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CIVIL WAR TRUST

HALLOWED GROUND

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REMEMBERING
THE SLAUGHTER
AT SPOTSYLVANIA





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HALLOWED GROUND

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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 47,000 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.

The Trust regrets the following errors that appeared in the Fall 2017 issue of *Hallowed Ground*. Mr. Phil LeDuc should have been listed among the Brigade Color Bearers and former Trustee Childs Burden should have been listed among the Corps Color Bearers.

COVER and THIS PAGE: Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, Va., BUDDY SECOR.



HETHER OR NOT it was recognized as such at the time, the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House marked a shift in the nature of the Civil War.

Certainly, the participants recognized

that the fighting was ferocious, but did they sense that it would ultimately be recorded as the third-bloodiest battle of the war? Could anyone intuit that Grant's pledge to "fight it out on this line if it takes all summer" presaged the nine-month siege outside Petersburg? Union troops cheered when they left the Wilderness and turned toward the crossroads at Spotsylvania, rather than reversing course to Washington. But did they sense that they had been set on a course that would ultimately lead them to Appomattox and the war's end?

For the past year, as the Trust has celebrated our 30th anniversary, I have asked a tremendous number of people whether they had any sense of what the all-volunteer group that began in 1987 would grow into. While many longtime members hoped that their effort would have an impact, they universally reported that that the results we have achieved exceeded their wildest expectations.

Whether at the Annual Conference, the Grand Review or an internal staff meeting, I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing reminiscences of the past three decades in the trenches of battlefield preservation. We have engaged in one-upmanship on number of battlefields tromped and books read. We've compared notes on favorite tours — best guides and worst weather. We've given thanks for new friends made and fondly recalled colleagues

and partners who we have lost along the way. I treasure all of the memories you have shared with me and hope that you will enjoy reading a selection of them in this issue.

As we head into the final days of 2017, I hope that you look back on all that we have achieved in these 12 months — and these 30 years — with a deep sense of pride. But, more importantly, I hope that you look ahead with great eagerness to do yet more in 2018 and consider making a gift to set us on a path to future success and meet your own charitable goals.

Your year-end contribution will enable us to secure additional historic tracts like the one we celebrated protecting at Brandywine in September. It will allow us to bring classrooms full of schoolchildren on field trips to historic sites, enriching their educational experiences. It will help us broker win-win solutions that balance development and preservation and take advantage of government matching grants. It will help us restore battlefields to their wartime appearances and host once-in-a-lifetime events.

After all, what we are able to achieve together moving forward will become the memories we fondly share at gatherings during our next milestone anniversary! ★



JIM LIGHTHIZER
President, Civil War Trust

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Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, Va.
BUDDY SECOR

WARFARE IN WINTER

BAD WEATHER and impassable roads made the Winter a difficult time for 18th- and 19th-century armies. Military leaders during this period — including the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War — tried to avoid operations during this trying season. Even when not on active campaign, soldiers struggled against the weather and the boredom of life in winter quarters, as they sought to bring some semblance of home and comfort to the holiday season. And, of course, there were those rare instances in which Americans had to wage war against the enemy and the elements. Explore the battles and activities that carried soldiers through the bleak months at www.civilwar.org/winter.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

WE CONTINUE TO EXPLORE new ways to engage our social media fans through Facebook Live broadcasts. Together we visit historical sites, speak with subject matter experts, view cool artifacts, and interact with our viewers at home. Join our growing community to tune into upcoming virtual events at www.facebook.com/CivilWarTrust.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

ALL OUR videos and animated maps are now in one place on YouTube! Watch our various video series on the key battles, personalities, and places from the Civil War, Revolutionary War and, now, the War of 1812. Join our thousands of subscribers at www.youtube.com/CivilWarTrust.

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BRANDYWINE COMMUNITY GATHERS to celebrate preservation victory, opportunity

PHOTOS ABOVE:
1) Representative Meehan.
2) Members of the 1st Delaware Regiment.
3) Ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring (left to right): Jeannine Spiers (Chester County Planning Commission), State Representative Carolyn Comitta, John Conklin (Birmingham Township Board of Supervisors), Terence Farrell (Chester County Commission), U.S. Representative Patrick Meehan, living historian, U.S. Representative Ryan Costello, Michelle Kichline (Chester County Board of Commissioners), Jim Lighthizer (Civil War Trust), Molly Morrison (Natural Lands), Andrew Outten, (Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates), David Shields (Brandywine Conservancy). 4) Andrew Outten, Director of Education of the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates



ON GROUND WHERE George Washington's troops narrowly escaped the British army's grip, historic preservationists and land conservationists came together on September 15 to celebrate protection of a key part of the Revolutionary War's Brandywine Battlefield. U.S. Congressmen Patrick Meehan (R-PA) and Ryan Costello (R-PA) joined Chester County officials, Campaign 1776 and the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force to celebrate the acquisition of the 10.4-acre Dilworth Farm, where elements of George Washington's Continental Army fought after a crushing British flank attack on September 11, 1777.

The project, which builds upon past work by local activists, marked the first time the American Battlefield Protection Program's (ABPP) Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants, which are funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and administered by the National Park Service, have been used at a Revolutionary War Battlefield in Pennsylvania.

"Over the years, it has been wonderful to see so many partners coming together to preserve portions of this beautiful and historically significant battlefield," Representative Meehan told attendees at the news conference. "This hallowed ground needs to be preserved as an outdoor classroom, so future generations can under-

stand the sacrifices our founding generation made."

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides states and localities with the necessary resources to successfully implement conservation and historic preservation efforts, including the American Battlefield Protection Program," said Representative Costello. "In southeastern Pennsylvania, conservation and education efforts create an important partnership in preserving open spaces for future generations to understand our history."

To cap Friday's ceremony, stakeholders cut a ceremonial ribbon denoting the battlefield's preservation, and members of the 1st Delaware Infantry Regiment fired a musket volley to honor the soldiers on both sides who fought at Brandywine. The event kicked off two days of large-scale living-history events celebrating the battle's 240th anniversary.

"Today's announcement is a culmination of years of work done in partnership with the National Park Service to identify the most significant parts of the Brandywine Battlefield that are of the highest priority for preservation," Trust President Jim Lighthizer said. He went on to thank Chester and Delaware Counties, the Brandywine Conservancy, Birmingham Township and all the townships and residents in the area for their collective hard work to preserve the Brandywine Battlefield over many years.

Michelle H. Kichline, chair of the Chester County Board of Commissioners, noted that the Dilworth Farm's preservation adds to approximately 400 battlefield acres that have been protected within her jurisdiction.

"None of the battlefield would be preserved today, if not for the work of the local community, partners and Brandywine supporters," Kichline said. "Although Chester County has invested roughly \$4.8 million in the preservation of the Brandywine Battlefield, it is critical to have support from the National Park Service through programs like the American Battlefield Protection Program, and from all of our nonprofit conservation partners."

Kichline spotlighted the steadfast work of the Brandywine Conservancy on open-space and historic preservation issues. The Conservancy will hold the conservation easement for Dilworth Farm.

Molly Morrison, president of Natural Lands, then announced that her nonprofit conservation group is working with Campaign 1776 to safeguard 88 acres at Osborne Hill, utilizing a \$1.13 million ABPP matching grant. "In addition to being a beautiful stretch of Chester County countryside, Osborne Hill is an important historic site from which British Gen. William Howe directed the movements of his army during the battle," Morrison said. "We are pleased to have the opportunity to preserve this important property. A major grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program has brought us very close to realizing our goal at Osborne Hill."

"Preservation of the Dilworth Farm expands opportunities at the battlefield for public interpretation," said historian Andrew Outten, chair of the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force. "Of any battle fought on American soil during the Revolutionary War, Brandywine had the most combatants engaged — 30,000—witnessed the most casualties and covered the largest area."

Purchase of the Dilworth Farm property cost \$850,000, paid for with grants from Chester County and the American Battlefield Protection Program, matched with private donations from the Civil War Trust. Once a conservation easement to protect this open space is recorded, Birmingham Township will take title to the property.★



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Color Bearers tour near Chatham in Fredericksburg; Chancellorsville tour group poses with Bob Krick; Chancellorsville Battlefield; Lighthizer poses with Richmond National Battlefield park superintendent Dave Ruth, award-winner Bruce Gottwald and Virginia senator Bryce Reeves, at the Friday Night 30th Anniversary Banquet at Stevenson Ridge; President Jim Lighthizer tours the Sentry Box with gracious host Charlie McDaniel.

GRAND REVIEW RECAP

Color Bearers and Standard Bearers celebrate 30 years



FROM October 13 to 15, 2017, Color Bearers from across the country gathered in historic Fredericksburg, Virginia, for our annual Grand Review. Brigade, Division, Corps, National, and Founding Color Bearers are invited to attend this exclusive event.

The weekend kicked off with a half-day tour of Revolutionary War sites, including Kenmore and Ferry Farm, followed by a 30th Anniversary Banquet at Stevenson Ridge, honoring those who have made our work possible.

On Saturday and Sunday, our Color Bearers participated in tours of the Chancellorsville, Wilderness, Brandy Station and Fredericksburg Battlefields, led by top historians and guides, including Doug Douds, Bud Hall, John Hennessy, Robert K. Krick, Christopher Mackowski, Frank O'Reilly, Don Pfanz and Kristopher White. Saturday evening, guests enjoyed a beautiful cocktail reception at the historic *Sentry Box*, a private home with sweeping views of the Rappahannock River directly across from George Washington's boyhood home, Ferry Farm.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this unforgettable weekend! We hope that all of our Color Bearers and Standard Bearers will join us in February 2018 at our next Donor Thank You Weekend in Greenville, South Carolina!★

CHARGING FLEETWOOD HILL

Generations event brings cavalry back to Brandy Station

IT HAD BEEN 154 years since the stomp of hoofbeats and the clash of cold steel echoed over Fleetwood Hill at Brandy Station, where the largest cavalry battle in American history occurred on June 9, 1863. And when the horsemen rode again on September 30, they had a very special audience — some 200 guests taking part in a Civil War Trust Generations event specifically designed to introduce children to history.

About 80 reenactors participated in the charges across the historic landscape, a far cry from the 20,000 mounted troops in the original battle. But the event was notable for being the first time a living-history demonstration has been held on this site, which opened to the public in 2015 after the Trust acquired and restored the land to its wartime appearance.

The Trust began its Generations program two years ago as a way to help parents, grandparents and other adults share their passion for history with the children in their lives through age-appropriate, immersive experiences. Gatherings — all of which are free to attend, but may require registration — have previously been held at Antietam, Gettysburg, Manassas, Pamplin Historical Park and elsewhere. The Brandy Station event featured the largest number of reenactors to date.

Historian Clark B. “Bud” Hall provided commentary and explanation of the battle’s significance, sharing how the ground attendees were standing on was the most fought-over spot in the entire Civil War. Twenty-one individual engagements were fought there, although the 14-hour Confederate Pyrrhic victory that kicked off the Gettysburg Campaign is the most famous. “You can track the decline of the Confederate cavalry after this,” he said. “Stuart lost a ton of officers, troopers and horses that could not be replaced.”

After watching the battle action unfold on Fleetwood Hill, the cavaliers passed the crowd in review. Then, the children in attendance stepped forward to receive basic training in military drill, going so far as marching and executing several turns and wheeling maneuvers.

Next, guests adjourned elsewhere on the battlefield to St. James Church, where they were able to explore the camps that had been set up by the living historians. Here they could interact with soldiers and their mounts, learning about both everyday life in the 1860s and military history alike. Some children even received plastic sabers to learn the art of fighting on horseback.

“My granddaughter Bethany and I enjoyed every minute! She thought the cavalry action was in her words, ‘Amazeballs.’ (High praise from an eleven year old!),” wrote one participant. “Thanks to you and the Civil War Trust for making the Generations events possible. It has allowed me to share my passion for the Civil War with Bethany in a real way and has sparked a love in her for this critical time in our country’s history.”

Immersive experiences like this one are made possible by a generous gift from the estate of longtime Trust member Bob Briney to found the Cadet Conference. The 2018 slate of events is still taking shape, but look for on-site events at some of your favorite battlefields, digital events at other harder-to-access locations and new event styles but with the same laser focus on instilling a passion for history in younger generations. Learn more at www.civilwar.org/generations. ★



GENERATIONS: Charge Fleetwood Hill was made possible by an extraordinary cadre of volunteers and partners. In particular, we wish to thank: historians Bud Hall and Craig Swain, the Brandy Station Foundation and Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield, the Culpeper County Sheriff’s Office and reenactment coordinator Norm Hoerer. The living historians who travelled from as far afield as Wisconsin to take part in this event made an indelible impression on our young guests and have our deepest gratitude. **MELISSA WINN PHOTOGRAPHY**

PHOTO LEFT: Last year, hundreds participated in Park Day around the country. **Here,** volunteers help at Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Md. **SHARON MURRAY**



Princeton Battlefield State Park
Princeton, N.J.
DAN KOMODA

PRESERVATIONISTS POISED for Victory at Princeton

THE DECADES-LONG fight to protect New Jersey’s Princeton Battlefield from insensitive development neared its conclusion this autumn, as the Princeton Planning Board approved the Institute for Advanced Study’s (IAS) revised site plan for the Maxwell’s Field area. The revised plan trades single-family homes for townhouses and enables the Trust, through its Campaign 1776 initiative, to purchase the most historically significant land under dispute.

“The approval of this revised plan by the municipality represents an important part of our agreement with the Civil War Trust and will help us move forward in the process to bring that agreement to conclusion,” IAS chief operating officer Janine Purcaro told the Planning Board.

Final steps, however, remain before total victory can be declared. First, the Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission must approve the revised design, including stormwater drainage infrastructure. And, perhaps most important, the Trust must complete its \$4 million fundraising campaign to fully pay for the land.

