

WINTER 2019 ★ Vol. 20 No. 4

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

HALLOWED GROUND

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DISABLED

VETERANS

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

UNEARTHING THE PAST

+PLUS THE REVOLUTION'S WATERSHED MOMENT AT SARATOGA

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HALLOWED GROUND
A quarterly publication
of the American
Battlefield Trust
Winter 2019,
Vol. 20 No. 4

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The American Battlefield Trust preserves our nation's hallowed battlegrounds and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters today. We permanently protect these battlefields as a lasting and tangible memorial to the brave soldiers who fought in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Thanks to the contributions of more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide, we have preserved more than 50,000 acres at 131 sites in 24 states. For more information, call 1-888-606-1400 or visit our website at www.battlefields.org. *Hallowed Ground* is the membership magazine of the American Battlefield Trust. It is produced solely for nonprofit educational purposes and every reasonable attempt is made to provide accurate and appropriate attribution for all elements, including those in the public domain. Contemporary images are reproduced only with permission and appropriate attribution; uncredited images are courtesy the American Battlefield Trust. Feature articles reflect the research and opinion of the bylined author. ©2019 American Battlefield Trust.



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

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

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

Moreover, even once a selection is made, I will remain

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



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

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

JIM LIGHTHIZER
President, American Battlefield Trust

battlefields.org

THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST



ON THE GROUND WITH AVAR

GO BEHIND the scenes of the first-of-its-kind partnership between the National Park Service, the American Battlefield Trust and American Veterans Archaeological Recovery at Saratoga National Historical Park with our new video. You'll learn more about the significance and emotional resonance of this exceptional project.
www.battlefields.org/AVAR

VETERANS' VOICES

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

EXPLORE THE BEST OF SARATOGA

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

REFLECTIONS ON 20 YEARS OF PRESERVATION

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

FOLLOW THE LIBERTY TRAIL

THE TRUST recently joined with officials in South Carolina to launch our joint initiative aimed at preserving, interpreting and promoting sites associated with the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution — The Liberty Trail. You can read about that event on page 3, but be sure to watch our new video outlining the trail's longterm vision.
www.thelibertytrail.org



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THE LIBERTY TRAIL LAUNCHES

Partnership will tell forgotten stories of South Carolina's decisive role in the Revolutionary War



Event speakers included (standing) Maj. Gen. Julian Burns, state senator Vincent A. Sheheen, Raleigh West of the South Carolina Conservation Bank, First Lady Peggy McMaster, Gov. Henry McMaster, Jim Lighthizer, and state 250th commission chair Charles Baxley, as well as (sitting) SCBT's Doug Bostick and NPS official Dan Smith.



DESPITE A STEADY RAIN, more than 200 friends and partners gathered on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion Complex in Columbia, S.C., to join Gov. Henry McMaster, the American Battlefield Trust, the National Park Service, the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust (SCBT) and the South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission to announce a heritage tourism and preservation initiative to promote the Palmetto State's leading role in the founding of the United States.

"But for the valor exhibited on the battlefields of South Carolina, this nation's quest for liberty may have been driven to a halt," said Gov. Henry McMaster. "The perseverance and tenacity exhibited by our forebearers remains alive in the character of this state's citizens. Now, as we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of American independence, it is time to commit to ensuring their stories are told for the entire country to hear."

The centerpiece of the initiative is The Liberty Trail, a statewide program that will tell the unique story of this campaign that secured victory in America's War for Independence. It is a joint effort of the American Battlefield Trust and SCBT, assisted by numerous partners at the federal, state and local levels. Leading the charge among these is the National Park Service, which, through its American Battlefield Protection Program, has already contributed more than \$2.5 million in matching grants toward land preservation projects associated with The Liberty Trail. Overall, the effort will create a new driving tour that functions as a one-of-a-kind educational

and heritage tourism resource through which key battlefields of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution will be preserved, interpreted and promoted.

"The project's ultimate goal is lofty: linking more than 70 sites across South Carolina and preserving 2,500 additional acres of battlefield land in the process," said Trust President James Lighthizer. "But even its first phase will yield impressive results. In the near term, the Trust and SCBT look to open a segment composed of 16 full-fledged park sites, augmented by numerous additional roadside pull-offs."

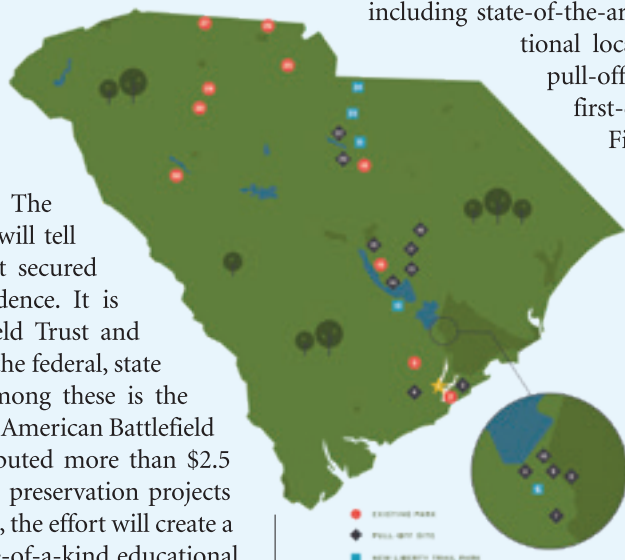
Doug Bostick, SCBT executive director and CEO, emphasized that The Liberty Trail is truly a statewide effort, reflecting the full nature of the Revolutionary War conflicts fought in the state. "During our nation's war for independence, critical battles were fought everywhere from the shores of Charleston Harbor to the hills and forests of our backcountry. The Liberty Trail will help draw visitors into more rural communities by highlighting the top-notch historic resources centered there. In the Initial Phase, we are already engaging more than one-quarter of South Carolina's 46 counties."



cloth through Trust- and SCBT-led land acquisition and interpretation efforts. The groups have already protected nearly 600 acres at Fort Fair Lawn, Eutaw Springs, Camden, Hanging Rock and Waxhaws. Further, five existing federal sites, three state parks and two regional parks will be enhanced with new interpretation, including state-of-the-art digital capabilities. Fourteen additional locations will be outfitted as roadside pull-offs — 10 of these sites receiving their first-ever on-site historical interpretation.

Finally, the effort will see the creation of a first digital Gateway Experience site on Charleston's Marion Square, enticing visitors to the Holy City to venture farther afield on their heritage tourism journey.

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



GRAND REVIEW

brings Color Bearers to Boston



FOR THE 2019 Grand Review, Color Bearers from across the country gathered in Boston, Mass., for a weekend full of history, fun and stunning fall foliage.

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

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

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



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Learning about military life at Minute Man National Historical Park; Paying respects to famous patriots at King's Chapel Burying Ground; The iconic spire of the Old North Church, from which Paul Revere spied two lanterns, indicating a British movement by sea; Board of Trustees Chairman Tom Lauer welcomes Color Bearers and distinguished guests to the city he calls home; Famous as "Old Ironsides" after its seeming invincibility in the War of 1812, the USS *Constitution* is still a commissioned vessel in the U.S. Navy; The Old North Bridge, where poet Ralph Waldo Emerson reflected that minute men fired the "shot heard 'round the world."

PHOTOS BY BUDDY SECOR

FROM *the* TRENCHES BREAKING PRESERVATION NEWS

Fort Pickens
Gulf Breeze, Fla.
TERI TOLL



THE TRUST'S National Teacher Institute brings together educators from all over the world for four days of breakout sessions, workshops, lectures and tours led by experts in the history and education fields. And next year, the immersive, engaging and fun gathering will be held in Mobile, Ala., July 9–12.

Once they arrive in the Azalea City, educators will have the opportunity to network with others in the field and learn more about the historical topics they cover in their classrooms, while acquiring new and innovative teaching methods. This gathering is about more than just methodology; it's about training better, more well-rounded educators. Veterans of past Institutes report leaving with a better understanding of their subject matter, a passion for history education and lifelong friendships.

Among the sites that we will be visiting are Fort Gaines, Fort Pickens, Historic Mobile, Historic Pensacola Village and the National Naval Aviation Museum. The Trust education team has reviewed dozens of proposals for breakout sessions on topics ranging from economics to the evolution of technology to women's rights, and selected a slate that covers multiple disciplines and eras.

The event will be based at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, where a group rate of \$129 per night has been secured. The Trust is again pleased to offer scholarships to defray lodging and travel expenses; the application period for scholarships opens on January 15, 2020. This event is free, but does require a \$100 refundable deposit be placed to reserve your spot. At the conclusion of the Institute, educators can apply for continuing education credits, provided by Virginia Tech University.

To learn more or to register for this exciting event, visit www.battlefields.org/teacherinstitute.★

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



REGISTER NOW
for 2020 National Teacher Institute!
Into the Depths of History

VIRTUAL CIVIL WAR Civil War 1864 *puts you in the action*



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

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

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

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



cannonballs.

