

SUMMER 2024 ★ Vol. 25 No. 2

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

HALLOWED GROUND

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HALLOWED GROUND
A quarterly publication of the American Battlefield Trust
Summer 2024
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2
Message from Headquarters

3
Web Exclusives

4
From *the Trenches*

29
Page From *the Past*

10
Field Reports

30
Warrior Legacy
Clark "Bud" Hall

12
Success Stories

32
Ancestry

16
Fire With Fire
by Greg Mertz

20
Clash of the Cavalry
by Daniel J. Beattie, Ph.D.

35
Camp of Instruction

33
Profiles in Preservation

26
Culpeper in the Crosshairs
by Claire Barrett

36
Leading the Charge

45
A Parting Shot

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 58,000 acres at more than 155 sites in 25 states. For more information, call 800-298-7878 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.
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T THE AMERICAN Battlefield Trust, we are fond of saying that we are in “the forever business,” meaning that once we have preserved a battlefield, it will remain in that state – undeveloped and ready to teach those eager to learn our history – for as long as our country exists. This is entirely true,

but in some cases, it might be more correct to say that we battlefield preservationists play the long game. This summer, in Culpeper County, Virginia, we celebrate the culmination of one of those situations: the grand opening of the Culpeper Battlefields State Park.

Quite literally, this is a success story that spans generations. It began when this organization was practically a twinkle in the eye of some visionary historians. A handful of meetings might have been held for the fledgling Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, but even in those founders’ wildest dreams, they couldn’t have imagined the situation I find myself in today: president of a truly national organization writing a letter to tens of thousands of supporters, showcasing the work we have done that is so comprehensive and thorough it has prompted the creation of an entirely new state park.

Make no mistake: the generous members of this organization, together with passionate local advocates, saved the Brandy Station Battlefield from the ground up. At various times, pieces of land that we are now gifting to the Commonwealth of Virginia were slated to become housing tracts, industrial parks, water retention and management areas — even a Formula One racetrack! But time and again, private citizens banded together and, with the

strategic use of government matching funds, eked out the purchase of one puzzle piece after another, gradually assembling what you see today, a major Civil War site worthy of designation as Virginia’s 43rd state park. Let’s not forget; leadership matters. Without unprecedented support from Governor Glenn Youngkin and members on both sides of the aisle of the General Assembly, this would still be a dream.

And, of course, this doesn’t even touch on the work we’ve done at Cedar Mountain, Kelly’s Ford and Rappahannock Station, much of which will also become a part of the new Culpeper Battlefields State Park. These places, too, are forever changed by our work, by your generosity. And over the next several years, the Trust will work to facilitate a seamless transition for these hallowed grounds, without any interruption in access and a steady stream of new recreational amenities. I urge you to make plans to visit Culpeper Battlefields State Park as these improvements come online. Enjoy exploring the park you made possible and visiting the surrounding communities that embrace and support it.

This victory is yours, and even if you were far from the celebration and park dedication on June 8 — incidentally, just one day before the battle’s 161st anniversary — please know that we felt your presence and impact on the most foundational level.



DAVID N. DUNCAN
President, American Battlefield Trust

President Portrait by BUDDY SECOR

NEAR OR FAR: DISCOVER CULPEPER BATTLEFIELDS

Whether you’re learning from afar or in-person, the Trust has got your back with innovative ways to discover the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain battlefields. Take a virtual tour of these Culpeper battlefield sites at www.battlefields.org/virtual-tours. Or bring history to life in the present-day landscape by utilizing augmented reality — see the St. James Church that stood at the time of the 1863 Battle of Brandy Station or explore a digital reconstruction of a slave cabin similar to those that would have been found on the slopes of Brandy Station’s Fleetwood Hill. Find these scenes, and more, at www.battlefields.org/augmented-reality

FIND YOUR WAY WITH MAPS AND MORE!

Planning to explore the hallowed ground of Culpeper? Make sure you’re armed with one of the Trust’s favorite battlefield resources, maps. Whether you’re exploring troop movements on one of the Trust’s battle maps or referring to a historic wartime map, the utility of maps is unquestionable. At Cedar Mountain or Brandy Station, you can see where game-changing actions unfolded — and under whose leadership. Find all the Trust’s Civil War battle maps in one place with the Civil War Battle Maps App, found at www.battlefields.org/mobileapps. Or for all Culpeper-area maps the Trust has to offer, go to www.battlefields.org/CulpeperMaps.

