armus, 16, of Long Beach, N.Y.; Alex Azar, 17, of Bethesda, Md.; Gabriella Gonzales, 15, of Farmington, N.M.; Daniel Holt, 18, of Mt. Pleasant, S.C.; Francesca Lanese, 16, of Grove City, Ohio; Isaac Leichty, 16, of Lafayette, Ind.; Kellen Narke, 17, of Phoenixville, Pa.; Ashlyn O'Neill, 17, of Stewartstown, Pa.; Andrew Palmer, 17, of Oregon, Wisc.; Sahar Tartak, 16, of Great Neck, N.Y.; Drew Thompson, 18, of Richmond, Va.; Julia Vogt, 17, of Cary, Ill.; Ian Woolridge, 17, of Liberty, Mo.; and Tiffany Yeung, 17, of West Lafayette, Ind. ★

## DAVID N. DUNCAN NAMED TRUST PRESIDENT

*As chief development officer, Duncan has spent two decades shaping the Trust's growth and success*



**THE** American Battlefield Trust is pleased to announce that longtime Chief Development Officer David N. Duncan has been named the organization's new President, effective October 1, 2020. The appointment comes after an eight-month search

conducted by a leading national firm, which concluded with a unanimous vote by the organization's Board of Trustees. Duncan has spent more than two decades overseeing the Trust's membership and development efforts, ideally positioning him to lead the organization.

"As I take up this challenge and look to the future, I am energized and optimistic — even in the midst of a worldwide pandemic — because I truly believe that we are accomplishing work that is vital to the future of our country," said Duncan. "As we approach the nation's Semiquincentennial in 2026, we have an unprecedented opportunity to combine historic preservation, modern technology, compelling educational content and groundbreaking media delivery platforms to engage vast audiences in learning about our nation's history."

"The selection of a new president is the most important decision a Board can make, and we are fully confident in our choice," said Chairman of the Board of Trustees Thomas H. Lauer. "David Duncan was instrumental in the evolution of the Trust from its earliest days and in many of the signal accomplishments of the last 20 years. We look forward to his leadership at a pivotal moment when the importance of telling the American story through its battlefields is greater than ever before. Our mission remains the same, to inspire Americans by preserving these special places and telling the stories of those who fought there."

Duncan's appointment as president comes following the retirement of James Lighthizer, the beloved figure who has led the Trust since late 1999 and was responsible for its growth from a modest organization into the nation's foremost historic land preservation group and a leading voice for history education. A former county executive and Maryland Secretary of Transportation, Lighthizer remains firmly committed to the organization, accepting a lifetime appointment to the Board of Trustees as President *Emeritus*. Visit [www.battlefields.org/transition](http://www.battlefields.org/transition) for more details. ★

## MOURNING THE INCOMPARABLE EDWIN COLE BEARSS

*Celebrated author, guide and National Park Service Chief Historian Emeritus brought history alive for generations*



**ACCLAIMED MILITARY HISTORIAN** and preservation pioneer Edwin Cole Bearss passed away on September 15, 2020, peacefully and surrounded by family, at age 97. A decorated U.S. Marine veteran of the Pacific Theater of World War II, he attended college and graduate school on the GI Bill before

pursuing a distinguished career in the National Park Service, ultimately rising to be chief historian of that agency. A prolific author, frequent commentator and legendary tour guide, he brought history alive for millions of Americans with his deep voice and evocative descriptions. Among the originators of the modern battlefield preservation movement and a devoted tour guide, Bearss traveled up to 200 days per year into his 90s.

Bearss, born on June 26, 1923, grew up on a Montana cattle ranch just outside the Crow Indian Reservation that includes the Little Bighorn Battlefield. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, in the same year that he graduated from high school, he followed in the footsteps of his father and Medal of Honor–recipient older cousin to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. Wounds received on January 2, 1944, during the Battle of Suicide Creek on the island of New Britain, limited his dexterity for the remainder of his life.

After recovery and discharge, Bearss went to college and graduate school before pursuing a career as a National Park Service Historian. During his first posting at Vicksburg National Military Park, his tireless research led to the discovery and raising of the ironclad USS *Cairo*. As regional historian, he played a key role in shaping the two parks created as part of the Civil War centennial: Pea Ridge National Military Park and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Bearss was named Chief Historian of the National Park Service in 1981 and was a key figure in the early years of the modern battlefield preservation movement, serving as an early Board member of the Civil War Trust, a predecessor organization of the American Battlefield Trust and remaining on that body as Historian *Emeritus* until his passing.

At the request of the Bearss Family, donations in his memory will be used to secure additional lands associated with the Vicksburg Campaign. Please visit [www.battlefields.org/RememberingBearss](http://www.battlefields.org/RememberingBearss) for more information. ★

## INTERPRETING USCT HISTORY IN ATHENS, ALA.

*Trust partners with Athens-Limestone  
Community Association on new panels for  
Fort Henderson, Trinity School*



**C**REATING CONTEXT for a storied structure, the American Battlefield Trust teamed up with the Athens-Limestone Community Association to develop and install new interpretive panels surrounding the Fort Henderson and Trinity School site in August. In an effort spearheaded and funded by Alabama's own Paul Bryant, Jr., a member of the Trust's Alumni Board, Trust staff spent a year and half working with local historians and archivists on the project.

Constructed to protect the Nashville and Decatur Railroad, Fort Henderson — then called the Athens Fort — was critical to Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's operations in the Atlanta Campaign. The fort was garrisoned primarily by elements from

the 106th, 110th and 111th United States Colored Troops (USCTs), along with the 2nd and 3rd Tennessee (Union) Cavalry. Only after an intense two-day battle was the fort then surrendered to Confederate Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest in late September 1864. Many of the USCTs from the 110th had been recruited from the community of Athens and Limestone County and were sent to Mobile, Ala., returning home after the war's end in May 1865. In later years, members of the 110th saw the same fort they once defended transformed into the school attended by their children and grandchildren. Founded by Mary Fletcher Wells at the end of the war to educate former slaves, Trinity School remained in operation until 1970; during the Jim Crow and segregation eras, it was the only institution in Limestone County that offered an education to African Americans.★



Barlow's Knoll  
Gettysburg National Military Park  
Gettysburg, Pa.  
NOEL KLINE

## VIRTUAL TEACHER INSTITUTE *reaches educators worldwide*

**D**ESPITE MOVING online in response to the challenges created by public health concerns, the American Battlefield Trust's first-ever Virtual Teacher Institute was a roaring success, reaching 784 educators from 47 states, D.C., Puerto Rico and three additional countries July 7–10.

The Trust education team worked tirelessly to transition the Teacher Institute from an in-person to virtual event in just a few short weeks. Ultimately, the Trust hosted 15 separate sessions on the Zoom platform over the course of four days. These covered many historical eras — from “Lessons in Leadership: Teaching George Washington in the Classroom” to

“Hollywood vs. History: The Civil War on Screen.” On average, each session garnered an impressive 279 attendees. Participant Tracy Apgar Weber enthused that the event was “Outstanding! The variety of topics was amazing, and every presenter was animated and engaging, even being virtual.”

With the access that the virtual format provided, there were many new faces who had not previously attended a Trust event. These included educator Carla Smith, who said, “I attended all 15 sessions and walked away with an arsenal of new resources and connections.”

In addition to new resources and connections gained, approximately 520 educators came away from the Virtual Teacher Institute with Continuing Education Unit (CEU) certificates — made possible through the Trust's partnership

with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

No stranger to the Trust's Teacher Institutes and treasure trove of educational resources, New Hampshire educator Erin Gagliardi attended segments of the virtual event from her lusciously green porch. Recognizing her immense dedication to her students and ability to maneuver between multiple grades and historical periods, the Trust announced Gagliardi as its Teacher of the Year in late August. Her key ingredients for shaping a successful classroom: “love and mutual respect and trust.”

As teachers have diligently had to re-think what learning looks like while incorporating their own key ingredients, the Trust is proud to provide them with innovative ideas and materials for use in the classroom, whether it be virtual or physical.★

## TO MARK BATTLE'S 157TH ANNIVERSARY, TRUST DEEDS 35 ACRES AT BARLOW'S KNOLL TO GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

*Trust donors rallied to raise \$400,000 to secure the site and ensure its permanent protection*



**M**ANY OF THE EVENTS and activities that typically mark the anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg went digital in 2020, but there was at least one tangible and permanent legacy of the commemoration: Gettysburg National Military Park grew by 35 acres, as the Trust transferred a portion of Barlow's Knoll to the National Park Service. Protection of this land had been a top park priority for decades when in 2016, the Trust had the opportunity to acquire it from Adams County.

During the fighting on July 1, 1863, the area that became known as Barlow's Knoll was the far right of the Federal line. This sector of the battlefield was commanded by Brig. Gen. Francis Barlow, whom celebrated historian Bruce Catton described as a “slim, clean-shaven young New York lawyer who had gone into the war as a militia private, and now commanded a division.” Barlow's two brigades initially deployed in the fields before he made a controversial decision to advance them across the land protected by the

Trust and now transferred to the park, and onto a small rise about 700 yards distant. Barlow had hoped the elevation would provide an advantage to his artillery, but he overextended his force and was dislodged from the position.

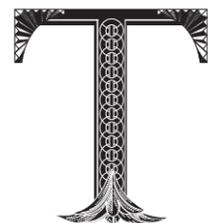
Retreating toward the Adams County Almshouse, again across the Trust-purchased property, Barlow attempted to rally his men, but was badly wounded. On the ground as the battle continued around him, Barlow's location was overrun by Confederates. Although the popular tale that he was offered assistance by Gen. John B. Gordon is apocryphal, at least one Southern officer did tend to Barlow, likely on the transferred property.

Because the Barlow's Knoll tract was entirely within the National Park's boundary, it was ineligible for federal matching grants designed to create public-private partnerships for battlefield preservation. This meant that the Trust had to raise the full \$400,000 purchase price in private donations. But members quickly answered to the call, responding to the land's tremendous interpretive value, which National Park Service Chief Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss summarized eloquently: “To me, this property is as important to understanding the first day at Gettysburg as Sickles' position in the Peach Orchard is on the second day of the battle.”★



## BRANDYWINE PROJECT

*will create the "Brinton Run Preserve"*



**THE AMERICAN** Battlefield Trust and North American Land Trust (NALT) have launched a fundraising campaign to protect a key portion of one of the critical battles on our journey to independence, Brinton Run Preserve on the Brandywine Battlefield. This 72-acre property will be owned and maintained by NALT, marking the first time the organization, typically

focused on holding and administering conservation easements, will manage and steward a site expressly for public access.

Much like the Battle of Bunker Hill, the fighting at Brandywine technically resulted in a loss for American forces. But even in defeat, the Continental Army under General George Washington proved it could hold its own against British regulars in an all-day, stand-up fight. And other powers in Europe took notice, helping forge the alliances that led to American independence.

Moreover, the battlefield's location in the rapidly developing suburbs of Philadelphia make it an important and timely target for preservation.

NALT President Steve Carter noted that even after 28 years in the land conservation business, helping safeguard more than 130,000 acres across 500 projects, the project is exceedingly special to his group. "In setting aside this beautiful, significant property just miles from our headquarters, we have the opportunity to help create a dynamic resource for our home community. Our whole organization is eager to take up the challenge of removing modern visual intrusions and creating a gem in our own backyard."