Reflecting on the impressive compromise that was reached at Princeton, state senator Kip Bateman (R-16), who had advocated for preservation, said: “I am confident that this project will not cause the catastrophic damage that we would have seen with the original plan,” he said. “Although I will continue to keep a watchful eye on the construction, make no mistake — I believe our battle to save the battlefield has been won.” ★

50 YEARS OF Maryland Environmental Trust



IN OCTOBER 12, state land conservationist leaders gathered in Annapolis to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET). In the past five decades, MET has placed more than 1,080 conservation easements on important landscapes across the Old Line State, permanently protecting some 134,000 acres of natural, scenic and historic significance in perpetuity. Among that land is more than 8,000 acres associated with the battlefields at Antietam, Monocacy and South Mountain. Active MET programs include: Land Conservation, Monitoring and Stewardship; Local Land Trust Assistance; and Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants.

Speaking to the crowd of more than 100, Gov. Larry Hogan praised the landowners who have voluntarily placed their land under protection from future development. “Our administration is grateful to conservation-minded citizens for their commitment to preserving land in Maryland. These easements are an example of how individual Marylanders can play an essential role in safeguarding our state’s most treasured places. Their commitment to protecting farms and forests, beaches and bays, and our state’s natural and cultural resources benefits all Maryland citizens by helping ensure healthy local communities and economies, clean air and water and the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.” ★



LEFT TO RIGHT: Maryland Environmental Trust executive director William Leahy, Maryland Natural Resources secretary Mark Belton, the Civil War Trust’s Paul Coussan, Maryland Environmental Trust Board of Trustees chair James Constable and Gov. Larry Hogan.

PARK DAY 2018

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Our 23rd annual Park Day will be held on April 7, 2018, at sites from Maine to California. Last year, an estimated 6,000 volunteers participated at a record-breaking 138 battlefields and historic sites, across 30 states and the District of Columbia. Registration is now open for site managers; visit www.civilwar.org/parkday to enroll. A full list of participating locations will be available online in February. ★



VIRGINIA GRANTS SUPPORT MULTIPLE PROJECTS

Old Dominion continues leadership role in preservation



A GAINST THE STUNNING backdrop of the mountains that frame the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe announced nearly \$1 million in state matching grants for battlefield preservation during a press conference on September 19. The event was hosted by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation at a 63-acre property associated with the September 21, 1864, Battle of Fisher's Hill.

In total, 202 acres across seven battlefields will be permanently protected thanks to these funds, which are made available annually through a competitive application process overseen by the Commonwealth's Department of Historic Resources (DHR). All land protected with these funds will carry a conservation easement held in perpetuity by DHR that prevents future development.

"My administration has made the preservation of our historic sites an absolute priority through our Virginia Treasures Program," McAuliffe said. "Battlefields are important to our Commonwealth not only for their cultural significance, but also [for] the value they bring to our tourism industry, and I look forward to seeing how these historic sites continue to enhance Virginia's cultural landscape."

"The award of these funds demonstrates the Commonwealth's continued commitment to the preservation of significant historic battlefield properties, as well as the perpetual protection of open space for the benefit of future generations of residents and visitors," explained Julie V. Langan, the state historic preservation officer and director of DHR.

In 2010, Virginia became the first state to establish a grant program specifically for battlefield preservation. Following an expansion in 2013, sites related to the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Civil War are now all eligible. During the recent Civil War sesquicentennial, this investment helped draw 3.7 million tourists to Virginia, where these visitors spent more than \$290 million.

Included in the grant announcement was approximately \$493,300 that the Civil War Trust will put toward more than 118 acres at four sites: 66-plus acres at Appomattox Court House, 40 acres at Second Deep Bottom, 10 acres at Cold Harbor and nearly two acres that figured into battles at both Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor.

Meanwhile, the Manassas Battlefield Trust received \$150,000 toward the purchase of 5.89 acres at Second Manassas, and the Richmond Battlefields Association accepted some \$65,500 to use toward acquisition of an additional 2.7 acres at Second Deep Bottom.

Event host, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF), received two grants totaling approximately \$291,200 to be used for 63 acres at Fisher's Hill and 13 acres affiliated with the New Market Battlefield. Just two weeks later, it was announced that the group was also benefiting from \$500,000 in grants from the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation toward work at Fisher's Hill, New Market and the city of Winchester. In addition to land acquisition, these funds will support expansion of existing interpretive and hiking trails to connect the newly protected properties.

"There is no other state in the union that has been as committed to battlefield preservation as the Commonwealth of Virginia," said SVBF CEO Kevan Walker, "and there has been no other governor's administration who has done more to keep that torch lit than Governor McAuliffe, so we give him a round of applause." ★

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

*Made at Lee's Headquarters
in Gettysburg*



STUDENTS IN Prof. Benjamin Luley's Archaeology of Pennsylvania class at Gettysburg College had the opportunity of a lifetime this autumn, participating in the excavation of a historic building foundation on the Trust's Lee's Headquarters property. In the process, they made important discoveries that have deepened understanding of events from July 1, 1863, that have achieved somewhat legendary status.

The four-acre property acquired by the Trust in 2015 and subsequently restored to its wartime appearance through the demolition of a hotel complex famously included the Mary Thompson House. But the portion of the parcel on the opposite side of the Chambersburg Pike had once been the site of another home, leased from Thompson by Alexander Riggs and family at the time of the battle, but torn down in the 1950s.

The Riggs House figures into the legend of John Burns — the 69-year-old War of 1812 veteran who took up his powder horn and musket to fall in with the Iron Brigade, serving as a sharpshooter in the McPherson Woods on July 1. Wounded several times,



Burns was left behind by retreating Union troops but managed to discard his weapon and convince the advancing Confederates that he was a non-combatant who had been caught in the crossfire. According to legend, the wounded Burns crawled to the closest house, but the Riggs family — having evacuated before the battle — was not there to take him in. He collapsed against the cellar door.

After the Trust acquired the Lee's Headquarters property, historians from the Adams County Historical Society (ACHS) suggested a scan of the parking lot at the Riggs House site with ground-penetrating radar. This process indicated the remains of a building's foundation underneath the asphalt, and plans for a formal investigation began to take shape.

The excavation that began in August was a cooperative effort of the Trust, Gettysburg College and ACHS, performed by students and volunteers. The excavations uncovered the stone foundations of the eastern wall of the farmhouse, including the location of the famous cellar door where Burns was found lying wounded during the battle. A brick patio was also discovered outside the eastern wall, which may have been covered with a wooden patio sometime after the battle.

A number of items — including a lady's comb, buttons and pieces of pottery dating as far back as 1800 — were uncovered in the process. The majority of artifacts, however, date to the second half of the 19th century and the early 20th century, with many of them found in layers of soil associated with the abandonment of the house.

After excavations were completed in late October, students turned their attention to washing and cataloguing the artifacts. These will be turned over to the Trust — along with an official report and detailed maps showing the locations of the discoveries — in early 2018. ★

TOP: The freshly uncovered foundation, including cellar door location.
BOTTOM: The Riggs House, located opposite from the Mary Thompson House, was demolished in the 1950s and rediscovered in 2017.

HURRICANES IMPACT

historic sites on Atlantic, Gulf Coasts



NUMBER of National Park Service units with connections to the wars of America's first century suffered damage during this autumn's busy Atlantic hurricane season.

Hurricane Irma caused extensive damage at Fort Jefferson, a unit of Dry Tortugas National Park, where a 40-foot section of the moat wall collapsed. This island, located west of the Florida Keys, served as a military prison during the Civil War and was the site of the imprisonment of Dr. Samuel Mudd — who set John Wilkes Booth's broken leg in the aftermath of the Lincoln assassination. A number of trees were also knocked down, and significant debris was deposited around the fort. Significant masonry repair work at the fort had been ongoing, and conditions are being assessed. The park reopened to the public on September 28, although portions of the moat wall remain off limits.

In Charleston Harbor, Fort Sumter suffered near-record flooding from the storm, with four feet of standing water remaining within the historic area three days after the storm passed. In the aftermath, park staff carefully cleaned the site's historic cannons to prevent corrosion from prolonged exposure to the salt water. Although there was no lasting damage done to the Civil War portions of the fort, the dock and restroom infrastructure were in need of repair before the park could reopen on September 22. Fort Moultrie was also temporarily shuttered due to standing water, but received no lasting damage and reopened on September 14.

Fort Pulaski was heavily damaged and closed for a full month, not reopening until October 7. Even then, water was unavailable within the historic area and portable toilets replaced the damaged visitor comfort station. Although the flooding experienced by the fort was dramatic, park staff took a historical view of the storm, pointing out on social media that the damage paled in comparison to the Great Sea Islands Storm of 1893, which hit Savannah directly, breaking wind gauges that could have measured its wind strength, leaving more than five feet of standing water inside the fort and causing significant loss of life. In addition to contending with flooding, downed trees and scattered debris, park staff had to repair damaged water and sewer systems and rebuild bridges at the demi-lune and Cockspur Island that were destroyed.

Although it was undamaged in any 2017 storms, Gettysburg National Military Park played a major role in recovery efforts, contributing 20 staff members to the NPS Eastern Incident Management Team. This 311-person task force was made up of experts in maintenance, cultural resources and other fields deployed from 88 parks in 33 states. ★



THIRTY YEARS OF MEMORIES

Members and staff share their favorite recollections



VER THE LAST 30 years, more than 200,000 people have contributed to the Trust and its predecessor organizations. Together, we have saved tens of thousands of acres, led hundreds of tours and made countless memories.

As we celebrated this milestone anniversary, the Trust invited members and friends to share their most striking memories of these decades in the trenches of battlefield preservation.

For Ron Jones, those memories stretch back farther than for most others. “My family and I visited our first Civil War reenactment at Antietam for the 125th anniversary in September of 1987. There we met someone from the APCWS [Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites]. We joined the group on the spot just two months after it was formed. In 1990, I got our school, Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington, Mich., to join the APCWS, becoming the first school to do so.” Twenty-seven years later, the school is still an active contributor, donating more than \$100,000 since then.

Nor are schoolchildren the only long-term learners who have taken advantage of Trust activities. Tom Plimpton belongs to a study group that spends a year preparing for a capstone tour of a battle or campaign. “And this year will be our 27th trip — to Gettysburg for the third time. On our first trip in 1991, we spent an afternoon with [APCWS’s first executive director] Will Greene at the Battle of the Wilderness. Supporting the Civil War Trust in its preservation efforts is one of the most satisfying things I do.”

Satisfaction and pride were common refrains for those characterizing their feelings regarding membership. But Linden Martineau’s go even further. “If I was asked to express my collective feeling about my relationship with the Trust, it would be: Joy! The joy of going to my mailbox and seeing another one of our mailings in it and then getting to read about another opportunity to save ‘hallowed ground.’ As an environmentalist, I get to do my part in helping preserve another glorious expanse of nature. A history buff since childhood, when I see the dates 1776, 1812, 1861, it doesn’t take much to put my pacifism on hold to save the site so that future generations can learn the why and the how of who and what we are!”

For many members, the most meaningful opportunities to protect land are those that allow them to honor the memory of an ancestor. “My great-grandfather was in the 4th New York Cavalry and was wounded in a skirmish at Brandy Station in October 1863,” wrote Eugene Gronberg. “Going there with my son and walking the ground, it felt good to look around and think he may have seen the area in a similar way that we did. These places are important to preserve.”

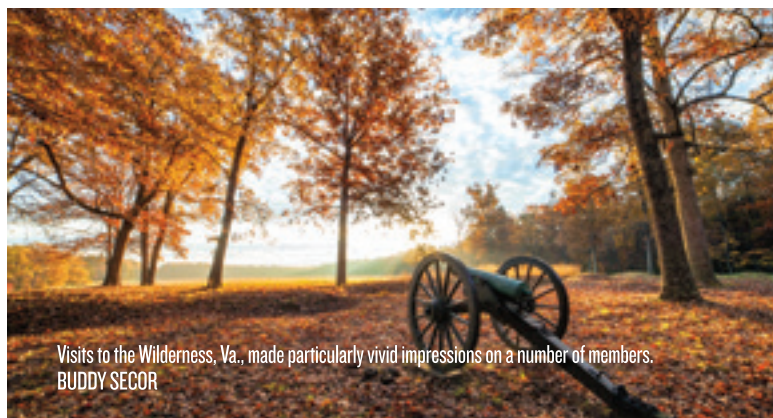
But even those far removed from the battlefields them-



Ron Jones (right) and students from Our Lady of Sorrows Middle School present Trust teacher-in-residence Jim Percoco (third from left) with their latest annual contribution.



To mark the first anniversary of developers laying unauthorized water and sewer pipes through Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the Trust organized a vigil with an unforgettably striking visual aid to convey the extent of destruction. Doing so required a special NPS fire crew to volunteer as a precaution against the dry August conditions.



Visits to the Wilderness, Va., made particularly vivid impressions on a number of members.
BUDDY SECOR

selves find it powerful to know that these resources are available to others. “I was born and raised in Cheyenne, Wyo.,” noted Sharon Barnes. “I have never had an opportunity to visit any Civil War site. This said, I have always been a Civil War buff as long as I can remember. I am 71 and ... it makes me happy to think that because of the little I can contribute, that someone else can see and walk this precious ground.”

Others wrote to praise the small, dedicated professional staff who have facilitated these successful transactions, especially Trust President Jim Lighthizer. “The people who work for the Trust do



Night view of Washington, D.C., from the Grand Review dinner in 2008.



Now the chief administrative officer, Steve Wyngarden began his Trust career working on land stewardship — including the planting of 2,000 saplings at the First Day at Chancellorsville site (then known as Lick Run) for Park Day 2005.

Securing this pristine view at Gaines’ Mill, located in a rapidly developing area near Richmond, encapsulated for Garry Adelman the preservationists’ race against time.



all the hard work,” wrote David J. Harguak. “My job is much easier — I just contribute a little money!”