In each video, the action takes place 360° surrounding the viewer, but prompt sounds alert you to where significant action occurs or pop-up facts appear. Those using a virtual reality headset or cardboard viewer can take advantage of directional sound — meaning that the audio experience adjusts to the direction you are looking — while mobile devices enable users to pinch-and-zoom for closer look at specific details.

Explore what Civil War soldiers lived through at www.battlefields.org/virtualreality.★



SENATOR KAINE *Honored for his preservation legacy*

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



Participants at Fort Delaware
Fort Delaware State Park
Delaware City, De.



PARK DAY 2020

Join us to celebrate 24 years of volunteer stewardship



MARK YOUR CALENDARS and be sure to join us on April 4, 2020, for the 24th annual Park Day volunteer event. Sites from Maine to California will participate in this cooperative program, readying battlefield parks, museums and other historic venues for the upcoming tourist season. Last year, an estimated 7,000 volunteers took part, spread across 160 locations nationwide. And we believe that this anniversary year will break previous records for involvement.

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



Antietam National Battlefield
Sharpsburg, Md.
MATT BRANT

EXCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIP

with Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours
launches in 2020

WHEN MOST history enthusiasts hear the name “Stephen Ambrose” they immediately think of his epic World War II HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*, which was produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg and based on his book. Or they look to their bookshelves to find his *New York Times*-bestselling work, *D-Day: June 6, 1944: The Climactic Battle of World War II*. Since Ambrose’s name is synonymous with the Second World War, it might surprise some to learn that, as a young historian, he cut his teeth penning biographies of Civil War personalities Henry Halleck and Emory Upton. It also may come as a surprise to learn that, in 1979, the famed historian founded Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours. Over the last 40 years, that group has conducted hundreds of tours, bringing thousands of heritage tourists to iconic sites in American history.

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

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

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

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



PERMANENT RECOGNITIONS

installed at two Virginia battlefields

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



Volgenau photo by JULIE HOGAN, National Parks Conservation Association



Graffiti left on the wall by Civil War soldiers
Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum
Winchester, Va.

IT CAN BE A PROFOUND experience to stand in a place you know was once occupied by soldiers of the past. But that feeling is redoubled in those locations where those in uniform left a permanent mark to attest to their presence. A handful of such sites in the Old Dominion have joined together to become the Northern Virginia Civil War Graffiti Trail, showcasing these fascinating and very personal historical resources.

researchers by comparing initials on a drawing to things like medical records of those who convalesced in a specific hospital.

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

SYMPOSIUM GOES “BENEATH THE PAINT”

to uncover the legacy of Civil War
graffiti

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

At these locations, hundreds of individuals added their personal touch in pencil or charcoal from a fireplace to the walls. Some artists will forever remain a mystery; others signed their work with significant detail, including unit or rank. Still others have been identified by modern

MOURNING THE LOSS of JAMES I. ROBERTSON

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

A towering figure in the field, Robertson was beloved by generations of students, admired by all who read his monumental works and recognized by millions who had seen or heard his commentary on numerous radio and television shows or documentaries. He grew up poor in Danville, Va., and was encouraged to attend college before pursuing his desired career in the railroad industry. But “Dr. Bud” didn’t stop

with a degree in history from Randolph-Macon College, achieving master’s and doctorate degrees in the same field from Emory University. At the request of President John F. Kennedy, Robertson served as the executive director of the United States Civil War Centennial Commission. Ever diplomatic, Robertson brought together 34 state commissions in a tense period amid the backdrop of the nascent Civil Rights Movement. Fifty years later, he served as a member of the executive committee of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission.

Reflecting on the passing of this exceptional educator and supporter of battlefield preservation, Trust President James



Lighthizer said, “Over the course of his 44-year academic career, Bud taught some 25,000 students at Virginia Tech. He wrote or edited more than 50 books on our subjects — some of them the definitive volumes on a given subject. Truly, he shaped the way the Civil War will be remembered and understood for generations to come.”★



Dogan House restoration
KIMBALL BRACE



AMONG THE BUILDINGS that dot the landscape of Manassas National Battlefield Park, only three are known to have witnessed the Civil War. The newly acquired M.E. Dogan House will likely make the fourth — period sources note a handful of homes at the crossroads of Groveton while the twin battles raged, and the National Park Service (NPS) believes that a portion of this structure could be one of them.

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

The Manassas Battlefield Trust (MBT), official philanthropic

HISTORY WITHIN THE WALLS:

Saving Manassas's M.E. Dogan House

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

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

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

To donate or learn more visit www.savedogan.org or contact cforman@manassasbattlefield.org. Follow the Manassas Battlefield Trust on Facebook for project updates!★

VALOROUS TV

offers exclusive discount to American Battlefield Trust members



IN TODAY'S MEDIA landscape, there are plenty of streaming services. But only one, Valorous TV, focuses exclusively on sharing stories of uncommon courage via great movies, films, documentaries, news, current events, stories, photo galleries, interviews and information from all around the world. It's a home for not just war stories, but all manner of acts of bravery, struggle and courage under hardship, including those from law enforcement, emergency responders, medical personnel, firefighters and ordinary citizens.

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

“We are very honored to partner with the American Battlefield

Trust,” said Valorous TV president and CEO Earl Benjamin. “We both share the same mission to continue to preserve our nation's history, and we're proud to showcase their great work on Valorous TV to help preserve America's hallowed battle-grounds of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War.”

To help Trust members learn more of the inspirational stories we all enjoy, and that the channel brings so dynamically to life, Valorous TV is extending a 25 percent discount on an annual subscription to Trust members! To take advantage of this exclusive offer, simply enter the code TRUST19 when you subscribe.

Valorous TV is available for view on numerous devices, from Apple TV to Amazon FireTV stick to Roku. Learn more about the service and how to connect via your favorite device at www.valoroustv.com.★



TRUST JOINS FORCES WITH ANCESTRY.COM® AND FOLD3®

to contextualize the battlefield experience of millions of Civil War soldiers



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

Ancestry® and Fold3® have been helping people understand their ancestors and the individuals who fought for causes large and small for decades. Now, Ancestry®, Fold3® and American Battlefield Trust are joining forces so that you can find the veterans in your family's past and understand their stories and their impact on the generations who followed.

The Trust will build upon Ancestry and Fold3's focus on the “who” of your family tree, adding context as to the “where.” Imagine a user discovering

integrating information about the places that individual fought, where modern Americans can stand in the footsteps of their ancestors. Future expansions will offer similar information related to the Revolutionary War and War of 1812. Learn more at www.fold3.com/projectregiment.

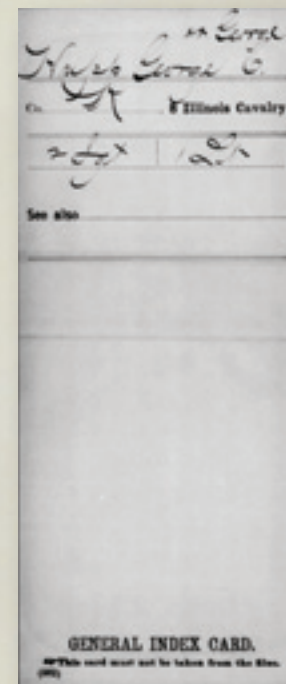
To showcase the storytelling potential present in this effort, upcoming issues of *Hallowed Ground* will share the story of a member who has uncovered fascinating ancestral connections.

HONORING GEORGE CASPAR HUPP'S LEGACY THROUGH PRESERVATION

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

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

“Monday, April 17th, General Gamble receive orders to proceed with his staff, the Eighth Illinois Cavalry and Sixteenth New York Cavalry to Washington, to attend the funeral and search for the assassin of President Lincoln,” wrote the unit's surgeon Abner Hard. “The Eighth were at once sent down the Maryland side of the Potomac, in the vicinity of Port Tobacco, which coun-



try they thoroughly searched, leaving no nook or corner in which the assassin could be secreted.”

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

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

son, Wilson.

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

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

Subsequent generations of the Hupp family have not forgotten George's sacrifice to preserve our nation. His third great grandson, William Hupp, is member of the American Battlefield Trust's board and a marker honoring the contributions of both men stands on Fleetwood Hill at Brandy Station, site of a significant preservation victory for the Trust.★



Brandy Station Battlefield
Culpeper County, Va.
MIKE TALPLACIDO

that an ancestor fought in the Civil War — which will be our first data set, debuting soon. The information supplied by Ancestry® and Fold3® will make it possible to understand that connection and discover the regiment to which that ancestor was assigned. This will then connect to the Trust's contributions,

SUCCESS STORIES

LAND SAVED FOREVER

ABPP-SPONSORED STUDIES uncover countless historical mysteries

Archaeologists from the University of Mississippi have dug at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians. BEN HILLYER / *The Natchez Democrat*

LONGTIME MEMBERS of the American Battlefield Trust are undoubtedly familiar with the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) in regards to the matching funds distributed through its Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants. But that entity plays a much broader and deeper role in the protection and interpretation of America's military history, not all of which may be as immediately apparent to casual Trust supporters. But this Park Service office, based in Washington, D.C., is among the greatest resources for military historians and preservationists.