In addition to removing a modern home, NALT plans to reintroduce native plant species across the property, undertake riparian maintenance, implement a trail system and investigate opportunities for community-based land stewardship programs in partnership with The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County and other local conservation organizations. Interpretive opportunities to help passive recreational users better understand the history of the Battle of Brandywine and its significance also abound.

Total cost for the project is approximately \$3.85 million. The American Battlefield Trust has applied for a \$1.8 million American Battlefield Protection Program Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant — among the largest ever sought for a Revolutionary War acquisition — toward the project, with Chadds Ford Township acting as the government sponsor. This federal grant would be matched by funding from other sources, including individual donations and a grant from Delaware County Delco Green Ways. NALT is also pursuing funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Department of Economic Development and private foundations.

"Our community is immensely proud of its history and its scenic beauty," said Maryann Furlong, Chadds Ford Township manager. "This project will materially enhance our reputation in both capacities and undoubtedly become a treasured community resource."★



## REMEMBERING VALOR

*and preservation history at Chantilly*



**ANY DISCUSSION** of the modern battlefield preservation movement begins in the same place: Chantilly, Va. After watching the development pressures spreading across Northern Virginia consume

much of this battlefield, a group of historians formed the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, our predecessor organization, in 1987.

The Ox Hill (Chantilly) Battlefield Tour Guide app — our 21st mobile battlefield guide — helps users explore the history contained within Fairfax County's Ox Hill Battlefield Park, as well as see how the fighting on September 1, 1862, extended well beyond the boundaries of the park into areas that have now become enmeshed in the surrounding community. More than just telling the story of that one battle, the app shares the controversies involved in the loss of 99 percent of the battlefield to development and how preservationists rallied to secure, save and commemorate the 4.9 acres that remain.

The Ox Hill Battlefield Tour Guide app includes 16 total stops along Ox Hill Battlefield Park's existing trail and other nearby historical points of interest, adding multimedia depth to the static interpretation. An interactive tour map allows users to seamlessly navigate between stops, and brings the user to nearby off-park battlefield locations lost to development. The Trust's renowned battle maps, completely updated for this app, reflect the multiple phases of the fighting and immerse the user in the battle. Annotated period photographs of the park and surrounding area add layers of knowledge. Learn more at [www.battlefields.org/oxhill](http://www.battlefields.org/oxhill).

This project was produced in partnership with the Bull Run Civil War Round Table (BRCWRT), one of the leading such organizations in the nation, and with the support of local historian and BRCWRT member Ed Wenzel, one of the initial activists who launched the modern battlefield preservation movement.

To mark the battle's 158th anniversary, BRCWRT held a virtual commemoration featuring seven pre-recorded video productions posted online daily for the week leading up to September 1. They remain available on the BRCWRT website, at [www.bullrunwrt.org](http://www.bullrunwrt.org).★

## CELEBRATING THE GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

*Landmark legislation provides funding for land acquisition, tackles maintenance backlog on federal lands*



**THE FUTURE** of America's hallowed ground, the battlefields on which its formative conflicts were decided, grew secure this summer, after the Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law. This legislation to preserve and restore America's public lands received significant bipartisan support in both houses

of Congress and from a vast coalition of conservation and stewardship organizations, including the American Battlefield Trust, the nation's leading battlefield preservation organization, en route to its presidential signature.

The measure benefits battlefield preservation in two parallel ways. First, it fully and permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at the \$900-million level annually, via revenues from on-shore and off-shore energy development — both fossil and renewable energy operations — not already allocated by law to other programs. This large pool in turn funds the Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant Program, a matching grant program that has successfully saved more than 32,000 acres of America's hallowed Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War battlefields. The Trust and its partner organizations leverage these targeted federal grants against individual donations to create public-private partnerships to protect key portions of battlefields outside National Park Service boundaries.

Further, the bill allocates \$9 billion over five years to address the deferred maintenance backlog experienced by federal agencies, including the National Park Service, the National Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Battlefield parks are included in this critical maintenance backlog, with millions of dollars' worth of projects at dozens of battlefield parks, such as Antietam, Gettysburg, Shiloh, Vicksburg and Yorktown. Completion of these projects will materially enhance these outdoor classrooms and ensure they are accessible to the public.

The conservation community was quick to offer thanks to the many champions who made passage of the measure possible, from the Department of the Interior and the presidential administration to the halls of Congress. In particular, the following senators and representatives deserve recognition for their leading roles: Sens. Cory Gardner (R-CO), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Steve Daines (R-MT), Mark Warner (D-VA), Rob Portman (R-OH), Angus King (I-ME), Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK); Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), plus Reps. Joe Cunningham (D-SC) and Mike Simpson (R-ID).★

Yorktown Battlefield, part of Colonial National Historical Park  
Yorktown, Va.  
LAUREL HOUSDEN PHOTOGRAPHY



Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site  
Perryville, Ky.  
MIKE TALPLACIDO

## SEVEN BATTLEFIELDS BENEFIT from Trust activities across five states

### VICTORY

**AT ANY TIME,**  
*the American Battlefield Trust is pursuing dozens of projects in various stages of completion. The following summaries represent the transactions finalized in the first six months of 2020, thanks to the support of Trust members and the cooperation of numerous partner organizations.*

#### **BENNINGTON, New York**

In the summer of 1777, General John Burgoyne's British forces moved south from Canada to divide New England from the rest of the rebellious colonies. On August 16, a Patriot force of 2,000 men, largely militiamen from New Hampshire and Massachusetts, as well as the Green Mountain Boys of what became Vermont, decisively defeated a British detachment in upstate New York (though the battle is named for a nearby town across the border in Vermont), setting the stage for the Battle of Saratoga.

In June, the Trust closed on **23 acres** at Bennington — our first effort to preserve land connected to the Battle of Bennington. This land will be transferred to the State of New York for incorporation into the Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site.

#### **CEDAR CREEK, Virginia**

In August of 1864, Union Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan marched up the fertile Shenandoah Valley, stripping the country bare to starve out the Confederate forces in Virginia. By mid-October, the

exhausted Confederates were outnumbered two to one, but after an audacious night march, they surprised Union troops near Cedar Creek. Ultimately, a crushing Union rally extinguished Southern hopes in the valley.

In February, the Trust successfully acquired a critical 12.6 acre tract at a real estate auction saving it from imminent development. Associated with the morning phase of fighting at Cedar Creek, this land will be transferred to the National Park Service. The Trust has now saved a total of **727 acres** at Cedar Creek.

#### **CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee**

After Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant received command of the Western armies, the Federals began offensive operations to open a supply line to besieged Chattanooga. On November 23–24, Union forces captured Orchard Knob and Lookout Mountain; the next day, they assaulted and carried the seemingly impregnable Missionary Ridge. One of the Confederacy's two major armies was routed, and the Union held the "Gateway to the Lower South."

In June, the Trust saved .55 acres at

Chattanooga associated with the assault on Tunnel Hill. Adjacent to the Sherman Reservation of Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park, this tract will be eventually transferred to the National Park Service. The Trust has now protected a total of **120 acres** at Chattanooga.

#### **FREDERICKSBURG, Virginia**

On December 13, 1862, Union troops made a series of futile frontal assaults, but at the south end of the field, a Union division briefly penetrated the Confederate line. On December 15, Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside called off the offensive and re-crossed the Rappahannock River.

In May, a battlefield landowner generously donated a conservation easement to the Trust on 11 critical acres across the railroad tracks from the landmark Slaughter Pen Farm that the Trust saved in 2006. The Trust has now protected a total of **259 acres** at Fredericksburg.

#### **PERRYVILLE, Kentucky**

The Battle of Perryville on October 8, 1862, was the largest engagement fought in Kentucky. Confederates exploited their early advantage due to lack of commu-

nication in the Union command, until Federal reinforcements turned the tide. Confronted by a larger force and running low on supplies, Gen. Braxton Bragg withdrew toward the Cumberland Gap.

In February, the Trust, the federal American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), the HTR Foundation, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and Boyle County partnered to save 122 acres at Perryville. This land is destined for transfer to the Commonwealth of Kentucky for incorporation into Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site, along with several other pieces of battlefield land owned by the Trust. The Trust has now preserved a total of **1,150 acres** at Perryville.

#### **REAM'S STATION, Virginia**

On August 25, 1864, the Second Battle of Ream's Station saw Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill sent to stop the destruction of the Weldon Railroad, a vital supply line for the Confederate army. Hill expelled the Union troops from the station, but lost key parts of the railroad, creating major logistical complications for the Richmond-Petersburg Campaign.

In January, the Trust acquired 101

acres at Reams Station, thanks to the assistance of the Commonwealth of Virginia and its Virginia Battlefields Preservation Fund (VBPF), the HTR Foundation and ABPP. The acquisition of this property nearly completes the preservation of the battlefield and enables the Trust the ability to extend its existing interpretive trails. The Trust has now preserved a total of **293 acres** at Reams Station.

#### **SHEPHERDSTOWN, West Virginia**

The Battle of Shepherdstown was the most significant engagement of the contested Confederate retreat following the Battle of Antietam. On September 19, Union forces pushed across the Potomac River at Boteler's Ford, attacking the Confederate rear guard, but were ultimately discouraged by a powerful counterattack the next day.

In June, the Trust partnered with the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Land Easement program to place a conservation easement on 278 acres at Shepherdstown. The Trust has now saved a total of **621 acres** at Shepherdstown.★



Brown's Ferry Tavern  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
KENNETH MAY

## IN SOUTH CAROLINA, REDEFINING BRAVERY

*Archaeological study pinpoints the location of Hamilton fan-favorite John Laurens's last battle*



of the musical *Hamilton*, perished in the fight at the age of 27. Now, thanks to the marriage of period British documentation and modern technology, researchers have solved the mystery of the exact location of the Battle of Tar Bluff.

"The South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust [SCBPT] has identified 70 battles across South Carolina, which we are researching and documenting in detail," commented Doug Bostick, executive director, South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust. "The Battle of Tar Bluff, though only about an hour of the Revolutionary War, gives us insight into the fact that fighting in South Carolina continued into late 1782."

In late August 1782, after more than two years of fighting on South Carolina soil — and more than 10 months after the Lord Cornwallis surrendered his army at Yorktown — British General Alexander Leslie prepared to evacuate Charleston and sent Major William Brereton on a foraging expedition to raid rice fields and plantations south of the city. Patriot General Nathanael Greene, upon learning of British intentions, positioned Brigadier General Mordecai Gist at a ferry crossing on the Combahee River (pronounced COME-bee) to harass the British. On his arrival at the river's east bank, Gist found 18 British boats anchored opposite his position. Not one to miss an opportunity to



make a name for himself, Laurens roused himself and also made for the river.

On August 26, Gist sent Laurens and 50 troops, including infantry from the Delaware Regiment and artillerymen under Captain James Smith, to secure the river 12 miles below the ferry. As Laurens's column moved to place their howitzer, they were spotted by the British. That night, the British slipped anchor and floated downstream with the tide. While Laurens and the Patriots slept at Stocks Plantation, 140 British infantry set up an ambush. In the early morning darkness, as Laurens and Smith moved into position, they were killed by the British, who then captured the gun, and took cover in the swamp to wait for Gist. Meanwhile, General Gist, in an effort to prevent Laurens's column from being taken by surprise, had marched into his own British ambush. A second battle forced both sides to retreat, neither able to claim victory.