Among that staff are a number who have held their positions for a decade or more — Chief Financial Officer Ruth Hudspeth worked for the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, and Events Director Melissa Sadler for the original Civil War Trust prior to the 1999 merger between those two organizations; Chief Development Officer David Duncan and Chief Policy Officer Jim Campi both joined in the months immediately thereafter.

Sadler has planned scores of banquets, receptions and tours during her tenure, but two in particular are indelible in her mind. “Dining on top of the old cyclorama building at Gettysburg for our second Grand Review was unforgettable. We had one long table looking out over the battlefield and Ben Stein was an incredible keynote speaker. Then, in 2008, we had a dinner at Arlington

House overlooking Washington, D.C., and watching the monuments light up.”

Around the same time, the Trust lit up a battlefield for a much less celebratory reason. To mark the first anniversary of developers laying unauthorized water and sewer pipes through Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the Trust organized an event with an unforgettably striking visual aide to convey the extent of destruction — flickering torches stretching along the undulating hills. Doing so required a special NPS fire crew to volunteer as a precaution against the dry August conditions.

Campi, the field marshal of many successful advocacy campaigns, still looks fondly on one evening of his first great undertaking, the fight to save the First Day at Chancellorsville. “We had a rally outside the courthouse, a very polite, restrained, but, you know, public and visible rally against the development. And it was a candlelight vigil. And it started to snow a little bit, as we provided cookies and warm cider and everything else. I had no idea what the response was going to be, and hundreds of people showed up for it.”

Trust advocacy efforts have made a habit of bringing overwhelming numbers to bear against the opposing forces of development. During the first Gettysburg casino fight in 2006, the Gaming Control Board required that anything classified as official comments be submitted in triplicate. By the time of the public hearings, the Trust had collected something like 33,000 signatures — all on physical petitions, not in an online form as we might today. “I tried to explain how much paper they were requesting, how much space in their office it would take up, but they insisted!” laughs magazine editor Mary Koik, who had joined the Trust as a field coordinator the year prior. “A group of the staff put in a very late, but equally festive, night making photocopies. And at the hearing, a veritable parade of volunteers carried up box after box after box to thunderous applause.”

Among the many significant sites the Trust has protected over the years are several on which historians had not been able to set foot for decades. Imagine: When the Trust bought its first large property associated with Jackson’s Flank Attack at Fredericksburg and prepared to hold a special ceremony, none of the rangers from Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, the historians who would be leading tours, had ever had the opportunity to stand where Union troops had sought to rally at the Bushbeck Line.

Since joining the Trust as its director of history and education, Garry Adelman has had the opportunity to tromp scores of battlefields, but his first impression of some is indelible. “I will always remember going out to Gaines’ Mill, when I stood for the first time at the scene of Longstreet’s attack, one of the grandest charges of the entire war. And I looked at that pristine land, hardly altered at all since 1862, and I knew that we’d gotten there in time. The way it looked that day, it would look like that forever.”★

Spotsylvania Court House

WITH more than 150,000 troops engaged and some 30,000 casualties inflicted during almost two weeks of combat, the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House signaled that the very character of the Civil War in the Eastern Theater had changed.

Hell DEFINED

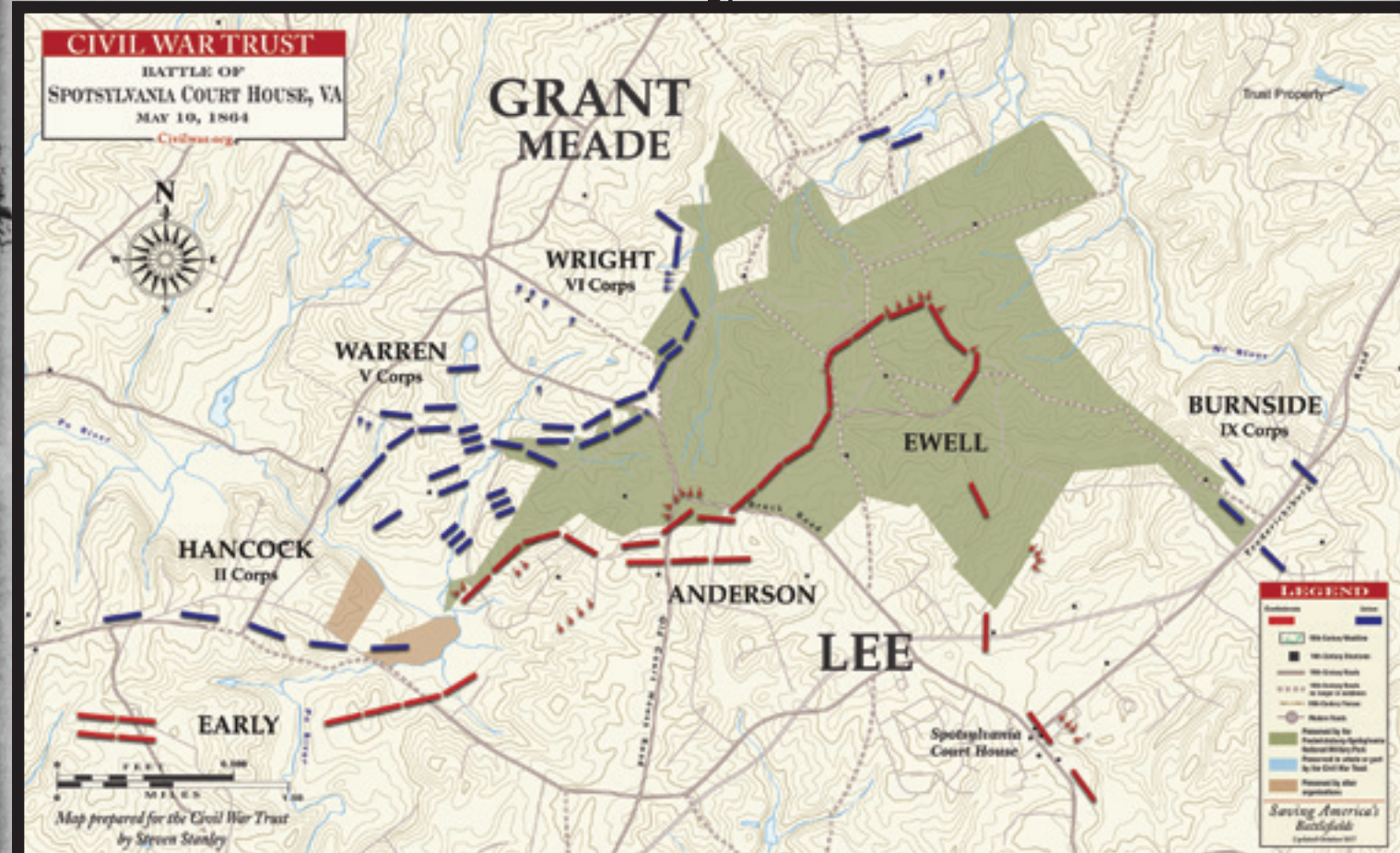
The Bloody Angle
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, Va.
BUDDY SECOR



N MAY 7, 1864, as the smoke still lingered over the battlefields of the Wilderness, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant issued orders for the Army of the Potomac to march toward Spotsylvania Court House, a small town along the route to Richmond. He hoped to get between the Confederate army and its capital or, at the very least, to draw Gen. Robert E. Lee into the open field, where he could take advantage of superior Union numbers. A division of Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry stood in the way, blocking the direct route along the Brock Road against Federal passage. Sharp mounted fighting occurred at Todd's Tavern, with the

next two days. On May 9, he sent a portion of Maj. Gen. Winfield S. Hancock's II Corps across the Po River in an effort to find Lee's left flank. Spying Hancock's move, Lee shifted two divisions to counter the Federals at Block House Bridge, forcing the Yankees back across the river. Grant spent the next day probing Lee's line for weaknesses and briefly breached the Confederate line with a tightly packed, fast-moving column of regiments.

By May 12, the Confederates had established a long line of earthworks, included a half-mile bulge called the Mule Shoe Salient, opposite which Grant amassed 20,000 men. Lee noted the Federal movement, but, mistakenly believing Grant was preparing to withdraw,



Union eventually forcing a Confederate withdrawal to a rise of ground known as Laurel Hill, the last defensible position before Spotsylvania. Fortunately for Lee, help was near at hand. Maj. Gen. Richard Anderson — now in command of Lt. Gen. James Longstreet's First Corps — had marched through the night. His men had just entered bivouac within two miles of Laurel Hill early on the morning of May 8, when a courier from Stuart set them back on the road with haste.

Believing Spotsylvania to be within his grasp, Union Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren advanced his V Corps up Laurel Hill, where they were surprised to find fresh infantry reinforcements. Warren's attempts to drive off the Confederates were rebuffed with heavy losses, and the two sides began to entrench.

Grant tried to break the deadlock at Spotsylvania over the

removed his artillery from the salient. After an initial Federal breakthrough, Lee shifted reinforcements into the salient but was countered by Grant hurling more troops at the Confederate works. Fighting devolved into a point-blank slugfest — amid a torrential downpour — that lasted for 22 hours and claimed roughly 17,000 lives.

The stubborn stand by Confederate troops at the Bloody Angle gave Lee the time he needed to construct a new line of earthworks across the base of the Mule Shoe Salient. The Army of the Potomac, exhausted from its attacks on the Angle, did not immediately test the new line. Instead, Grant slid his army to the left. When Union troops finally moved forward toward this position early on May 18, they were met by massed artillery fire and easily repulsed. Stymied but undaunted, Grant called off the attack and resumed shifting his troops to the left. The campaign of maneuver would continue. »



Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, Va.
ROBERT JAMES

“WE ARE LYING LOW,
and not a word is spoken above
a whisper in our ranks,” recalled
a member of the 49th Pennsylvania
Infantry. “We see the duty we are
expected to perform, and orders
are quietly passed along the line in
a whisper.” Moments later, nearly
4,500 Union infantrymen sprang to
their feet and sprinted across some
200 yards of no-man’s land toward
the fortified Confederate position
near Spotsylvania Court House.

The Bloody Horror of Upton’s Charge
WRITTEN BY Kristopher D. White

“QUICK as
LIGHTNING
a sheet of flame
burst from the REBEL LINE,
and the leaden hail
swept the ground
over which the column
was advancing,
while the CANISTER
from the artillery
came
crashing
through
our ranks

at every step.”

In Less than two minutes,

the Federal tide swept over and into the Confederate works. It was a resounding success, the type of success that the Federal high command had been seeking since it initiated the 1864 spring offensive one week earlier. The Federal assault column gained a foothold inside of the Confederate fortifications, prompting overall Union commander Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant to growl, “Pile in the men and hold it.”

But within an hour, fierce Confederate counterattacks forced the Yankees back from whence they came. Although the Union assault at Dole’s Salient, a smaller portion of the famed Confederate Mule Shoe Salient, ultimately failed, it bolstered the spirits of Grant. He commented that they had tried with “a brigade today — we’ll try a corps tomorrow.”

THE FEDERAL spring offensive had been marred by miscommunication and missed opportunities. In less than one year, President Abraham Lincoln’s principle army, the Army of the Potomac, had entered the Wilderness of Orange and Spotsylvania Counties of Virginia. For the third time, Gen. Robert E. Lee and his vaunted Army of Northern Virginia had bested their perennial foe, stalling the Yankee advance at the Battle of the Wilderness (May 5–6, 1864) and thwarting the enemy’s attempt to bring overwhelming numbers down upon the rebel forces. One thing had changed in the last year: Grant was unwilling to give up the fight. Whereas, Maj. Gens. Joseph Hooker and George G. Meade had taken the Army of the Potomac into the Wilderness and given up the initiative to Lee at Chancellorsville and Mine Run, respectively, Grant informed his superiors “I propose to fight it out on this line, if it takes all summer.”

The choking Wilderness hampered the maneuverability of the enormous Army of the Potomac; thus, Grant set his sights on the hamlet of Spotsylvania Court House. The sleepy village that served as the county seat of Spotsylvania County sat at the crossroads of the Brock Road, which ran roughly north to south, and the Fredericksburg Road, which led to the city for which the road was named. By capturing the town, Grant would hold



Grant

the inside track to Richmond, the Confederate capital, while also shortening his supply line by shifting it from the overtaxed Orange and Alexandria Railroad at Brandy Station to the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad depot at the much closer city of Fredericksburg. Grant further hoped to interpose himself between Lee and Richmond, forcing the old gray fox to attack Grant’s army on terrain that benefitted the Federals. His ultimate goal was not the capitulation of Richmond, but, rather, the destruction of Lee’s army.