Created by an act of Congress in 1990, ABPP has as its mission to offer assistance "in planning, interpreting, and protecting sites where historic battles were fought on American soil during the armed conflicts that shaped the growth and development of the United States, in order that present and future generations may learn and gain inspiration from the ground where Americans made their ultimate sacrifice." Today, the office includes professional archaeologists, landscape architects, preservation planners and historians, as well as grant administrators and other professionals.

Long before ABPP ever issued a matching grant to purchase battlefield property, it instituted a Planning Grant program to provide monies for site identification, documentation, planning and interpretation. For the first four years, these grants were limited to Civil War sites, but the purview expanded to all conflicts on American soil in 1996.

In all, ABPP has now awarded more than \$22 million in planning grants for some 620 projects in 42 states related to battlefields stretching from Vermont to Palau in the western

Pacific Ocean, and across time from Spanish contact with Native American tribes through World War II. Individual grants have ranged from \$5,000 to more than \$100,000 and are issued with no requirement for matching funds or in-kind services.

Among the projects funded have been interpretive plans for new battlefield parks, research to create robust nominations for the National Register of Historic Places and seed money to create alliances, partnerships and friends groups. But work of this nature is typically conducted, at least in part, offsite. The most visible projects to have been cosponsored by ABPP are those that involve archaeological survey or excavation, of which there have been scores.

In 2019 alone, ABPP is funding several projects of a noninvasive nature, including LiDAR work, Phase I cultural resource studies and even an underwater resource assessment for submerged areas of the World War II Kwajalein Atoll Battlefield in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. In terms of traditional excavations, ABPP is contributing to work at the Ruff's Mill Civil War Battlefield in Georgia and the Pottery Mound and Sevilleta sites in New Mexico associated with Pueblo-Spanish conflicts of the 16th and 17th centuries. You can read the full list of 2019 awardees below.

Moreover, ABPP's commitment to supporting the field of conflict archaeology stretches back virtually to its origins and has made significant contributions to American's interaction with its military history. For example, a 2002 grant conducted excavations in Monroe, Mich., at what has since become River Raisin National Battlefield Park. ABPP has also helped institute methodologies that imbue archaeological excavations of battle sites with the same KOCO military terrain analysis applied to surface landscapes, resulting in more nuanced findings. ★

Recipients of 2019 American Battlefield Protection Program Planning Grants Announced

THIS YEAR, the American Battlefield Protection Program distributed a total of \$1.17 million in funding for projects at 16 battlefields in 10 states. These sites represent events from the first period of Spanish contact in the Americas through World War II.

Congratulations to this year's recipients: American Battlefield Trust for friends group best practices, national; Chester County for Brandywine Battlefield (Revolutionary War), Pennsylvania; East Carolina University for Kwajalein Atoll Battlefield (WWII), Republic of the Marshall Islands; Fort Phil Kearney Bozeman Trail Association for Fetterman Battle, Crazy Woman Battle and Cantonment Reno (Red Cloud's War), Wyoming; Fort Ticonderoga Association for the Carillon Battlefield (French and Indian War), New York; Great Bridge Battlefield Foundation for Great Bridge Battlefield (Revolutionary War), Virginia; LAMAR Institute for Ruff's Mill Battlefield (Civil War), Georgia; Maryland Department of Natural Resources for Fort Frederick (French and Indian War), Maryland; New York Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation for Sackets Harbor Battlefield (War of 1812), New York; North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for USCT battlefields (Civil War), North Carolina; Pueblo of Isleta for the Pottery Mound and Sevilleta sites (Spanish-Pueblo conflicts), New Mexico; Preservation Maryland for Falling Waters Battlefield (Civil War), Maryland; Research Foundation for the State University of New York for Oneida Castle Battlefield (Revolutionary War), New York; Temple University for an administrative history of federal battlefield preservation; University of South Carolina for Camden Battlefield (Revolutionary War), South Carolina; University of Wisconsin for Battle Hollow (Dakota and Ojibwe conflicts), Wisconsin. ★

PROFILES *in* PRESERVATION RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT



DR. STEPHEN HUMPHREYS *AVAR Chief Executive Officer*

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



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

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

Despite these successes, Humphreys recognized, "I really

wasn't that interested in jets — I was interested in taking care of my folks. So after a few years, I separated from the Air Force so I could become a chaplain. Then I would go back to the military in that capacity and really focus on taking care of those troops, the thing I was most passionate about."

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

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

The third major pivot point that bought Humphreys to found AVAR occurred in 2015, early in his doctoral program, when he was sought out to join a phase of an ongoing excavation at Vindolanda, a Roman fort along Hadrian's Wall.

"The Brits are the ones who came up with the idea of putting disabled vets on digs; they started doing it [with Operation Nightingale™ and the Defense Archaeology Group] in 2011. And they found out there was an ex-U.S. military officer doing research right next to them in Durham and got in contact. So I went out with them and immediately thought, 'Wow, this is something we've got to do. This would work as well, if not better, with American veterans.'"

Since founding AVAR the following year, Humphreys has seen how deeply AVAR's mission — using archaeology as a tangible way to help veterans connect and foster confidence during their reintegration into civilian life — resonates with participants and supporters. Dig opportunities typically fill up months in advance, and partnerships with outstanding entities take shape regularly. A 2018 dig at a Shaker settlement in New York State in partnership with crowdfunding organization DigVentures received grant funding from National Geographic. During the 2019 season, in addition to a joint effort with the Trust and the National Park Service at Saratoga, AVAR undertook the excavation of a 1944 American B-24 Liberator crash site alongside the University of York and a similar British veterans group, Breaking Ground Heritage. The mission — collect information that could lead to the identification and recovery of U.S. service members still unaccounted for — was pursued in official partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense's POW/MIA Accounting Office.

Through it all, Humphreys has tried to retain the spark that drew him to archaeology in the first place: "That sense of discovery really stuck with me — the idea that every flip of the trowel could turn up something. It's something that I've carried over into AVAR, because I think that's something people want out of archaeology: the idea that there's something down there, but we won't know what it is until we find it." ★

ALL ABOUT AVAR

*A veteran-driven nonprofit
promoting psychological healing
through field archaeology*

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

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

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

But AVAR goes further than simply capitalizing on this natural inclination. Whereas even the most community-based conventional expedition is primarily focused on how its amateur participants can benefit the professionals and advance the research, an AVAR project seeks the reverse: It uses the experience to benefit these volunteers. It's a concept AVAR calls "rehabilitation archaeology," which, at its heart, is about capturing what

archaeology can do for people, not what these people can do for archaeology.

Most existing veterans therapy programs provide a single enjoyable experience, which is beneficial in its own way. But AVAR provides a long-term commitment to send veterans home from a dig with more than great memories. Participants progress through three tiers of involvement with the organization as they acquire real-world skills and expertise applicable in a vari-



As part of their effort to excavate the site of a B-24 crash in the U.K., participants met with Jack Burton, who had served as navigator aboard another Liberator in WWII.



This fall, two experienced AVAR participants received placement on a project with the Beit Lehi Foundation in Israel.

ety of vocations. This clear progression is reminiscent of military ranks, a type of categorization that veterans miss in civilian life. The tiers aren't designed to produce professional archaeologists, but they can provide a great foundation for anyone who decides to pursue that path. Instead, AVAR focuses on building individuals' confidence and giving them awareness of the significance of archaeology and historic preservation.

Tier 1 (or Core) projects — like the one detailed in this issue at Saratoga — are an ideal entry point for new AVAR participants. No prior experience or working knowledge of archaeological techniques is necessary. Here, they work as part of a large team of veterans alongside the full spectrum of AVAR specialists, who can assess an individual participant's physical and psychological needs. Participants receive one-on-one mentoring to establish their goals for the project and how they can use their time to build applicable real-world skills they can use long after leaving the field. These projects are ideal for veterans who are still becoming accustomed to civilian life, who want to recapture some spirit of their time in uniform while discovering tangible

ways they can use existing skills to further a cause. Emphasis is placed on providing a strong foundation in archaeological techniques, including cutting-edge technologies, under the guidance of recognized technical experts who are present at every stage of the expedition. All Tier 1 projects have been located in the United States, but Saratoga was the organization's first opportunity to dig on an American battlefield; previous sites include the Shaker settlement at Mount Lebanon, N.Y.



During the Saratoga project, AVAR participants carefully extracted artifacts that had been pinpointed during survey work through noninvasive techniques.



