

FALL 2017 ★ Vol. 18 No. 3

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HALLOWED GROUND

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**HALLOWED
GROUND**
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publication
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Fall 2017, Vol. 18, No. 3

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The Civil War Trust is the nation's largest national nonprofit organization devoted to battlefield preservation. Through the Campaign 1776 initiative, our mission of preserving America's significant battlefields — through protection of the land itself and by educating the public about the vital roles those battlegrounds played in directing the course of our nation's history — also extends to sites associated with the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Thanks to the contributions of more than 200,000 members and supporters nationwide, we have preserved more than 46,000 acres at 131 sites in 24 states. For more information, call 1-888-606-1400 or visit our website at www.CivilWar.org. *Hallowed Ground* is the membership magazine of the Civil War Trust. It is produced solely for nonprofit educational purposes and every reasonable attempt is made to provide accurate and appropriate attribution for all elements, including those in the public domain. Contemporary images are reproduced only with permission and appropriate attribution; uncredited images are courtesy the Civil War Trust. Feature articles reflect the research and opinion of the bylined author. ©2017 Civil War Trust.

COVER: Brandywine Battlefield, Chadds Ford, Pa., MEREDITH BARNES; THIS PAGE: Fort Gregg, Petersburg Battlefield, Petersburg, Va., ROBERT JAMES.

MESSAGE *from* HEADQUARTERS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Civil War Trust-saved land near Dilworthtown
Brandywine Battlefield
Chadds Ford, Pa.
ROBERT JAMES



FROM THE BEGINNING of the modern battlefield preservation movement, it has been the charge of the Civil War Trust and its predecessors to preserve American battlefields to educate the public about what happened on these hallowed grounds and the ongoing significance of those events. Battlefields are outdoor classrooms, teaching young and old alike about the sacrifices made during our nation's turbulent first century to secure the precious freedoms we enjoy today.

Battlefields are where crucial chapters of the American story were written, where ordinary citizens — farmers, merchants and laborers — displayed extraordinary valor. The United States is the oldest and most successful democratic republic in the world, thanks to the sacrifices made by these citizen soldiers. We see the battlefields on which they fought as living memorials to all Americans who have honorably served in our armed forces.

It is, however, a different kind of memorial that has been in the news recently, as debate has intensified over the role of Confederate monuments in our modern society. Hate groups have attempted to co-opt America's Civil War history for their own ideological ends, displaying violence and intolerance that have no place in this great nation.

It is vital for the future of our country that Americans understand the full scope of our nation's complex story. Our history — both good and bad, heroic and shameful — shaped who we are as Americans today. Thus, history education is a foundation of good citizenship and a key ingredient in developing the leaders of tomorrow. Professional historians frequently caution against the tendency to look at historical events solely through a contemporary prism — when judged against modernity and contemporary values, it is the rare historical personality or era that is not found wanting.

As students of history, you know that these monuments are not monolithic. They were commissioned at various times, by various individuals and groups, for a variety of reasons. Each was specifically designed for its community and context. While some were erected as political statements, many more were intended as a locus for collective grief as an entire community mourned its fallen sons — an instinct as common after the Civil War as it is today with veterans of World War II and other conflicts of the last 70 years.

Accordingly, we see monuments and memorials — especially those on America's battlefields — as educational tools for teaching valuable lessons about national, and local, history. Given that perspectives on history can and do shift, rather than move or remove monuments, we encourage communities to augment these memorials with additional interpretation to help the public reflect on the many layers of their history.

Since the events in Charlottesville, I have received many calls for the Trust to “do something” about the situation. The question may be slightly different, but the answer is one I have become familiar with giving, thanks to countless pleas for assistance saving a cemetery or museum or historic home: We save battlefields. And it is the strict adherence to that mission that has driven our success.

I am also aware of suggestions to move monuments from public parks to battlefields, museums, cemeteries and other locations. Let me say that there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Taking a historic resource out of its historic context is rarely an advisable course of action. But in the case of moving monuments to battlefields, our imperative is to ensure their integrity in perpetuity — so future visitors can fully experience the landscapes the soldiers once saw. Aside from the immense costs in moving and maintaining such monuments, the Civil War Trust would not want to facilitate the loss of pristine battlefield landscapes by placing monuments where they were never intended.

In the coming weeks, we will be sending a survey to our membership, asking you to weigh in on this controversy. Tell us what you think! And as this debate continues to sweep across the country, please remember — and remind others of — the words of Abraham Lincoln in his first inaugural address: “We are not enemies, but friends.... Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.”★

JIM LIGHTHIZER
President, Civil War Trust



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Fort Stedman
Petersburg Battlefield
Petersburg, Va.
KEVIN COSSABOON

PETERSBURG IN THE CIVIL WAR

Delve into the action around Petersburg, from the initial fighting on the Eastern Flank and the Battle of The Crater, to the final moments of the campaign at Five Forks and The Breakthrough. Explore our top historical resources — including videos, photos, articles, apps and more — in our Petersburg Collection. Visit www.civilwar.org/explorepetersonburg

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BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE

Shortly after this issue of *Hallowed Ground* went to press, we held a ceremony announcing special preservation efforts at the Brandywine battlefield. Visit our site to learn more about the battlefield as it stands today and the history of what happened there by toggling between historic and modern topics using the “learn” and “visit” button in the upper right. www.civilwar.org/brandywine

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Trust-protected land at Antietam National Battlefield
Sharpsburg, Md.
SHARON MURRAY



SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ANNOUNCES

Preservation and Interpretation Projects at 20 American Battlefields

Clockwise from upper left: Trust president Jim Lighthizer welcomes the crowd. Sec. Ryan Zinke greets preservationists, and names recipients of \$7.2 million in matching grants from the American Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants Program. Antietam superintendent Susan Trail, John Nau III, Zinke, Lighthizer, Save Historic Antietam Foundation president Tom Clemens and Will Shafroth pose with a symbolic representation of their donation to the battlefield.



OME 1,200 ACRES of hallowed ground across 19 battlefields in nine states will be protected via \$7.2 million in federal matching grants announced by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke during a July 5 news conference at Maryland's Antietam National Battlefield.

"As both the secretary of the interior and a military veteran, I'm deeply honored and humbled to deliver the donation to Antietam National Battlefield on behalf of President Trump," stated Secretary Zinke. "Visiting the hallowed ground the day after Independence Day is incredibly moving, and it underscores the importance of why we must preserve these historic grounds."

The American Battlefield Protection Program, a bureau within the National Park Service (NPS), administers the grant program, which encourages state and private-sector investment in battlefield preservation. Since the American Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants Program was created in 1999, it has been used

to save more than 28,500 acres of hallowed ground associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War. The latest round of awarded grants will protect historic landscapes at Prairie Grove, Ark.; South Mountain and Williamsport, Md.; Brice's Cross Roads, Miss.; Fort Ann and Sackets Harbor, N.Y.; Brandywine, Pa.; Eutaw Springs, S.C.; Fort Donelson, Tenn.; Appomattox Courthouse, Fredericksburg, Gaines' Mill, Kelly's Ford, Malvern Hill, New Market, Second Manassas, Third Winchester and Trevilian Station, Va.; and Shepherdstown, W.Va.

Joining Secretary Zinke at the event were James Lighthizer, president of the Civil War Trust; Will Shafroth, president and CEO of the National Park Foundation; and John L. Nau, III, who serves on the governing boards of both organizations.

"It is a privilege to be standing here today with Secretary Zinke on one of America's most famous battlegrounds," noted Lighthizer. "We are proud of our long-standing partnership with the Department of the Interior to protect America's endangered battlefield parks, and we look forward to working with

President Trump and Secretary Zinke to preserve these irreplaceable national treasures."

Zinke also used the occasion to confirm the maintenance and restoration projects to which President Donald J. Trump's first quarter salary donation of \$78,333 will be allocated. Two important restoration projects at Antietam will benefit: preservation of the historic Newcomer House near the Middle Bridge site on the battlefield, and replacement of 5,000 linear feet of rail fencing along the Hagerstown Turnpike where some of the most intense fighting of the battle occurred. The president's gift will be matched by \$185,880 in contributions from the Civil War Trust, the National Park Foundation and the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, a local nonprofit active on the battlefield for more than three decades.

"As a place where wounded soldiers found much-needed care after the battle, the historic Newcomer House is vital to the story of Antietam," Shafroth said. "The National Park Foundation is honored to work with President Trump, the Civil War Trust, the Save Historic Antietam Foundation and generous donors to preserve the site so that current and future generations can experience firsthand this incredible piece of history."

Secretary Zinke indicated that July's announcements are part of a renewed commitment by the Department of the Interior to preserve important historic sites and address the maintenance backlog at national parks. The department estimates there is \$12 billion in deferred maintenance at NPS sites, including \$229 million at the 25 battlefield parks in the National Park System. ★

CASINO PLAN WITHDRAWN

Developer abandons third attempt to bring gambling to Gettysburg



THE LATEST iteration of the threat of casino development at the fringes of the Gettysburg Battlefield ended in mid-June, as developer David LeVan opted not to submit his formal application for a license to the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Commission. The project, as envisioned, would have allowed for the construction of Mason-Dixon Downs, a facility featuring gambling on live horse races within a casino setting. Securing a license from the commission would have been the first of several regulatory hurdles necessary for construction to begin.

In a statement addressing his decision to halt the project, LeVan said, "Unfortunately, the uncertainty surrounding the gaming expansion legislation in Harrisburg makes it impossible for me to commit to this project at this time," a reference to legislation passed by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives that would allow gambling to expand into new locales like airports, bars, bowling alleys and rest stops.

Despite the project's termination, Freedom Township, where Mason-Dixon Downs would have been located, will still move ahead with a referendum question on its November ballot that would preclude any future efforts to build a racetrack in the jurisdiction.

This was LeVan's third attempt to bring gaming to the Gettysburg area. Previous applications for licenses to operate a slots parlor near East Cavalry Field and a resort casino near South Cavalry Field were rejected by the State Gaming Control Board in 2006 and 2011, respectively. ★

★★ EIGHT STRAIGHT! ★★

Trust receives 4-star Charity Navigator rating



AMERICA'S foremost watchdog group for nonprofit organizations, Charity Navigator, has once again affirmed that the Civil War Trust maintains the highest possible standards for fiscal responsibility and mission-driven effectiveness by awarding us a 4-star rating for the eighth consecutive year.

In his assessment of the Trust, the firm's CEO Michael Thatcher summarized, "Attaining a 4-star rating verifies that Civil War Trust exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in your area of work. Only 2 percent of the charities we evaluate have received at least 8 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Civil War Trust outperforms most other charities in America."

Trust president James Lighthizer welcomed the designation, but emphasized that the organization's commitment to fiscal responsibility was not driven by desire for accolades, but rather by respect for its members. "Our donors are the heart and soul of this organization — their passion for history and their faith in us are our driving force. We owe it to them to be outstanding stewards of their gifts, producing tangible and consistent results with maximum return on their investment."

Learn more about the Trust's commitment to fiscal responsibility and effectiveness at www.civilwar.org/accountability. ★



WINNERS ANNOUNCED for 2017 Preservation Awards

TOP: Rep. Marsha Blackburn addresses the crowd. CENTER, LEFT TO RIGHT: Lighthizer congratulates Anthony Hodges of Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Mike Babb and Jim Ogden; Julian Bibb of Franklin's Charge, Blackburn, state representative Steve McDaniel and Mary Ann Peckham. BOTTOM: Lighthizer and Peckham.



AS PART OF the 2017 Annual Conference in Chattanooga, Tenn., Civil War Trust president James Lighthizer recognized some of the outstanding leaders of battlefield preservation with the organization's annual preservation awards. Since the inception of its battlefield preservation awards in 2001, the Trust has honored a wide variety of individuals and groups — historians, scholars, National Park Service personnel, celebrities and even residential developers — for their achievements in protecting endangered Civil War battlefields.

The Trust presented its **National Preservation Leadership Award** to two outstanding Tennessee lawmakers: U.S. senator *Lamar Alexander* and U.S. representative *Marsha Blackburn*. During their tenures on Capitol Hill, Senator Alexander and Representative Blackburn have cultivated strong records of safeguarding Tennessee's unique cultural resources and supporting federal battlefield preservation legislation, including a measure to expand Shiloh National Military Park.

The **Shelby Foote Preservation Legacy Award** was presented to the *HTR Foundation*, which, with a total of \$4.8 million in contributions to date, is the Trust's number one private-sector partner. In 2015 and 2016 alone, support from the HTR Foundation resulted in the preservation of more than 550 acres at Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Appomattox Court House and Champion Hill.

The Trust presented the **State Preservation Leadership**

Award to *Mary Ann Peckham*, executive director of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA). The TCWPA is a statewide organization that identifies and raises funds for Tennessee's surviving battlefield sites, including working with the Trust in 2015 to preserve land associated with opening the "Cracker Line" at the Battle of Brown's Ferry.