Until this summer, the exact location of the Battle of Tar Bluff was not known. SCBPT archaeologist Mike Yianopoulos and volunteer archaeologist John Allison led the research to document the movement of the troops and location of the battle. After interviews and site tours, the team matched high-tech lidar imagery to a crude British map, narrowing the area to be searched by metal detectors. The detailed survey successfully yielded clues: dropped and fired balls, grapeshot, an Irish half penny, a bayonet and other items. The final archaeology report is being drafted now and will later be available online.

"Once we cataloged and mapped the artifacts, we were not only able to pinpoint the battle area, but also were able to gain valuable insight into the tactics of the battle," stated Yianopoulos. "Our findings confirmed the location of the death of John Laurens and the capture of the Patriot howitzer by the British."

South Carolina's remarkable Revolutionary War history has long been overshadowed by the state's role in the Civil War, while other regions have gained a reputation as being integral to the War for Independence. The Liberty Trail, a joint venture of SCBPT and the American Battlefield Trust, seeks to change this narrative and shed light on the decisive role that fighting in the Southern Campaigns played in securing American victory. Through the creation of new parkland, improved on-site learning opportunities and cutting-edge digital interpretation, the Liberty Trail will bring these untold stories and forgotten figures to the forefront. Learn more at [www.thelibertytrail.org](http://www.thelibertytrail.org).

Although now known to millions of Americans as the youthful best friend of Alexander Hamilton, John Laurens was a character in his own right whose story deserves to be told. Born in Charleston, South Carolina, he was the son of Henry Laurens, president of the Second Continental Congress. The senior Laurens derived great wealth from being a notable slave trader, but his son became an outspoken critic of slavery. Known for his reckless bravery in support of the Patriot cause, Laurens was captured by the British and violated the terms of his parole in Pennsylvania to return to the Palmetto State and keep fighting. ★

Laurens drawing by Charles Fraser, PUBLIC DOMAIN



Laurens Run, named for the path that Patriot hero John Laurens took to his death in a British ambush at the Battle of Tar Bluff, S.C., August 26, 1782. SOUTH CAROLINA BATTLEGROUND PRESERVATION TRUST



Experts compared modern landscapes to a period map drawn by a British survivor of the battle.



Not all items recovered dated to the battle. "Slave tags" were issued for an annual fee by the city of Charleston to designate the type of work authorized for each individual. This example is from 1836.



A bayonet recovered from the Tar Bluff Battlefield during archaeology work in the summer of 2020.



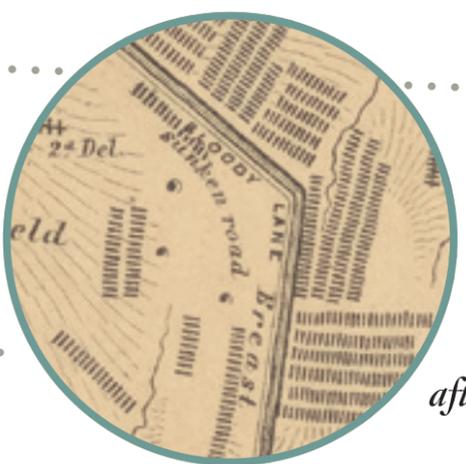
A piece of grapeshot from the 1782 Battle of Tar Bluff, during which Patriot hero John Laurens was killed in a British ambush. SOUTH CAROLINA BATTLEGROUND PRESERVATION TRUST

BATTLE OF ANTIETAM.

The Battle of Antietam was fought September 17th and 18th, 1862. The fighting was a tactical draw, but it was a strategic victory for the Union. It was the last time that the Confederacy was able to invade the North. The battle was fought on a narrow strip of land between the Potomac River and Sharpsburg, Maryland. The Union army, led by General George B. McClellan, was positioned on the left side of the map, and the Confederate army, led by General Robert E. Lee, was on the right. The map shows the positions of the two armies and the various engagements that took place during the battle. The map is a detailed and accurate representation of the battlefield, and it is a valuable resource for historians and researchers.

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HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Newly emerged map shows the bloody aftermath of the Battle of Antietam



WITHOUT A DOUBT, the battlefield at Antietam, site of the September 17, 1862, clash that still represents the bloodiest day in American history, is hallowed ground.

Antietam National Battlefield protects landscapes associated with the Union victory that gave Abraham Lincoln the opportunity to issue his Emancipation Proclamation. Now, a period map, uncovered by happenstance by researchers primarily concerned with a different engagement, is shedding new light on the human toll of war by showing the locations where more than 5,800 Americans were buried on that field, often just feet from where they fell.

The map unleashes a host of interpretive opportunities for historians. "This discovery reveals truths about the Battle of Antietam lost to time," said Trust Chief Historian Garry Adelman. "It's like the Rosetta Stone: By demonstrating new ways that primary sources already at our disposal relate to each other, it has the power to confirm some of our long-held beliefs — or maybe turn some of our suppositions on their heads."

Although residing in the collection of the New York Public Library and digitized by that organization via a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities nearly two years ago, this map was wholly unknown to experts in the field, including the National Park Service staff at Antietam National Battlefield.

It emerged this spring, when researchers from the Adams County Historical Society (ACHS) in Gettysburg, Pa., were looking for information on the mapmaker Simon G. Elliott, who is renowned in Civil War history circles for a similarly detailed and often-cited study of the Gettysburg Battlefield. To confirm the significance of the discovery, ACHS researcher Timothy H. Smith reached out to the Trust's Adelman, a close friend and longtime collaborator, and Antietam National Battlefield park ranger historian Brian Baracz.

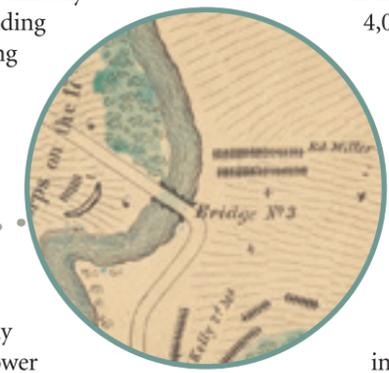
The Antietam Elliott Map, like its Gettysburg counterpart,

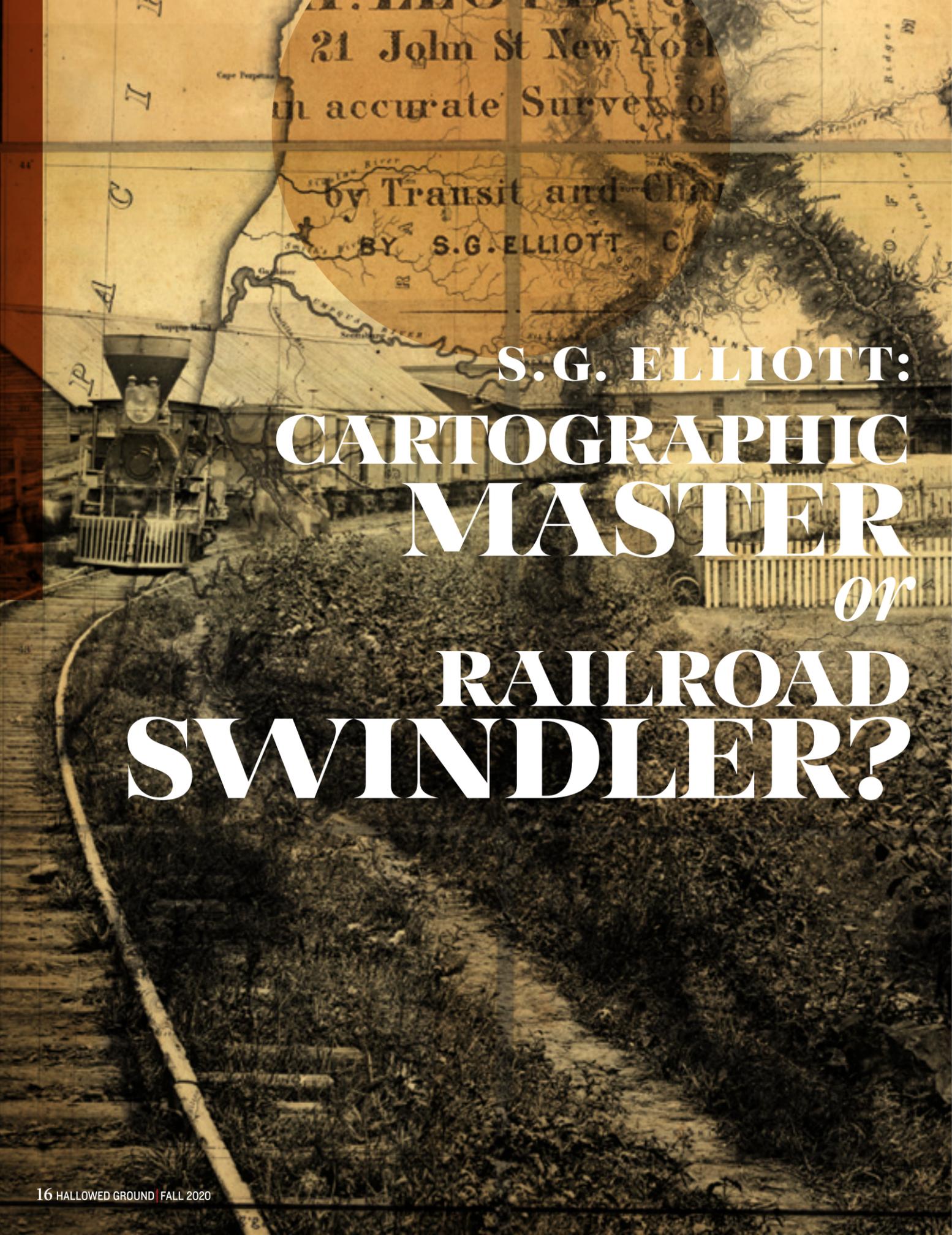
shows significant detail about how the battlefield appeared in the aftermath of fighting. The two maps were likely made at approximately the same time — autumn of 1864, when Elliott came east to lobby Congress on a railroad bill. Although they were recorded a year (in the case of Gettysburg) or two (in the case of Antietam), after the battle, they show precise locations for burials of Union and Confederate soldiers (differentiated by the icon used), as well as horses, because they were based on surveys done immediately following the fighting.

The Battle of Antietam saw some 23,000 total casualties, with the National Park Service interpreting that between 4,000 and 5,000 of those are individuals who died on the day of the battle. Although historians are still performing analysis on the map, more than 5,800 soldier burials are individually recorded, typically in groups associated with a particular regiment, also noted on the map. Field burials often saw soldiers interred by comrades, very close to where they fell, meaning that the map confirms the locations where units were engaged on the field.

This type of detail opens up remarkable interpretive opportunities, especially when paired with other documentation of the battle, like diary entries describing the work of burial crews and the aftermath photographs taken by Alexander Gardner, the echoes of which can be found in the Elliott Map. Likewise, the visual representation of exactly where men died and were buried — although the number of burials made at Antietam National Cemetery demonstrates the vast majority of these internments have been moved off the field, occasional discoveries of human remains do occur at Antietam and other sites — has major implications on battlefield preservation initiatives. The Elliott Map shows that dozens of men were once buried in the immediate vicinity of the national park's visitor center. The 461 acres that have been protected by the American Battlefield Trust show evidence of more than 600 burials.