The hands-on nature of archaeological work reminds many veterans of their uniformed service.

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

ties. AVAR incorporates cultural immersion activities into these excavations, so that our veterans build friendships with our host country partners while they act as ambassadors for the United States military veteran community. Recon excavations prioritize skills progression, exposure to new cultures and development of expertise in peer support. After completing the Saratoga project in June 2019, the AVAR team went to the United Kingdom in September to work alongside numerous partners, including

the U.S. Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, to excavate the site of a 1944 B-24 aircraft crash. Another team joined the Beit Lehi Regional Project in Israel, in partnership with Hebrew University, the Israel Antiquities Authority, and the Beit Lehi Foundation.

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



B A T T L E *o f* S A R A T O G A

Morning light at the
Great Redoubt at Saratoga
National Historical Park
in Stillwater, N.Y.

WHEN **GOLIATH** BLINKED

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

by **ERIC SCHNITZER**

PHOTOGRAPHY *by* **DOUG MENUEZ**

HERE WERE HUNDREDS of battles, skirmishes and sieges fought during the American War for Independence (1775–1783), and the sites of many are preserved as private, state and national historic sites, parks or monuments. A more limited number were decisively significant to the American Revolutionary cause — the opening shots at Lexington and Concord, the Christmas crossing of the Delaware and surprise attack at Trenton, George Washington’s personal charge at Princeton, the double-envelopment of British forces at Cowpens, Cornwallis’s surrender at Yorktown.

And yet, the Battles of Saratoga have long held special distinction among the panoply of famed battles — the phrase “Turning Point of the Revolutionary War” was coined for Saratoga. But their significance stretches even further, into the scope and breadth of worldwide warfare as well. How could two battles fought in rural upstate New York in the fall of 1777 possibly rate so importantly?

In June 1777, a British army stationed in Canada commanded by Lieutenant-General John Burgoyne began an expedition intent on capturing Albany, N.Y. Once taken, Albany would serve as a staging ground from which the British could thereafter threaten New England or the lower Hudson River Valley, creating a potentially insurmountable rift between regions of the new nation. Isolating rebellious New England with its higher concentration of Patriots appealed to London, which preferred a primary theater of war in regions where Loyalist support could be rallied. Burgoyne understood that British grand strategy called for a simultaneous push northward by a second force from New York City, meant to rendezvous with his own. But priorities had shifted toward Philadelphia and

no second prong materialized.

After months of campaigning, featuring relative triumphs for each side — the virtually bloodless British recapture of Fort Ticonderoga set against the conclusive American victory in the Battle of Bennington — the American and British armies finally met in earnest battle about 40 miles north of Albany on September 19, 1777. The Battle of Freeman’s Farm came about when riflemen under Colonel Daniel Morgan and a contingent of light infantry led a reconnaissance in force from the American lines, which the British threatened to flank. Ultimately, Burgoyne’s troops carried the field, but at a loss of 600 men — a roughly 10 percent casualty rate that exacerbated the steady attrition of his forces from desertion and lack of supplies. Receiving word that British troops were finally heading north from New York to assist him, Burgoyne chose to dig in and wait. Those reinforcements never materialized, having turned back south of Albany.

Two and a half weeks later, the armies

**BURGOYNE
DID NOT SIMPLY
SURRENDER
A BRITISH ARMY—
HE SURRENDERED
THE FIRST BRITISH
ARMY IN WORLD
HISTORY.**

clashed again in the October 7 Battle of Bemus Heights (alternately rendered as Bemis Heights). Buoyed by militia units from across the region and 2,000 Continentals under General Benjamin Lincoln recalled from an excursion against Ticonderoga, the American ranks had swollen during the interim. The British, meanwhile, had been surviving on half-rations for a fortnight.

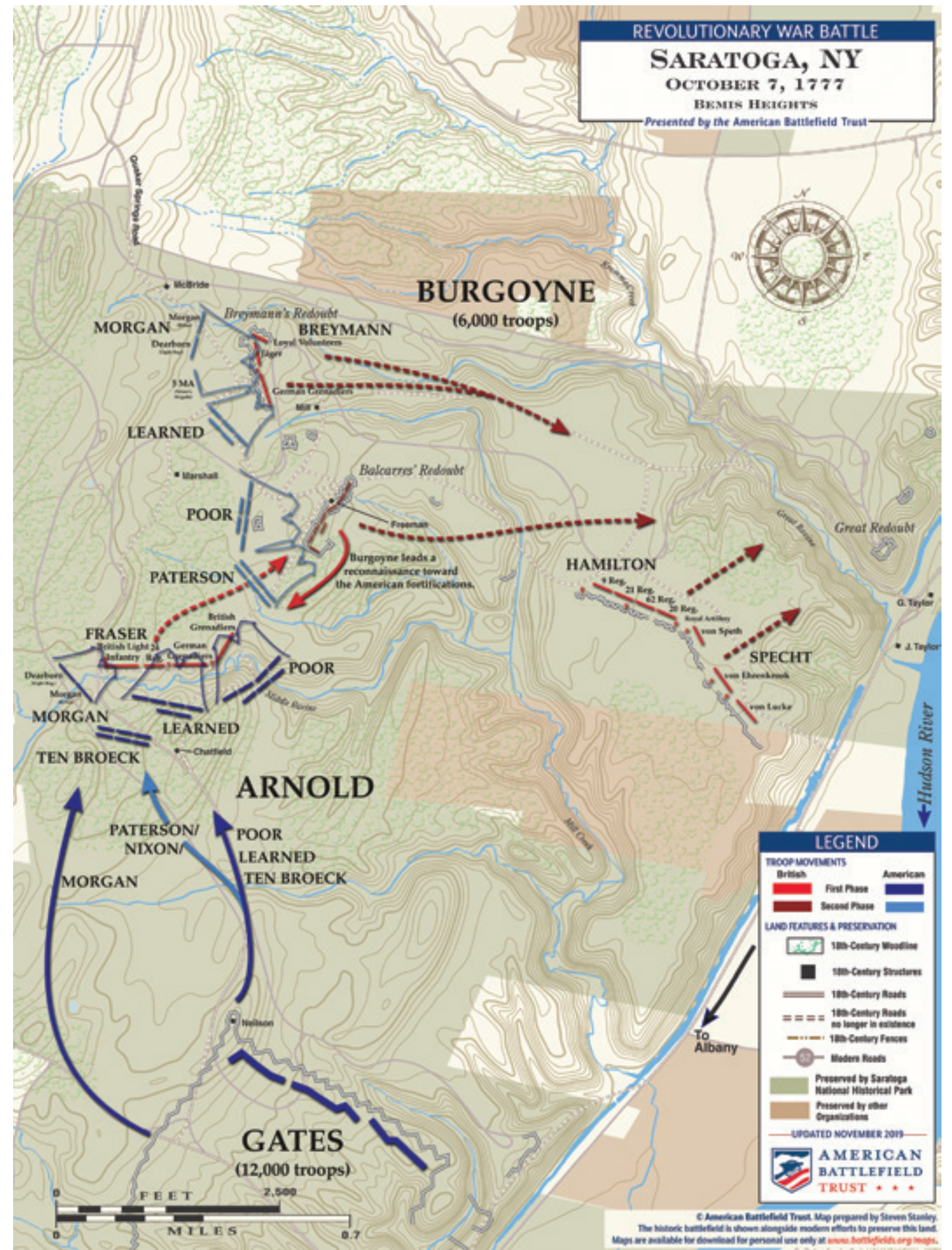
Amidst a British reconnaissance in force, the Americans counterattacked across the Barber Wheatfield, clashing at the Balcarres Redoubt and the Breyman Redoubt. American Major General Benedict Arnold, although stripped of his command following a personal dispute with General Horatio Gates, was famously wounded while leading victorious Americans against the latter.