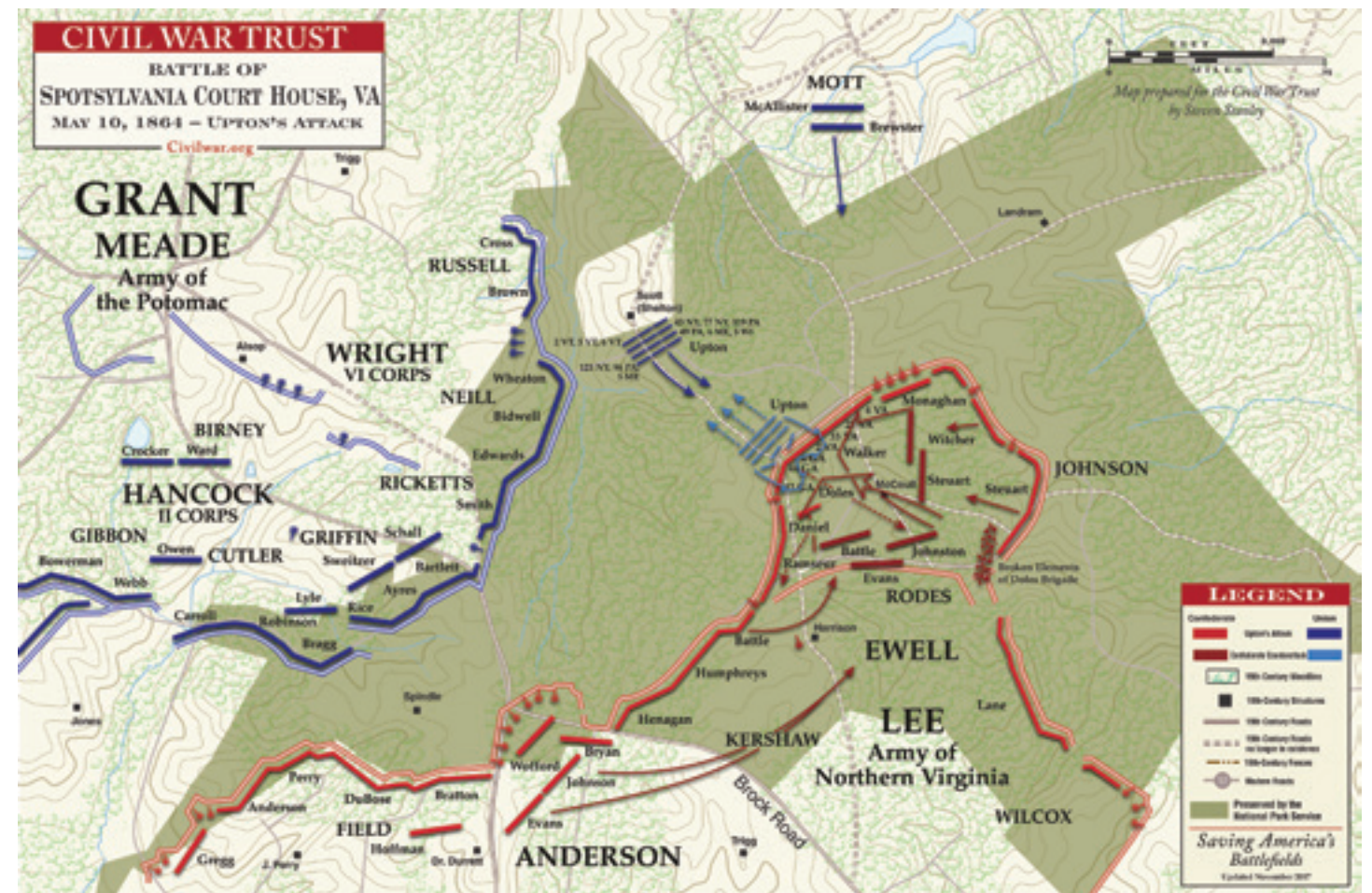
By the evening of May 7, Grant’s men were trekking the 12 miles to Spotsylvania. Confederate cavalry, lackluster Federal leadership and luck all played against the Federals. By 8:00 a.m. the next day, Confederate forces had won the race to Spotsylvania.

The Southern Army set up a stout defensive line, with its left anchored on the steep-banked Po River and its right terminating to the northeast of the town. The roughly five-mile defensive line appeared formidable. Confederate soldiers furiously dug into the earth, creating strong fortifications. “It is a rule that, when the Rebels halt, the first day gives them a good rifle-pit; the second, a regular infantry parapet with artillery in position; and the third a parapet with an abatis in front and entrenched batteries behind,” a Union soldier commented. “Sometimes they put this three days’ work into the first 24 hours.”

For as imposing as the Confederate line looked, however there was a major flaw. Its center jutted out from the left and right flank, creating a salient point protruding outward from the main line. This flaw exposed men defending the salient to converging artillery fire, while diluting defensive fire from the salient. All the opposing guns could concentrate on one point, whereas defenders of the salient had to pick out many targets. Even an overshoot could still land a killing blow on the far side of the salient. But Lee was convinced by Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell, his de facto second-in-command, that this point could be held with enough artillery and allowed it to remain.

Meanwhile, Ulysses S. Grant was finding out just how hard it could be to control the Army of the Potomac. The army seemed to live in mortal fear of what Lee was up to. At one point in the Wilderness he commented to a group of officers, “Oh, I am heartily tired of hearing about what Lee is going to do. Some of you think he is suddenly going to turn a double somersault, and land in our rear and on both of our flanks at the same time.” He went on to say, “Go back to your command, and try to think [of] what we are going to do ourselves, instead of what Lee is going to do.”

Grant was also finding flaws in the high command. Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren, commander of the V Corps, had both a temper and an ego. His VI Corps commander, Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick, was habitually slow, as was the independent commander of the IX Corps, Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside. Cavalry Corps commander Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan couldn’t get along with army commander Maj. Gen. George G. Meade. The only bright spot in the chain of command seemed to be Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, commander of the II Corps, who had the uncanny ability of actually carrying out an order in a timely fashion, unlike his counterparts.



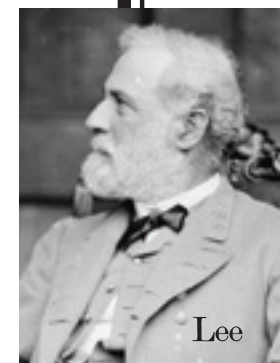
On May 9, Sedgwick was felled by a sharpshooter’s bullet, making the 50-year-old Connecticut native the highest ranking Federal officer to fall in the war. Command of the VI Corps devolved to Maj. Gen. Horatio G. Wright. Due to the death of Sedgwick and the constant campaigning since May 4, Grant did not mount a major offensive at Spotsylvania that day.

The next day, May 10, Grant tried again to dislodge Lee’s men by applying simultaneous pressure along the Confederate lines. In theory, this should have prevented the Confederates from being able to shift men along interior lines to a threatened point. With much of the Confederate line under pressure, the right hand could not assist the left. Yet this was not the case.

The Federal plan for May 10 called for a portion of the II Corps and the bulk of the V Corps to attack the Confederate left at Laurel Hill beginning at 5:00 p.m. On the Confederate right, Burnside and his IX Corps would attack down the Fredericksburg Road. The most complex and intriguing part of the May 10 attack would strike the Confederate center.

One division of the II Corps, acting as a link between the VI and IX Corps, would strike the tip of the Mule Shoe Salient. This undersized division, led by Brig. Gen. Gershom Mott, was intended to support the main assault column of the VI Corps.

The VI Corps assault column was unique, as was the unit itself. It had been created on May 18, 1862, by Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan as a “provisional corps,” yet it remained in service for the rest of the war.



Lee

Compared to the other corps in the Army of the Potomac, the VI Corps had seen limited action, primarily at South Mountain, Chancellorsville, Rappahannock Station and the Wilderness. At Chancellorsville, it sustained the highest number of casualties among the seven infantry corps in the army. On numerous occasions, the corps utilized innovative tactics to capture enemy positions. At Second Fredericksburg, soldiers formed “lances,” to take the famed Marye’s Heights. At Rappahannock Station, in November of 1863, their creativity dislodged the enemy from a fortified position.

Almost by default, the VI Corps was turning into a specialized task force, and on May 10, it was again called upon for its bravery and innovation.

Union engineer Lt. Ranald S. Mackenzie scouted the Confederate lines on May 10 and found that a portion of the western face of the Mule Shoe was vulnerable to attack. Although the Confederate lines consisted of chest-high fortifications with a protective head log and abatis, the closeness of the line to an adjacent woodlot, some 200 yards away, limited the Confederate field of fire. The woods also concealed any attack force. Nevertheless, the Confederate line was “of a formidable character with abatis in front and surmounted by heavy logs, underneath which were loop holes for musketry.”

Mackenzie reported his findings to Brig. Gen. David Russell. After verifying the report, the VI Corps high command

devised a plan of attack. Twelve regiments of infantry were hand selected from brigades in Russell's division and the division of Maj. Gen. Thomas Neill — some 4,500 men in all. Command of the assault force was given to Col. Emory Upton, a 24-year-old native of Batavia, N.Y. After attending Oberlin College, Upton went on to the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated eighth in the class of May 1861.

The young colonel was described as having “a light mustache, high cheek bones, thin face, and a strong square jaw. He had a small mouth and thin, unusually closed lips, which made his mouth look even smaller. His deep blue, deep-set eyes ‘seemed to be searching all the time.’” One biographer described him as being single-minded in his purpose. Upton “never drank, smoked, or cursed, and seldom laughed. He was asocial to the point of being acutely uncomfortable in the presence of civilians.”

Upton was every inch a soldier and unquestionably one of the finest combat leaders to come out of the Army of the Potomac. In late 1862, he had been given command of the 121st New York Infantry, a unit later dubbed “Upton's Regulars,” due to the discipline he instilled in them.

Accounts vary as to who came up with the overall operational plan for the VI Corps assault on Doles's Salient, but there is no doubt that it was Upton who executed it. His orders were simple: “You will assault the enemys [sic] entrenchments in four lines.” Corps commander Horatio Wright told Upton, “Capt. Mackenzie will show you the point of attack. Mott's division will support you.”

Late on the afternoon of May 10, Upton called together his 12 regimental commanders. The knot of officers crept to the edge of the woods, across from Doles's Salient. Upton laid out his plan of attack.

He would use coup de main tactics, incorporating speed and

It was a scene of **UTTER HORROR AND PANDEMONIUM**, with the bayonet used freely. Men thrust and threw bayonet-tipped muskets at one another “pinning them to the ground.”

shock to gain the enemy works. He also called for a compact column three regiments across and four regiments deep, a

BAYONET: Attached via a ring fitted around the muzzle of a rifle, the bayonet was a bladed weapon only employed in close-quarters combat. Often, its greatest impact was psychological. Many a defensive position was overrun by attackers who charged bearing roughly 18 inches of “cold steel” while the enemy was reloading or low on ammunition. Still, less than one percent of wounds treated in Union field hospitals for which accurate records remain were caused by bayonet. More often, the bayonet saw use in mundane tasks, as a readily accessible blade in camp.

formation reminiscent of the Greek hoplite phalanx or that of the Swiss pikemen.

The first line of the attack consisted of the 121st New York, 96th Pennsylvania and 5th Maine. These regiments would advance with muskets loaded and capped and bayonets fixed. When the first line broke through, the New Yorkers and Pennsylvanians were then to wheel to the right and dislodge the Confederates in the western salient and silence the rebel battery, while the 5th Maine was to wheel left and clear the eastern salient. The second and third waves, which consisted of the 5th Wisconsin, 6th Maine, 49th Pennsylvania, 119th Pennsylvania, 77th New York

and 43rd New York, would pile into and onto the earthworks. They would keep the line of retreat open while also supporting the forward movements of the first line. The fourth line — which consisted of the 6th, 5th and 2nd Vermont — would hold fast at the edge of the wood line as a reserve. The second, third and fourth lines were to load their muskets and fix bayonets, but they were not to place the percussion cap on the cone of the gun. Upton wanted to thwart any intentions of his men of stopping

to shoot at the enemy, thus costing the attack force momentum. “All of the officers were instructed to repeat the command ‘forward’ constantly, from the commencement of the charge till the works were carried. No man was to stop and succor or assist a wounded comrade.”

A pre-assault artillery barrage utilizing three VI Corps batteries — 18 guns in all — was planned to soften the enemy position. If all went well, Upton's men would bore through the Confederate lines, creating a gap for the rest of the Union army to exploit. Mott's men, in theory, would support Upton's men and help expand the gap. The problem was that Upton and Mott did not coordinate closely with one another, and Mott's role in the assault seemed to be a mystery.

Across the no-man's land, the Confederates were aware something was amiss. Their pickets had been driven in by companies of the 65th New York and 49th Pennsylvania, and there seemed to be an unusual amount of activity.

Doles's Salient was named for George Doles, a Georgia lawyer turned brigade commander. His three Georgia regiments manned the works. One Georgian thought that “a death-like stillness {hung} over the lines.” Around 3:30 p.m., the Federal assault along Lee's lines started with a fizzle. Warren led his troops in at Laurel Hill an hour and a half too soon. Burnside's IX Corps launched an impotent attack on the Confederate right later in the day. At 5:00 p.m., 1,500 men from Gershom Mott's II Corps division dutifully went forward. Unfortunately, to their right, Upton did not budge. His men were ordered not to go in yet. Upton waited for nearly another hour and a half before he

gave the green light to his attack column.

Sometime between 6:15 and 6:35 p.m., Upton's men burst from the tree line. One Southerner exclaimed, “Make ready boys — they are charging!”

A Vermont private described the scene:



“At the signal, Col. Upton with his three lines of infantry jumped to their feet, and rushed ahead across the open field, to the enemy's works, while we cheered as lustily as we could to heighten the effect, and help create a panic among the enemy. How terribly the bullets swept that plain, and rattled like hailstones among the trees over our heads. The boys could not be restrained in their wild excitement, and without waiting for orders ... they rushed in after the other brigade, and we drove the enemy from his first line of works.”

One member of the 96th Pennsylvania lamented, “Many a poor fellow fell pierced with rebel bullets before we reached the rifle pits... When those of us that were left reached the rifle pits we let them have it.”

The battle at the Confederate line turned into “a deadly hand-to-hand conflict.” Upton saw “the enemy sitting in their pits with pieces upright, loaded and with bayonets fixed, ready

to impale the first who should leap over, [they] absolutely refused to yield the ground.”

It was a scene of utter horror and pandemonium, with the bayonet used freely. Men thrust and threw bayonet-tipped muskets at one another “pinning them to the ground.” Shocked

Confederates threw down their rifles and surrendered. Scores of them were pointed toward the tree line and told to make their way toward the Union lines. As they did so, a member of the 49th Pennsylvania described how “a rebel lieutenant, after passing to the rear, orders his men to pick up the guns that our dead and wounded have left on the field and fire on us from the rear.” To stop this from happening, “Sergeant Sam Steiner” put a “ball into the rebel's back, who threw his hands up and dropped to the ground. This stopped the picking up of guns.” One Confederate said that “Gen. Doles was captured, but when the enemy was driven back he fell in ... & resumed command.”