The National Park Service is already making plans to integrate the Elliot Map, both visually and interpretively, into exhibits at the Antietam National Battlefield Visitor Center.★





# S.G. ELLIOTT: CARTOGRAPHIC MASTER *or* RAILROAD SWINDLER?

## ACTUALLY, BOTH.

by ANDREW I. DALTON

# T

**HE GRUESOME TASK** of exhuming and reintering thousands of bodies from a Civil War battlefield for permanent burial in formal cemeteries was made easier by early efforts to locate and document the temporary burial places of countless soldiers. Although such works exist in various formats and for multiple sites, the most widely known of these resources among modern historians is a survey of the Gettysburg Battlefield published in 1864 under the name “S. G. Elliott.” This

in conjunction with Gettysburg, and it was research into this question that allowed the Antietam Burial Map to come into the public consciousness. This may be attributed to the absence of period references, particularly in local newspapers, to Elliott’s presence in Gettysburg during the map’s creation. This is odd, given that the map appears to have been commissioned by Gettysburg’s own David Wills and other representatives of the newly established Soldiers’ National Cemetery Commission in 1864. Adding confusion to the story is the fact that Elliott could not have been in Gettysburg until, at the earliest, late January of 1864, when a majority of Union dead had already been moved to the new cemetery. Thus, the map reflects a landscape that no longer existed for Elliott when he reached Gettysburg. Because of this, it is evident that Elliott’s map does not reflect his own fieldwork, but is instead based on an earlier survey, or surveys, conducted by associates of Wills.

The identity of S.G. Elliott as California railroad engineer Simon Green Elliott is based on two sources. The first is



map — considered without parallel until a “sister” document showing the Antietam Battlefield emerged in 2020 — delineates 8,352 individual burial locations and 345 dead horses. And while it has been used in hundreds, if not thousands, of books, articles and Gettysburg studies, very little has been written about its origins or its mysterious creator.

### FINDING S.G. ELLIOTT

Until the summer of 2020, no published work delved into the identity of S.G. Elliott

an August 1, 1864, *Philadelphia Press* article, which states that “a good, we might say the only reliable, map of ‘The Battlefield of Gettysburg’ is that made by S.G. Elliott, of California, who, while visiting this State, was induced, by many personal friends, to make an accurate survey of the ground by transit and chain.”

The second source is an article in Marysville, California’s *Daily Appeal* of July 20, 1864:

S. G. Elliott, Chief Engineer of the California and Oregon Railroad ...

visited the battlefield of Gettysburg, as a matter of curiosity, and it occurred to him that an accurate map of that historical ground would be a source of public interest, and following up this idea, made a survey and map which he has just had engraved in Philadelphia. This map shows the location of the Union and rebel breastworks, where the batteries were placed, and also locates all the graves of the killed in that fearful encounter. This latter feature is something new in map making, and it shows the intensity and deadliness of the struggle at the various points as the killed of both sides were buried on the spot where they fell. On examination, the map becomes an absorbing interest, and it is invaluable as a record of those three days' battles.... The map will soon be for sale in California.

### WHO WAS SIMON G. ELLIOTT?

Simon Green Elliott was born March 27, 1828, in Pittsfield, New Hampshire. One of at least nine children, he was the son of Joseph Elliott, a farmer, and Betsey Seavey. In 1855, at the age of 27, he made the long journey to California, where he would reside permanently for roughly the next decade. Inspired by the 1849 gold rush and "in search of a fortune," he settled in Beal's Bar, a prominent gold mining camp near the American River.

In 1856, Elliott began his public career as a surveyor, although, according to journalist Henry Villard, he had "nothing but an ordinary school education." But Elliott's skills were enough to warrant his appointment as road supervisor. The following year, Elliott ran for and won the position of Placer County surveyor. Three years later, he was hired to survey the boundaries between Sutter, Sacramento and Placer Counties. The following year, he conducted a much larger survey for executives of the Sacramento, Placer and Nevada Railroad Company. Elliott was to find a suitable rail route between Northern California and Nevada. After completing his travels, he had a map engraved and published, with his name prominently displayed in bold cursive script.

During the summer of 1863, Elliott was elected chief engineer of the Oregon and California Railroad Company. He was tasked with surveying a rail route between Marysville, Calif., and Portland, Ore., a 641-mile stretch. However, several months into the expedition, Elliott and his companions became embroiled in a dispute and, at the same time, ran out of funds to support their work. Desperate and frustrated, Elliott "left the party in possession of all its equipment and returned south to California" without completing the survey. On November 20, 1863, one day after President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, Elliott falsely reported to local papers that "the party...completed its work," and that he was prepared to travel to Washington to lay "the claims and merits



Confederate bodies at the Rose Farm after the Battle of Gettysburg. by ALEXANDER GARDNER LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

## PERHAPS ELLIOTT SOUGHT TO CAPITALIZE ON THE NATIONAL INTEREST GETTYSBURG WAS RECEIVING AND CONVINCED WILLS TO ENGAGE HIS SERVICES.

of the enterprise before Congress, [solicit] grants of land, right of way, and such other aid as Congress may see fit to bestow." And so, with a multimillion-dollar project hanging in the balance, Elliott began his voyage east, arriving in New York City by boat on January 18, 1864.

### THE ELLIOTT MAPS

While in Washington lobbying on behalf of the proposed Oregon and California Railroad, Elliott produced at least two detailed surveys of the Gettysburg and Antietam Battlefields. How exactly he became connected with officials at either site is not known, but it does appear that he was given access to original, detailed surveys of temporary burials on both fields. By January 1864, a majority of Gettysburg's Union dead had been removed to the new Soldiers' National Cemetery. But Elliott's map shows these very same bodies on the field where they fell. Furthermore, Elliott's maps show dead horses on both battlefields

that would have been either burned or buried long before his arrival in Washington. This evidence suggests that Elliott's maps were not original, perhaps copies of earlier work created by community members like David Wills at Gettysburg and a team of local surveyors at Antietam. In the case of Wills, Pennsylvania newspapers actually reported that he had commissioned a detailed survey of temporary burial locations within two weeks of the battle — quite an impressive feat.

However, several important questions remain unanswered about the timing, purpose and contents of the Gettysburg Elliott Map. For instance, its commercial value remains uncertain. Perhaps David Wills sought to impress upon the public the monumental task his team had accomplished in moving thousands of bodies from improper graves to the new Soldiers' National Cemetery. Or, perhaps Elliott sought to capitalize on the national interest Gettysburg was receiving and convinced

Wills to engage his services. If Wills sought lasting financial support for the cemetery, he may have seen Elliott as a vehicle to spread the news about Gettysburg's new cemetery — a win-win. Regardless, it is clear that the map was not intended to be used as a tool to locate individual graves on the battlefield. In fact, out of more than 8,000 graves notated, Elliott identified just 17 by name.

While Elliott's Antietam map bears a striking resemblance to his Gettysburg work, one major difference is that far more individual burials are identified by name on the Antietam map. Because Antietam's dead were not relocated to a cemetery until after Elliott's work in 1864, perhaps he had greater access to field notes from earlier surveys.

Regardless of the specific circumstances of Elliott's work on these surveys, it is now apparent that he was nowhere near either Gettysburg or Antietam when the initial burial information was being collected. His maps were undoubtedly based on the efforts of earlier surveyors and, in the case of Gettysburg, may represent the field as it appeared within mere days of the battle. Elliott deserves credit for compiling this valuable information and having it published. It may well be the closest historians come to understanding the physical aftermath of America's costliest battles. ★

*Andrew Dalton is the executive director of the Adams County Historical Society.*

*Remembering that each symbol on the newly discovered Elliott Burial Map represents a lost American life at the Battle of Antietam, we enlisted our partners at Ancestry and Fold 3 to help uncover the powerful human stories held within the document.*

*by ANNE GILLESPIE MITCHELL  
PHOTOGRAPHY by MATT BRANT*

† In the Bloody Cornfield,  
**PVT. HAYWARD** left behind  
a widow and three children.

The Cornfield  
Antietam National Battlefield  
Sharpsburg, Md.

# T

**HE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM** still looms large in the American consciousness. It was the Union victory upon which President Abraham Lincoln pinned his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. The pictures captured by Alexander Gardner and his team of photographers changed how Americans looked at war, bringing home its tragedy with images of the dead on the battlefield. The vast number of casualties made medical teams rethink procedures for triage and battlefield surgery in ways that echo into the 21st century. But for the families and loved ones of the

more than 22,000 men killed, wounded or captured at Antietam, it was a personal experience. And their lives were never the same.

The S.G. Elliott Burial Map for Antietam records more than 50 specific field burials by name. These are the stories of some of those individuals.

### THE IRISH IMMIGRANT

Miles Casey and his wife Jane were both born in Ireland. She was a widow with four children when they married and settled in Rochester, N.Y. They had one son together, also named Miles, who was about two when his father left for the war. No stranger to war, having fought in Crimea for the British Army, Casey volunteered to fight for his new country, and his fellow soldiers honored him by making him a color bearer—one who carries the flag.

Casey enlisted in Company K of the 108th New York volunteers on August 8, 1862. A little more than a month later, his regiment saw in its first battle at Charleston, W.V. Four days later, when the regiment took fire from Confederates defending a Sunken Road near Sharpsburg, Md., Casey took a bullet in the left leg.

Col. Oliver Hazard Palmer of the 108th wrote to his cousin:

*“The action commenced about 7 ½ o’clock in the morning. My command remained in line and continued in position — firing with great rapidity and energy in the face of deadly fire of the enemy, where were stationed in the cornfield and rifle-pits, not more than twenty or thirty rods distant, until about half*

Made possible by a partnership between the American Battlefield Trust and



*past 12 o’clock in the afternoon. During the action a charge was made up on the rifle pits, and my command took 159 rebel privates, and non-commissioned officers, three rebel captains and six rebel lieutenants, also one stand of the Reg’t Colors of the 14th North Carolina Reg’t. These colors were taken by Henry Niles, in Co. K.”*

The severely wounded Casey was found by his fellow soldiers later in a frame house near the Bloody Lane. A bullet passed within two feet of Casey as his comrades checked on him, but he was not concerned, reporting: “I’m used to them.” Carried a few miles to a hospital in the rear, Casey’s left leg was amputated, but it was not enough to save him, and he died the day of the battle. As the Sisters of Mercy were helping to bury him, Maj. Gen. George McClellan and his staff rode by, and they waited as his remains were lowered. The gesture of respect was cold comfort to Jane, twice a widow with five children to raise alone.

### THE PLANTER’S SON

Richard L. Nobles was the son of Jesse Nobles, a planter in Pitt County, N.C., who owned many acres of land and 34 enslaved people to work them. Nobles came from a small family; his mother and older sister had died a few years before the war, leaving only him and his younger sister living with his father. Nobles enlisted in Company A of the 27th North Carolina Infantry as a private on August 19, 1861. They first saw real action on March 12, 1862, at New Bern in Craven County, N.C., where Nobles’s conduct supported

**LEFT:** Widow’s Pension for wife of Miles Casey, FOLD3; Elliott Map detail showing Nobles’ and Casey’s burial locations near the Otho J. Smith Farm, NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY; Compiled Military Service Record for R. L. Noble, FOLD3.