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

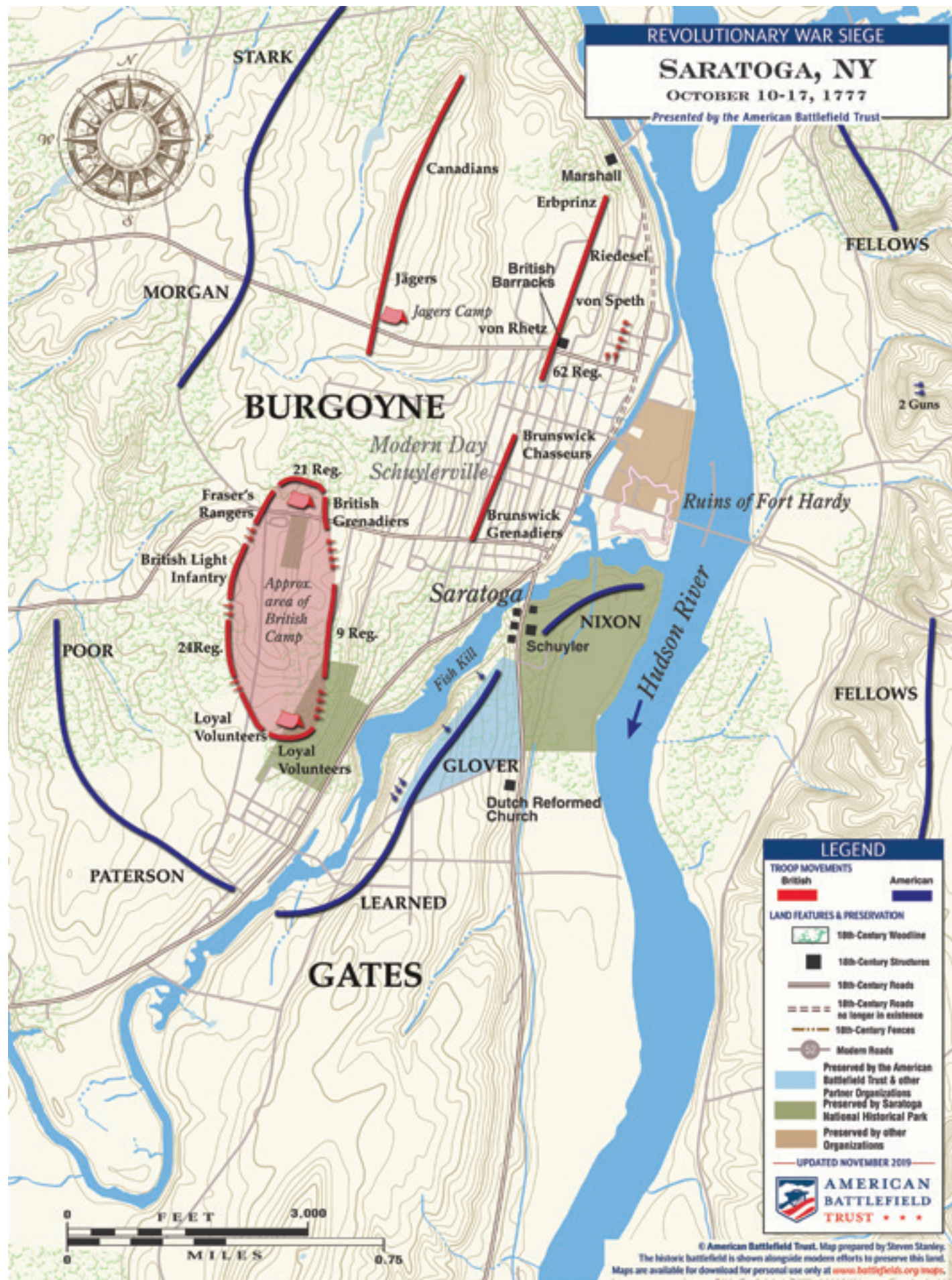
Having lost the Battle of Bemus Heights, Burgoyne retreated north about eight miles to a hamlet then called Saratoga — now known as the Village of Schuylerville — and hunkered down in strangely apathetic fashion. This nonchalance allowed the American army to pursue, surround and besiege Burgoyne, forcing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

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

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



For FREE, larger downloadable maps — including an additional one of the September 19, 1777, fighting at Freeman’s Farm, go to www.battlefields.org/maps



GATES'S VICTORY OVER BURGOYNE WAS THE PRIMARY IMPETUS KING LOUIS XVI NEEDED TO RECOGNIZE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

scenario of no-win global warfare, Great Britain agreed to make peace with the newly recognized United States in 1783. American victory over the British was made possible by the French alliance — and Saratoga had made that alliance possible.

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

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

closed Chesapeake Bay as a route of resupply and relief, allowing French engineers and artilleryists to orchestrate an impressive allied siege and bombardment. Ultimately, the world turned upside down, and the second British army in world history was "Burgoyne'd" as Cornwallis surrendered his entire field command on October 19, 1781.

As if this were not enough, Great Britain could no longer afford to focus on the conflict in America alone, since French entry into the war resulted in fighting over colonial possessions on a global scale. French-allied Spain declared war on Britain in 1779

as modern-day Florida, the Mississippi River Basin, the Caribbean, the Bahamas, Nicaragua, Guyana, the Channel Islands, Gibraltar, Senegal, Ghana, the Gambia and Sri Lanka. The French-allied Kingdom of Mysore (in modern India) declared war against the British too, resulting in major fighting throughout India's southern interior in 1780–1784.

Great Britain was overwhelmed with enemies the world over. The diffusion of its forces to protect and strike at colonial possessions was too great a strain to sustain. Needing to extricate itself from the

A cannon at Saratoga National Historical Park marks the British position at Balcarres Redoubt.





UNEARTHING

RELICS OF WAR

AND FINDING PEACE.

Monty, the constant companion of Jake Pluim — who, after returning from service with the U.S. Army, became an archaeological technician with the U.S. Forest Service — surveys the color-coded flags that mark anomalies targeted for further investigation.

by **MARY KOIK**

PHOTOGRAPHY by **DOUG MENUEZ**

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



HEN LIGHTS BEGIN TO APPEAR

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

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

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

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

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

"When I first set foot on the Saragota Battlefield, it took me back," says Gun-

nery Sgt. Oscar Fuentes, who is still an active duty Marine, although his wife has completed her service and they participate in AVAR together. "I could imagine those soldiers getting ready for that battle. I remember what I would do the night before going forwards, how I felt when we were at base camp. I know that feeling: thinking that tomorrow is uncertain. The weaponry does not compare to what we have now, and the tactics are way different. But that feeling is overwhelming. I can imagine myself on that battlefield."

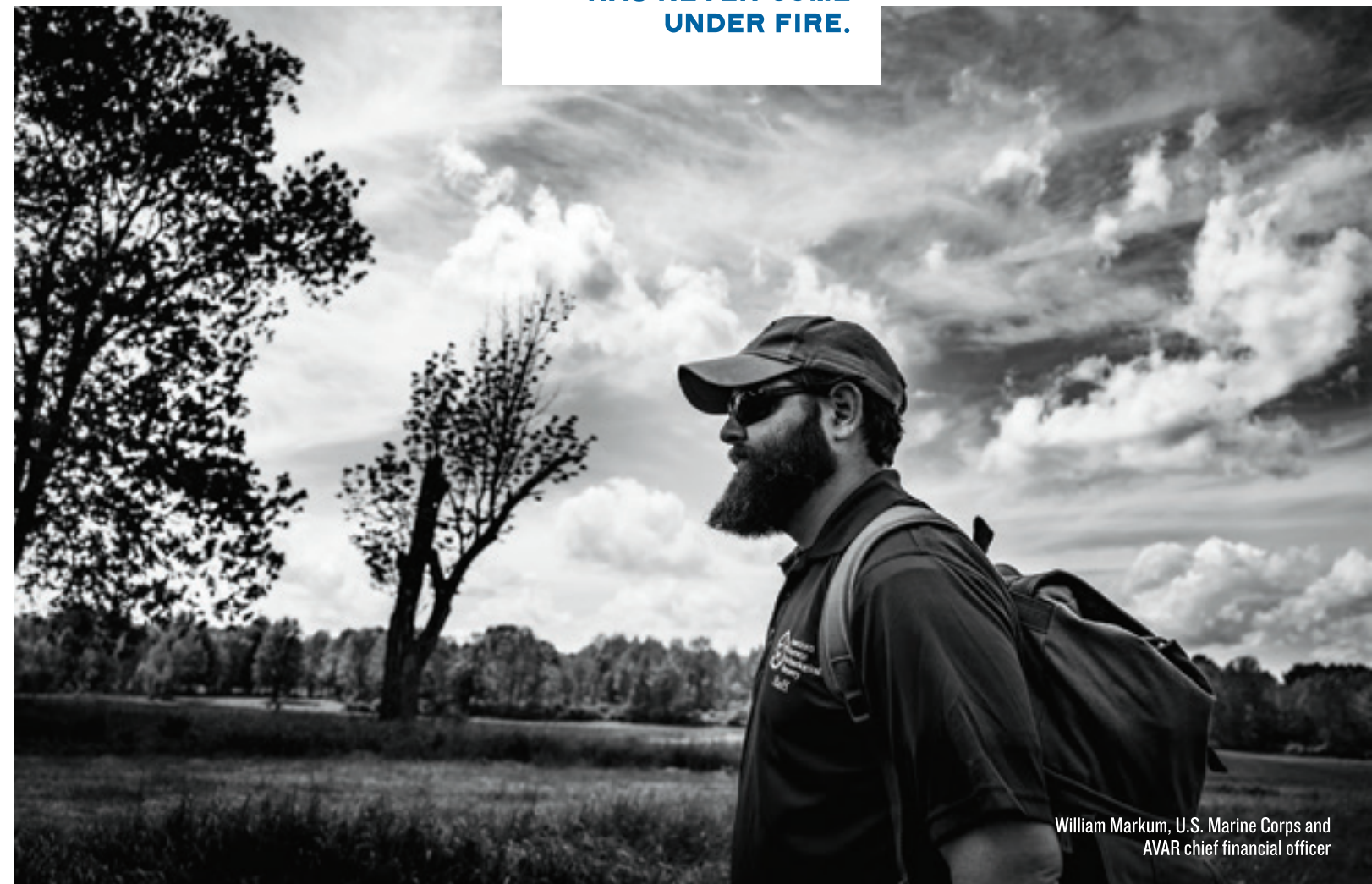
Bringing veterans to such a place is a powerful goal in itself, but by letting them physically delve into the past, AVAR is a means for today's warriors to reach out and touch the soldiers who came before them. To tell their stories through these tangible artifacts left behind. And in doing so to discover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