Upton's coup de main tactics worked to perfection. His men covered the 200 yards of open land within two minutes. Scores of Confederates surrendered. Some leapt out of the front of their works into the no-man's land and retreated along the front of their works, before re-crossing and joining their comrades.

One Confederate thought that “The Yankees fought with unusual desperation, and where the artillery was, contended as

stubbornly for it as though it was their own.”

The artillery he was referring to were the guns of the Richmond Howitzers, four pieces of which sat in the western side of the salient. A member of the Howitzers stated that “we poured a few rounds of canister into their ranks, when we are ordered to ‘Cease Firing — our men are charging!’” It was not a Confederate counterattack. It was a large number of Doles’s brigade, who

Ammunition was running low and, FOR WHATEVER REASON, no one in the Union chain of command had thought to have a mobile reserve of troops ready to support Upton.

“had no muskets” and were prisoners of war. The Howitzers redoubled their efforts, angered that their comrades “had surrendered without firing a shot and were going to the rear as fast as their cowardly legs would carry them.” In the end, “no artillerists could stem the torrent now nor wipe away the foul stain upon the fair banner of Confederate valor.”

On the east side of the breakthrough, the famed Stonewall Brigade fought desperately to stop the Union wave; on the western side, it was Brig. Gen. Junius Daniel’s brigade of North Carolinians. Reinforcements were needed when Lee arrived on the scene. For the second time in four days, he watched as a portion of his army fell apart around him. Richard Ewell arrived too, bellowing, “Don’t run boys, I will have enough men here in five minutes to eat up every damned one of them!”

For all of the weaknesses that the salient presented, one advantage was its interior lines, which allowed faster movement inside of the position. Southern forces began arriving en masse within 30 minutes of the initial breakthrough. Federal reinforcements did not materialize.

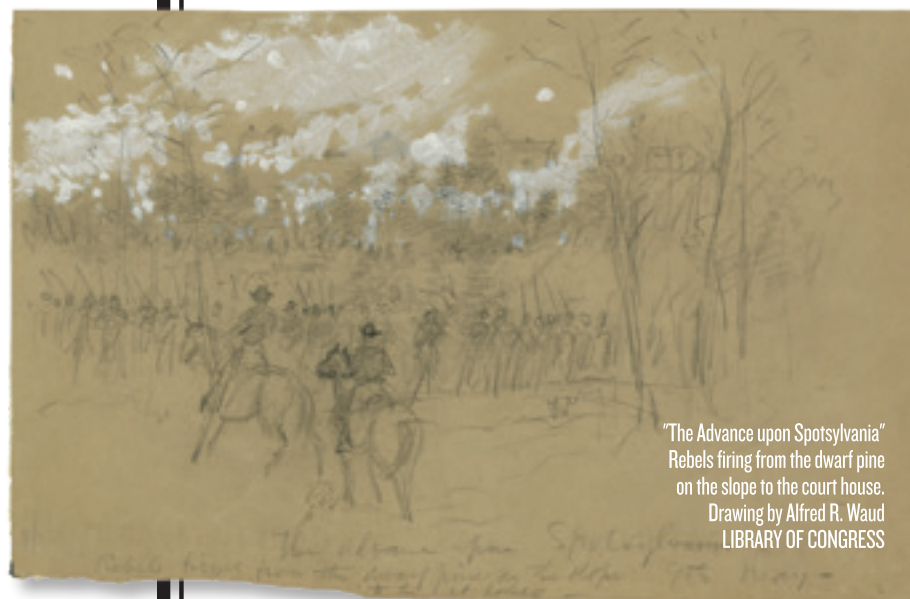
Upton was becoming hard-pressed. He looked back for his fourth wave, which should have been positioned the edge of the tree line as reinforcements, but they weren’t there. The Vermont boys, like Upton, had their fighting blood up and had charged across the field and into the fray without orders. Ammunition was running low and, for whatever reason, no one in the Union chain of command had thought to have a mobile reserve of troops ready to support Upton. Reluctantly, the New Yorker called for his men to withdraw. “We don’t want to go. Send us ammunition and rations, and we can stay here for six months,” decried Upton’s dejected soldiers.

Had they stayed, they would have become Confederate prisoners, so Upton and his men gave up the field. His hour or so of fighting had breached the Confederate lines and secured some 913 enlisted men and 37 Confederate officers as prisoners. Emory Upton was visibly upset after the attack that his men

had been driven back. His column lost some 1,000 men in the assault, with 216 of them from the 49th Pennsylvania, an exceedingly high number given the fact that only six companies from the regiment were engaged.

THE FEDERAL HIGH COMMAND had not only failed to properly support or reinforce the assault, they had also failed to properly coordinate it — something that was now a recurring theme in the week-old campaign. Although a failure, the attack on Doles’s Salient showed Grant that Lee’s line could be broken and that the Confederate salient was a weakness.

Following the Union withdrawal from the salient “a Confederate band moved up to an elevated position on the line and played ‘Nearer My God to Thee.’ The sound of this beautiful piece of music had scarcely died away when a Yankee



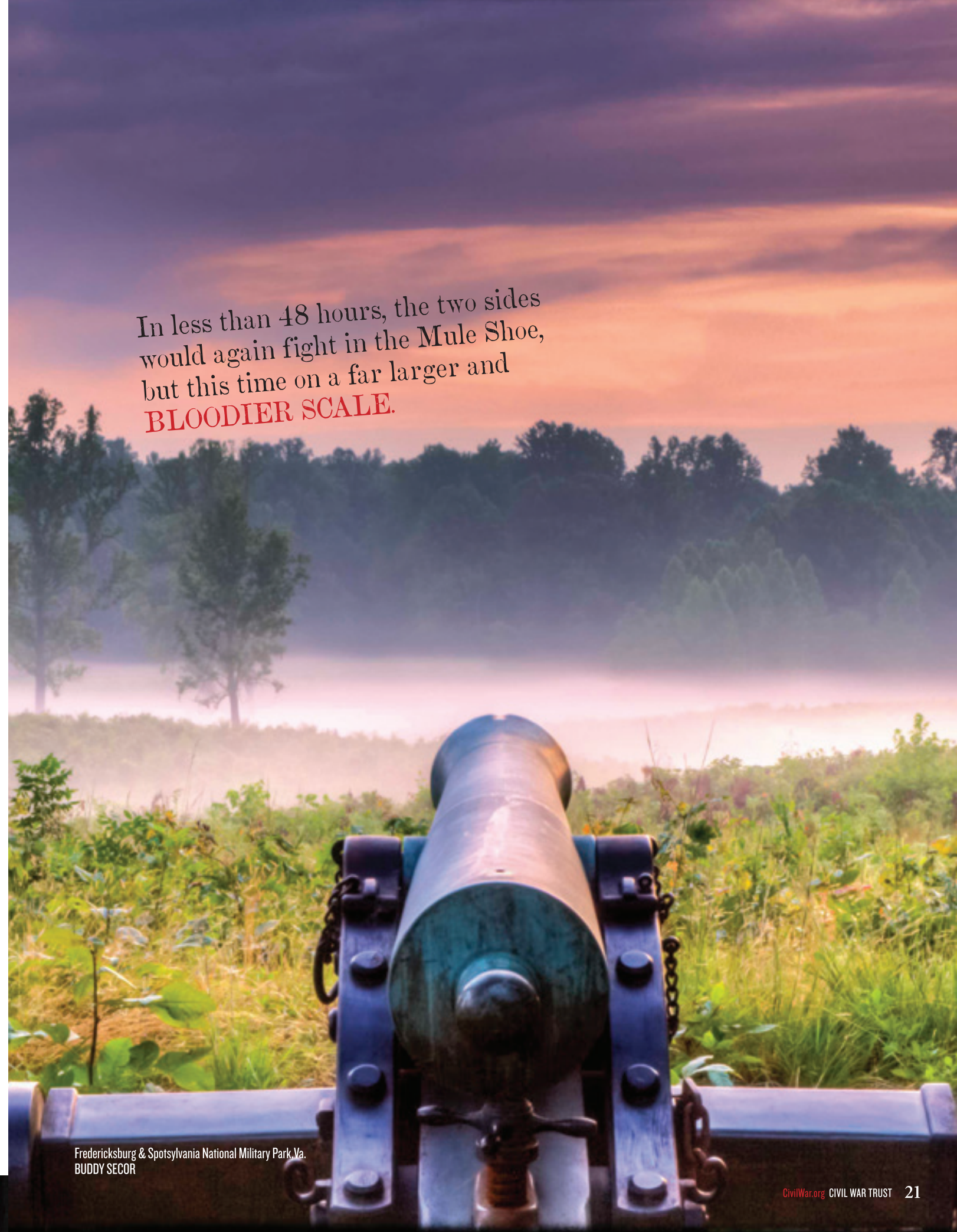
“The Advance upon Spotsylvania”
Rebels firing from the dwarf pine
on the slope to the court house.
Drawing by Alfred R. Waud
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

band over the line gave us the ‘Dead March.’ This was followed by the Confederate band playing the ‘Bonnie Blue Flag.’ As the last notes were wafted out on the crisp night air a grand old style rebel yell went up. The Yankee band then played ‘The Star-Spangled Banner,’ when it seemed by the response yell, that every man in the Army of the Potomac was awake and listening to the music. The Confederate Band then rendered ‘Home, Sweet Home,’ when a united yell went up in concert from the men on both sides.”

In less than 48 hours, the two sides would again fight in the Mule Shoe, but this time on a far larger and bloodier scale. ★

Kristopher D. White served nearly five years as a staff military historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. With Christopher Mackowski, he is the author of A Season of Slaughter: The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, May 8-21, 1864 (Savas Beatie, 2013). A frequent lecturer at Civil War roundtables and historical societies, White joined the Civil War Trust in 2016 as its education manager.

In less than 48 hours, the two sides would again fight in the Mule Shoe, but this time on a far larger and **BLOODIER SCALE.**



Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, Va.
BUDDY SECOR

Great Death

certain
Death.

Day 5

Day 5

Warfare is terrible enough
at a distance,
when performed with
artillery or musket.
It takes on a new
level of gruesome horror
when the enemy is within
arm's reach and the blood is
literally on your hands.

by Christopher
Matkowski
CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHY BY
Buddy Secor



PHOTO BY Timothy O'Sullivan

It was a “panopoly of HORROR.”

A “PANDEMONIUM OF TERROR.” A “literal saturnalia of blood.” One Federal soldier described the scene as “a Golgotha” — a place of skulls.

Union and Confederate soldiers had endured years of privations and pitched battles, yet nothing had prepared them for the fighting in the Mule Shoe Salient at Spotsylvania Court House on May 12, 1864. “I have, as you know, been in a good many hard fights, but I never saw anything like the contest,” wrote one Louisiana soldier.

At 4:35 a.m., some 20,000 Federal soldiers launched a furious attack on the center of Gen. Robert E. Lee’s defenses. They shattered the Confederate line and captured more than 3,000 prisoners, along with 22 cannons, two general officers and 30 stands of colors. “Men in crowds with bleeding limbs, and pale, pain-stricken faces, were hurrying to the rear,” a Virginia artillerist said.

On the Confederate right, the Federal IX Corps attacked in force to provide additional pressure. In the center, Federal soldiers flooded into the breach in the Confederate line.

As the Army of Northern Virginia teetered on the brink of destruction, Lee rode toward his embattled center. “Not a word did he say,” noted one observer, “but simply took off his hat, and as he sat on his charger I never saw a man look so noble, or a spectacle so impressive.”

Lee watched as his army crumbled around him.

THE COLLAPSE of the Mule Shoe Salient was of Lee’s own making. The Confederate line at Spotsylvania ran for nearly five miles, laid out as troops rushed on to the field — often at a moment of crisis — to resist Federal assaults. “Run for our rail piles; the Federal infantry will reach them first, if you don’t run!” implored Confederate cav-

alrymen as foot soldiers arrived on the scene. In response, one Southern soldier said, “Our men sprang forward as if by magic,” while another described them “rushing pell-mell at full speed around there just as the enemy came up.”