**RIGHT:** Compiled Military Service Record for V. H. Hallum, FOLD3; Elliott Map detail showing Hallum’s burial near the Smoketown Road, NYPL.



his election to lieutenant the following month. The 27th saw more fighting in the passes of South Mountain in the summer of 1862, as the Confederate army moved north into Maryland.

Assigned to Maj. Gen. James Longstreet’s right wing, in Brig. Gen. James Walker’s division, the 27th and the other regiments of Col. Van Manning’s brigade participated in some of the early fighting at the Battle of Antietam. Around 9:30 a.m., the 27th North Carolina and 3rd Arkansas were sent to plug the gap between the West Woods and the Sunken Road. They continued driving forward until Union troops began an endless barrage, wounding Manning and causing the brigade to retreat.

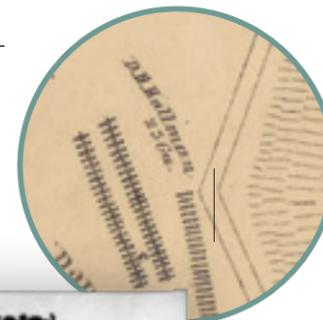
The record does not definitively state that this is where the 22-year-old Nobles was shot in the leg, but it is likely. In the confusion of battle, his fellow soldiers believed that he had been captured and taken prisoner. And he may have been a prisoner for a few hours, but that status changed swiftly. Service records tell us that Nobles died at the Otho J. Smith Farm, which is supported by the location of his grave on S.G. Elliot’s map.

### THE MYSTERY CASUALTY: WOUNDED, DESERTED OR DEAD?

Vincent Hallum, the son of a miller, grew up in Yahoola, Ga. He married Sara Bradley around 1855, and she soon bore him three children — all under the age of four when he enlisted in Company D, 23rd Georgia Infantry on August 31, 1861. The 23rd

## HE SUFFERED A COMPOUND FRACTURE IN THE RIGHT LEG, AND THE WOUND SWIFTLY PROVED MORTAL.

began its Civil War experience with the Siege of Yorktown. They fought at Williamsburg, Seven Pines, Gaines’ Mill and Malvern Hill. As the Confederate army



moved into Maryland, Hallum was elected second lieutenant on August 24, 1862.

On September 14, the 23rd saw action in the Battle of South Mountain, holding Turner’s Gap alongside the 27th Georgia. They were met with stiff resistance from the 7th Wisconsin and other Union troops, who had superior numbers, but the Confederates delivered a “terrific musketry ... this gave them a sudden check ... they made still another effort to advance, but were kept back by the steady fire of our men.” Col. Alfred H. Colquitt, commanding the brigade, claimed his men never yielded an inch of ground, but they exhausted their ammunition and retreated from their position.

Hallum survived the day and was with the 23rd at Antietam. At some point during the fighting on September 17, he suffered a compound fracture in the right leg, and the wound swiftly proved mortal. Most likely, given that Elliott records a burial for a D.H. Hallum west of the Smoketown Road, he

(Confederate)

*D. L. Hallum*

*Co. D, 23 Regt. Ga. Inf.*

Appears on a **List**

of Confederates wounded at the Battle of Antietam and who died at various hospitals near Antietam, Maryland.

List dated *Not dated, 1862*

Where taken prisoner *Battle of Antietam*

Cause of death

Date of death \_\_\_\_\_, 1862

Place of death *Stone House Hospital*



fell around 8:15 a.m., when Colquitt's men were sent into Miller's Cornfield to relieve the men in Col. Rosewell Ripley's brigade, who had fought to exhaustion.

Hallum's service records specify that he died in the Stone House hospital; other records say that he was killed in battle. Given that records detail his leg injury, the hospital scenario is likely. His wife, Sarah, filed a claim in January 1863 and received \$138.69 for Hallum's service and death.

In most cases, the story would end there. But Hallum's service record isn't so straightforward. On September 25, 1862, a V.H. Hallum, second lieutenant of Company D, 23rd Georgia Infantry, was paroled by the Union army in the aftermath of the Battle of Antietam, pledging to not take up arms against the United States once released. If Hallum was buried on the field, who was paroled under his name?

Did someone impersonate him, or did the real man use the chaos of battle to disappear? Hallum's family believed he had perished, and was able to convince the Confederate government this was true. His widow Sarah married Thomas Langford, a veteran of the 32nd Georgia Infantry, and remained in Georgia.

**THE TAMMANY REGIMENT**

In dozens of other instances, the Elliott Map identifies burial groups — masses of crosses or

tick marks driving home the battle's enormous human cost — by regiment, confirming for historians where a unit was engaged.

One of these large groups is located in the West Woods, identified as the dead of the 42nd New York, which suffered a brutal day on September 17, 1862: Of the 345 men who entered the fight, 41 were killed, 127 were wounded and 13 were reported missing in action.

But who were the men of the 42nd? Many were immigrants who had left Ireland during the potato famine. John Duffy was a day laborer with a wife and two young sons when he joined at age 42. Timothy McEvoy, 35, another immigrant, left his wife and three young children to join up. James Norton was working at a foundry when he left his young family to join the Union cause. All three lost their lives on the field at Antietam, leaving their families with very little.

Originally known as the Jackson Guards, they renamed themselves the Tammany Regiment. Many of the enlistees came from Long Island and the neighboring area, except for Company H, which was made up of men

from Boston — they chose to fight under the New York banner, as Massachusetts was not raising regiments at that point in the summer of 1861.

By the time they reached Antietam, the men of the 42nd had seen their fair share of battles, including Ball's Bluff, Seven Pines and Chantilly. When they reached the battlefield, they were part of Brig. Gen. John Sedgwick's Division. They approached the East Woods around 8:45 a.m., and crossed the Cornfield and Hagerstown Pike north of Dunker Church before proceeding into the West Woods. They stopped to reform their ranks, and their commanders mistakenly identified nearby troops as friendly.

They were quickly disabused of that notion when the rebels launched volley after volley at them, a wall of fire what brigade commander Brig. Gen. Napoleon J.T. Dana called "the most terrific I ever witnessed." Dana's command saw about 900 casualties during the morning's intense action, including a severe wound for the brigade's leader.

**SONS OF STOUGHTON: COMPANY I, 12TH MASSACHUSETTS INFANTRY**

In 1860, Stoughton, Mass., was town of about 4,200 people made up of approximately 1,300 families. And on June 26, 1861, 46 of Stoughton's young men volunteered and joined the 12th Massachusetts Infantry Company I, which was later designated the color company.

The regiment was originally commanded by Fletcher Webster, son of U.S. Sen. Daniel Webster, until he was killed in action at Second Manassas. After reorganization, the 12th was made part of Brig. Gen. George Hartstuff's brigade. The regiment had fought in multiple battles before Antietam, including Ball's Bluff, Gaines' Mill and Cedar Mountain. In May 1862, the men enjoyed a brief trip home, as reported in the Fall River *Daily Evening News*: "They brought away with them

numerous relics of secessia, and declare themselves fully convinced that Virginia — the scene of their labors — is a thoroughly cursed country. They were encamped near the spot where John Brown was hung and relished the idea that a spot so memorable should be overrun by Massachusetts men."

**ON SEPTEMBER 17, THE 12TH MASSACHUSETTS SUFFERED THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF CASUALTIES AMONG UNION TROOPS AT ANTIETAM**



The Cornfield

in front of us.

"Company I had the colors. Forward in the line of the battle: the fogs lifts, and in an instant a rebel battery on our right opens on us, with rather poor range at first, but they soon get it closer; and by command down we go, our faces in the dust. Onward and upward. Through the field to the heavy fence that bordered the memorable cornfield, where later in the day, the dead were literally piled up.

"Onward into the cornfield. Ah, there they are! A long line of graybacks is seen filing out on our left and front. 'Give it to them, boys!' Still those dreadful shot and shell plough through Company I."

Company I's Capt. John Ripley of Stoughton was wounded that day. He eventually returned to duty, only to be mortally wounded at Fredericksburg. Lt. Warren Thompson and Henry W. Ripley were both taken prisoner. Thompson was released, only to be captured again at Gettysburg, but later was able to rejoin his regiment a second time.

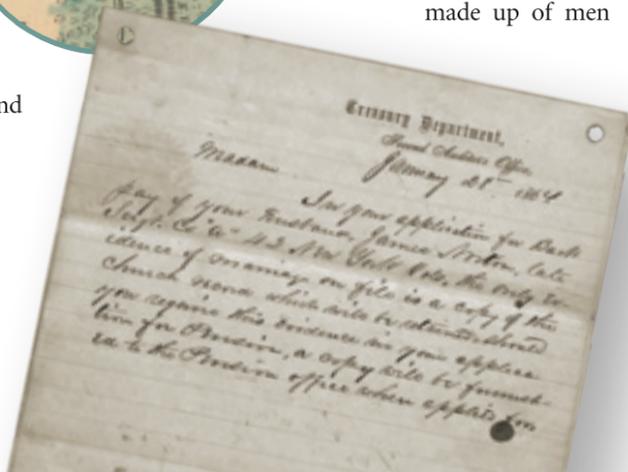
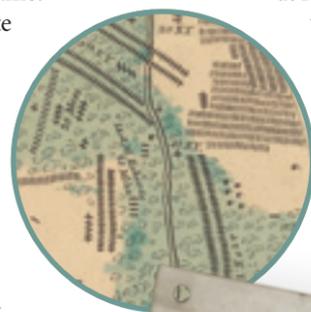
On the S.G. Elliot Map, only a J. Hammond is marked with a little cross. He is most likely James S. Hayward, a boot maker from Stoughton, who left behind a wife, two daughters and one-year-old son. Unmarked on the map, but probably buried close by, are James Austin, Harvey Darling, Randall Holbrook and Charles Johnson. Six other men from Company I were wounded, George Henry mortally so.

In many ways the Civil War was fought by communities, especially since companies were raised in particular towns and neighborhoods. The Battle of Antietam left the little town of Stoughton, more than 400 miles away, forever changed.★

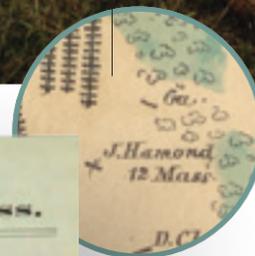
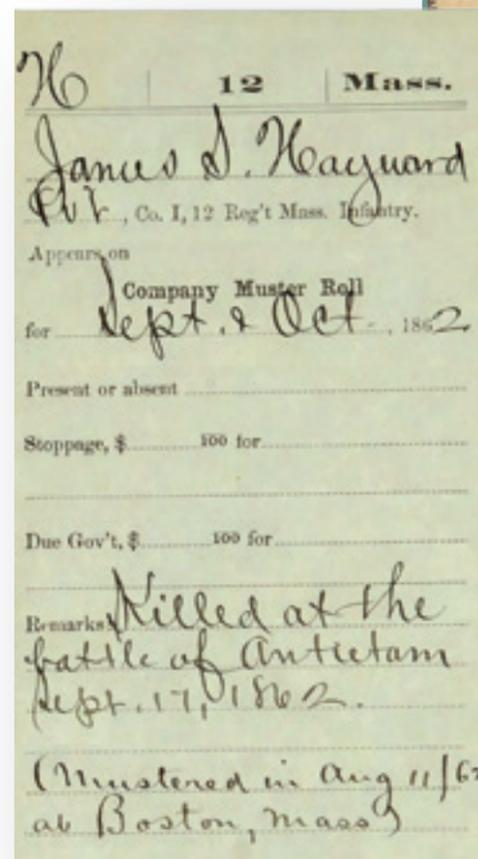
Anne Gillespie Mitchell is a senior product manager at Ancestry and a key figure in the partnership between that organization and the American Battlefield Trust, helping place the military service found on family trees in context through content from the Trust.