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

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

Despite the broad sweep of the battle being well understood, many specifics have been lost to time, a typical situation with engagements from this period. Thanks to a confluence of factors, Revolutionary War battles are relatively undocumented, compared to those of later eras. No robust system of after-action

reports by officers at all levels had yet been implemented in either army. Lower literacy rates among enlisted soldiers during the 18th century means fewer letters and diaries to draw from. Lack of technologies like photography — to capture landscapes and landmarks — or lithographic printing — to mass-produce what sketches and maps were recorded in the aftermath — also play a role. Then there is the



William Markum, U.S. Marine Corps and AVAR chief financial officer

simple passage of time: two-and-a-half centuries is ample time for what documentary evidence was created to have been lost.

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

wounded and 180 captured, while the Americans suffered 150 total casualties.

Beyond that? Plenty of mystery.

E NTER ARCHAEOLOGY, a scientific process that can turn the battlefield itself into a powerful primary source. Surveying a battlefield may uncover both revelatory individual artifacts and distribution patterns that imply specific scenarios. A heavy,

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linear concentration of unimpacted musket balls could indicate where troops were positioned, as many soldiers accidentally dropped ammunition while they sought to reload. The scatter pattern of artillery fragments can be analyzed to triangulate where a battery was placed.

And while analysis has been conducted

for some portions of the battlefield, and significant findings have been recorded, experts agree that much work remains to be done. It's simply a matter of finding the means — the time, the team, the funding — to pursue it.

"We have the historical sources that indicate how the battle unfolded," said Bill Griswold, who led the Saratoga project on behalf of the Park Service's Northeast Region Archeology Program. "It's just that we've never been able to really ground proof with features on the landscape."



Every finding — each beep emitted by high-tech equipment — is dutifully recorded.

It's not so much debunking as it is adding additional information to the narrative."

The opportunity to perform archaeological research on core battlefield land inside a national park is exceedingly rare. Anyone found to be metal detecting or excavating without permit faces jail time and harsh fines, and the National Park Service has a far longer list of potential projects than manpower and funding can accomplish in any given season. With nearly 100 parks and historic sites in the Northeast Region alone, NPS has had to develop a competitive application process to prioritize activities. There can also be hesitancy to disturb the hallowed ground of a battlefield without a compelling case for the research.

"For many years, we have wanted to tackle large landscape surveys of the battlefields to better understand the history and to potentially confirm

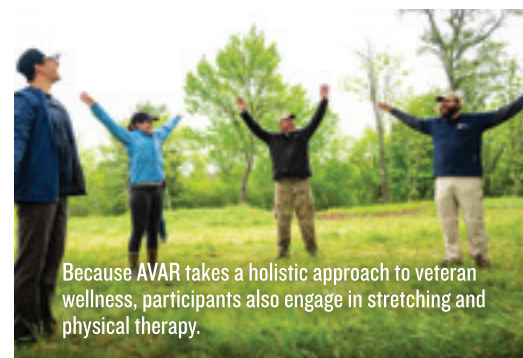
troop locations and the sites of historic homes," said Saratoga National Historical Park superintendent Amy Bracewell. "When the American Battlefield Trust reached out to me with the interest to partner with AVAR, I knew this was our moment. This survey is embarking on a completely innovative approach to archaeology, and what better partner than the American Battlefield Trust? The Trust has supported innovative research and land protection approaches since its inception. With AVAR on board, we are able to expand our abilities in battlefield archaeology with veterans who understand intimately the nature of war."

The work done at Saratoga is a far cry from the stereotypes made popular by Indiana Jones, and involves methodologies made possible by 21st-century technology.

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

Next comes a ground survey, conducted



Because AVAR takes a holistic approach to veteran wellness, participants also engage in stretching and physical therapy.



AVAR participants remain under the watchful eye of trained specialists.



Archaeology is a hands-on, dirty business.



The bonds veterans form with each other and with animal companions can be profound.

by specialists from NPS's Midwest Archeology Center, in which an all-terrain vehicle tows a specially designed magnetometer with multiple sensors across the landscape. Beyond ground-penetrating radar, this process also captures magnetic gradient, conductivity and multispectral imaging. Then it is time for boots on the ground, as AVAR participants receive training in state-of-the-art equipment with volunteer instructors from Advanced Metal Detecting for the Archaeologist and begin to systematically survey the field.

Only once all of these data are compiled and layered together does anyone lift a shovel, ensuring minimal disturbance of these historic landscapes. Traditional archaeological methods, including the digging of test plots, serve to confirm the initial investigations and carefully extract pre-identified anomalies to determine their nature and significance. Details about each excavated item are carefully logged, ultimately creating the most robust view of the battlefield possible. Further analysis in the lab will aid in verifying — or refuting — troop locations as they are proposed on historical maps.

No one plays Reveille to rouse the AVAR crew, but years spent in uniform make waking with the sun, if not before, feel natural. By 6:00 a.m., the pair on current rotation to prepare breakfast is hard at work. The meal is a communal affair and includes a briefing on expected weather for the day, not to determine whether their efforts could be curtailed, only to assess what gear might be needed to muscle through. Then everyone piles into vehicles for the hour-plus journey — driving is another duty that rotates through the ranks — to the dig site.

At Saratoga, conscious of the physical limitations of some disabled veterans, AVAR staff begins the day with a team stretching session. Fieldwork typically occurs in two-hour blocks, with scheduled breaks for food or rest. Lunch is a longer pause, sometimes with a presentation on how to build a résumé suited for pursuing a career in archaeology, or the benefits of another veteran-focused program that a participant has enjoyed. AVAR pays for participant meals through private donations, but lunches are sometimes donated by local groups; sandwiches may be delivered by a Girl Scout troop, for example.

Conditions, as described by Reed, are all that you would expect for a job that puts you in the thick of the summertime elements, digging in the dirt of an open field: "It's hot, and there's ticks, and there's mosquitoes and,

there's sunburn. And 'Oh my God, I'm sweating.' It's grueling on your knees; you're up, you're down. A lot of people out here have bad-news bad joints, so everything hurts."

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

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

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

In quantitative terms, AVAR utilizes the Department of Defense's Pain Assessment Screening Tool and Outcomes Registry survey to measure the program's physical and mental impact. But AVAR management emphasizes that qualitative measures specific to individuals are far more important to them. "We're vets too, so our participants are like family to us. If one of our participants who was previously isolated and spending most of their time on a couch starts a degree program after going on

a dig — even if that degree isn't in archaeology — we call that a win," says Humphreys. "If a vet who felt lost and alone, and was contemplating becoming one of those 22 who take their own life every day, comes out of a dig with a new group of people who have their back, that's a huge win."

Participants inherently recognize that community is the very heart of the AVAR

first-time digger to AVAR's chief operating officer. "For two years, I was floundering around. When you get out of the military, you kind of lose yourself a little bit. I missed being in a group, being in a unit. But through AVAR, I've learned that I'm strong. And I can still give 110 percent even though I'm a disabled veteran myself."

While most AVAR participants would classify themselves as armchair historians —

ployment with the 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan in 2011–2014. So historic was the area in which they were stationed that his unit had standard operating procedures in place for dealing with cultural resources.

"I remember reading once that just one percent of U.S. citizens go into the military. That statistic also applies to people as they transition back," says Lujan. "There's this disconnect, almost a stigma, when you get out of

AVAR participants proved to be such a boon to the project that its scope expanded as it went. A second phase of the survey excavation will be conducted through the same partnership in the future.



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experience, far more so than any scientific study. "I've learned a lot of history, yes," says retired Army sergeant Tom Wyatt. "But I've also learned that I have not lost my ability to connect with other soldiers — the camaraderie is not gone. A lot of times, when you get out of the service you get into your own rhythm, and you start doing other things with your life. When you look back, you think there's an esprit de corps that is lost. And if you come into a situation like this where you're surrounded with soldiers again, it's powerful because you realize that aspect of your life is not gone."