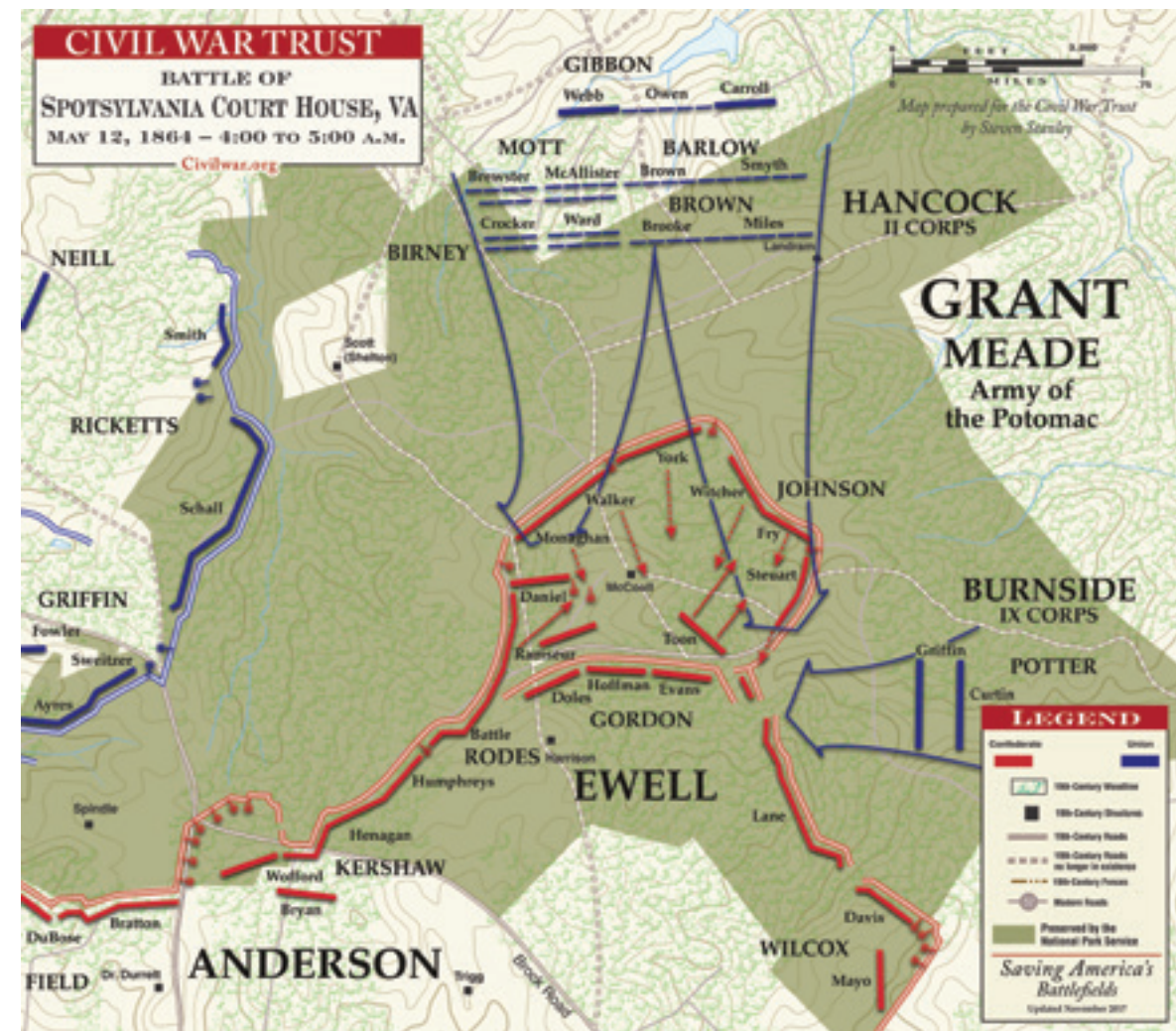
Lee’s army unwound along ridgelines that gave his men strong defensible positions and effective fields of fire. And as soon as they staked out a position, they began to fortify it. “The rebel works were constructed as follows,” a New Yorker later explained:

A layer of stout logs close together & breast high was made and banked on the front side with earth. Above this with space to fire between was laced another log larger than the others protecting the heads of the defenders. For several rods in front the trees had been felled to fall outward and form by their entangled branches a dense abattis. Sometimes these branches of these trees had been sharpened so as to impale assailants.... Behind such works Lee’s veteran army lay and was virtually unassailable.

The left flank of the Confederate line was the strongest, anchored on the Po River and along the low crest at the southern edge of a field on the Sarah Spindle Farm — an area also known as Laurel Hill. The right flank of the line terminated southeast of the village of Spotsylvania Court House itself. While it lacked the topographical advantages of the left flank, the Confederate right was relatively secure, given that the bulk of the Federal army was massed along the Confederate left and left center.

The weakest point on the rebel line was its center. In following the natural contours of the land, the chief topographical engineer of Lee’s army, 44-year-old Maj. Gen. Martin Luther Smith,

had laid out a giant bubble known as a salient. Such protrusions are an inherent weakness; a breakthrough at any point along the line lets the enemy suddenly command a position behind the entire salient and makes the entire position untenable. The concentrated firepower of converging artillery and small-arms also make a salient vulnerable, which Confederate infantrymen nestled in the tip of the salient recognized almost immediately. “After throwing up breastworks, we found that the Yanks had a cross fire on our regiment,” one of them wrote in a letter published in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. “We then went to work and built pens, each holding eight or ten men.” Also called traverses, these pens were breastworks built inside the line, perpendicular to the main works, that offered soldiers a degree of additional cover.



Hancock—worried about the desperate fight he knew lay ahead—lamented, “I know they will not come back! THEY WILL NOT COME BACK!”

The protrusion, a mile across at its base, curved in a large arc that conferred a name on the position through undeniable resemblance: the Mule Shoe Salient.

Lee, a former engineer himself, became aware of the salient during an inspection of the line on May 9. However, rather than correct the flaw by repositioning his line, he deferred to the judgment of his de facto second-in-command, Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell, who oversaw the center of the overall Confederate position. The 47-year-old Second Corps commander was convinced he could hold the salient if supported by enough artillery. Smith was convinced, too. Even the artillerists themselves agreed: “The breastworks were built, we would be in place and, supported by infantry, absolutely impregnable against successful assault,” one of them said.

Even after a near disaster along the line on May 10, when Col. Emory Upton attacked a protruding spot known as Dole’s Salient, Lee let the Mule Shoe position stand.

FEDERAL COMMANDER Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant recognized that the May 10 attack had ultimately failed because his forces had been unprepared to take advantage of Upton’s surprising success. He decided to try again, and on May 11, began shifting Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock’s II Corps to concentrate opposite the very tip of the Mule Shoe in preparation for a dawn attack.

Rain fell in torrents as the men marched, turning roads into quagmires and streams into raging rivers. Guides became lost as the Federals slogged into position. “The wind sobbed drearily over the meadows and through the trees, rain fell steadily, and the night was so dark men had to almost feel their way,” wrote one Mainer.

“The movement was necessarily slow with frequent halts,” another soldier recalled, “at which time the men, worn out by loss of sleep and the terrible nervous and physical strain they had endured during the past eight days, would drop down for a moment’s rest, and be asleep almost as soon as they touched the ground.”

Lee was acutely aware of the Federal movement, but he failed to understand its intent. He believed that, after a few days of stalemate, Grant had decided to give up the offensive and shift from his axis of advance — the Brock Road — over to the Fredericks-

burg Road, along which he would retreat. Yearning for the opportunity to take the offensive himself, Lee began preparations to pursue the fleeing Federals. To expedite this, he called on Ewell to “withdraw the artillery from the salient . . . to have it available for a countermove to the right.” Moving these guns across muddy farm roads, Lee believed, would hamper their ability to link up with the rest of the Confederate army in a timely fashion. With a single stroke of his pen, Lee removed the 22 of the 30 cannons — whose presence was a prerequisite for holding the salient — from the Confederate center — the very point Grant was preparing to attack.

Compounding the problem, neither Lee nor Ewell bothered to tell the commander on the field — Maj. Gen. Edward “Allegheny” Johnson — that his division was losing its artillery support. Only when the complaints of subordinates reached his headquarters did Johnson become aware of the dire situation Lee had placed his division in. Unconvinced that the Federals were retreating, Johnson seethed over the loss of his artillery and the slight against his chain of command. He went

“[T]his combined fire of infantry and artillery was MORE THAN HUMAN FLESH COULD STAND and it was impossible for them to reach our lines”

to Ewell in person to protest and to inform his superior that something was amiss to his front. Ewell relented and allowed the artillery to return, but it would take several hours before the guns could be rolled back into position.

In the meantime, Johnson ordered his brigades “to be on the alert, some brigades to be awake all night, and all to be up and in the trenches an hour or so before daylight.” He expected trouble. And trouble was, indeed, coming.

* * *

THE NIGHT’S RAIN had cooled the muggy May heat, and fog drifted up out of the bottomlands, forcing Hancock to delay his assault until visibility improved. When he finally sent the men forward, Hancock — worried about the desperate fight he knew lay ahead — lamented, “I know they will not come back! They will not come back!”

“Nobody knew exactly the position of the works or the nature of the ground, and so we had to take our chances, moving forward till we struck them,” a Federal staff officer said. It took only minutes to reach the Confederate skirmish line, which, situated in a sunken farm lane resembling a deep trench, was mistaken for the main line. The Yankees gave out a “Huzzah!” as they stormed in. They quickly realized their mistake. Gazing through the gloom, “[W]e saw very plainly where we were at and we needed no orders, for the longer we were getting to them, the

more ready they would be,” said Stephen P. Chase of the 86th New York. Swiftly, the Federals swarmed out of the skirmish line and across the field toward the tip of the Mule Shoe.

“[T]hey came in seventeen lines, one line just behind the other, and we counted them,” wrote Thomas Reed of the 9th Louisiana, “and some fellow said: ‘Look out! boys! We will have blood for supper.’”

Johnson had anticipated a dawn attack, and officers had ordered the men to load their weapons and then stack their arms the night before. Normally, this would have been a wise move, but Mother Nature intervened, dumping an inordinate amount of rain from the heavens.



The Bloody Angle
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, Va.

Rising in unison, the Confederate line took aim. Maj. Gen. James Walker noted how his Stonewall Brigade “leveled their trusty muskets deliberately . . . with a practiced aim which would have carried havoc” into the ranks of the advancing Federals. But when the command to fire came, “pop, pop, pop” rang out along the line, not “bang, bang, bang.” Almost to a man, the guns failed to discharge because of wet powder.

The 26th Michigan and the 140th Pennsylvania came over the top, followed by scores of other Federal regiments. The attack became a free-for-all. Half-dressed Confederates tried to stand their ground as Yankees “poured in one irresistible mass upon them.” The Mule Shoe became a “boiling, bubbling and hissing caldron of death.”

The rebel artillery rolled back into the salient just as the Federal wave crested the works. “Most of this battalion reached the

salient point just in time to be captured,” recalled artilleryist Thomas Carter. Only one of Carter’s four guns managed to unlimber and get into position, firing off a single round of canister, before it was overrun. “Don’t shoot my men,” Carter pleaded. While the Federals took Carter and his men prisoner, they could not haul away the guns; Confederate infantrymen shot the horses to thwart them.

The Federal wave opened a gap in the Confederate line at least a half-mile wide and a half-mile deep. Johnson fell prisoner, as did Brig. Gen. George “Maryland” Steuart and thousands of other butternut soldiers.

Despite the immediate and stunning Federal success, the attack force began to lose its cohesion, and reinforcements did not

materialize to exploit the gap. The same weakness that had undercut the success of the May 10 attack seemed doomed to repeat.

* * *

ROBERT E. LEE — the man ultimately responsible for the initial flaw in the line and the man who’d weakened it further by withdrawing the artillery, and also the man who had woefully misread Federal intentions — arrived on the field with a monumental task before him. Somehow, he had to stem the flood of Federals into his center, rectify the weakness of his line and show leadership amidst chaos. He became the calm eye at the center of the hurricane.

The Mule Shoe, Lee now admitted, if somewhat belatedly, was untenable. He ordered his engineers to seal it off by laying out a new line one mile south of the tip of the salient. The survivors of Johnson’s division, already streaming to the rear, were

rallied and set to work on construction.

Lee needed to buy time for the work to progress, and he bought that time with lives.

Near the western base of the salient, the stout North Carolina brigade of Brig. Gen. Junius Daniel stemmed the Federal tide, although Daniel himself was mortally wounded in the effort. A few pieces of artillery wheeled around to provide backup. “[T]his combined fire of infantry and artillery was more than human flesh could stand and it was impossible for them to reach our lines,” said Maj. Cyrus B. Watson of the 45th North Carolina.

On the eastern side of the salient, the Federals had cleared most of the Confederate resistance, although the North Carolina brigade of James Lane still held.

Between those two extremes, Lee had a reserve division commanded by Brig. Gen. John B. Gordon, which was already trying to provide a rallying point for some of the retreating Confederates. “[T]hey were very hard to rally,” admitted an artilleryist who had retreated with the infantrymen. “[M]any of them were still running and looked as if they had no idea of stopping at all.”

Lee prepared to lead Gordon’s men in a counterattack. “The General’s countenance showed that he had despaired and was ready to die rather than see the defeat of his army,” a Confederate soldier said. Gordon and his men, however, convinced their commander to turn back: His life was far too valuable.

Rather than attack the center of the Federal mass, Lee and Gordon dispatched units to the edges of the bulge. Working their way inward, brigades of Georgians, Virginians, North Carolinians, Mississippians, Alabamians and South Carolinians traded their lives for time. Foot by foot and yard by yard, the Confederates wrestled back their abandoned works. “[T]he enemy came forward in immense numbers and made the most desperate attempt to recover their lost ground,” wrote Lt. Josiah Favill, a staff officer in the II Corps. “They seemed determined to gain back at any cost what had been lost, and the most severe close fighting of the war ensued.”

UTTERNUT SOLDIERS managed to recapture all but 400 yards of their original line, but it came at a high cost: In addition to Daniel, brigade commanders Stephen Ramseur, Abner Perrin, Samuel McGowan, Robert Johnston and Thomas Garrett all fell either killed or wounded. Thousands more Confederate infantrymen fell dead or wounded “[l]ike the debris in the track of a storm.”

Along the salient’s western face, where the line turned toward the south, both sides poured men into action. Federal reinforcements finally swept into the fray, using the protective confines of a swale that funneled men toward the very spot Confederate forces were also converging. “I have heard that blood-drenched bullet swept angle, called ‘Hell’s Half-acre,’” Robert Robertson added. Many called it “the slaughter-pen of Spotsylvania.” Most remembered it as the Bloody Angle — “a seething, bubbling, roaring hell of hate and murder,” said John Haley of the 17th Maine.

By 9:30 a.m., the area around the west angle encompassed perhaps 150 yards of the works, but those few yards witnessed some of the most hellacious hand-to-hand combat of the Ameri-

can Civil War. “The fighting was horrible,” one Mississippian said. “The breastworks were slippery with blood and rain, dead bodies lying underneath half trampled out of sight.”

The 16th Mississippi’s flag bearer, Sgt. Alexander Mixon, was shot while leading his regiment into the dark heart of the fray. Only wounded, he picked up his flag, staggered forward, but was then shot through the head. The flag remained standing at the very apex of the west angle. Union soldiers charged forward to capture the colors, but Mississippi and Alabama men counterattacked with equal ferocity.