Mike Babb, who served as chair of the Whitfield County Commission in Georgia from 1997 to 2016, was named the **Carrington Williams Battlefield Champion**. The Trust worked with Babb and Whitfield County to preserve battlefield land at Rocky Face Ridge — an important early conflict in the four-month campaign that determined the fate of Atlanta during the Civil War — as well as the February 1864 Battle of Dalton.

The Trust presented the **Brian Pohanka Preservation Organization Award** to the *Friends of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park*. Founded in 1986, the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga was one of the first groups formed to support a national military park. The award is named for the late Brian Pohanka, an outstanding historian and one of the founders of the modern battlefield preservation movement.

The Trust presented the **National Park Service Preservation Advocate Award** to *Jim Ogden*. Ogden has worked as the staff historian of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park since 1988, and is widely regarded as an expert in the Western Theater of the Civil War. ★

TOP HISTORY EDUCATORS earn honors



DURING the Teacher Institute's July 15 banquet, two outstanding history educators earned awards from the Trust for their dedication and innovative instruction.

Shirley Mae Snyder, a reading specialist at Lyon Magnet Elementary School in Waukegan, Ill., was named Teacher of the Year for her ability to bring hands-on history activities to her students even when the subject area isn't explicitly listed on the curriculum. Hands-on activities, including researching old photographs and other projects, engage upper-elementary students and encourage them to look deeper.

For the past 12 years of her 18-year career, Snyder has helped organize a fourth grade field trip to Springfield, Ill., so students can walk in Lincoln's footsteps with the benefit of background knowledge she has helped them acquire. Five years ago, she deepened this commitment, creating after-school clubs focusing on Lincoln and the Civil War experience.



Snyder and Trust education manager Kris White

David Wege, principal and upper-grade teacher at Waucousta Lutheran Grade School in Campbellsport, Wisc., received the Abroe-Carter Award for instructional excellence. Wege is also a board member of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee and a frequent presenter and lecturer across the Midwest, focusing on units that originated in the region. For example, he has led several class trips to Antietam and Gettysburg,



Wege, flanked by Trustee Mary Abroe and our teacher-in-residence Jim Percoco

he is inspired by his son, Josh, a U.S. Marine combat veteran and double-amputee who is active with the Wounded Warrior softball program. ★

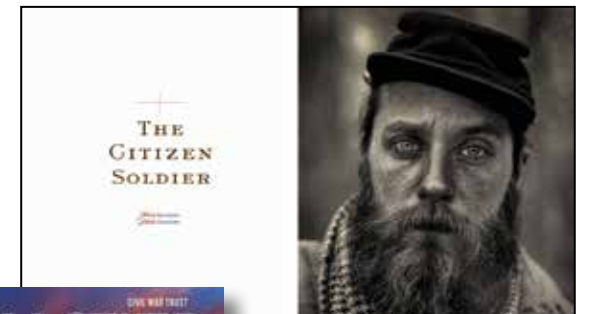
ACCOLADES CONTINUE for Hallowed Ground



THE Civil War Trust's membership magazine continues to win accolades for its content and design. For the ninth consecutive year, *Hallowed Ground* has won a Grand Award in the annual Apex Awards for Publication

Excellence, citing the Summer 2016 issue, celebrating the National Park Service centennial, in particular. In assessing the publication, Apex judges wrote: "A superb magazine, *Hallowed Ground* offers an exceptional overview of the Civil War Trust's unique efforts to preserve the history of America's battlefields. Copywriting is crisp, with interesting features and quick-reading shorts, while the photos and photo spreads are simply stunning. It is a publication rich in both content and visuals."

This year, we were one of only 100 recipients of this top honor across 11 categories. Receiving this honor — being evaluated among the top 3 percent of evaluated magazines — as a small nonprofit in a competition featuring larger organizations and private companies, is always a notable achievement. Moreover, *Hallowed Ground* featured three named finalists in medal categories of the 2016 international Society of Publication Designers competition. ★



CHATTANOOGA WELCOMES TRUST *for 2017 Annual Conference*



1: The Annual Conference reunites old friends. **2:** Jim Ogden interprets Trust-protected land at Brown's Ferry. **3:** The Trust Education Department explores new methods for orienting guests to Western Theater actions. **4:** An aerial perspective on one of our signature tours. **5:** Jim Ogden's tour pauses in front of the Illinois Memorial on Missionary Ridge. **6:** Pat Mills, new trustee Lt. Gen. Richard Mills, trustee Mary Abroe, policy director Jim Campi and Andrew Mills. **7:** Jim Lighthizer officially opens the conference on Thursday afternoon. **8:** Garry Adelman and his tour group conquer the heights of Lookout Mountain. **9:** Anthony Hodges brought authentic aids for his lecture, *Bite the Bullet: Myths and Realities of Civil War Medicine*. **10:** Bob Zeller, author of *Fighting the Second Civil War*, flanked by trustee Bill Vodra and Jim Lighthizer, who were instrumental in orchestrating the organizational history. **11:** Jeff Rodek (left) officially took office as Trust chairman shortly before the weekend opened. **12:** Color Bearers explore the Tennessee Valley Railroad. **13:** Members of the 2017 scholarship class with their sponsoring donors.

ALL PHOTOS BY BRUCE GUTHRIE,
EXCEPT 7&8 BY BUDDY SECOR



IN EARLY JUNE, more than 400 Civil War Trust members and guests gathered in Chattanooga, Tenn., for our Annual Conference. This 18-year tradition offers an unprecedented opportunity for history lovers to connect with like-minded people who care passionately about preserving American history.

In 2017, attendees enjoyed the option of choosing among 15 different tours with top-tier battlefield guides. The excursions focused on the Battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, making visits to iconic places like Orchard Knob, Snodgrass Hill, Lookout Mountain and Brown's Ferry. Particular attention was paid to sites that Trust members helped save with their donations.

Other highlights included lectures from noted historians, an evening riverboat cruise along the Tennessee River and the official release of a new book detailing the 30-year history of the Trust's role in battlefield preservation.

Recognizing the incomparable educational opportunities offered by walking the hallowed ground of a battlefield, particularly in the company of top historians and fellow preservationists, this year generous donors endowed full scholarships

for six students and six teachers to attend the Civil War Trust Annual Conference.

This year's student scholarship class included: *Logan Merchant* of North Carolina State University (*Mike and Mary Abroe Student Scholarship*); *Anne Hollmuller* of Johns Hopkins University and *Caleb Pascoe* of the University of West Florida (*Dave and Jean Kreidler Student Scholarships*); *Roy "Trae" Wisecarver, III*, of Texas A&M University (*Thomas Malone Memorial Student Scholarship*); *Elizabeth Webb* of the University of Delaware (*Patricia Kay Davies Student Scholarship*); and *John Smith* of Temple University (*Private Peter Long Miller Memorial Scholarship*). Teacher Scholarship recipients included: *David Kendrick* of Bear Creek Middle School, Stratham, Ga.; *Dr. Michael Murphy* of Weymouth High School, Weymouth, Mass.; *Linda Nieson* of Crossroads Middle School, Lewisberry, Pa.; *Shirley Mae Snyder* of Lyon Magnet School, Waukegan, Ill.; *Cheri Stegall* of Cocopah Middle School, Scottsdale, Ariz.; and *Mark Trotter* of Camp Floyd State Park, Fairfield, Utah.

If you'd like to join us in Newport News, Va., visit www.civilwar.org/annualconference to learn more about our 2018 conference, *Marching Toward Freedom: The Wars of America's First Century in Virginia's Historic Triangle*.★



EMERGING FRANKLIN PARK BENEFITS

from archaeology, state funding

THE PROFOUND transformation of Franklin, Tenn., from a typical suburban setting into a heritage tourism destination continues, with several major steps taken thus far in 2017.

Thanks to preservation efforts by the Civil War Trust and local activists, including the Battle of Franklin Trust and Save the Franklin Battlefield Foundation, historians are able to understand the fighting around the Carter House like never before. Two properties on Columbia Avenue have now been transferred to local ownership for inclusion in the growing park and cleared of modern houses — opening up sweeping views of the battlefield that had been obscured for the past century by development.

The area was also subjected to a thorough archaeological investigation by TRC Solutions, the same firm responsible for two previous digs in the Carter House area. The process definitively established the portion of the Federal line defended by the 50th Ohio and uncovered a number of poignant artifacts, including a U.S. belt buckle, buckle straps, bullets and a crushed canteen.

After visiting the dig in progress alongside fellow Tennessee state representatives Charles Sargent and Steve McDaniel, Sam Whitson — himself a retired U.S. Army colonel — remarked that the findings are “evidence that people fought and died here. Soldiers gave their lives during this desperate battle,” Whitson said. “It’s a reminder to preserve what happened here and the contributions that made this possible and remember this important part of Franklin’s history.”

State legislators took another major action on behalf of Franklin in early May, passing a state budget that included a \$3.1-million appropriation toward building a 4,000-square-foot visitor center at the Carter House, a state-owned property managed by the Battle of Franklin Trust. The new structure will be surrounded by landscaping designed to mimic the gardens and orchards maintained by the Carter family. The project is in keeping with the Carter House Master Plan, unveiled in 2015 after an 18-month drafting process. The first step in the transformation occurred last spring, with the demolition of the old Franklin High School gym. Later phases will also include topographical rehabilitation of the landscape.

Elsewhere on the battlefield, the Lotz House dedicated a fully restored Civil War cannon in memory of local lance corporal John A. Hundt, a Marine Corps veteran who died in a tragic accident last July at age 33. The 12-pound Mountain Howitzer was carefully restored by Hundt’s father, Victor, who donated the artillery piece, which was used by Confederate troops at the Battle of Chickamauga.★



Franklin Battlefield
Franklin, Tenn.
MIKE TALPLACIDO

FOUND!

Col. Robert Gould Shaw’s
Fort Wagner sword
discovered



ON JULY 18, 154 years to the day after he lost his life leading the 54th Massachusetts in a doomed assault against Fort Wagner in Charleston Harbor, Col. Robert Gould Shaw’s personal sword was placed on display at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston. Long thought lost — possibly even buried in the mass grave Shaw shared with his African American troops — the sword was recently discovered in the attic of one of his descendants, having been forgotten for generations.

In reality, after Union forces failed to carry Fort Wagner, Confederate defenders looted the bodies of many of their fallen adversaries. Shaw’s sword — an exceptionally fine custom-made English weapon he received as a gift from his uncle only a few weeks earlier — was probably sold to a Southern officer and made its way into North Carolina. In 1865, Brig. Gen. Charles Jackson Paine, commander of the Military District of New Berne and himself a commander of black troops, retrieved the sword and arranged for it to be returned to Shaw’s sister, Susanna Shaw Minturn. Gradually, the sword was forgotten and resigned to dusty attics.

Then, in March of this year, several Minturn descendants were cleaning out their parents’ subur-



ban Boston home in preparation for its sale. In the attic they discovered several swords, including a particularly ornate one.

“We looked at it a little more closely and discovered that it was very nicely engraved with the American flag, and on the other side it had the initials ‘R.G.S.’,” Mary Wood Minturn told the local NPR affiliate. “That’s when we knew *this is a special sword.*”

Needless to say, the sword wasn’t included in the pending tag sale; it was donated to the Massachusetts Historical Society, which placed the “holy grail of Civil War swords” on display alongside other artifacts related to the 54th Massachusetts.★

SUCCESS STORIES

LAND SAVED FOREVER

Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site
Four Oaks, N.C.
DAVID DAVIS



VICTORY

APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

As the Battle of Appomattox Court House developed on the morning of April 9, 1865, Federal infantry arrived in relief of the cavalry, which had begun to drive back the Confederate infantry. Brig. Gen. George Custer’s Federal cavaliers moved to the east, threatening the Confederate left flank, but the advance soon halted when Custer heard rumors of a flag of truce to arrange terms of surrender. A white flag shortly came into view, and Custer’s soldiers gave “three rousing cheers.”

In April, the Trust finalized purchase of 200 acres that witnessed some of the last fighting in the Civil War’s Eastern Theater, even while truce flags were circulating along other portions of the lines. The property was also the site of the wartime Morton House, a notable battlefield landmark, and will eventually be transferred to Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Project assistance was provided by the federal ABPP, the Virginia Battlefield Fund and the HTR Foundation. It brings the Trust’s total of protected land to **440 acres** at Appomattox Court House.

BENTONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

In March 1865, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman divided his force as he marched north into the Carolinas. Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston confronted an isolated wing on March 19, experiencing success until Union reinforcements arrived late in the day. On March 21, the Confederates attempted a final, desperate counterattack before retreating.