After returning to action, they emerged from the fighting at South Mountain on September 14 relatively unscathed. But on September 17, the 12th Massachusetts suffered the highest percentage of casualties among Union troops at Antietam: more than two-thirds of its strength reported killed wounded, captured or missing. These were the victims of fighting in Miller's Cornfield, or the Bloody Cornfield, and of the 334 men who started the battle, 74 of whom died on the battlefield or not long after.

From *The Citizen Soldier*, we find this account: "Early Monday morning we move down the west side of the mountain ... tired, ragged and dirty. We capture a picket-line in the darkness, among them a captain of the 1st Texas, a lawyer of Austin ... after this little affair is over, we lie down on our arms in a cornfield and this captain ... tells us to our surprise that the whole rebel army is



**LEFT:** Widow's Pension for wife of James Norton, FOLD3; Elliott Map detail showing burials of the 42nd New York regiment in and near the West Woods, NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY. **RIGHT:** Compiled Military Service Record for James S. Hayward, FOLD3; Elliott Map detail showing Hayward's burial near the Bloody Cornfield, NYPL.



# LESSONS

*The newly-discovered Elliott Map not only tells us where many of the dead of Antietam were buried, but confirms and disputes 158-year-old information. It's as if the dead are still sharing their tragic stories with us.*

by GARRY E. ADELMAN and TIMOTHY H. SMITH

PHOTOGRAPHY by MATT BRANT

## FROM THE

## FALLEN

The Dunker Church seen from the bloody West Woods. Antietam National Battlefield Sharpsburg, Md.

# A

**S LONGTIME** Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guides and historians, we are somewhat spoiled. That field has a body of historical resources that makes scholars of other sites envious: The battlefield is well preserved; photographers documented the place within

days of the fighting, mapmakers issued maps while the battlefield still looked largely as it did to the soldiers; a good number of those who survived the battle wrote about the fighting and the battlefield in the months, years and decades thereafter. Books, monument dedications and reunions resulted in even more accounts and documentation. Many battlefields have some of these resources, but few — if any — have so many dated so close to the event.

The Antietam Battlefield is one of those battlefields that has the resource “superfecta”: preserved land, early photography and cartography and ample written documentation. But there was one resource area in which Gettysburg reigned supreme — it boasted



The Sunken Road / Bloody Lane

the only battlefield with a wartime map denoting soldier burials and horse-death locations covering most of the field ... until now.

Ever since Tim (Smith) happened upon the Elliott Burial Map for Antietam, digitized in the collections of the New York Public Library, historians and enthusiasts have been examining the map and the battlefield anew, armed with visual information that had not been used by any historian, interpreter or park steward since the map was published in 1864. Most of the dead soldiers represented on the map are only identified by their army, while 30 groups of gravesites are identified by regimental designation, and more than 50 soldiers are identified by name.

Before news of the map's emergence became public on June 16, we, along with Andrew Dalton, executive director of the Adams County Historical Society, and Antietam National Battlefield historian Brian Baracz, started comparing it with other, known primary sources. Did the soldiers fall where we thought they fell? Do the identified graves line up with the written record? And most important to these two photo historians, did the map align with the photographic and other visual records? While Elliott's map is imperfect, the answer to all the above is a resounding "yes."

### BURYING THE DEAD

Civil War soldiers who died in battle were usually buried where — or very close to where — they fell. Therefore, if Elliott's map is correct, it is a clear representation of where the fighting was heaviest. However accurate, the picture is not complete: Four soldiers were wounded for every man who was killed in combat, and none of them are accounted for by the map. Nor are those whose

wounds proved mortal days or weeks after soldiers were moved to hospitals away from the field.

Nonetheless, Elliott's map depicts more than 5,800 soldier graves. The burial work was a massive task performed mostly by the Union army. The burial process was in part captured on the glass plates of Alexander Gardner and his crew, under the employ of famed photographer Mathew Brady. Burials were also described by early battlefield visitors and soldiers alike. Speaking at the dedication of his regimental monument along the Bloody Lane years later, S. M. Whistler of Company E, 130th Pennsylvania said:

*The weather was phenomenally hot, and the stench from the hundreds of black, bloated, decomposed, maggoty bodies, exposed to a torrid heat for three days after the battle was a sight truly horrid, and begging all power of verbal expression.... Just over there in Mumma's field in one ditch you placed*

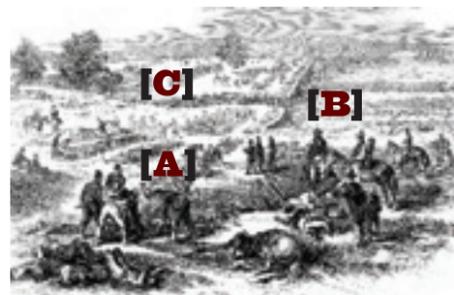
*185 Confederate corpses, the one on top of the other, and indecorously covered them from sight with clay. In other ditches lesser numbers were similarly buried. Time and circumstances forbade a more humane course than this.*

The grisly task was repeated in reverse when Union remains from the field were reinterred in Antietam National Cemetery, established in late 1866. Confederate cadavers remained in the ground for roughly 10 years before they were removed from the battlefield to Rose Hill Cemetery in Hagerstown, Md.

In his *Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day*, William A. Frassanito demonstrated that burial crews were graphically depicted by photographers and sketch



**COLOR DRAWING** by Alfred Waud showing a flag of truce to exchange wounded around the Dunker Church, September 18, 1862. The dead and the wounded littered the ground, and it was sometimes difficult to tell which was which.



**THE SUNKEN ROAD**, or Bloody Lane, was particularly well documented. One of the three photos taken in this area by Alexander Gardner and a drawing by artist Frank Schell, converted into an engraving for Frank Leslie's *Illustrated* newspaper, both likely depict the same unit. The 130th Pennsylvania, "having incurred the displeasure of its brigade commander, was honored in the appointment as undertaker-in-chief." Existing accounts support the civilians in the drawing being on the scene — early battlefield tourists — as burial operations moved dead soldiers from the hard-packed lane to nearby trenches. **[A]** The Elliott Map generally agrees with the photo and the sketch. All three views also depict the same bend in the Bloody Lane **[B]** and the location of the Roulette Lane (if not the lane itself) **[C]**, which was the line of the Union approach to the Sunken Road.



**HISTORIAN FRASSANITO** divined the location of six photographs taken along the Hagerstown Pike by Gardner's crew. The most commonly reproduced **[A]** shows dead Confederate soldiers after a fierce fight at the sturdy but not impenetrable fence along the Pike (visible through the slats to the right of the fence). The approximately 15 corpses in evidence here are a small fraction of the hundreds of soldiers denoted on the Elliott map between the Pike and the West Woods.

The tree visible on the horizon at left center is actually a small group of trees near which a burial crew is performing its grisly work **[B]**. Pausing their work for the camera, the men display the army shovels and pickaxes used to dig mass graves, for which the remains at left are destined. The photo detail **[C]** that focuses on the burial crew better shows the soldiers' faces, the man casually leaning on a stack of muskets and two upright shovels surely to be soon used again in this enormous, terrible and sad task.

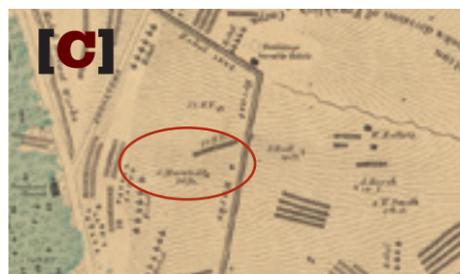


The Hagerstown Pike

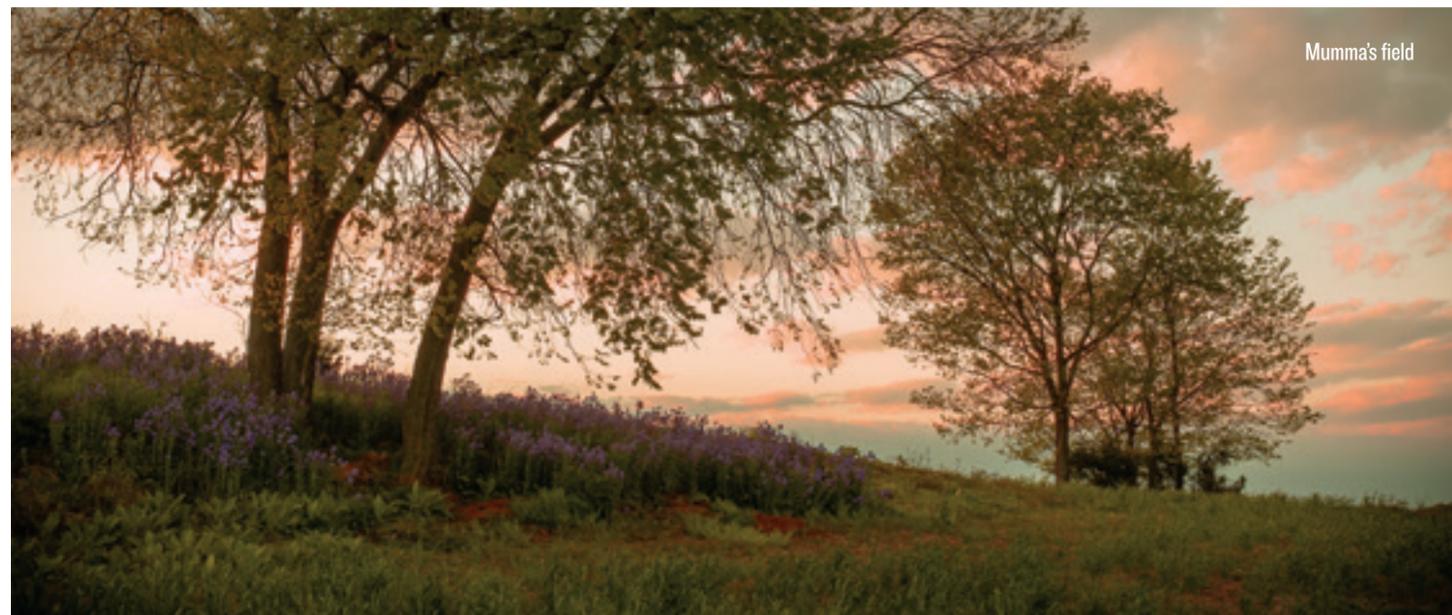
artists near the Bloody Lane, along the Hagerstown Road and on and near the “Epicenter” tract preserved by members of the American Battlefield Trust in 2015.