“At every assault and every repulse new bodies fell on the heaps of the slain, and over the filled ditches the living fought on the corpses of the fallen,” said a New Jersey officer. “The wounded were covered by the killed, and expired under piles of their comrades’ bodies.”

With Federals on one side of the blood- and rain-soaked trench, and Confederates on the other side, the fighting took on an intimate nature. Men reached over the works and blasted their foes at point-blank range. Bayonet-tipped muskets thrust through and over the works into soft flesh. A Federal, after seeing one of his officers gunned down from atop the works, hurled his musket like a spear at the Confederate who had fired the shot. “The force with which he threw it,” said a witness, “drove the bayonet entirely through his chest, burying at least four inches of the muzzle of the gun in the breast of the Confederate, who uttered the most unearthly yell I ever heard from human lips, as he fell over backward with the gun sticking in him.”

Wounded men fell into trenches that were filled with at least a foot of bloody, muddy water. Some, unable to lift themselves back up, drowned as other wounded and dead men fell upon them. Corpses were stacked like cordwood and used as makeshift works. One dead Union soldier absorbed an estimated “five thousand” minie balls — enough to turn his body to “sponge.”

As Brig. Gen. Samuel McGowan’s brigade charged toward the West Angle, bullets shattered the staff of the 1st South Carolina’s flag. As the assault began to falter, color bearer Charlie Whilden snatched up the fallen banner and



“Bayonet Charge at the Battle of Spotsylvania”
Chromolithograph by Thure De Thulstrup
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

wrapped himself in it, pushing forward through the knee-deep mud with his regiment and the rest of the brigade in tow. Wilden planted his Palmetto flag, and his comrades rallied around it.

FOR EVERY WAVE Grant sent in, Lee countered by shifting more men into the fight from other parts of the Confederate line. Grant’s failure to put significant pressure on the entire Confederate line gave Lee the flexibility to shift troops to his embattled center. Federals kept arriving at the front, but officers had no place to pack them in. The resulting bottleneck left Federals sprawled from the outer edge of the works in a blue carpet that led all the way back across the assault field.

In an attempt to break the impasse, Union II Corps commander Hancock rolled some 30 guns into line along the Landrum farm lane — roughly 400 yards from the Bloody Angle — and started pounding friend and foe alike. He then ordered up other ordnance, 24-pound Coehorn mortars, intended to lob shells into and over the works. Unfortunately,

the green cannon crew was firing the guns for the first time in anger. Many of their shells fell short, hitting their own men lying in front of the Angle. Hancock’s idea was a failure.

Then Lt. Richard Metcalf ran two cannon up close to the Bloody Angle and began belching canister at nearly point-blank range. Mississippians flooded out of the works in an attempt to take the guns, but loads of double canister quickly dissuaded them. Still, Metcalf’s section suffered a fearful toll in its advanced position. He lost all of his horses, and all but two of his men were

killed or wounded. The guns, mired in mud, had to be abandoned. One had discharged nine rounds, the other 14.

Small-arms fire flew around the Angle so intensely that a 22-inch oak was “hacked through by the awful avalanche of bullets packing against it.” The oak, located in the fourth traverse from the Angle, toppled onto members of the 1st South Carolina, injuring several of them. Musketry fire also mowed down an 18-inch red oak and an eight-inch hickory in the same traverse. In all, some three acres of woods were nearly destroyed. “The north side of the trees which stood in the rear of our works there was not a vestige of bark left,” said Thomas T. Roche of the 16th Mississippi. “Every small branch had been cut away and the large limbs were hanging frayed, frazzled and twisted.” It looked like an army of locusts had swarmed through, said another eyewitness. After the war, as a testament to the ferocity of the fighting, soldiers returned to the battlefield and retrieved the stump of the 22-inch oak. It eventually made its way to the Smithsonian Institution, where it remains today.

For the next 17 hours, the two sides settled into a routine of firing, then shifting units from the front line to the rear and back. Grant’s men could not regain the momentum that had carried them so far earlier in the day. For Lee, the stalemate meant that his men could construct their new defensive line unmolested.

By 2:00 a.m. on May 13, Confederate troops were finally

ordered to slip away from the front line, their Herculean task accomplished. The new line was ready.

* * *

BY THE TIME DAWN lightened the drizzling sky, Federals were mounting a cautious pursuit. They crept forward through what was left of the tree line to their front and emerged into the open fields of Neil McCoull’s and Edgar Harrison’s farms. Ahead, they saw a frowning line of freshly churned dirt, abatis 100 yards deep and fortified batteries. Lee had not abandoned the field. All of the fighting they had done the day before was for naught.

In all, the fight for the Mule Shoe cost some 17,000 victims, most of whom carpeted the area around and within the salient. Lee lost about 8,000 men killed, wounded or missing, including 3,000 captured from Allegheny Johnson’s division alone. Grant lost as many as 9,000. “The one exclamation of every man who looks on the spectacle,” said one soldier, “is, ‘God forbid that I should ever gaze on such a sight again.’”

And the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House was yet far from over.★

Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is the editor-in-chief and, with Kris White, co-founder of Emerging Civil War. Chris is a professor of journalism and mass communication at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, N.Y., and the historian-in-residence at Stevenson Ridge, a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield.



The Bloody Angle
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, Va.

After the Bloodshed

on May 19, 1864

PHOTO BY Timothy O'Sullivan

the Harris Farm REMEMBERED

Donation marked early achievement for APCWS

I

N MAY 1989, the fledgling Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) scored its second-ever save when it formally took title to 1.5 acres of the Harris Farm, scene of the final action of the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House on May 19, 1864.

The Union army's defeat near the Mule Shoe Salient on May 18 convinced Lt. Gen. Ulysses Grant that further attacks against Confederate entrenchments at Spotsylvania were futile. Instead, he needed to lure Gen. Robert E. Lee into the open and sent Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock's corps to threaten Confederate communications with Richmond. When Lee, perforce, evacuated his trenches, Grant would pounce.

Watching Grant withdraw troops in preparation for this movement, Lee became puzzled. Was Grant massing for another attack? Or was he planning to leave Spotsylvania altogether? Lt. Gen. Richard Ewell's corps was sent on a reconnaissance-in-force to locate the Army of the Potomac's northern flank. The Rebels set off near midafternoon, crossing the Ni River and turning southeast toward the Harris and Alsop Farms, both of which lay along the Fredericksburg Road, Grant's supply line.

Blocking their path were five regiments of Union heavy artillery, led by Brig. Gen. Robert Tyler. Grant had recently pulled the so-called Heavies from the defenses of Washington, given them rifles and used them to offset the Army of the Potomac's losses at the Bloody Angle. Veterans derisively referred to heavy artillerymen as "bandbox soldiers." Although new to infantry battle, each heavy artillery regiment was the size of a Confederate brigade. They fought with fresh spirit, and, once reinforced, slugged it out with Ewell's veterans until nightfall allowed the Confederates to fall back.

The Heavies paid for their bravery in blood. The 1st Massachusetts suffered 390 casualties on the Harris Farm; the 1st Maine, fighting at the Alsop Farm, lost 481. Total Union casualties reached 1,500 men during this last major combat at Spotsylvania. The Overland Campaign next shifted to the banks of the North Anna River.

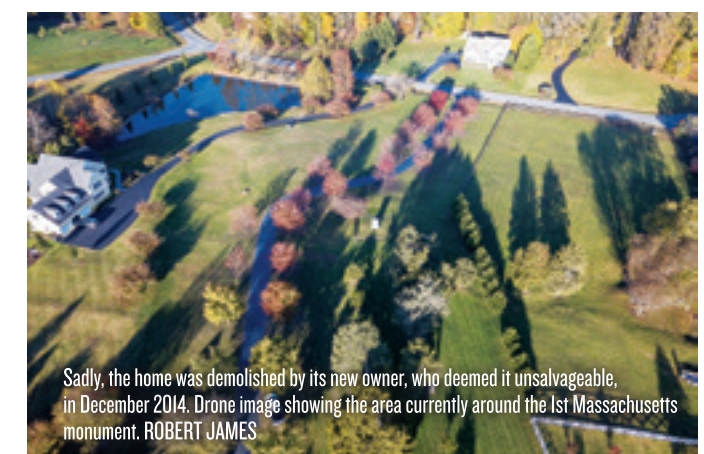
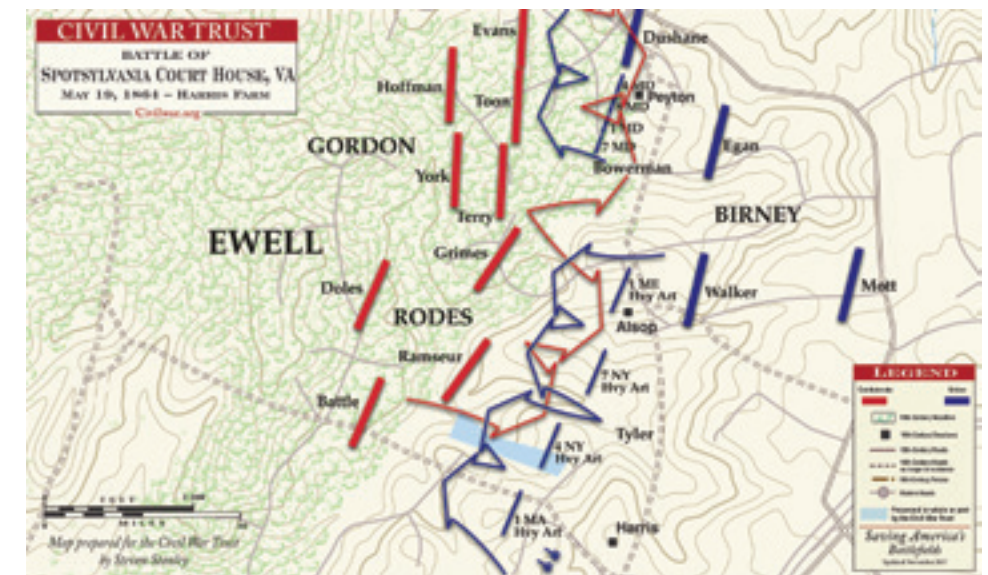
The Trust-protected property (shown in blue on the map at right), which includes a prominent stone monument to the 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, was donated by Agnes McGee, who had joined APCWS as a "life member" — the term then used for donors making gifts in excess of \$1,000 — shortly after the organization's founding.

McGee, who passed away in 2007, days shy of her 90th birthday, was a prominent fixture in local politics for decades. A 1989 *Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star* editorial referred to her as a "farmer, political gadfly and community activist ... one of Spotsylvania County's leading citizens." A feature article chronicling her colorful life only months before her passing quoted Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park historian John Hennessy summarizing her reputation in local preservation circles succinctly: "Agnes is a Spotsylvania icon and hero."

The McGee family came to live at the farm historically known as Bloomsbury — the Clement Harris family owned it at the time of the Civil War, giving the battle its name — in 1927. The Scottish immi-

grants operated a successful, 400-acre dairy farm with Agnes, who never married after the death of her U.S. Marine sweetheart on Okinawa in WWII, gradually taking over operations.

Amid the hard work of farming, Agnes McGee discovered a love of politics. She helped establish the Spotsylvania Women's Club in 1950, a group that successfully sought major quality-of-life improvements for the then-rural county — bringing a bank to the courthouse area, recruiting a doctor for the county and



forming a rescue squad. In the 1960s, she was the first woman president of the county election board. She later served on the committee that designed the official county seal.

Despite her activism, McGee eschewed running for office herself. Instead, she attended nearly every Board of Supervisors meeting and was unafraid to voice her opinions on matters of all kinds. She favored one seat in the audience so strongly that it now bears a plaque in her memory.

In addition to caring for her cows, McGee also cared for the 1st Massachusetts monument for many years. She followed the lead of her father, who freely granted access to the site to descendants, history lovers and other curious parties. “We never told anybody they couldn’t go down there to see it,” she declared in a 1998 oral history interview with the Central Rappahannock Regional Library. “We didn’t think it belonged to us. It really belongs to the public.”

Beginning in the 1970s, McGee subdivided and sold por-



1st Massachusetts Artillery Monument
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park
Fredericksburg, Va.

tions of the farm to developers, retaining several acres around the monument and the historic home, which dated to the late 1780s, as her residence. When the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites was founded in nearby Fredericksburg, the history-loving Agnes was an early supporter and swiftly entered discussions with the board to gift the new organization the monument site. Today, the 1.5-acre property, surrounded by an upscale subdivision, is owned by the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. Another three acres are protected by conservation easement.

Sadly, the historic farmhouse is no more. Although it had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places — both for its role as a battle landmark and hospital and its status as one of the oldest residences in Spotsylvania County — in 2000, the structure deteriorated after McGee’s death.

In November 2014, an LLC purchased the home and 2.5 surrounding acres for \$125,000. One of the group’s principles had previously renovated historic properties in downtown Fredericksburg and stated he intended to rehabilitate the farmhouse. But, as he told the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, “The termites beat me to it about 10 years ago, and there was nothing left.... We just decided it was too dangerous to bring back to life.”

Local historians and activists were outraged that the structure was demolished with little warning just one month later. An application to raze the home and surrounding nonhistoric farm buildings was approved by the county because, in the absence of a historic district overlay or conservation easement, it had no recourse to protect the privately owned property. The tragic situation helped illustrate the limits of protection offered by various listings, none of which inherently confer legal protection. ★

THE MARKER in Spotsylvania County is not the only famous monument to remember the 1st Massachusetts Heavy Artillery. The Melvin Memorial in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Concord, Mass., is dedicated to the memory of three brothers who died fighting for the Union in Company K of that regiment: Asa Heald Melvin, killed at Petersburg, June 16, 1864; John Heald Melvin, died in a military hospital at Fort Albany, Va., October 13, 1863; and Samuel Melvin, taken prisoner at Harris Farm and died at Andersonville prison, September 1864. It was commissioned by fourth brother, James C. Melvin, who survived the war, and approached childhood friend and neighbor, the famous sculptor Daniel Chester French, to produce the piece. “Mourning Victory” was dedicated on June 16, 1909, with 88 veterans of the regiment in attendance.