In early June, the Trust completed acquisition of a 73-acre tract that played a role in both the second and third days of the battle. This land will be transferred to the State of North Carolina for incorporation into Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site, providing an excellent opportunity to interpret the latter phases of fighting in this sector. Funding was provided by the federal American Battlefield Protection Program and the

North Carolina Clean Water Management Fund. The Trust has now protected a total of **1,857 acres** at Bentonville.

BRANDY STATION, VIRGINIA

The largest cavalry battle in American history and the opening clash of the Gettysburg Campaign took place on June 9, 1863. While the daylong fighting resulted in a tactical Confederate victory, Brandy Station was a huge morale boost for the Union and marked the end of Southern mounted domination in Virginia.

In March, the Trust finalized the placement of a conservation easement on 70 acres at Brandy Station, land around Yew Ridge and northern Fleetwood Hill that, late in the day, formed the location of a stout Confederate defensive line that held firm even after Union cavaliers gained the main crest. Funding assistance was provided by the federal ABPP, and the project brings the Trust’s total of protected land to **2,159 acres** at Brandy Station.

CHAMPION HILL, MISSISSIPPI

The May 16, 1863, Battle of Champion Hill has rightly been called the most decisive battle of one of the most decisive campaigns of the Civil War. After a fierce, seesaw struggle, Federal soldiers seized the Jackson Road, and the Confederates were driven from Champion Hill, setting the stage for the siege and surrender of Vicksburg.

This spring, the Trust finalized its purchase of a 319-acre tract in the vicinity of Jackson Creek, across which rugged veterans of the Union XIII Corps and XVII Corps advanced in overwhelming numbers to close off all hope of a Confederate miracle. Eventually, the Trust will look to transfer this land — protected with assistance from the federal ABPP, the HTR Foundation and the National Park Foundation — to Vicksburg National Military Park. This project brings our total of protected land to **795 acres** at Champion Hill.

COLD HARBOR, VIRGINIA

The Battle of Cold Harbor is remembered as the culmination of the Overland Campaign and one of the bloodiest engagements of the Civil War. Beginning on May 31, Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses Grant ordered a series of hopeless frontal assaults, finally shifting his army to threaten Petersburg on June 12.

*The 51-acre tract purchased by the Trust in late May is particularly notable for the very large fort called “Fletcher’s Redoubt,” dating from mid-June 1864, that still stands on the property. This tract represents almost 10 percent of the length of the Federal army’s front line during the second week of Cold Harbor. The property will soon be transferred to Richmond National Battlefield Park, and brings the total of Trust-protected land to **104 acres** at Cold Harbor.*

FORT DONELSON, TENNESSEE

After capturing Fort Henry, Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant advanced cross-country toward Fort Donelson. On February 16, 1862, after failing to break through Grant’s lines, the fort’s 12,000-man garrison acquiesced to Grant’s demand for “unconditional surrender,” solidifying the Union hold on Kentucky.

*In February, the Trust purchased a 40-acre tract at the southern point of where the Confederate units’ “breakout” attack occurred, which runs parallel with the southern boundary of Fort Donelson National Battlefield’s “Confederate Breakout Unit.” The project was made possible by participation from the federal ABPP and the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund. The Trust has now protected a total of **355 acres** at Fort Donelson.*

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 April, the Trust purchased a 0.3-acre parcel on the southern end of the battlefield, augmenting what has previously been protected at places like Pelham’s Corner and the Slaughter Pen Farm. Funding was provided by the federal ABPP, and the land will eventually be transferred to the National Park Service for incorporation into Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park. The Trust has cumulatively protected a total of **248 acres** at Fredericksburg.*

GAINES’ MILL, VIRGINIA

Fought June 27, 1862, Gaines’ Mill was the second of the Seven Days’ Battles, during which the Confederates sought to repulse a Union force virtually from the gates of Richmond. A massive twilight assault nearly carried the day for the Confederates, but darkness stemmed the tide, and the chess game continued.

*In May, the Trust acquired a two-acre property at what had been the southern edge of the New Cold Harbor intersection, the area where Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee spent the battle on horseback, greeting fresh troops and waving them forward into the attacks. Funding for the land, which will eventually be transferred to the Park Service for incorporation into Richmond National Battlefield Park, was provided by the federal ABPP. The Trust has now protected at total of **343 acres** at Gaines’ Mill.*

GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

On July 1, 1863, Confederate forces converged on the town from the west and north, driving Union defenders back through the streets. Union reinforcements arrived during the night, forcing the Confederates to attack strong positions on both flanks the next day. On July 3, the Confederate infantry assault known as Pickett’s Charge failed.

*In early May, the Trust finalized its purchase of 38 acres at the Gettysburg Almshouse on Barlow’s Knoll, where, on the afternoon of July 1, Confederate troops steamrolled over Maj. Gen. Francis Barlow’s division. The property will soon be transferred into Gettysburg National Military Park, bringing the Trust’s total of protected land to **1,020 acres** at Gettysburg.*

NEW MARKET HEIGHTS, VIRGINIA

At dawn on September 29, 1864, the Army of the James — including a significant number of United States Colored Troops (USCTs) — attacked the Richmond defenses. After initial Union successes, the Confederates rallied and contained the breakthrough. Lee reinforced his lines and counterattacked unsuccessfully the next day. The Federals entrenched, and the Confederates erected a new line of works, shifting troops away from Petersburg to meet the threat against the capital.

*In June, the Trust finalized the purchase of 15 acres within the footprint of the Federal assault against New Market Heights, land that likely saw a portion of the USCT forces who earned fame during the battle come under long-range Confederate fire. The property will eventually be transferred to Richmond National Battlefield Park. The Trust has now protected a total of **31 acres** at New Market Heights.*

SHILOH, TENNESSEE

On the morning of April 6, 1862, Confederate soldiers poured out of the nearby woods and struck a line of Union soldiers near Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. The overpowering Confederate offensive drove the unprepared Federal forces from their camp. Intense fighting continued until after dark, but the Federals held. A Union counteroffensive the next morning overpowered the weakened and outnumbered Confederate forces, which retired from the field.

*In April, the Trust purchased a 118-acre property associated with the earliest phases of the fighting at Shiloh. This land, which will soon be transferred to Shiloh National Military Park, brings the organization’s tally of protected land to **1,317 acres** at Shiloh.*

SOUTH MOUNTAIN, MARYLAND

In September 1862, the Army of Northern Virginia invaded Maryland, but the bold plan was jeopardized when a copy of Gen. Robert E. Lee’s orders fell into Union hands. In intense fighting on

September 14, 1862, the Federals gained control of all three passes in the South Mountain range. But stubborn resistance had bought Lee precious time and set the stage for the Battle of Antietam.

In the first quarter of 2017, the Trust protected two individual parcels at South Mountain that span all three of the passes at which fighting raged: Crampton’s, Fox’s and Turner’s Gaps. All 102 acres will eventually be transferred to South Mountain State Park, providing excellent opportunities for interpretation. Funding and assistance was provided by the federal American Battlefield Protection



*Program (ABPP), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Transportation. The Trust has now protected **635 acres** at South Mountain.*

TREVILIAN STATION, VIRGINIA

Union Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan hoped to disrupt enemy supply lines and create a distraction amid the Overland Campaign with a large-scale cavalry raid. Union troops seized the station on June 11, 1864, and destroyed some tracks but were unable to dislodge the Confederate position the next day.

*In April and May, the Trust completed two transactions at Trevilian Station totaling 436 acres — one large easement project and a smaller purchase that will result in 11 acres being transferred to the Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation to mark action by the Michigan Brigade that has been called “Custer’s First Last Stand.” The Trust has now cumulatively protected a total of **2,226 acres** at Trevilian Station.*

UPPERVILLE, VIRGINIA

The Battle of Upperville was one of a trio of cavalry engagements fought in Virginia’s Loudoun County during the early phases of the Gettysburg Campaign. Confederate cavalier J.E.B. Stuart’s skilled delaying tactics produced hard-fought battles at Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville, but ultimately, he successfully

prevented Union troopers from gaining any fruitful intelligence on the second invasion of the North.

*Fighting on June 21, 1863, occurred in two sectors: around the village of Upperville, and along Goose Creek. In late May, the Trust completed acquisition of a 12-acre parcel overlooking Goose Creek and the four-arched historic stone bridge spanning that waterway. The land and bridge, along with a seven-acre parcel owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation, will be transferred to the Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority to create a new publicly accessible battlefield park. The organization has now protected a total of **813 acres** at Upperville.*

CAMPAIGN 1776 EUTAW SPRINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA

After a string of defeats in the spring of 1781, Continental General Nathanael Greene described his efforts to end the British threat in South Caroline succinctly: “We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again.” He led 2,100 troops on a 22-day, 120-mile march that ended near the British camp at Eutaw Springs. On September 8, the Americans attacked at first light. Although he could not fully dislodge the British, Greene kept pushing them back to Charles Town.

*Although only **2.8 acres**, the tract purchased by the Trust in mid-June saw intense fighting and occupation by both sides. Funding for the acquisition was provided by the federal ABPP and the South Carolina Conservation Bank; the land will now be transferred to the South Carolina Battleground Trust. The project represented our first project at Eutaw Springs.*

FORT ANN, NEW YORK

The Battle of Fort Anne was fought July 7–8, 1777, with Continental troops unsuccessfully attacking the British camp there. The British won the battle on the tactical level, as they remained on the field. But at the

operational and strategic levels, the engagement changed the overall campaign’s momentum. It created a delay that allowed American forces to destroy roads and disrupt supply lines, which contributed to the British defeat at Saratoga in October.

*In June the Trust completed its first-ever acquisition of hal- lowed ground in the state of New York, purchasing **160 acres** at Fort Anne that will soon be transferred to the Town of Fort Ann for perpetual stewardship. Funding assistance was provided by the federal ABPP, facilitating Campaign 1776’s first effort at Fort Anne.*

SACKETS HARBOR, NEW YORK

When the War of 1812 broke out, both sides began building up their naval forces on the Great Lakes, which were vital highways for troops and supplies in the wilderness of the Old Northwest. When American forces attacked the British shipyard at York (now Toronto), the British launched their own raid on Sackets Harbor — the main U.S. shipyard on Lake Ontario. But such an attack had been long-expected and was ultimately repulsed.

*In June, the Trust and Campaign 1776 completed the acquisition of Horse Island, its first-ever property associated with a War of 1812 battle, **24.3 acres** at Sackets Harbor. Funding assistance was provided by the federal ABPP and the State of New York, to which the land will be transferred for incorporation into Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Park.★*

FIGHTING FOREFATHERS
*Civil War soldiers with family ties to veterans
of the Revolution and War of 1812*

REVOLU-
TIONARY
WAR

◀ **JOHN MCKINLEY GIBSON** came into the world in 1840, the 100th anniversary of the birth of his great-grandfather and namesake, a Revolutionary War captain. The captain barely outlived the Revolution, dying in 1782 on the Ohio frontier. Gibson, who served in the 13th Louisiana Infantry, survived the war but lost a battle with consumption in 1880.

DAVID WYNN VAUGHAN COLLECTION



Many sons of Virginia from the prominent Lee family fought for the Confederacy, including **JULIAN PROSSER LEE**. ▶ His grandfather was prominent politician Richard Bland Lee, and his great-uncle was Revolutionary War cavalry commander Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee — the father of Gen. Robert E. Lee.

WILLIAM A. TURNER COLLECTION



◀ **HENRY NEWTON COMEY**, a member of the 2nd Massachusetts Infantry wounded at Gettysburg, hailed from a family with five veterans of the Revolution. One of them was Jonathan Commey, a private in Captain John Homes’s Company, Colonel Bullard’s Regiment, which marched at the Lexington alarm.

RONALD S. CODDINGTON COLLECTION

WAR
OF
1812

JAMES FRANKLIN PUTNAM, the son of a Presbyterian minister and great-grandson of Revolutionary War Brigadier General Rufus Putnam, served in the 8th Independent Battery Ohio Light Artillery. He fought with distinction at Shiloh, Vicksburg and elsewhere. ▶

RONALD S. CODDINGTON COLLECTION



◀ In 1814, **CAPTAIN SULLIVAN BURBANK** led a company of the 21st U.S. Infantry against British troops at Lundy’s Lane during the War of 1812. Fifty years later, his grandson, Capt. Sullivan Wayne “Sullie” Burbank, led his company against rebel troops across Saunders Field during the Battle of the Wilderness. Sullie, mortally wounded, fell into enemy hands and died in captivity.

RONALD S. CODDINGTON COLLECTION



The son of slaves of African and German descent, **WILLIAM WRIGHT** was owned by Captain John Russell, a War of 1812 veteran with a farm in Frankfort, Ky. Russell consented to Wright's enlistment in the 104th U.S. Colored Infantry in the summer of 1864. Less than a year later, on April 3, 1865, Wright and his regiment marched into the fallen Confederate capital.