There are two instances in which the Elliott Map identifies a burial by name that is confirmed by one of Alexander Gardner’s photos. William Frassanito researched both soldiers — Pvt. John Marshall of the 28th Pennsylvania and Pvt. Edward

Miller of the 51st New York. The map and the Gardner photos are in near-perfect accordance with one another. Although these are the only two instances in which photos corroborate soldier identities on the map, these examples serve to remind us that each of the thousands of hashmarks on the Elliott Map — and indeed each of the untold thousands on other battlefields — represent a real person, one with a name, a family and a story.★



**ONE OF THE MOST** poignant images recorded during the Civil War is **[A]** “A Lone Grave on Battle-field of Antietam.” Examining the original negative under magnification during the 1970s, photographic historian William Frassanito deciphered the inscription on the headboard (at the base of the tree) as John Marshall, 28th Pennsylvania. **[B]** With its striking location at the base of a prominent knoll in the middle of the Antietam Battlefield, the grave of this 50-year-old native-Irish stone mason from Allegheny City attracted the attention of Alexander Gardner. His grave also attracted the attention of the surveyors responsible for the S. G. Elliott Burial Map. **[C]** The photo was taken and is marked on the map at the same place — 160 yards northeast of the modern visitor center, where a tree of similar size grows today. (photo below) Marshall’s remains were recovered and moved to the Antietam National Cemetery, where he reposes in grave #3,600.



**ANOTHER WELL-KNOWN** Gardner photo, and one whose location is easy to find, is that of a soldier standing among freshly dug graves along the stone wall next to Burnside Bridge, just a few days after the battle. Gardner also recorded a version of the same wall from farther away, which is shown here as well. In his *Antietam*, William Frassanito spotted 12 headboards against the wall and found that nine of them read 51st New York — one of the two regiments that crossed Burnside Bridge in the successful attack. Using records of those men of the 51st who died at Antietam, he was able to decipher the names of four of the deceased. Of these, one appears on Elliott’s map: Pvt. Edward Miller, dead at age 18 and now resting in grave #782 of Antietam National Cemetery.

Questions arise when examining the photos here along with Elliott’s map. First, the photos clearly show Miller’s and other headboards near and parallel to the stone wall, but the map shows them as perpendicular and with Miller’s grave farthest from the wall. Furthermore, although there are more than 40 Union graves shown on the map in this area, the broader image only shows disturbance near the wall. Are we to take Elliott’s work as more general than specific? If so, how do we explain the accuracy in other areas?

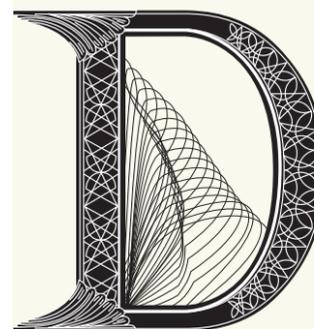
In the end, Elliott’s map is like any historical source — we must use it carefully. We must be skeptical of what it tells us. No doubt, this is precisely what good historians will do with Elliott’s map in the years, decades and centuries to come.





## AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST PRESIDENT DAVID DUNCAN

*After 20 years leading membership  
and development, longtime lieutenant  
takes the reins*



**DAVID DUNCAN** is a native Virginian, born in Roanoke, in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains, during the summer of 1964. He developed his passion for history early in life, thanks in large part to his father, who taught middle school history, civics and social studies in Roanoke County for 38 years.

Duncan fondly remembers their small home in nearby Salem, Va., being filled with books, augmented with weekly trips to the public library, where he gathered armloads of reading material about American history.

“Even now, I strive to read 10,000 pages — the equivalent of 25 400-page books — each year. I’m hopeful I can keep up that pace with my new responsibilities. But,” he adds with a laugh, “only time will tell.”

With his father urging him to set his sights higher than public-school social studies teacher, Duncan expanded his horizons during his college years. At James Madison University, in the Shenandoah Valley, he worked to develop writing skills he first embraced as managing editor of his high school newspaper. He majored in media and communications, fully intending to pursue a career in the radio, television or film industries. However, as his studies progressed, Duncan also steadily gained experience in an on-campus job in the main dining hall. Despite his starting off emptying trash cans and mopping floors, supervisors noticed and appreciated his relentlessly positive attitude, and he quickly rose through the ranks to become a student manager, helping to oversee nearly 120 fellow student employees.

“To this day, I believe this early real-world business and personnel management experience is on par with anything I learned in the classroom, in terms of preparing me for a career,” Duncan says.

Upon graduation, Duncan and his then-fiancée moved to the Washington, D.C., suburbs of Northern Virginia, where they married and raised two daughters and still live today. He and Karen, an elementary school teacher, celebrate their 34th anniversary in October 2020, the same month he takes over as

president of the Trust. As a first job, Duncan took a \$15,000-per-year position as a copywriter for a small direct marketing agency, working on creating compelling marketing and fundraising messaging for charitable organizations and political campaigns. Mirroring his experience in the college dining hall, within a few years Duncan was supervising a team of copywriters and was eventually promoted to creative director.

During long commutes in Northern Virginia’s relentless traffic, he listened to books on tape to make the drive time tolerable. Even as the words of Bruce Catton, Shelby Foote, Dr. James I. “Bud” Robertson and many others filled his car on a daily basis, his evenings were filled with the debut of Ken Burns’ “The Civil War” series on PBS. His childhood interest in history now dramatically reawakened, Duncan’s schoolteacher father gave him a copy of *The Killer Angels* for a birthday present. He devoured it in one weekend and swiftly made his first trip to Gettysburg. Soon weekends were filled with trips to any battlefield within a few hours’ drive where, map and guidebook in hand, he would walk the landscape and marvel in the powerful emotions it elicited.

Like many during the early 1990s, he became increasingly alarmed at the pace of development he saw encroaching on these hallowed sites. When the Walt Disney Corporation proposed building a year-round history-themed open-air park near the Manassas Battlefield, he was horrified. When he received a letter in the mail offering membership in a battlefield preservation group called the Civil War Trust, he joined immediately, eager to learn more about preservation threats. Several times, he offered his professional fundraising services to the Trust (and another, competing battlefield nonprofit called the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites) on a pro bono basis, but without success.

In late 1999, aware that the two nonprofits had merged into one entity, he wrote a personal letter to the newly appointed president, Jim Lighthizer, who had most recently served as secretary of transportation for Maryland. Basically begging for an opportunity to put his years of fundraising experience to work in the pursuit of his passion for saving history, he sent the letter to Lighthizer via certified mail, so that he was required to sign for it. A few days later, Duncan was seated across from Lighthizer for the first of four interviews conducted over several weeks with members of the team. When Duncan joined the Trust on March 20, 2000 — incidentally, Lighthizer’s birthday — it represented a substantial pay cut, but a huge boost to his sense of purpose.

For more than 20 years, Duncan has worked to help build the Trust into the successful national preservation organization it is today. Under his leadership, working with dedicated and generous trustees, individual donors and foundations, the Trust has raised nearly \$240 million in private donations, including two successful capital campaigns. He looks back with pride on this work and stands ready to lead the Trust to new heights.

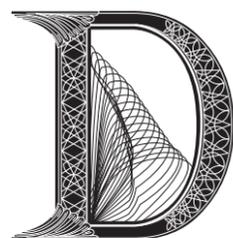
“I truly believe that we are accomplishing work that is vital to the future of our country. I want to build on the tremendous work and success that my colleagues have already achieved, thanks to our generous supporters.”★

## A LASTING IMPACT

*Future visits to Antietam National Battlefield will be enriched by new interpretative narratives unlocked by the Elliott Burial Map*

by BRIAN BARACZ,  
ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD  
PHOTOGRAPHY by MATT BRANT

Sunken Road / Bloody Lane



**D**AILY, the park rangers at Antietam National Battlefield talk to visitors about a multitude of topics. People inquire about weapons, tactics, civilians, cause of the war, monuments and the minutia of the battle, and these few topics are just the tip of the iceberg. While rangers provide answers and foster discussion about these items, when a visitor leaves and heads out to

their next destination, we want them to remember the following three key outcomes about the Battle of Antietam.

First, Antietam ended Confederate Gen. R.E. Lee's first invasion of the North. Second, Union victory there directly led to President Abraham Lincoln announcing the Emancipation Proclamation. Finally, the Battle of Antietam was — and still stands today as — the bloodiest day in the history of our country. More than 23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded or listed as missing after 12 hours of combat around the small town of Sharpsburg, Md.

The first two outcomes are straightforward to explain to visitors, but trying to contextualize 23,000 casualties is more difficult. One successful means of visualization is our annual Memorial Illumination, typically held the first Saturday of December. For this program, more than 1,000 volunteers place 23,000 luminaries across the rolling hills of the battlefield, each one representing a casualty from the battle.

Another technique that rangers might use involves trying to compare the number of casualties to a sold-out arena. Roughly speaking, an indoor arena

where their local hockey or basketball team plays, or where they attend concerts, holds around 20,000 people. So, asking visitors to picture that structure filled with people in their seats and thronging in the crowded hallways provides effective context.

This spring, rangers were handed another tool — simultaneously new and 150-plus years old — to try and illustrate to park visitors the human toll of the Battle of Antietam. The S.G. Elliott Map links the lives lost on that day directly to the battlefield. Whether it was the day of, the next day, week or even months later, approximately 7,000 out of the 23,000 casualties died because of the battle. A large majority of that number were buried in the general area where they expired, rendering the entire area into one large graveyard. The Elliott Burial Map is an incredible visual representation of this profound fact, showing the resting places of almost 6,000 soldiers before they were removed to permanent cemeteries; the original burials were hastily done,

West Woods

and very quickly bodies were uncovered by wild animals or the elements. Within 10 years, almost all the soldiers were reinterred in local cemeteries.

While the map doesn't offer exact locations, it exhibits to rangers, researchers, and historians the general location, as well as the number of soldiers buried, in a pretty specific spot on the battlefield. In the past, a ranger would use a sketch, or a photo taken by Alexander Gardner, maybe along with a quote from a participant, to interpret the way burial parties accomplished their grisly tasks. These words and images captured a snapshot of one small section of the field — the Elliott Map now gives us the big picture!

The ability to look at large portions of the field and to see acres of land filled by graves shows the human toll the battle inflicted on the armies in a way we have never been able to in the past. To see more than 1,000 graves along the West Woods and Hagerstown Pike drives home the point Wisconsin soldier Rufus Dawes described in his excellent history of the Sixth Wisconsin, "...The piles of dead along the Sharpsburg Hagerstown Pike surpassed anything on any other field of my observation." Another account, this by a newspaper reporter, described the scene around the Sunken Road: "The dead were piled in rows, like cordwood." The Elliott Map literally shows hundreds and hundreds of soldiers in rows buried along the area known today as the Bloody Lane. Using the map and quotes together makes for a much more impactful story for a ranger to relate to a visitor. As does the reminder that for each soldier depicted on the map as having died, three more were wounded but go unreflected in its visual tally.

In the end, what the Elliott Burial Map shows is the terrible human cost of war. Each slash on the map is far more than a symbol, it is a soldier — a beloved son, husband or father — who did not return home to his family. Each of them a life worthy of being remembered.★

**THE VISITOR CENTER at Antietam National Battlefield is set to undergo a multimillion-dollar rehabilitation, beginning in the last quarter of 2020. The building will be closed for approximately two years. When it re-opens, it will feature redesigned exhibits that will undoubtedly incorporate the S.G. Elliott Burial Map as both a visual element and an important documentary tool.**



## NEW DIGITAL HOME LAUNCHED

for Trust military and veteran content

**T**HE WARRIOR LEGACY connects today's military to its historical counterparts across the centuries, regardless of when or where individuals served. The Trust is committed to telling stories that so powerfully demonstrate this immutable truth and has done so for years. But now, for the first time, this content — plus information about our programs and efforts on behalf of veterans, active duty military and their families — can be found in one place online: [www.battlefields.org/warriorlegacy](http://www.battlefields.org/warriorlegacy).