The experience resonated powerfully with Nichol Fuentes, who went from being a Marine sergeant to a medically separated veteran to a

after leaving the field, if not before their arrival in the program — a handful are actively interested in archaeology as a long-term career, Zeth Lujan among them. He is pursuing an undergraduate degree in archaeology, technology and historical structures from the University of Rochester, and traces his love of the field to de-

the military, especially if you're going to college. Some people thinking how you could have done something different but instead you chose that. And with AVAR, you're surrounded by like-minded people that have that same approach to work — the same motivation and focus — that you do. You know you all signed the dotted line, embraced the suck, and now you can come here and do this."

For nearly all participants, "this" — that transformative moment that Lujan speaks of with awe — is when an artifact emerges from the ground, seen and touched for the first time in centuries.

"Finding artifacts is absolutely amazing in a way that I truly did not expect. I thought we'd be digging around in the ground, and pull up some metal and, sure it'd be cool, for

Occupational therapy students from Sacred Heart University took part in the project in order to gain hands-on experience providing therapeutic services for military veterans with emotional and physical challenges.



Virtually all AVAR participants report feelings of camaraderie and teamwork that remind them of their time in uniform, a type of interpersonal connection they feared lost.



NPS's Griswold shares his decades of experience with the AVAR crew.



Some of AVAR's most important work occurs after hours and off the field.



a moment. But the reality is so different and spectacular," says Wyatt. "I don't know if there's a spirit to the object or what, but you pull it out of the ground, and you have an instant connection to that object. It's telling you a story; it's now part of all our stories as Americans. I've heard people cheering — a whole transect area cheering — because they just found something."

What AVAR gives to its participants is obvious. But what does it contribute to the broader field of archaeology? Simply put, an unparalleled work ethic that drastically increases an expedition's efficiency and output.

"I don't know how to say it without sounding derogatory towards civilians, and I don't want to do that," says Reed. "But when you get a group of veterans together who have done the hard grunt work — 5 o'clock in the morning until 4 o'clock the next morning — thrown together, all of a sudden, everything is getting done without even being asked."

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

Regardless of why, the results are evident. "This was just a great partnership," says NPS archaeologist Griswold. "Working with AVAR really allows us to extend our available dollars and undertake a much bigger project than we had originally planned. We're getting far more information out here than we would have been able to if we would have had to contract out the project, or just handle it locally... So it's a win-win-win-win all around."

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

Mary Koik is director of communications for the American Battlefield Trust. She has spent the past dozen years as the editor of Hallowed Ground.



Overlooking the Chatfield Farm at the Saratoga National Historical Park



Examples of the case shot recovered this summer from Saratoga National Historical Park

CATALOGUING & ANALYSIS

FINDINGS FROM THE AVAR SARATOGA DIG

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

★ PHOTOGRAPH by DOUG MENUEZ ★

THE POPULAR IMAGINATION, archaeological work is centered in the field, physically digging in the dirt. Such a picture, however, is both inaccurate and incomplete. Modern techniques have eliminated excessive disturbance of historic landscapes, instead gathering data through noninvasive means and limiting excavation and artifact retrieval to highly targeted areas. Moreover, the work of the archaeologist hardly ceases at the conclusion of the dig, as cleaning and cataloguing of recovered items and data analysis may extend for many months.

AVAR strives to ensure participants get exposure to the curation and lab work of archaeology, as well as the excavation and survey components of the process, with teams rotating between them. At Saratoga, AVAR volunteers worked alongside NPS archaeologists and curators to process, clean and document the artifacts uncovered during earlier phases of the project.

“The first part of the process is identification, which includes describing material, weight and measurements,” said Park Service archaeologist Joel Dukes, who is working on the analysis from his office based at the Boott Cotton Mills Museum in Lowell, Mass. “From this, we separate items that are battle-related — musket ball, case shot, uniform buttons — from those that represent the multiple domestic occupations of the site, like nails and utensils.

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

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

Final reporting on the Saratoga project will not be available for some

time, but to mark Independence Day, NPS’s Northeast Region Archeology Program offered a sneak peak of the findings on its Facebook page:

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

“According to written reports, such as the one by General George Pausch of the German artillery, there were both 12 and 6 pound cannons in the field and near the structure. The General had to abandon these cannons when he was pushed back by Continental troops.

“Although Saratoga National Historical Site has long known the general location of the Barber

Wheatfield, until recently, there was no way to know the exact location of the forces, the structure, and the cannons.

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

“After the field was completely surveyed, archaeologists noticed two overlapping patterns fanned out in an almost baseball diamond shape. One pattern was for the 12 pounder case shot and one pattern was for the smaller 6 pounder case shot. Following the patterns to the points (near home plate), archaeologists calculated the location of those cannons that tried unsuccessfully to stop the Continental troops!”★

DIGGING

DOWN

DEEP

THE EMOTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGY WITH VETERANS

by **DR. STEPHEN HUMPHREYS, AVAR FOUNDER**

ARCHAEOLOGY BONDS VETERANS because it is a lot like military service. In a sense, it's like the military without the shooting. We have a shared mission that requires us to pull together under the guidance of a technical specialist. We work outside, with our hands and on a tight schedule. We stand alongside other veterans with shared values. Plus, there's that sense of adventure, which — aside from the fact that they are patriotic individuals — is a major reason people join the military.

Veterans need transitional programs like AVAR because civilian and military culture are very different. Our program puts former military personnel in a new kind

of trench, together with civilians, in pursuit of a common cause. The veterans receive training to pursue a civilian job for which they are predisposed to be well-equipped, already possessing a solid working knowledge of maps, which is a core skill in archaeology. Thus, they see that skills gained in the military are still relevant, even if they are unlikely to be called upon to fire a machine gun again. With archaeology, they see a tangible example of their skills being useful and relevant. Veterans need this because it shows them they can still accomplish incredible things even though they're no longer wearing the uniform.

But this is more than a work training program. We don't gauge success by whether or not participants become archaeologists; we gauge success on whether or not they become more productive, more able to reach their goals. We want them to be happier and less isolated when they leave. AVAR offers veterans a way to interact and form incredible bonds working and sweating in the field together. In the evenings, they relax and they start opening up. A lot of these folks may be on disability, not working very much.

Civilians don't understand them, and they're keeping everything inside. But by working together, living together, they engage in what we call peer-to-peer support therapy.

Many veterans need some type of therapy when they come back because they see horrendous things when they go off to war in Iraq or Afghanistan. Things that people back home don't understand. Veteran culture itself keeps them from talking, but many have conditions that compound this tendency. Post traumatic stress disorder is one that you hear about a fair amount, but traumatic brain injury is also common among our participants. Someone who doesn't have these conditions really doesn't understand what they feel like — how they isolate you and impact your life and your family. These people have gone from being incredibly capable, tip-of-the-spear individuals, to being labeled as disabled individuals. Together, we show they can do incredible things despite having a disability rating, or despite having these labels. We prove to them that other people have these same conditions and experiences: "I deal with that, too. My spouse hates how I wake up in the middle of the night. My kids feel distant from me since

I've come home." They have a new fight, in a sense — against the conditions that plague them after service, and it's much easier for them to fight as a group.

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

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

There is no way to put into words the experience of watching another veteran find something for the first time, because you see that flicker come back on in their eyes again. For a lot of these guys, going on an archaeology dig is the

experience of a lifetime. They've watched Indiana Jones and television documentaries, but this is something they never thought they could do. They go from sitting on a couch for too long or having a job they don't particularly enjoy — nothing compared to the adrenaline and stress of what they were doing when they were in uniform — to holding something in their hands that nobody has touched for 250 years, when it was in some way important to a different soldier.

I've learned that it's really difficult to help people. There's no formula that tells you how to go about taking someone from point A to point B. Instead, it all comes down to compassion. We try to integrate compassion into every aspect of what we do. We put the best interests of each individual above process and procedure. We only want each person to have an enjoyable experience. More than that, it's about that one person moving forward and being able to do something different and better with their life when they leave. If you care about your brother the way you did when you were in uniform, everything else falls into place.★

★ **PHOTOGRAPH** by **DOUG MENUEZ** ★

ILLUSTRATIONS of an inherent connection or natural intersection between the military and archaeology run far deeper than the recent resonance and success of AVAR. In fact, many of the most famous archaeologists in history have had military backgrounds themselves, placing AVAR teams in a grand tradition.

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

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

Meanwhile on the continent, Eduard von Kallee rose through the ranks to become a major general in the army of the Kingdom of Württemberg, prior to the unification of the German states, commanding troops in several battles of the Austro-Prussian War. After 1869, he used skills honed in the military to assess the potential strategic significance of locations and deem whether they would be worthy of excavation. As a result, he explored a series of Roman limes, the frontier forts that marked the farthest reaches of that vast empire,



Now boasting more than 500,000 objects, the Pitt-Rivers Museum at the University of Oxford began with the extraordinary gift of a military officer-turned archaeologist. The collections are organized atypically: by their use and type rather than age or point of origin.