RONALD S. CODDINGTON COLLECTION



▲ **ADDISON BALL CHINN** of Lexington, Ky., was the son of a War of 1812 veteran and the grandson of a militiaman who served during the Revolution. When the Civil War erupted, Chinn joined the Confederate 8th Kentucky Cavalry against the wishes of his father, who remained loyal to the Union.

WILLIAM A. TURNER COLLECTION



◀ **VALENTINE GOODRICH BARNEY** was named after his mother's uncle, Valentine R. Goodrich, a captain who suffered a mortal wound at the Battle of Lundy's Lane during the War of 1812. Barney served in the 1st and 9th Vermont infantries during the Civil War. He participated in numerous battles, but — unlike his great uncle — survived his military service.

RONALD S. CODDINGTON COLLECTION

Military Images magazine is dedicated to showcasing the faces — and stories — of individual American soldiers and sailors. Interpreting these images and sharing the personal struggles of the men and women behind them are vital to ensuring that future generations know and appreciate all that was done in the name of establishing and protecting our country's freedoms. Their sacrifices are what hallowed the ground of the battlefields the Civil War Trust seeks to save. The Trust is proud to periodically feature poignant images and narratives selected by *Military Images* editor Ron Coddington in the pages of *Hallowed Ground*.

Quarterly since 1979, *Military Images* shares early examples of vernacular military photography from private and public collections alongside insightful interpretive articles. Learn more at www.militaryimagesmagazine.com, and see page 43 for an exclusive subscription offer for Civil War Trust members! ★

PROFILES *in* PRESERVATION RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

CENTRAL VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELDS TRUST

An unparalleled partnership



ANY of the greatest successes in the history of battlefield preservation would not have been possible without dynamic partnerships between conservation groups. In particular,

the presence of a determined local voice advocating on behalf of these sites consistently can transform a community into one that thinks proactively about protecting its historic resources, instead of one constantly reacting to threats.

Nowhere is this more evident than Fredericksburg, Va., where we will gather for our 2017 Grand Review. Here, since 1996, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT) has worked to protect the storied and bloodied fields over which some of the most important battles of the Civil War were fought.

"To date, we have effectively saved over 1,200 acres of battlefields that would have surely become strip malls or fast-food franchises," reflects CVBT president Tom Van Winkle. "The Battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House left over 100,000 casualties, and those men cry out to have their story told and not be forgotten."

While the overall strategy of saving blood-soaked ground has remained constant over two decades, Van Winkle admits that the group's tactics have evolved. "In business, and yes, preservation is a business, you need to change and adapt to trends and always try to keep ahead of them.... We have realized it is also important to be aware of the land providing the protection or viewshed to the hallowed ground saved. One only need to view Fredericksburg's Salem Church to realize ignoring this will easily negate the time and effort of the original purchase, rendering it almost forgotten."

CVBT and the Trust have worked together on dozens of property acquisitions, landscape restorations and advocacy campaigns, creating a truly collaborative partnership built on mutual respect. For example, when the Trust first sought to purchase Fredericksburg's Slaughter Pen Farm in 2006, the \$12 million price tag was daunting, but a \$1-mil-

lion commitment from CVBT — a monumental sum for the group's size — jump-started the effort and electrified the preservation community. Similarly, when CVBT invested a \$770,000 state grant into the Trust's Fleetwood Hill purchase at Brandy Station, it helped ensure the project's success.

Even among the top tier of local conservation groups, CVBT is notable for the strength and depth of its community ties — an attribute that has, time and again, paid dividends in acres saved forever. Now, as during the Civil War, Fredericksburg's location halfway between Washington and Richmond has made it a target: first for warring armies, now for suburban development.

"Being able to preserve battlefields not only pays homage to the fallen Americans who fought here, but it also creates green spaces and draws tourists to bolster the area's economy," says Van Winkle. "The CVBT, in all our negotiations, always



Slaughter Pen Farm
Fredericksburg, Va.
BUDDY SECOR

seek to find a 'win-win' scenario and are never combative. We are a community, and several of our board members have been born here and lived all their lives in the area. We want CVBT to be an organization the community is proud of."

As it enters its second score of years in the trenches of battlefield preservation, CVBT's Van Winkle is looking long term. "Those who have followed our purchases in the past many years will note we are stitching together the fragmented Chancellorsville Battlefield — of note, the 'Stonewall' Jackson flank attack area. Great progress has been made, and within the next 20 years we would love to be able to walk, without interruption, a significant stretch of the well-known attack."

The Trust stands ready to work with CVBT to advance this goal. It may be ambitious, but if any cooperative partnership can make it a reality, it is ours. As Van Winkle summarizes, "Together we make an unstoppable team."

Learn more about this outstanding group and how you can advance its efforts at www.cvbt.org. ★

The American Revolution

BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE

PROVING *the* PATRIOTS' METTLE

BY MANY MEASURES — duration, geographic spread of the fighting, number of troops engaged — it was the biggest battle of the Revolution. The loss at Brandywine cost the fledgling nation its capital, but it earned new respect for troops determined to fight on to ultimate victory.



BY *Michael C. Harris*



The Nation Makers, by Howard Pyle (1853-1911), ca. 1903, oil on canvas. Showing the patriots at the Battle of Brandywine. Courtesy Brandywine River Museum of Art. Purchased through a grant from the Mabel Pew Myrin Trust.

The

BRITISH VICTORY at the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777, led to the army's capture of Philadelphia — a repeat performance of the tactics used at Long Island the previous year, scoring William Howe's British army another massive victory over George Washington's Continental army. Howe's diversionary column managed to hold Washington's attention around Chads's Ford on the Brandywine River, while a massive flanking column conducted a 17-mile march into Washington's right rear. Washington rushed three divisions to meet the threat upon Birmingham Hill, but two of them were driven away as the fighting rolled into the sector of Major General Adam Stephen's Virginia division.

While Continental Major General John Sullivan's division was routing from its position and Major General William Alexander, Lord Stirling's division was being hard-pressed and beginning to fall back. Stephen's division on the far right of the American line remained in place atop Birmingham Hill. His two brigades — the 3rd Virginia, under Brigadier General William Woodford, and the 4th Virginia under Brigadier General Charles Scott — were formed on the military crest of the high ground directly above and north of Sandy Hollow, with Woodford on the right side of the division front and Scott on the left. General Stephen later reported to Washington that Scott's brigade was mostly "Entrenchd to the Chin in the Ditch of a fence Opposite to the Center of the Enemy."

Advancing against Stephen were, from right to left, the British 1st Light Infantry Battalion, stalled on both sides of the Birmingham Road; the British 2nd Light Infantry Battalion; and on the far left, elements of the Hessian and Anspach jaegers. The Germanic troops had swung well east of Birmingham Meetinghouse but were now bogged down in the low ground between Street Road and Birmingham Hill. Lieutenant Heinrich von Feilitzsch of the Anspach jaegers recalled coming "under heavy canonfire" and coming "upon a swamp which was forged by only a small path in the middle. The situation brought the more disorder among the Jagers, because at the same time we were exposed to enemy small arms fire." Lieutenant Colonel Ludwig von Wurmb, the jaeger commander, oversaw the advance and described the initial encounter with the American skirmishers a short time

earlier: "I saw that the enemy wanted to form for us on a bare hill, so I had them greeted by our two amusettes." Lieutenant von Feilitzsch noted "the small arms and canonfire became considerably heavier and the smoke darkened everything, yet, it could be noticed several times, that they [Stephen's division] were making preparations over there to throw us back with bayonets, and because we were not in formation, we did not feel very good about the situation."

Although the Germanic troops could not effectively use their smaller guns to support their advance, the Americans had no such problem. Situated on good terrain with a commanding view, the battalion guns attached to Stephen's division did outstanding work defending the position with shell and grapeshot, as did the patriot muskets, which were loaded and fired as fast as humanly possible. The inherent strength of Stephen's position was undeniable. According to the *Jaeger Corps Journal*, the Americans were "advantageously posted on a not especially steep height in front of a woods, with the right wing resting on a steep and deep ravine." The stout defense put up by the Americans likely surprised Lieutenant Richard St. George of the 52nd Foot's light company, who remembered "a most infernal fire of cannon and musket — smoak — incessant shouting — incline to the right! Incline to the Left! — halt!—charge! ... the balls ploughing up the ground. The Trees cracking over ones head, The branches riven by the artillery — The leaves falling as in autumn by grapeshot." Lieutenant Martin Hunter, another officer in St. George's light company, agreed with his fellow officer and also took note of the imposing defensive nature of the terrain: "The position the enemy had taken was very strong indeed — very commanding ground, a wood on their rear and flanks, a ravine and strong paling in front."

One of the jaeger officers fighting on the left wing, Lieutenant Heinrich von Feilitzsch, recalled the "counter-fire from the enemy, especially against us, was the most concentrated.... The enemy had made a good disposition with one height after the other to his rear. He stood fast," he added, perhaps with grudging respect. Lieutenant Colonel von Wurmb agreed: "We found ourselves 150 paces from their line which was on a height in a woods and we were at the bottom also in a woods, between us was an open field. Here they [Stephen's main line] fired on us with two cannon with canister and," continued the Hessian commander, "because of the terrible terrain and the woods, our cannon could not get close enough, and had to remain to the right." The German light infantrymen, reported one participant, "were engaged for over half an hour, with grape shot and small arms, with a battalion of light infantry. We could not see the 2nd Battalion of Light Infantry because of the terrain, and while we received only a few orders, each commander had to act according to his own best judgment."

Despite the tactical flexibility of light infantry, the wooded, swampy and sloping terrain in this area, coupled with the heavy American fire, stalled the elite British and Germanic units. The swampy lowlands and thickets had also forced the



HOWE



WASHINGTON



Sandy Hollow Park
Chadds Ford, Pa.
ROBERT JAMES

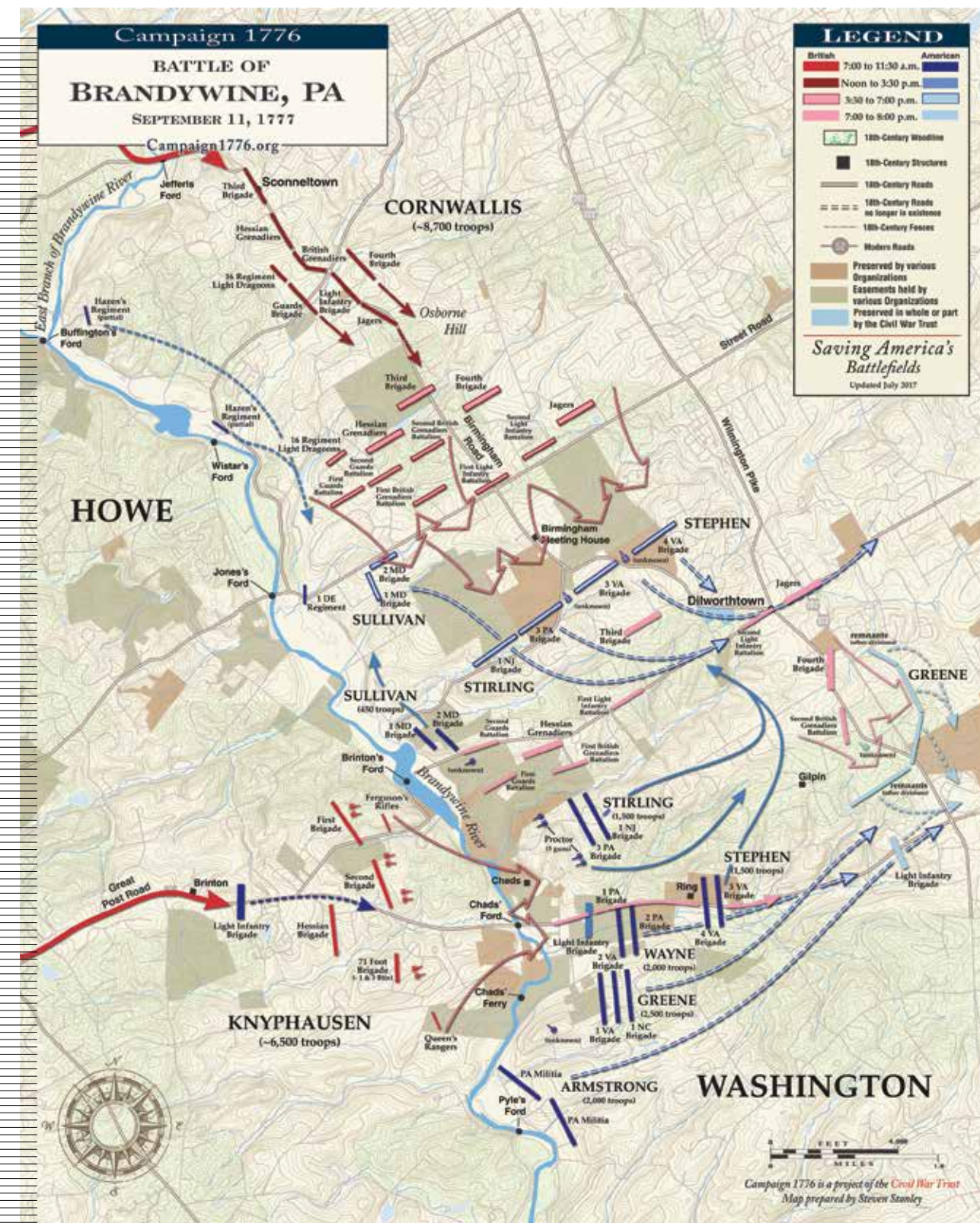
4th British Brigade, part of Charles Cornwallis's reserve, to swing well west of the Birmingham Road, which in turn denied the light troops their promised support. Unless the jaegers could turn the American right flank, it would be difficult to reach, let alone carry, Stephen's position. Stirling's retreat into Sandy Hollow exposed Stephen's left flank to the surging British troops. Stephen attempted to maintain his position rather than retreat, perhaps to provide as much time as possible for Stirling and Sullivan to withdraw their shattered commands to a safe distance and reform elsewhere.