Some of the highlights on this page include:  
**WARRIOR STORIES:** The brave men and women who answer their nation's call and join the military are a special group who embrace a call to service above and beyond self. In film and text, we seek to connect modern warriors to historic battlefields.

**UNIT HISTORIES:** A number of units still active in today's military trace their origins to the Civil War — or even the Revolutionary War. Learn more about their proud heritages across centuries and many conflicts.

**BROTHERS IN VALOR:** Our award-winning series bringing recipients of the Medal of Honor to walk Civil War battlefields so they can follow in the literal and figurative footsteps of past recipients who endured experiences parallel to their own.

## SHARE YOUR WARRIOR LEGACY!

**THE TRUST** wants to hear the stories of our nation's veterans and active duty service members in their words, and in their voice. So, we have launched a new Oral History project, enabling our military members and supporters to record their thoughts on the connection they feel to those who wore the uniform in earlier eras.

Will you share your Warrior Legacy? How do you — as a veteran or active duty service member — relate to service members from our nation's past?

Participating is as easy as leaving us a voicemail at (240) 903-0261 with your name, state of residence, branch of service and a response to the prompt.

Please also consider visiting [www.battlefields.org/shareyourstory](http://www.battlefields.org/shareyourstory) for more details and instructions on how to upload images related to your entry.

**MEDAL OF HONOR DATABASE:** Explore the recipients of our nation's highest honor by connecting their names and citations to the battlefields on which they fought.

**STAFF RIDE SERVICES:** Every year, thousands of modern warriors visit historic battlefields in unique training experiences called "Staff Rides," a proud tradition that helped shape the creation of battlefield parks. Learn about how these programs shape today's officers — and how the Trust supports them through resource guides, tour leaders and enhanced access to our properties.

**VETERAN REINTEGRATION SUPPORT:** The Trust proudly supports the work of American Veterans Archaeological Recovery, bring-

ing together professional archaeologists and enthusiastic volunteers to help us better understand past conflicts, and the Wounded Warrior Project.

**DONOR RECORD UPDATE:** If you are a Trust member who has served our nation in uniform, please use our online form to ensure your donor record reflects this service. Beginning in 2020, we will acknowledge our decorated veterans as a donor special category in the pages of *Hallowed Ground* and recognize all veterans in attendance at Trust events.

**NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP:** Our new *Warrior Legacy* e-newsletter will bring the very best of our military and veteran content to your inbox. Sign up today and don't miss a single issue. ★

## MEET THE COLOR BEARERS

*The Key to Our Success*

**A**ERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST Color Bearers are the undisputed leaders in this nation's battlefield preservation movement. Just as the heroic Color Bearers of the Civil War distinguished themselves on the battlefield with their courage, valor and dedication, our Color Bearers distinguish themselves by their extraordinary commitment to the mission of saving our nation's most hallowed ground.

Color Bearer membership requires an additional, unrestricted gift of \$1,000 or more that goes above and beyond any battlefield-specific donations. Many choose to make this donation via monthly installments, rather than as a lump sum. These important membership dues act as a "ready reserve" fund the Board of Trustees can utilize to move quickly to save a piece of hallowed ground. Moreover, they pay for important functions like staff salaries, rent and utilities, and the postage that brought this magazine to your door.

The vast majority of Color Bearers also give to many property acquisition appeals, and it is this level of "above-and-beyond generosity" that is worthy of special recognition. While representing less than 3 percent of our total membership, our 1,300 Color Bearers donate nearly 50 percent of all the gifts we receive, year after year.

Those listed on the following pages are the backbone of the American Battlefield Trust. If you are ready to join their ranks, visit [www.battlefields.org/color-bearers](http://www.battlefields.org/color-bearers)

### COLOR BEARER BENEFITS

Each successive level of support enjoys all benefits of the previous levels.

#### REGIMENTAL COLOR BEARER — \$1,000

- Receive invitation to exclusive Color Bearer Thank You weekend in the spring.
- Receive invitation to exclusive historian-led battlefield tours, including a specially selected tour in conjunction with the Annual Conference.
- Receive invitation to an exclusive "Author's Dinner" with a noted author or historian at the Annual Conference.
- Receive special recognition in printed materials at the Annual Conference.
- Have name listed on the annual "Roll Call of Honor" in our quarterly magazine, *Hallowed Ground*.



Color Bearers Event, New Orleans, La.  
BUDDY SECOR



Color Bearers Event,  
Savannah, Ga.  
MIKE TALPLACIDO

#### BRIGADE COLOR BEARER — \$2,500

- Receive invitation to The Grand Review, an annual, intimate weekend of battlefield tours, history talks, meals and camaraderie held at a unique Civil War or Revolutionary War-related site, with appropriate recognition in the event program.

#### DIVISION COLOR BEARER — \$5,000

- Division Color Bearers will have Annual Conference fees waived for yourself and one guest.

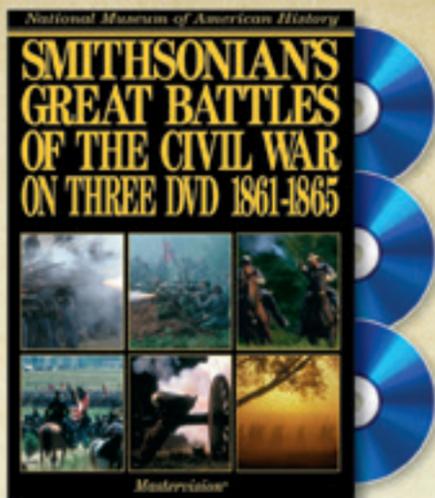
#### CORPS COLOR BEARER — \$10,000

- Upon request, receive personal genealogical research services to identify your Civil War and Revolutionary War ancestors.
- Corps Color Bearers will have Annual Conference fees waived for yourself and three additional guests.

#### NATIONAL COLOR BEARER — \$25,000

- Upon request, offered a personal tour for you and up to four guests at the Civil War or Revolutionary War battlefield of your choice.
- National Color Bearers will have Annual Conference fees waived for yourself and four additional guests.

Full donations are tax deductible, if you don't take advantage of the Events benefits offered. For a full list of benefits and for more tax information, visit us online. ★



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HERITAGE SITES



ADAMS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**H**OUSING A TREASURE TROVE of historical resources, the Adams County Historical Society headquarters is situated near the renowned Gettysburg Battlefield and is home to the Battle of Gettysburg Research Center. It is the very organization that made the initial discovery of S.G. Elliott's Antietam Burial Map. Aside from the talented team running the Adams County Historical Society, you can find some of Adams County's most telling primary resources — church records, wills and estate papers, tax ledgers, deed books, family collections, 100,000+ photographs — the list goes on and on!

With origins dating to 1888, the Adams County Historical

Society began with the intention of preserving Gettysburg's extraordinary local history — and today continues to expand upon that mission by performing extensive research in the community and offering visiting researchers a space to make discoveries of their own. Aside from serving as a destination for individual research, the society offers walking tours in the community, in-person seminars on performing research, digital programs livestreamed via the organization's Facebook page and more.

**Please Note:** Access to the Adams County Historical Society may be limited at present because of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please research restrictions to access and reductions in scheduled programming as you plan your trip. ★

**ADAMS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
368 Springs Avenue, Gettysburg, PA 17325 <https://www.achs-pa.org/>



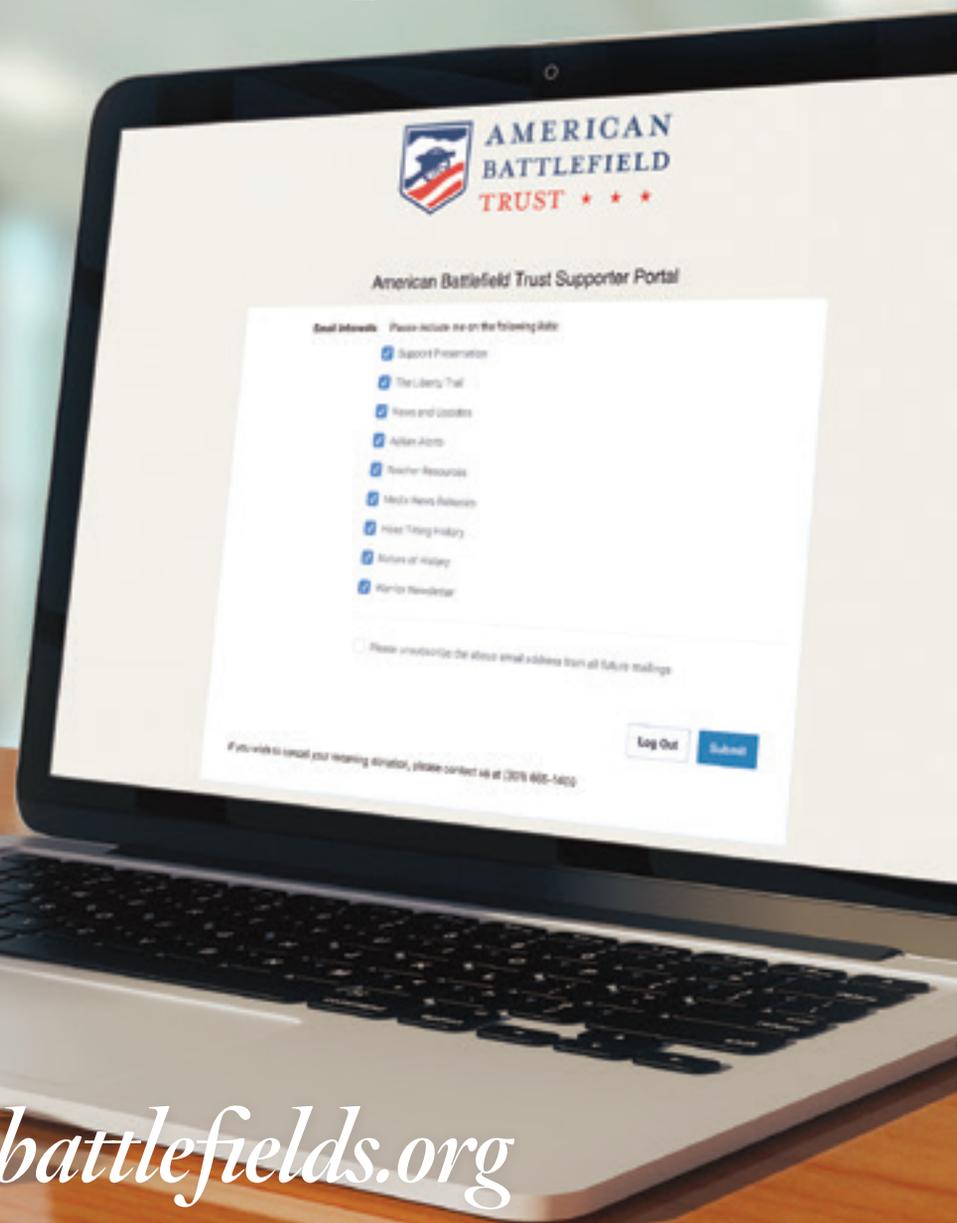
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