PROFILES *in* PRESERVATION

RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT



Bruce and Nancy Gottwald

DURING a Friday evening banquet celebrating the organization’s 30th anniversary at our 2017 Grand Review, the Trust recognized two stalwarts of the conservation movement — Bruce Gottwald and William Howell — with the Edwin C. Bearss Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor in the field of battlefield preservation.

LONGTIME TRUST Board member Bruce C. Gottwald has been a driving force for battlefield preservation and cutting-edge museum interpretation in his native Richmond, Va. He is the former chair of NewMarket Corp. a petroleum additives company that traces its roots as a community fixture to 1887, and has been under the family’s leadership for three generations.

“Bruce Gottwald and his family members have been preservation heroes for decades,” said Trust President James Lighthizer. “They are deeply committed to Virginia history and to their community in the Richmond area. Bruce’s dedication can be seen in his efforts to preserve the antebellum Tredegar Iron Works on the James River, his support of the American Civil War Center and at historic land bordering Richmond National Battlefield Park.”

The 83-year-old Gottwald, who recently stepped down after a six-year term on the Civil War Trust’s board of trustees, can recall when the Tredegar Iron Works actively produced munitions; today, his family owns the site. Gottwald was instrumental in both the creation of the American Civil War Center museum complex and that entity’s merger with the Museum of the Confederacy to create the American Civil War Museum.

Understanding the contributions that heritage tourism makes to the economy, Gottwald provided a leadership gift of \$1 million toward the acquisition of a major portion of the 1862 Gaines’ Mill Battlefield, which set him on the path to becoming most generous donor in the region’s history. But Gottwald has never sought to draw attention to himself, often minimizing his involvement in projects or declining to publicize his contributions. ★

GOTTWALD AND HOWELL

receive Lifetime Achievement awards

OVER 30 YEARS in office, Virginia House of Delegates Speaker William C. Howell has become the nation’s greatest legislative champion for preservation, spearheading the creation of the first state-level matching grant program for battlefield protection and advocating for the Commonwealth’s outstanding Land Preservation Tax Credit.

“Quite simply, Bill Howell has been our champion in the General Assembly,” Lighthizer said. “His public advocacy and behind-the-scenes support for Virginia’s Civil War history has made our success in the Old Dominion possible. Again and again, Howell has worked quietly to save Virginia’s battlefields from ruin.”

The Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund — which originally targeted Civil War sites but was expanded in 2015 to include the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 — was created in 2006 and, thanks to Howell’s consistent leadership, has awarded \$16 million in matching grants that have permanently protected more than 8,800 acres of hallowed ground. He has also been a chief champion of the Virginia Land Preservation Tax Credit, one of the most important open-space protection mechanisms in the country. Among the 741,000 acres that have benefited from the program is the Trust-protected Slaughter Pen Farm at Fredericksburg, which received \$4.4 million in credits — a contribution that helped make the most ambitious private battlefield preservation project in history possible.

Howell also chaired the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission, which was the most successful such body during the 150th anniversary commemoration of the conflict. Through a comprehensive promotional campaign led by the commission, events across Virginia drew some 3.7 million visitors, who spent \$290 million and contributed \$13 million to state and local tax coffers.

Howell, who has represented Stafford County and Fredericksburg in the House of Delegates since 1988 and served as Speaker since 2003, will retire from the legislature at the conclusion of his current term in January. He is a previous recipient of the Trust’s State Preservation Leadership Award. ★



Cessie and Bill Howell

Photos by BRUCE GUTHRIE

SEEKING CONSTANT INNOVATIONS *in Public Education*

DURING OUR 30TH anniversary year, the Trust's efforts at public outreach and history education took exciting shapes, thanks to several new and evolving programs designed to make the past feel accessible and personalized.

Two years ago, we launched our Generations program in recognition of the need to engage and immerse young people in our nation's history. Since then, we've walked Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, charged the West Woods at Antietam, stood like Stonewall Jackson at Manassas, lived like soldiers at Petersburg and engaged kids at several other events as well. Together, we've shared our passion for history with thousands of kids, grandkids, neighbors and friends through these free gatherings.

Some of our recent events have been among the most innovative to date. In June, we held our first event far from a Civil War battlefield: Young people came together to Defend Library Hill at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall in Pittsburgh, Pa. "Recruits" had the chance to enlist, learn the school of the soldier, experience camp life, visit the regimental doctor and earn their honorable discharge from the army. September began with a group retracing the movements of the Iron Brigade at Gettysburg, including marching on our Lee's Headquarters property — and closed with a dramatic cavalry action on Fleetwood Hill at Brandy Station. (See page 6 for details of this exciting event.)

Beyond outreach to families, we have also found great success with our classroom program designed to put students on battlefields — the Field Trip Fund. Since its inception during the 2013-2014 school year, we have facilitated bringing more than 18,000 young people from 68 different school districts to sites like battlefields and other historic sites related to the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Civil War. Teachers can apply for

up to \$1,500 to reimburse the costs of transportation, meals, site admission and guide fees. In exchange, we ask that they supply photos, video and notes from students showcasing the trip. Destinations have stretched from coast to coast — from Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain in upstate New York to the Presidio overlooking California's San Francisco Bay.

As the application process has become highly competitive, we have had to limit awards to one class, per school district, per school year. Classes that received a grant in the 2016-2017 school year are not be eligible for a grant in 2017-2018. Unfortunately, our current funding stream only allows us to approve fewer than half of the applications received. Members who wish to support Trust education efforts and help us put more students at historic sites can contribute directly to the Field Trip Fund by visiting <https://www.civilwar.org/give/save-battlefields/support-civil-war-field-trips>.

New means of digital outreach enable us to connect with a large audience but still offer specialized content. Our latest series of videos, *Your State in the Civil War*, offers specific details on the way each state contributed to the war effort in terms of men, materials and leadership. These videos are ideal for classroom use, combining local and national history in a short, digestible format. To date, 15 videos have been completed, with more in the production queue.

The Trust has also begun taking advantage of the opportunities available through the Facebook Live feature. These broadcasts from the field have enabled us to

bring tens of thousands of fans on real-time virtual battlefield tours and even interact with participants who comment and ask questions as we go. Sharing anniversary programming at Gettysburg and Antietam proved very popular, meaning it will surely be expanded even further moving forward. We have also begun hosting live chats on select topics specifically for classrooms.★



A Field Trip Fund-sponsored trip to Gettysburg, Pa.



A classroom takes in the Revolutionary City, Colonial Williamsburg, Va.



Our first non-battlefield Generations event in Pittsburgh, Pa.



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5

1: Houston's winning shot of Lee's Headquarters. **2:** The Wells men pause in the Wilderness. **3:** Bury's dramatic Gettysburg landscape. **4:** Mitros's daughter acting as a sharpshooter at Gettysburg. **5:** Eason's son surveying the scene from the 140th New York Monument on Little Round Top.

HUNDREDS ENTER LATEST PHOTO CONTEST

*Winners showcase battlefields used
as outdoor classrooms*

IN OCTOBER, the Trust hosted a social media photo contest, inviting our members, fans and friends to submit pictures showcasing the ways they have enjoyed battlefield landscapes. More than 450 responses later, we invited the public to vote for their top choices to demonstrate the importance of these "outdoor classrooms," and fan favorites quickly emerged.

Longtime Trust member Richard Houston of Harwich, Mass., had travelled to Gettysburg, Pa., in July to mark the battle's 154th anniversary — and to participate in some of the "real time" programming that the Trust and National Park Service were hosting. "A series of thunderstorms forced a cancellation of the Reynolds Woods session, so I took refuge in the newly renovated Lee's HQ. The group of happy Union re-enactment specialists were glad to accommodate my request for a photo when I joined them on the porch," he recalled. "Since I often wear my 'I helped save Lee's HQ' t-shirt when I'm running around my town, I took particular pride in hanging out there during the 'battle.'"

Alan Wells shared a picture of his son Keith, a proud Trust member, snapped during a family road trip across Virginia, stopping at battlefields where their ancestors had fought. The pair had been particularly moved to stand at the intersection of the Brock and Orange Plank Roads in Spotsylvania County, where Wells captured his winning image. Keith is pictured gazing over the land on which his great-great-great-grandfather fought with the 141st Pennsylvania. In intense fighting, the unit captured the colors of the 13th North Carolina, the first Confederate flag captured during the bloody Overland Campaign. The 141st also fought with distinction at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and Spotsylvania, suffering heavy casualties in excess of 61 percent during its service.

Trust staff picked several additional winners showcasing beautiful landscapes and the "next generation" enjoying their time on the battlefield. Those honorees include: Charlie Bury, Jr., of Gettysburg, Pa., Paul Mitros of Haddon Township, N.J., and Danielle Eason of Preston, Md.★

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Entries are now being accepted for our annual Student Postcard Contest! Submissions are due by April 1, 2018. Visit www.civilwar.org/contests for complete rules and guidelines.

SUPPORT THE TRUST'S MISSION *and discover new ways to give*



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

As 2017 draws to a close and you contemplate year-end giving, remember that there are many ways you can contribute to the Civil War Trust and meet your personal philanthropic goals. A tax-deductible gift of cash by check or credit card — whether to a particular acquisition effort or education programs — is just the beginning! Learn more at www.civilwar.org/give.



CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR

Making a gift in honor of a friend, relative or colleague can be a touching gesture in recognition of their enduring interest in history. Likewise, a gift in memory of a departed loved one can be a powerful tribute to a passion for American history and contribute to a legacy of learning that will last for generations to come. You can choose who will receive notification of your gift and include a personalized message. To make a gift in memory or honor of a loved one, call (888) 606-1400, or visit www.civilwar.org/honorgift.



GIVE AN ACRE

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



Top center photo by BRUCE GUTHRIE; Top right, Kirk Bradley at the South Carolina Monument near Spotsylvania's Bloody Angle, which marks the area where his ancestor was captured; Bottom by BRUCE GUTHRIE.

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WOULD YOU LIKE to receive superior tax benefits by making a gift of assets? A charitable gift of stocks and publicly traded securities can offer great tax advantages. First, by giving the stock directly to the Trust, you avoid capital gains tax. Second, your income tax deduction is based on any increased value of the stock at the time of transfer, instead of your cost basis. When your broker transfers stocks, bonds or securities directly to the Trust, please be sure to include contact information with your transmission. Not only does this allow the Trust to acknowledge your generosity, but it's necessary for us to provide appropriate documentation for your tax records! Electronically transferred stocks or securities are dated from the day they enter Trust accounts.

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Gift Memberships

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



DID YOU KNOW?

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

MONTHLY GIVING

RATHER THAN making a single large membership donation each year, many Trust supporters have chosen to make smaller, recurring credit card charges. This option can make even modest gifts have a larger impact by giving the Trust a steady availability of cash to make important purchases. Choose the level of giving you are comfortable with, starting at \$10 per month. Visit www.civilwar.org/givemonthly to learn more.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your extra car, truck or RV can benefit battlefield preservation. www.civilwar.org/vehicledonation.



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DID YOU KNOW?

Many employers, particularly larger companies, have formalized programs that will match charitable gifts made by their employees to eligible nonprofits. www.civilwar.org/matchinggifts

This information is not intended as legal advice. For legal advice, please consult your attorney or financial planner. References to estate and income tax include federal taxes only; individual state taxes vary and may have further impact on results.

In saving history, we made some history of our own.



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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2018 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPENS!

*Marching Toward Freedom: The Wars of America's First Century
in Virginia's Historic Triangle*



JOIN Civil War Trust members, staff and friends for four days of camaraderie, as we explore one of the most historic regions of the country, an area deeply embroiled in the conflicts that established and confirmed America's independence. From the "World Turned Upside Down" for a British army at Yorktown, to an American army pushing up the Virginia Peninsula "To the Gates of Richmond," this is where the story of America unfolded.

The 2018 Civil War Trust Annual Conference, *Marching Toward Freedom: The War's of America's First Century in Virginia's Historic Triangle*, will run from May 30 to June 3. Tours will cover

more than 100 years of history across the region, and range from lengthy hikes to vehicle-based excursions.

Invited speakers include A.Wilson Greene, Drew Gruber, Katherine Egner Gruber and Christopher Kolakowski. The event will be based out of the Newport News Marriott hotel, where a group rate is available. Guests must make their own hotel reservations, either there or at another venue of their choice; lodging is not included in the conference registration fee. **Special Early Bird pricing is available through February 15, 2018, to 2017 conference attendees.** Full details on the conference and registration procedures are available at www.civilwar.org/annualconference.★

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FREDERICKSBURG and Spotsylvania National Military Park, the locus of the Trust's recent Grand Review gathering for Color Bearers, is among the most militarily significant units within the National Park System. The more than 8,300-acre park includes major portions of four prominent battlefields — Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House — plus important historic buildings at Chatham Manor, Salem Church, Ellwood Manor and the house where Confederate general Stonewall Jackson died.

For the 18 months between December 1862 and May 1865, the Civil War swirled relentlessly around the city of Fredericksburg and the surrounding

region in Spotsylvania and Orange Counties that marked the halfway point between the opposing capitals at Washington and Richmond. During these engagements more than 15,000 Americans were killed and 85,000 more wounded.

Through exhibits at its two visitor centers — near the Sunken Road on Marye's Heights and at the site of Jackson's mortal wounding in the thick woods near Chancellorsville — as well as robust ranger programs and dynamic volunteer-led restoration efforts, Fred-Spot, as it is affectionately known, has become a leader in outstanding battlefield interpretation. Particular emphasis is paid to the plight of local civilians whose communities were overrun repeatedly and to the narrative of battlefield preservation, which began as a modern movement in the region. ★



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PHOTOGRAPH BY
JAMES SALZANO

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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See page 36 to find what's right for you!