General Scott's brigade, holding the left side of Stephen's division, was but a short distance from the American artillery position that had just been overrun by the British light infantry and grenadiers, some of whom were still pressing against his front. Woodford's brigade on Scott's right, meanwhile, was facing a fresh threat from the advancing jaegers and newly placed enemy artillery. After encountering significant obstacles in the form of woods, fences and swampy terrain, the British and Germanic troops finally managed to wheel three guns into an ideal position to enfilade Woodford's brigade with grapeshot. Two of the guns, three-pounders that were probably attached to the 2nd Battalion of Light Infantry, unlimbered along that unit's front, with nine companies on their left and another five companies advancing on their right. The third piece, a 12-pounder, set up between the battalions, with

the 1st Light Infantry Battalion advancing on its right. From this advantageous position, the British gunners rammed grapeshot down the hot tubes and fired, spraying deadly iron rounds at an oblique angle into Woodford's line. Whether these metal balls were responsible for taking out the horses of Stephen's pair of field pieces is unknown, but the animals fell around this time and, when the infantrymen eventually retreated, there was no way to take the invaluable field pieces with them. Woodford, struck in the hand, had also retired down the southern slope to dress his injury.

While the British guns roared, the 2nd Light Infantry Battalion and jaegers, supported by the advance of Brigadier General James Agnew's 4th British Brigade, pressed Stephen's front. Five companies from the 2nd Battalion had finally managed to cross the marshy bottomland in front of Birmingham Hill and assault Scott's brigade on Stephen's left. "The fire of

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Musquetry all this time was as Incessant & Tremendous, as ever had been Remember'd," wrote Lt. Frederick Augustus Wetherall of the 17th Regiment of Foot's light company, "But the Ardour & Intrepidity of the Troops overcoming every Opposition & pressing on with an Impetuosity not to be resisted." Ultimately, he continued, "the Rebel Line incapable of further Resistance gave way in every part & fled with the utmost disorder."

Regiment, was wounded and died two days after the battle. Eleven years later, his widow applied to the War Department for half-pay. When the fighting intensified on his right, Lieutenant Colonel von Wurmb "had the call to attack sounded on the half moon [hunting horn], and the Jaegers, with the [Second] battalion of light infantry, stormed up the height." Despite Woodford's best efforts, once Scott's brigade on his left was swept away, it was simply impos-

Scott's men held as long as possible, but Stirling's withdrawal exposed their left flank. When the patriot guns on the hill ceased firing, the 1st Light Infantry Battalion surged forward to close the distance, overwhelmed the front and engulfed the flank of Scott's line, which collapsed and retreated down the back of Birmingham Hill into Sandy Hollow and beyond.

While Scott's brigade was driven back, as late as 6:00 p.m. Woodford's embattled brigade was still standing firm against the on-coming jaegers and blasts of grapeshot. His men, however, were falling with uncomfortable regularity. Sergeants Noah Taylor and Banks Dudley, both from the 7th Virginia Regiment, were taken out by flying metal. Colonel John Patton's Additional Continental Regiment lost Private John Stewart with a wound in his left arm and Private Jacob Cook with a shot to his right leg. Captain James Calderwood, whose independent company was attached to the 11th Virginia

sible to remain in place for long. The final straw arrived on the opposite flank when von Wurmb's jaegers struck Woodford's right; a sergeant and six men worked around the American right to pick off men from the rear. Captain Johann Ewald recorded this tactic in his diary: "During the action Colonel Wurmb fell on the flank of the enemy, and Sergeant [Alexander Wilhelm] Bickell with six jaegers moved to his rear, whereupon the entire right wing of the enemy fled to Dilworthtown." According to another account, Bickell's movement around Stephen's right flank put the Germanic troops in a good position to "inaccomodat[e] the enemy for a half hour." Von Wurmb later wrote with pride that his jaegers "attacked them in God's Name and drove them from their post."

"They allowed us to advance till within one hundred and fifty yards of their line," remembered Lieutenant Martin Hunter of the 52nd Regiment of Foot's light company, "when they gave us a volley, which we returned, and then immediately charged. They stood the charge till we came to the last paling. Their line then began to break, and a general retreat took place soon after." An unidentified officer with the 2nd Light Infantry Battalion described the assault from his perspective: "Our army Still gained ground, although they had great Advantig of Ground and ther Canon keep a Constant fire on us. Yet We Ne'er Wass daunted they all gave way." According to the *Jaeger Corps Journal*, "the enemy retreated in confusion, abandoning two cannons and an ammunition caisson, which the Light Infantry, because they had attacked on the less steep slope of the height, took

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& FLED WITH THE
UTMOST DISORDER."**

possession of." Lieutenant von Feilitzsch remembered the jaeger line "overpowered the enemy completely; the rebels retreated on all sides, we pursued them until it was 7 o'clock and dark." Stephen's division ended up as scattered and difficult to organize as Sullivan's broken command. Unlike Sullivan's men, however, Stephen's troops were in position and prepared when the British attacked, and acquitted themselves well. This was amply demonstrated when the jaegers reached the summit of the hill and realized that "many dead [Americans] lay to our front." The 52nd's Lieutenant Hunter admitted the Americans had "defended [their guns] to the last; indeed, several officers were cut down at the guns. The Americans never fought so well before, and they fought to great advantage." As the remnants of Sullivan's, Stirling's and Stephen's divisions retreated to the southeast, they crossed numerous farms — including property recently acquired by the Civil War Trust's Campaign 1776 initiative — just west of Dilworthtown. Ultimately, elements of all three of these divisions were rallied and fought with Nathaniel Greene's division around dusk in the last action of the Battle of Brandywine about a mile south of Dilworthtown. The two armies continued to maneuver and spar over the next several days, forcing the Continental Congress to abandon Philadelphia and clear it of military supplies. Howe's army marched into the city, which had been central to the Continental cause, unopposed on September 26, 1777. Though no victory for the patriots, their hard fighting at Brandywine made the British take notice.★

Michael C. Harris is a graduate of the University of Mary Washington and the American Military University. He has worked for the National Park Service, New Jersey State Parks and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. His Brandywine: A Military History of the Battle that Lost Philadelphia but Saved America, from which this article is adapted, is available from Savas Beatie publishers.



*Before the British could
torch the Capital
of the United States,
they had one last stop to make.*



War of 1812

by ZACHARY WHITLOW
PHOTOGRAPHY by ROBERT JAMES

Bladensburg, Maryland, was essentially DESERTED.

MOST OF ITS INHABITANTS WERE LONG GONE; fleeing ahead of the British troops rumored to be marching north from the small fishing village of Benedict. Unsure of where exactly its enemy would strike, the American army under Brigadier General William H. Winder had been both advancing and retreating for the last several days, exhausting itself in the search for the invaders. A political appointee, Winder had begun to show the strains of top command, second-guessing himself and, ultimately, becoming too flustered to be an effective commander. The fact that President James Madison, Secretary of War John Armstrong and Secretary of State James Monroe all countermanded the general's instructions only added to his frustrations.

The waterfront where the British attacked.
Bladensburg Battlefield
Bladensburg, Md.

By dawn on August 24, 1814, it had become clear that Bladensburg was the British target, and Winder’s dead-tired army was forced to march at full speed to get there first. Of the more than 6,500 troops at the general’s disposal, most were militia units from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, augmented by a small number of regular forces from the army, navy and marines. Although the Americans outnumbered the British, they were mostly raw and untested compared to the battle-hardened redcoats.

By contrast, British Major General Robert Ross commanded a force of nearly 4,500 troops, the bulk of them veterans, dubbed “Wellington’s Invincibles.” Fresh from fighting the French in Spain and helping depose Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, these battle-hardened soldiers were now in the United States to make “Cousin Jonathan” — a pejorative term used by the British to describe their symbolic relationship to the American nation — pay for starting this little war. The Irish-born Ross, himself a veteran of many battles, had repeatedly distinguished himself under fire; the Duke of Wellington had personally chosen him to lead this expeditionary force. His immediate subordinate was Rear Admiral George Cockburn, who was no stranger to the region.

Since early 1813, Cockburn had been terrorizing the Chesapeake Bay region. Some of his more infamous endeavors included the burning of Frenchtown and the sacking of Havre de Grace, Md. He even made a feint up the Potomac toward Washington in mid-July 1813. There, the American militia turned out for an attack that never came and returned to the capital celebrating as if they had won a tremendous victory. After wintering in Bermuda, however, Cockburn returned by February 1814, determined to strike at Washington. From his base on Tangier Island in Virginia, the British admiral renewed his campaign of raids with a vengeance.

Amid these incursions, hundreds of enslaved African Americans freed themselves from nearby plantations and sought refuge with the British. Nearly 200 such men took up arms against their former masters by joining the newly formed Corps of Colonial Marines. Although initially wary of the nontraditional recruits’ abilities, Cockburn soon became confident they “will neither shew want of zeal or courage when employed by us in attacking their old masters.” Not only were they gallant under fire, but their presence on the battlefield had an astonishing psychological impact on the Americans, which would be clearly demonstrated in the coming battle.

On August 24, the Americans arrived on the field first and began taking up positions just to the west of town facing the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River — today more commonly known as the Anacostia — which was spanned by a small wooden bridge leading into Bladensburg. As midday drew nearer, the heat increased dramatically, putting the soldiers at serious risk for heatstroke. As his forces arrived piecemeal, Winder organized his army into three battle lines in a triangular formation along what Ross would later describe as “very commanding heights.” Artillery in the first American line was focused on the town and bridge. Secretary of State James Monroe himself placed a second line about 500 yards behind this, a distance that

would prove to be too great to offer meaningful support. Commodore Joshua Barney, late of the Chesapeake Flotilla, commanded sailors and marines in the third line some distance behind.

President James Madison arrived on the battlefield around noon to confer with Winder. Mistakenly believing the general to be in town, he and his small party were about to cross the bridge before being informed that the British had just taken Bladensburg. The presidential party quickly retired behind the first line, at roughly the same time that Major General Ross began surveying the American defenses.