ARCHAEOLOGY & THE MILITARY: A LONG TRADITION

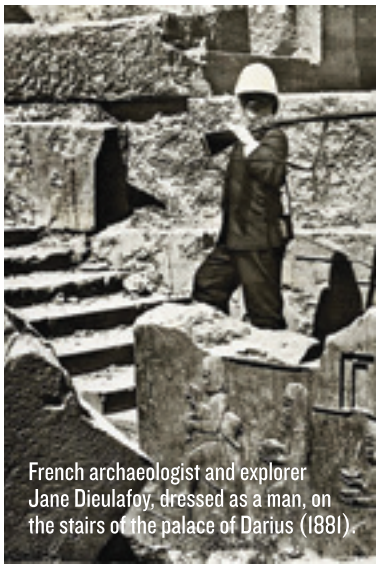
Those who have worn a uniform have been excavating historic sites for centuries

which are now recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Charles Warren, a lieutenant general of the British Royal Engineers, was an early archaeologist of the Holy Land, particularly Temple Mount and the site of the biblical city of Jericho. He commanded troops in South Africa during the Transkei War (1877–1878) and the Second Boer War (1899–1902), spending stints in the interim as chief instructor in surveying at the Royal School of Military Engineering, commander of the garrison in Singapore and commissioner of police of the metropolis in London during the Jack the Ripper investigation. In retirement, he was instrumental in the foundation of the Boy Scouts.

When the Franco-Prussian War broke out in 1870, the same year that she married her husband Marcel, Jane Dieulafoy chose to disguise herself as a man and accompany him to the front lines. When the war ended, the Dieulafoys began to travel abroad on archaeological quests to Egypt, Morocco and Persia; ultimately, two rooms at the Louvre would be devoted to artifacts uncovered by the pair. She died in 1916, after contracting amoebic dysentery while in Morocco on behalf of the French government during World War I, having actively campaigned for greater women's involvement in the war effort.

T.E. Lawrence found fascination with archaeology as a teenager, monitoring local building sites and turning over any artifacts to the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, which made note of its youthful contributor in its annual report. After graduating Jesus College, Oxford, with First Class Honors, that museum's director secured Lawrence a place on a British Museum expedition in Lebanon and Syria, where he met Leonard Woolley. The two men were used on several occasions as archaeological smokescreens for British intelligence operations, surreptitiously mapping strategic areas and



French archaeologist and explorer Jane Dieulafoy, dressed as a man, on the stairs of the palace of Darius (1881).

observing infrastructure construction. Upon enlisting in the British army at the outset of World War I, they were assigned to the Arab Bureau intelligence unit in Cairo. It was from this station that Lawrence became the legendary figure of the Great Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire in 1916-1917, “Lawrence of Arabia.” Woolley, however, was captured by Turkish forces while on a naval intelligence mission and spent two years as a POW. After the war, he returned to excavating, later publishing a theory that the biblical flood of Noah was a historical event centered around the Sumerian city-state of Ur, having found a flood stratum 400 miles long and 100 miles wide. Decades later, he returned to military service as a lieutenant colonel in the Allied Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives program during World War II.

Even before OSG Crawford saw action on the western front with the London Scottish Regiment, he had been on expeditions to digs in Egypt and Sudan. After recovering from influenza and malaria contracted in the trenches, he was commissioned a maps officer in the Royal Berkshire Regiment before his successful application to the Royal Flying Corps, drawing maps and taking pictures while air born. He was wounded on his maiden flight and later shot down, spending the final eight months of the war at a German prison camp. After the Armistice, he began a long career mapping for the Ordnance Survey and, thanks to his wartime work, became an advocate for the new field of aerial archaeology.

If William Campbell had not been exposed to mustard gas in Europe just two days before the 1918 Armistice, it is unlikely that he and wife Elizabeth Warder Crozer Campbell would have sought out the dry desert air of California, but their work in that location made the first use of environmental archaeology, positing that the geologic features associated with artifacts could be used in dating the period of significance. Anatomist and anthropologist Raymond Arthur Dart served medic in the Australian Army, but is best known for his involvement in the 1924 discovery of *Australopithecus africanus* which represented a “missing link” in human evolution. Ovid Sellers served as a chaplain in the American Expeditionary Forces decades before, as an Old Testament languages expert, he was a central figure in the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Mortimer Wheeler rose through the ranks of the Royal Field Artillery to become a major, even receiving the Military Cross for his heroics. Between the wars, he rose to prominence in the field of archaeology, with positions at the National Museum of Wales, London Museum and the Institute of Archaeology. Unlike many of his fellow academics, who served in various intelligence capacities during World War II, Wheeler volunteered for active duty in the artillery, serving in the North African Campaign and helping plan the invasion of Italy. In several instances, he successfully lobbied that military plans be adapted to protect antiquities.

Dorothy Garrod, meanwhile, earned a degree in history from Newnham College, Cambridge, at a time when few women attended university. From 1938 to 1952, she was the Disney Professor of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge and the first woman to hold an Oxbridge chair, although she took a leave of absence from 1941 to 1947 to serve in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, working in photographic intelligence.

Some 400 strong, the “Monuments Men” worked to safeguard historic and cultural treasures as WWII drew to a close.



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

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

After meeting during service in the Royal Air Force and upon discovering a mutual interest in archaeology, Ernest Greenfield and Philip Rahtz became fast friends. They encouraged each other to pursue the field professionally and went on to successful careers excavating important sites around Britain, including the Great Whitcomb Roman Villa, Glastonbury Tor and Old Sarum, the first settlement at Salisbury. Philip Barker, another RAF veteran, also found archaeology after the war. He went on to write the comprehensive guide to field technique and excavation methodology, and founded the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

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

ARCHAEOLOGY 101

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



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

Here are some key things to know:

ARCHAEOLOGISTS AREN'T SPECIALIST HISTORIANS

"Archaeology and history can be very different things," says AVAR CEO Stephen Humphreys, who holds a doctorate in the former field. "An archaeologist is a professional digger, in a sense,

and can, conceivably, go to a site anywhere on the planet and, with a little indoctrination, set to work. It absolutely does incorporate history in a contextual sense, but for us, it's much more tactile. Our goal is finding the things that they didn't write about in the history books, which can be colored by bias that crept into the textual records. Archaeologists come in and ground what we know in the site itself."

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

ARTIFACT VERSUS FEATURE

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



Only after extensive remote survey work is it time to get dirty.

CONSERVATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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

DATA VERSUS DATUM

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

DIG, SURVEY, EXCAVATION

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

THE DIRT ON DIRT

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

HAND TOOLS OF THE TRADE

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

PROVENANCE AND PROVENIENCE

Despite remarkably similar pronunciations, these



A site is carefully divided into a grid and visibly marked off, ensuring that finds can be carefully cataloged.

terms have distinct meanings. Provenance is the chain of ownership, including origin, of an archaeological or historical object. Provenience is the three-dimensional context (including geographical location) of an archaeological find.

REMOTE SENSING METHODS

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

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

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

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

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

SLICING A SITE

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

Before taking the field at Saratoga, AVAR participants received specialized instruction from partner group Advanced Metal Detecting for the Archaeologist.

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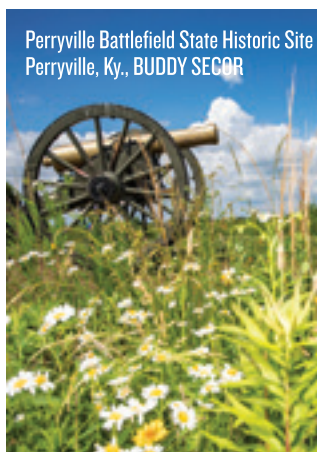


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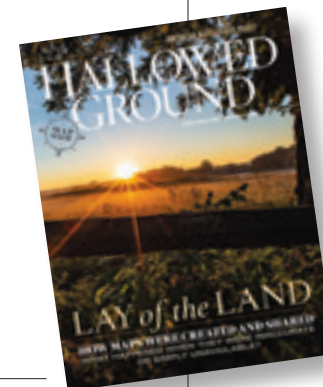
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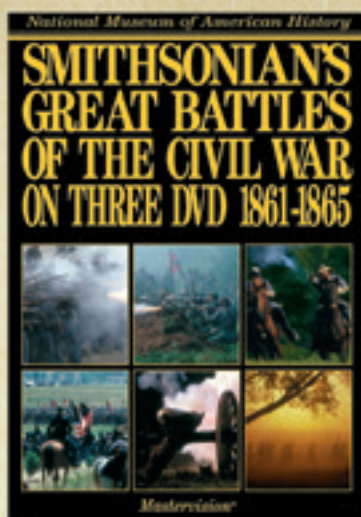
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Breymann Redoubt. Inset: View from Great Redoubt overlooking the Hudson River. Both by DOUG MENUZ



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