From his position, the British commander could plainly see the first line’s artillery concentrated on the bridge and town, but also that the bulk of his enemy’s forces were still arriving and being placed into line. Assessing the troops that were in line, Ross realized they were too far apart — poor troop placement meant they could

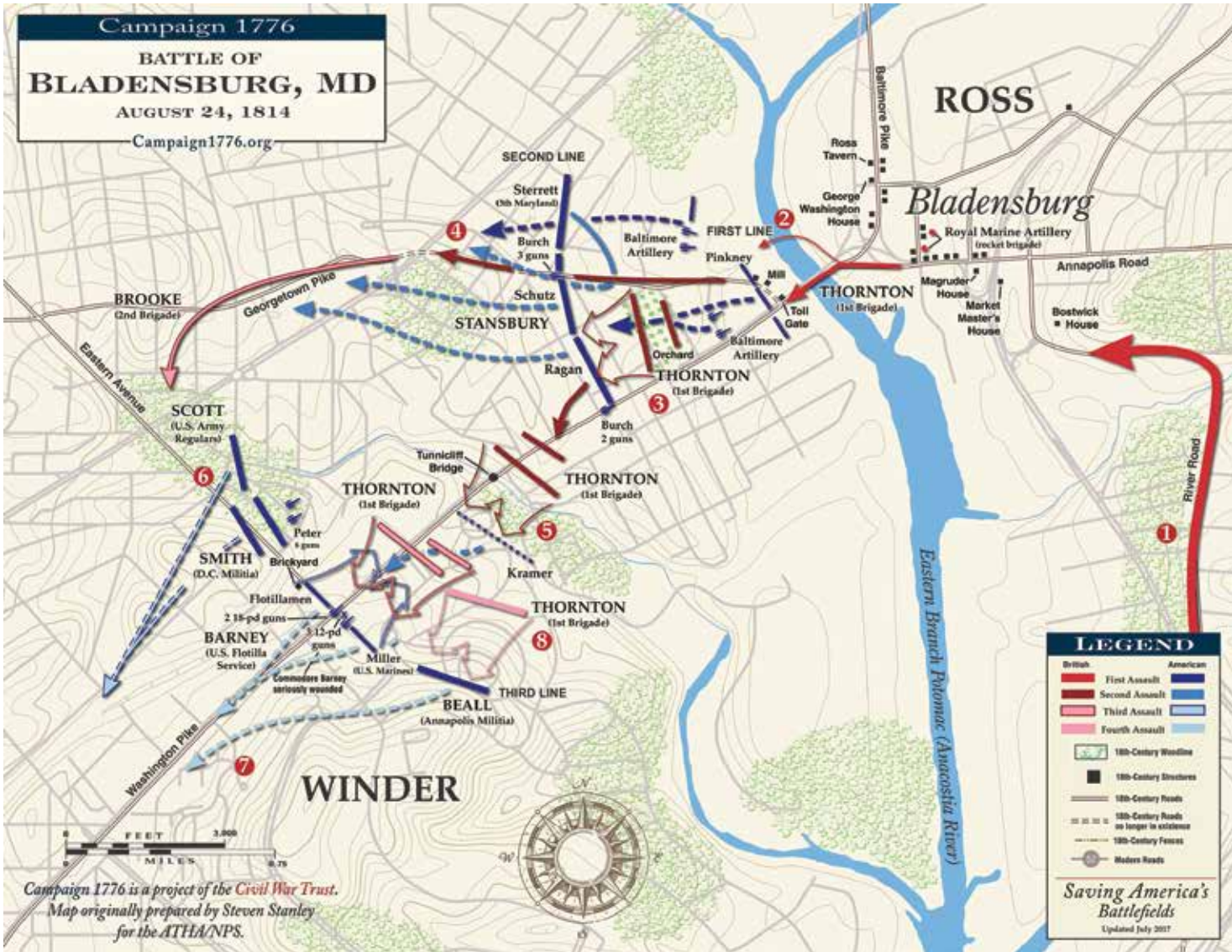
not support each other. Several subordinates pushed for an attack right away, while others cautioned against it until the whole force was up and ready. In weighing his options, Ross was convinced by Cockburn that the militia would pose no threat and ordered an immediate attack, despite only having a portion of his force ready. At about 12:30 p.m., Colonel William Thornton’s Light Brigade stepped off to lead the Brit-

ish assault; the remaining two brigades were still several miles away. Thornton’s veteran light infantry, soldiers specially trained in rapid movement, advanced toward the bridge in good order, a sight that both impressed and intimidated the Americans. Nevertheless, when the Baltimore Artillery opened up with its six-pound guns, killing several men outright and mangling the limbs of others, the remaining redcoats took cover wherever they can find it. American artillery kept the British pinned until Colonel Thornton rode up and, brandishing his sword, urged his men forward. “You see the enemy; you know how to serve them!” he shouted as he spurred his horse across the bridge. Despite a hail of artillery and small arms fire, the British attack was renewed with newfound vigor. Watching from his position in town, Ross instructed a subordinate to get the remaining two brigades into action posthaste. Both he and Admiral Cockburn were delighted by this early phase.

Thornton’s assault was supported by salvos of Congreve rockets. These were wildly inaccurate and could terrify troops with their horrific screeching; but they were simple to launch and, in the absence of any real artillery, had to do. As these hissing rockets blazed over the American frontline — and President Madison’s position — Winder implored his commander in chief to take up a safer position. The president decided that it “would now be proper” for his party “to retire to the rear, leaving the military movement to military men.” With those first British salvos, James Madison became the first sitting American president to come under fire — a distinction only equaled by Abraham Lincoln during the Battle of Fort Stevens in July 1864.

Despite the initial effectiveness of its artillery, the first American line panicked as the Light Brigade continued forward through the carnage. A Maryland militiaman noted that the British “moved like clock-work: the instant a part of a platoon was cut down it was filled

American artillery kept the British pinned until Colonel Thornton rode up...urged his men forward. “You see the enemy; you know how to serve them,” he shouted as he spurred his horse across the bridge.



- 1 12:00 PM British forces under Major General Robert Ross arrive in Bladensburg from Upper Marlboro.
- 2 12:30 PM After several attempts to cross the Eastern Branch bridge, Colonel Thornton's 1st Brigade finally succeeds (while a smaller force fords the river) and drives the First American Line from the field.
- 3 12:45 PM Thornton's 1st Brigade attacks and routs the Second American Line. His brigade then moves into position to assault the right flank of the Third American Line.
- 4 1:00 PM After the Second American Line retreats from the field, Brooke's 2nd Brigade moves along the Georgetown Pike to engage the left flank of the Third American Line.

- 5 1:15 PM Thornton's 1st Brigade crosses Tunnickliff Bridge to attack Kramer.
- 6 1:30 PM Brigadier General William Winder orders the Third American Line to retreat. Only the American left flank under Smith and Scott receive the order and fall back to Washington.
- 7 1:30 PM Barney's ammo train leaves without notice, causing the naval guns to run out of ammo.
- 8 2:00 PM Thornton's 1st Brigade (now under the command of General Ross) attacks Commodore Barney's position twice before shifting to attack the American right flank with success, driving the Americans back to Washington.

up by the men in the rear without the least noise and confusion whatever.” With redcoats now streaming across the bridge or fording the Eastern Branch in full force, American skirmishers and artillery crews began to panic and fall back; Winder’s first line had collapsed.

Due to poor troop placement, however, the American commander had no idea what was happening on his front. It was only as militiamen began streaming toward him that Winder realized his predicament and ordered several regiments forward to restore his devastated front line. Despite some well-aimed volleys at the Light Brigade, another round of Congreve rockets caused these men to break and run as well. They did eventually rally and resume the fight for a time, but the sight of British reinforcements — including Colonel Arthur Brooke’s Second Brigade — crossing the bridge caused these militia regiments to once again break. Soon after, pressed on

both flanks, the remainder of the American second line collapsed. Winder, his army crumbling around him, ordered a retreat.

Meanwhile, Commodore Joshua Barney, in command of the third American line, waited, unaware of the general’s order. Sailors from his recently scuttled Chesapeake Flotilla and marines from the Washington Navy Yard occupied a position on the high ground, manning two 18-pound guns and three 12-pounders. Supporting them on the left was Major George Peter’s Georgetown Artillery with their six six-pound guns. Also protecting the artillery were militia units from Maryland and the District of Columbia, as well as 300 regular infantrymen. Seeing the American army below them routed, they knew a British attack was imminent. When the redcoats arrived, they approach Barney’s position cautiously, wary of the large guns protecting the road. Only when the British were within

Sculptor Joanna C. Blake's Battle of Bladensburg Memorial depicts the wounded American Commodore Joshua Barney being assisted by Charles Ball, a former slave who served in his flotilla, and an unnamed Marine.



Before battle raged, Bladensburg had a rich mercantile legacy. The Hilleary-Magruder House (LEFT) is the oldest colonial-era structure still standing in the town. Built in 1746, the elegant Georgian manor house known as Bostwick (RIGHT) lay along the British route of march.

a few hundred yards of his line did the commodore order one of the 18-pounders to fire grapeshot, cutting a wide swath in the lines of the advancing redcoats. Two more assaults were attempted and likewise bloodily repulsed, with Commodore Barney noting how “all were destroyed.”

Colonel Thornton decided that a new tactic was in order. Between Barney’s heavy artillery and Major Peter’s six-pounders, the British were being cut to pieces in a deadly crossfire. Skirting

was immediately paroled by his captors and taken to Bladensburg to have his wounds tended. Despite being severely outnumbered, the commodore’s sailors and marines had gone toe to toe against more than 1,000 British troops and inflicted heavy casualties. But it was not enough to stop the invasion.

Several hours after their victory at Bladensburg, the British formed up and pressed on to Washington City. They arrived at the outskirts near Capitol Hill around dusk, where Major General Ross sounded the call for parlay to discuss the terms for surrendering the city. As the government had fled, however,

no one was left to respond to his call. Ross victoriously entered

Washington to teach “Cousin Jonathan” a lesson he would not soon forget.

As British forces entered the American capital, they received fire from the stately Sewell House on Capitol Hill. General Ross’s horse and two corporals from the 21st Foot were killed by these assailants, members of Barney’s Chesapeake Flotilla. Ross had ordered that private property would be respected, so although the house was burned in retaliation, it the only such residence the British destroyed during the raid. The Americans had set fire to the Navy Yard themselves, but the redcoats targeted other military and government buildings, including the Capitol, the President’s House and the Treasury, as well as the State, War and Navy Department buildings. Overall, there were only a few instances of looting, and those caught were immediately punished. Following a deadly explosion at the Greenleaf Arsenal and severe storms in the city’s center, Ross and Cockburn determined that their time in Washington was at an end after just 26 hours, and began falling back to their ships. Thus ended the only foreign attack targeting America’s capital until the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. ★

Zachary Whitlow holds a master’s degree in museum studies from the George Washington University and specializes in early United States history. He has gained experience in museum interpretation, visitor services, exhibition development and research through work with Carlyle House Historic Park, the City of Alexandria, Va., George Washington’s Mount Vernon and the National Park Service; he is currently working at the new Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument in Washington, D.C.

Despite being severely outnumbered, the commodore’s 600 sailors and marines had gone toe to toe against more than 1,000 British troops and inflicted heavy casualties. But, it was not enough to stop the invasion.

around the bottom of a ravine, he personally led a charge up the hill on the American right. Marines and flotillamen charged into the British line as the 18-pounders poured grapeshot into the British flank. It was at this point that Thornton was grievously wounded — shot in the thigh by a musket ball. The British advance faltered, and the Americans pushed them back several hundred yards. Ross and Cockburn arrived on scene and took stock of a situation that had turned suddenly grim for the British. General Ross personally took command of the Light Brigade, while Admiral Cockburn ordered rocket fire on Barney’s position. Although spirited, the sailors and marines could not sustain the attack in the face of an entire brigade.

Despite his horse being hit by grapeshot, Ross led a renewed charge against Barney’s right flank. Maryland militia awaited the advance, but also broke and ran in the face of the counterattack. Simultaneously on the left flank, the District militia and U.S. regulars were informed of Winder’s order to retreat and, covered by the Georgetown Artillery, withdrew from the field in good order. The commanding general never informed Barney of the retreat, leaving the sailors and marines to fend for themselves. Enraged and disgusted that “not a single vestige of the American Army remained,” the commodore continued the fight. Gradually, his position was enveloped, and the guns were spiked after the artillery ran out of ammunition. Shot through the thigh, Barney managed to order his men to retreat before passing out due to blood loss.

Struck by the gallantry and courage of Barney and his men, Ross and Cockburn were magnanimous in victory. “They have given us the only fighting we have had,” remarked the British admiral. Barney

BREAKING THROUGH THE OTHER SIDE

*For nine months,
the Confederate defenses
of Petersburg held firm
against repeated Federal assaults.
They could not hold forever.*

by EDWARD ALEXANDER

Recreated earthworks
Petersburg National Battlefield
Petersburg, Va.
KEVIN COSSABOON

AT 4:00 P.M.,

on April 1, 1865, with heavy combat just beginning around the Five Forks intersection, Union Maj. Gen. George G. Meade wrote instructions for Maj. Gen. Horatio G. Wright’s VI Corps to attack the main line of Confederate entrenchments early the next morning. Some Union soldiers, upon hearing the order, believed it was an April Fools’ joke; the Petersburg Campaign was in its 291st day, but no frontal assaults had been launched since July 30 of the previous year, and those had resulted in the failed debacle at the Crater. Many considered the Confederate fortifications located one mile away to be the strongest line of works they had faced during the war.

For nine and a half months, Gen. Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia had clung to the trenches outside of Petersburg and their capital at Richmond 20 miles to the north, searching for opportunities to lash out at Union columns as the bluecoats wound their way through the embattled countryside looking for opportunities to cut the next in a series of Confederate supply lines. Lee and his veterans had performed admirably in preventing the capture of the two cities, but by 1865 they could only depend upon a handful of routes across which they could receive supplies — or along which they could escape, if necessary.

While Lee and Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant traded blows outside of Petersburg, other Union armies sliced through what remained of the Confederacy, capturing Atlanta, conquering the Shenandoah Valley and tightening the blockade. Clear Union success outside of central Virginia buoyed Northern enthusiasm for the war’s prospects and provided the foundation for President Abraham Lincoln’s landslide reelection. While the rallying cry “On to Richmond” had guided the Army of the Potomac during the first years of the war, Grant placed the capture of the Confederate capital as a secondary objective in 1864, focusing his efforts on destroying the Confederate economy, agriculture and transportation infrastructure, as well as the citizens’ willingness and armies’ ability to fight.

After the initial assaults in mid-June 1864 failed to conquer Petersburg, Grant adopted a strategy of utilizing one-two punches to threaten both Richmond and Petersburg — cavalry raids along the railroads and infantry pushes around the Confederate right flank — with the goal of encircling Petersburg south of the Appomattox River. Though doing so gained limited territory, Grant used Maj. Gen. George G. Meade’s Army of the Potomac to keep constant pressure against the Confederate capital and its supply hub to the south, preventing Lee from relieving crumbling armies in other theaters.

Before the campaign had even matured, Lee real-

ized the inevitable doom of remaining static in the trenches around the two cities but, unlike when he had faced previous opponents, he could not wrest the initiative away from Grant. In March 1865, Lee determined the best way to regain momentum and prevent his entrapment was to boldly strike against the Military Railroad, an improvised line built by



Petersburg Breakthrough Battlefield
Petersburg, Va.
ROBERT JAMES

Union engineers to connect the soldier encampments on the front lines at Petersburg with the supply base at City Point, a deep-water port at the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers.

The desperate Confederate gamble on the morning of March 25 succeeded in the temporary capture of Fort Stedman, but could not sever the railroad. After Maj. Gen. John G. Parke’s IX Corps reclaimed its lost position, gathering several thousand prisoners along the way, Meade instructed Wright and Maj. Gen. Andrew A. Humphreys to test the strength of the Confederate lines southwest of the city. The VI and II Corps successfully seized the Confederate rifle pits along their fronts and refaced them, forcing the Southern pickets to create a new line closer to their own fortifications, increasing the chances of a successful Union frontal assault at that sector.

However, Grant had already written instructions for his next offensive against Petersburg, one that stressed maneuver but did not dismiss the practicality of a frontal assault. He instructed Maj. Gen. Edward O.C. Ord to bring reinforcements from the Army of the James — then threatening Richmond on the north side of its namesake river — south to Petersburg to relieve the II Corps and Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren’s V Corps from their entrenched encampments. Humphreys and Warren would then move toward the Boydton

THE TRUST,
Pamplin Historical Park and Petersburg National Battlefield have worked cooperatively on restoration and interpretation efforts at the Breakthrough. The Trust timbered 160 acres of its 407-acre holdings in the region, using the proceeds to restore open fields and showcase earthworks.

Plank Road, one of Petersburg’s two remaining open supply lines. The infantry columns would also serve to screen Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan’s cavalry, recently arrived from the Shenandoah Valley, which was to move through Dinwiddie Court House for the South Side Railroad. Expecting Lee to shift the Confederate dispositions to protect those lines, Grant instructed Parke, Wright and Maj. Gen. Godfrey Weitzel, who remained with the rest of

the Army of the James near Richmond, to launch attacks against the Confederate entrenchments if they appeared weakened.

Warren, Humphreys and Sheridan set out on March 29, gaining Dinwiddie Court House without a contest and capturing another stretch of the Boydton Plank Road several miles closer to Petersburg after a brief engagement at Lewis Farm. Lee reacted to these developments by summoning what reserves he could spare — the cavalry under his nephew, Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, and Maj. Gen. George E. Pickett’s infantry division — while transferring additional troops from their position closer to the city along the Boydton Plank Road to one four miles south along Hatcher’s Run. The departure of a brigade-and-a-half from around the Tudor Hall plantation opposite Wright’s VI Corps left 10 regiments numbering 2,800 soldiers to man a mile-and-a-half-long stretch that, four days later, faced the brunt of an attack by Wright’s entire command.

March 30 proved to be a wash, heavy rains delaying the offensive for a day. His superiors having sensed the stretched Confederate position, Wright received orders to attack the section of the Confederate line near Tudor Hall the next morning, but those orders were ultimately, albeit temporarily, countermanded. Instead, Warren absorbed a withering, though outgunned, Confederate attack that day and eventually drove the Southerners back into their entrenchments along the White Oak Road, severing the link between the main line and Pickett, farther to the southwest, who spent the day driving Sheridan back to Dinwiddie Court House.

Joined by Warren on April 1, Sheridan designed an attack against Pickett’s position at the Five Forks intersection. With major combat in just its initial stages around that critical junction at 4:00

p.m., Meade sent the instructions for Wright to attack the Confederates in his front the following morning.

The VI Corps’s commander set about plans to form all but one regiment of his command, some 14,000 men, in front of its own works near Fort Welch, using the position gained during the combat on March 25 as a staging ground. During the previous week, Brig. Gen. Lewis A. Grant had used the advanced

position of the Union picket line to scout for weaknesses along the Confederate entrenchments. Grant had identified a narrow ravine, the headwaters of Arthur’s Swamp that wound its way from near Tudor Hall plantation toward the Union lines, widening as it flowed southeast.

The marshy landscape had been covered by thick pine woods when the armies arrived the previous October, but the encamped troops had timbered the ground over the course of their occupation. This ultimately exposed the ravine to view from the advanced picket position and, as the action shifted farther to the southwest, the beleaguered Confederates did not view the ravine as a point of sensitive vulnerability.

Lewis Grant pointed the ravine out to Brig. Gen. George W. Getty, commanding the division, who passed the intel up to Wright and Meade, who both consented. Wright then set about devising specific instructions for his looming attack. Thus the Federal subordinate generals had already designated their objective, identified their tactics and written preliminary orders for the assault when Grant expanded Meade’s previous plan to include an attack all along the lines.

After learning of the Union victory at Five Forks — and with it his preordained sacking of Warren — Grant wanted to continue to press the Confederates along the entire front. The overall Union commander frequently worried that he would wake up one morning and find the Confederates had evacuated Petersburg and Richmond, leaving his heavier, slower columns in their wake in a race he could not win. His dismissal of the unaggressive Warren and standing attack orders to Wright, Parke and Weitzel were intended to prevent that possibility. Now, on

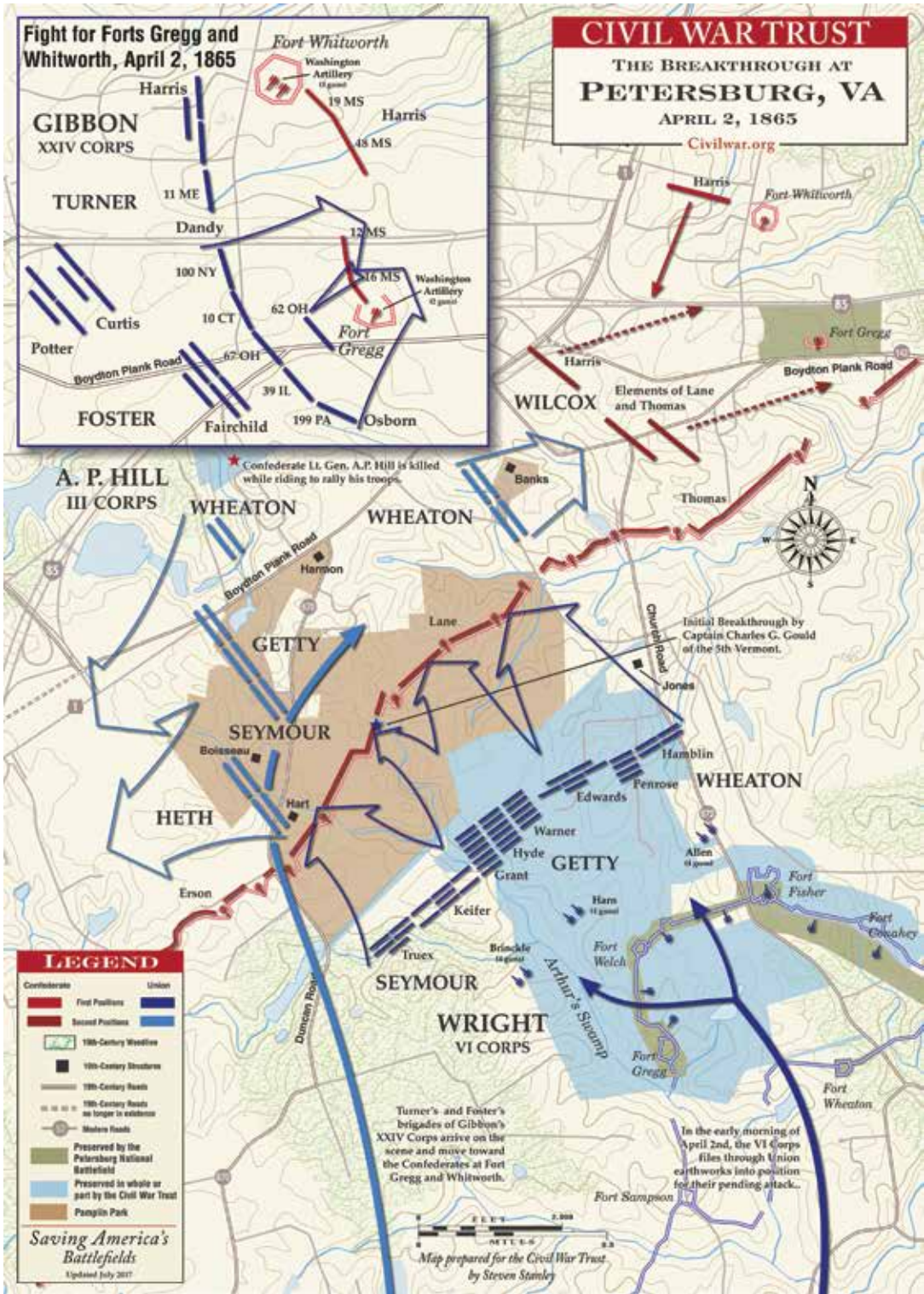
the evening of April 1, Grant wanted to immediately follow up the good news from Five Forks with simultaneous attacks all across the front. However, Ord reported the terrain too difficult on his front, and Meade stated the impracticability of subordinates attacking that night. The Army of the Potomac's commander instead chose to continue the plan he set forth in his previous orders that afternoon.

Around midnight, Wright's men filed out of their trenches near Fort Welch and began forming behind their own picket line a half mile to their front, halfway across the distance between the rival sets of entrenchments. The Confederate sentries, just a quarter mile out in front of their own main works, sensed the activity and fired blindly into the darkness. The VI Corps suffered significant casualties from the sporadic fire, losing two mortally wounded regimental commanders, as well as the temporary loss of Lewis Grant to a head wound. Sharp discipline, including the muffling of wounded comrades and the removal of percussion caps from their rifle muskets, prevented excessive noise and any return fire that could tip the Confederates off to the strength of the gathering force.

By 1:00 a.m., April 2, Wright's men reached their designated locations in front of Fort Welch. Grant's brigade of six Vermont regiments, now under command of Lt. Col. Amasa S. Tracy, formed in a column, with their left flank anchored along Arthur's Swamp. The 5th Vermont Infantry lay just behind the Union picket line, with the 2nd, 6th, 3rd, 4th and 1st Vermont Heavy Artillery (acting as infantry) stacked to their rear. Getty's other two brigades, under Cols. Thomas W. Hyde and James M. Warner, similarly formed assault columns in echelon on the Vermonters' right rear. Brig. Gen. Frank Wheaton continued the formation on the right flank, deploying the brigades of Cols. Oliver Edwards, James H. Penrose and Joseph E. Hamblin in compact formation, with each to the right rear of the previous. Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Truman Seymour

placed his two brigades, under Cols. J. Warren Keifer and William S. Truex, on the opposite side of Arthur's Swamp, each deployed in three rows to the left-rear of Getty.

The bluecoats lay silent on the cold, damp ground until 4:40 a.m., when a signal fired from Fort Fisher spurred them to their feet. Rushing forward into the darkness, the Federals crossed the several hundred yards to the Confederate rifle pits without incident. Passing over the startled sentries, who jogged the opposite way as prisoners, the attackers began to bog down once they struck the several lines of abatis in front of the Confederate earthworks.



Two companies of the 5th Vermont Infantry continued to rush forward at the tip of the wedge formation. Capt. Charles Gilbert Gould mistook a shout to “bear to the left” as a direct order and led 50 Vermonters out of the ravine. While his command bottled up as they sought to squeeze through a gap in the abatis, the young officer bolted ahead, scrambled up the ditch and mounted the parapet, saber in hand to contend with any Confederates he might encounter.

One of his comrades later recalled: “Capt. Gould rushed into the fort all alone, with nothing but his sword. The rebels came at him with swords, bayonets, and clubbed muskets. One bayonet was thrust into his mouth and through his cheek, and while in that position he killed the man with his sword. An officer struck him on the head with a sword and he was struck in the shoulder by a bayonet and pounded all over with clubbed muskets; but he gave as good as he got.”

Corp. Henry Recor rushed forward and hauled his battered captain's body back into the relative safety of the ditch below the earthworks. Meanwhile, Sgt. Jackson Sargent and Corp. Nelson Carle scaled the embankment and planted the regimental and national colors on the earthworks. As a dazed Gould was led to the rear, handfuls, then dozens, then hundreds of Vermont infantrymen entered the thinly held Confederate works. After desperate hand-to-hand fighting — short in duration, but intense in violence — the outnumbered Southerners began surrendering en masse or retreating for Petersburg's inner defenses.

The elated bluecoats pushed on through the Confederate encampments. Some stopped to rummage for souvenirs, while others pushed ahead for the Boydton Plank Road and the South Side Railroad beyond. Eventually, Wright swung his command south to Hatcher's Run, sweeping the Confederates along the way before returning north to threaten Petersburg's inner works.

Ord's command spearheaded the final push toward Petersburg's inner lines, overrunning brief, though desperate, defenses at Forts Gregg and Whitworth. Federal divisions elsewhere fought on a wide front — Parke's IX Corps battled against fierce Confederate resistance southeast of the city at Fort Mahone, a II Corps division secured a lodgment on the South Side Railroad farther to the west at Sutherland Station, and Sheridan cautiously pressed northward from Five Forks.

After learning of the death of Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill — who was shot by two Pennsylvanians on their return from wrecking the railroad on their own initiative — Lee telegraphed the Confederate war department that he could see no further possibility of holding Petersburg past nightfall. He advised the government's immediate withdrawal from the capital and made plans to be-

AFTER DESPERATE HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTING — SHORT IN DURATION, BUT INTENSE IN VIOLENCE — THE OUTNUMBERED SOUTHERNERS BEGAN SURRENDERING EN MASSE OR RETREATING

gin pulling his soldiers out of the trenches at both Petersburg and Richmond that evening.

Lee hoped to unite the various scattered commands of his army at Amelia Court House, where they could follow the Richmond & Danville Railroad south toward North Carolina. But the decisiveness of Wright's victorious charge ultimately prevented that possibility. After frantic evacuations from both Petersburg and Richmond, the Confederate army could not gain ample breathing room to escape Grant's pursuit.

One week later, on April 9, the Federals caught up to Lee at Appomattox Court House, where the Confederate general surrendered. President Jefferson Davis nevertheless sought to reestablish the capital elsewhere, but the losses of the Army of Northern Virginia and Richmond convinced Southern generals elsewhere to yield the cause during the ensuing month.

Union casualties for the dramatic assault that came to be known as The Breakthrough totaled fewer than 4,000 — significantly less than at far more famed battles. Yet they contributed to one of the most decisive events of the war: the surrender of Lee's army and the capture of Richmond. Capt. Gould — who survived his harrowing ordeal as the first soldier to reach the parapet during the Breakthrough, but was hampered by the lingering effects of his wounds for the remainder of his life — ultimately received the Medal of Honor for his sacrifice. Despite this, he had one thing on his mind when he wrote to inform his family of his tremendous participation that morning: “Am only sorry that I was wounded before I got into Richmond.”★

Edward Alexander is author of Dawn of Victory: Breakthrough at Petersburg. He currently works as a park guide at Richmond National Battlefield Park and previously served as park ranger and historian at Pamplin Historical Park. A graduate of the University of Illinois he currently resides in Richmond, Va.



Fort Gregg
Petersburg Breakthrough Battlefield
Petersburg, Va.
ROBERT JAMES

WINNERS ANNOUNCED

for Trust Student Contests



Senior Division - Nandira Mahmud



Senior - Eiken Nguyen



Senior - Mackenzie Barnard



Junior Division - Viane Nguyen



Junior - Jacey L.



Junior - Carly Harshbarger



HE Civil War Trust is pleased to announce the winners of our 2017 student contests! Each year, the Trust sponsors a special prize at the National History Day competition. In addition, our Postcard and Essay Contests ask students to consider an annual theme — in 2017, “Preserving the Memory of the Civil War.”

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY SPECIAL PRIZE

Tate Green of the Clayton Bradley Academy in Tennessee won this year’s prize for his documentary entitled *Dissidents of Rebellion: The Hidden Stand and Sacrifice of the East Tennessee Bridge Burners*.

POSTCARD CONTEST

Senior Division

Nandira Mahmud of Skyview Junior High, Bothell, Wash.
Eiken Nguyen of Traughber Junior High, Oswego, Ill.
Mackenzie Barnard of Central Fellowship Academy, Macon, Ga.

Junior Division

Viane Nguyen of Lakewood Creek Elementary, Montgomery, Ill.
Jacey L. of Johnson Elementary School, Bridgeport, W.V.
Carly Harshbarger of Central Middle School, Columbus, Ind.

ESSAY CONTEST

Senior Division

Jaeger R. Held of Powder River County District High School, Broadus, Mont.
Rebecca Sechrist of Fredericksburg High School, Fredericksburg, Texas
Scott Dornquast of Central Middle School, Columbus, Ind.

Junior Division

Zari Bruch of Central Middle School, Columbus, Ind.
Chase Jones of Central Middle School, Columbus, Ind.
Sam Ferrenburg of Central Middle School, Columbus, Ind.

EDUCATORS BECOME STUDENTS

at 2017 Teacher Institute

“THANK YOU! Thank you! Thank you!” gushed one participant in the wake of the Trust’s annual National Teacher Institute. “I was blown away by it all. To be able to sneak away for that many days to study the Civil War was dream-like for me.”

For four days in mid-July, 176 teachers gathered in Memphis, Tenn., for one of the most highly regarded continuing education opportunities in the history and social studies community. Attendees participated in a series of outstanding workshops showcasing proven techniques for classroom engagement — from the esoteric (“Difficult and Broken Ground: The Terrain Factor at Shiloh” and “Memory and Memorialization” at the National Civil Rights Museum) to the tangible (practicing percussive communication in “Drumbeat of the Regiment”) — and morale-boosting, community-building functions. Exceptional off-site tours of Shiloh National Military Park, ranging from intense five-hour hikes to tailored presentations created by National Park Service staff to showcase child-friendly interpretive techniques, formed the backbone of the event.

“I want to thank the Civil War Trust for preparing such a memorable event,” one guest wrote. “I probably would not have had the chance to visit Shiloh, but the Trust made it possible for me to go and share my experience with my students.”

Overall, attendees scored the event 9.46 out of 10, with virtually all participants declaring they would recommend the experience to friends and colleagues. Nearly 60 percent invested financially in the cause of preservation after attending, requesting that their refundable deposit should instead be directed toward Trust education programs.

A recurring element among many presentations was demonstrating the ways history can be made truly dynamic rather than dry: using high-resolution photos, artifacts or period-appropriate re-creations, online ancestry research, board games and even popular music to teach about the Civil War and civil rights. Memphis’s favorite son, Elvis Presley — who had his own connections to the Civil War — even featured in discussions! “The King of Rock ‘n’ Roll” began performing a mashup of “Dixie,” “All My Trials” and the “Battle Hymn of the Republic” in 1972 as “An American Trilogy,” and the tune quickly became a crowd favorite.

The keynote speaker at Saturday evening’s banquet, *New York Times*-bestselling novelist Robert Hicks, author of *The Widow of the South*, *A Separate Country* and *The Orphan Mother*, addressed the value of historical fiction in the classroom, drawing on his own experiences finding the right blend of history and storytelling in the tradition passed down to him through friendship with the legendary Shelby Foote.

The 2018 National Teacher Institute will be held in Valley Forge, Pa., and, for the first time, integrate material related to the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 as well as the Civil War. Interested teachers may want to reserve their spots early — 86 percent of 2017 attendees have already expressed their desire to join us again next summer!★



TOP: By participating in specially designed tours, teachers are invited to reimagine the educational opportunities afforded by field trips. These outings can reinforce classroom lessons and provide unique perspectives. **BOTTOM:** Workshops and lectures allow educators to share the techniques that have resonated most strongly with their students, making the past tangible.

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A PARTING SHOT CIVIL WAR DISCOVERY TRAIL

PAMPLIN HISTORICAL PARK

PAMPLIN Historical Park and National Museum of the Civil War Soldier has earned a reputation as one of the most impressive museums and living history interpretive centers in the nation. The location's campus also features antebellum homes, a slave life exhibit and centers for educational programs and special events.

But the crown jewel of the undertaking — and the very reason for its existence — is the underlying battlefields associated with the siege of Petersburg. In the early 1990s, when a 100-acre property containing pristine earthworks erected in that campaign was put up for sale, the fledgling Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites worked with businessman and philanthropist Dr. Robert B. Pamplin, Jr., a descendant of the land's wartime owners, to purchase the site. Following an additional \$5 million investment, the museum and initial one-mile interpretive trail opened in



PAMPLIN HISTORICAL PARK & THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE CIVIL WAR SOLDIER

6125 Boydton Plank Road
Petersburg, Va. 23803

CONTACT
www.pamplinpark.org

PHOTOGRAPH BY
JAMES SALZANO

June 1994 as the Pamplin Park Civil War Site, which soon grew through the acquisition and restoration of Tudor Hall, the plantation home of Pamplin's ancestors.

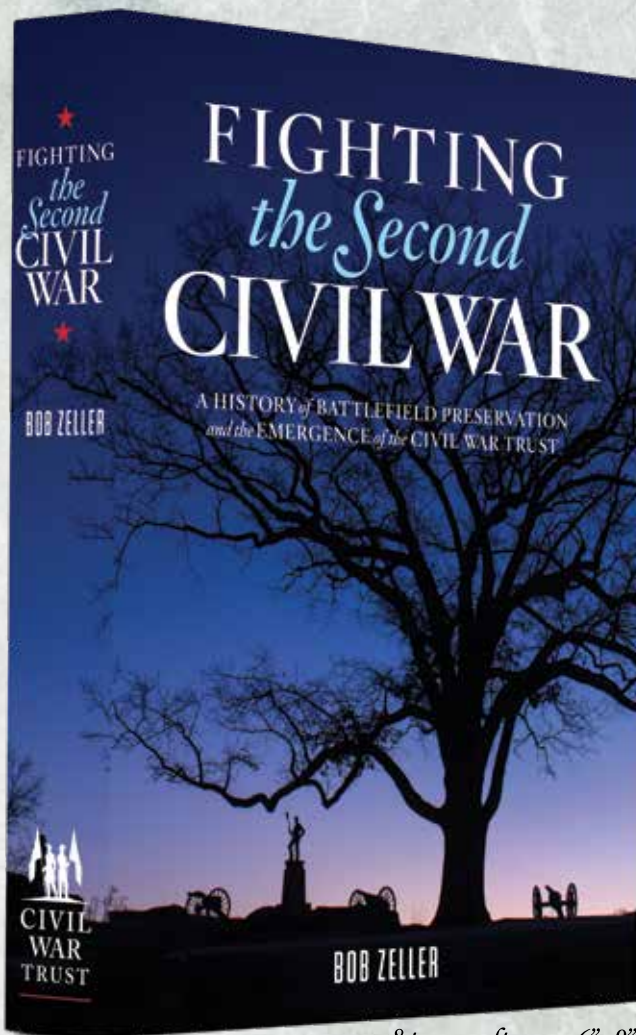
Today, the 424-acre property includes the site where 14,000 federal soldiers broke through Confederate lines on April 2, 1865, leading to the surrender of Richmond and the Banks House, which served as Ulysses S. Grant's headquarters in the aftermath of the Breakthrough. Walking trails bring visiting battlefield stompers to a variety of landmarks, including monuments to the 6th Maryland (US) Infantry, the Vermont Brigade, and Lane's North Carolina Brigade, pristine artillery redans and earthworks, as well as the restored Hart House.

The latest and most significant addition to the network is the Petersburg Battlefields Trail, which connects Pamplin with neighboring properties preserved by Petersburg National Battlefield and the Civil War Trust. This cooperative effort provides an unparalleled opportunity for visitors to explore the full breadth of the lands involved in the fighting.★

This is one of the more than 600 sites on the Civil War Discovery Trail. Explore Civil War history and plan your next trip online at www.civilwardiscoverytrail.org.



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★

TO MARK our 30th anniversary, the Trust has worked with historian Bob Zeller to publish a comprehensive study of modern efforts to set aside this hallowed ground. *Fighting the Second Civil War: A History of Battlefield Preservation and the Emergence of the Civil War Trust*, published by Knox Press www.knoxpress.com, is available online and wherever books are sold.

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