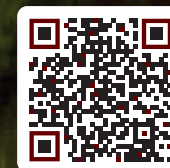
THINK YOU KNOW CULPEPER?

How much do you know about the Battles of Cedar Mountain and Brandy Station? Put your Culpeper knowledge to the test and seek out quizzes on the battles at www.battlefields.org/CedarMtnQuiz or www.battlefields.org/BrandyStationQuiz.

CRUISE AROUND CULPEPER

Between the battlefields and the charm of Culpeper’s businesses and everyday scenery, there is much to do in the greater Piedmont. Explore the Brandy Station Battlefield by downloading the Trust’s GPS-enabled Brandy Station Battle App™ guide at www.battlefields.org/mobileapps. Or find a slew of suggestions for historic sites, family fun, can’t-miss eats, and more, with the Trust’s curated Culpeper Itinerary at www.battlefields.org/MakeHistoryInCulpeper.

EXPLORE
THIS ISSUE



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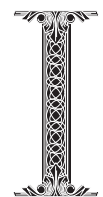
The Wilderness Battlefield
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park
Fredericksburg, Va.
MATTHEW HARTWIG



Minute Man National Historical Park
Concord, Mass.
VATH SOK

TWO BATTLEFIELDS NAMED AMONG AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC SITES

NTHP returns the Wilderness and Minute Man National Historical Park to the list



N ASSEMBLING its annual list of the country's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) made



National Trust for Historic Preservation
America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places

the bold choice to re-list both the Wilderness Battlefield and Minute Man National Historical Park and their environs, a stark indication of the urgent and ongoing need to protect even our most hallowed grounds from the relentless forces of development and expansion.

"I will not say it is an 'honor' to see two pivotal battlefields on a list of critically imperiled sites," said American Battlefield Trust President David Duncan, "but it is warranted, and it is welcomed. Next year we will mark 250 years since the beginning of the American Revolution, when our Patriot forebearers took a principled stand in the face of a formidable foe. Today, safeguarding our battlefields so that future generations will understand what was risked on their behalf requires fierce advocates no less steadfast in their convictions."

The Wilderness, a pivotal May 1864 battle and turning point in the Civil War, is a unit of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. It is facing a 2,600-acre mixed-use development featuring millions of square feet of data centers on what is now farmland in Orange County, Va. The Trust is lead plaintiff in a lawsuit to overturn the rezoning. It was previously on the list in 2010 when threatened by construction of a Walmart Superstore. Ultimately, Walmart built elsewhere in the county and donated the

TAKE ACTION!
Speak out against development at these sites



original site to the Commonwealth of Virginia, demonstrating that development and historic preservation need not be mutually exclusive.

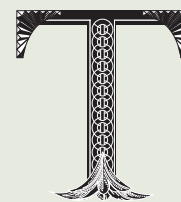
Minute Man National Historical Park sits alongside Hanscom Field, already the busiest noncommercial airport in New England, which is seeking to add 17 private jet hangars. This could significantly increase noise, visual distractions, air pollution and traffic congestion through the entirety of the park, with historic Battle Road directly in the flight path. In 2003, Minute Man was also listed due to the effects of the airport on the park, which commemorates the first engagements of the American Revolution in April 1775. The area is also rich with other historic sites, like Walden Pond and Orchard House, the home of Louisa May Alcott where she wrote and set her novel *Little Women*.

According to the NTHP announcement, a theme connecting the 2024 list is the power of communities to come together on behalf of their cultural landmarks. "By rallying around the places that bring these stories to life, communities are not only empowered by their unique pasts, but also safeguarding a sense of identity, continuity, and vitality for the future." This is certainly the case for both battlefields, which have had community-based coalitions advocating against pressing threats for many years.

It is exceedingly rare for a single organization to be engaged in direct advocacy on behalf of multiple sites on the national 11 Most list, as the Trust is doing. Full details on both threats, as well as speak out opportunities are available on the Trust website at www.battlefields.org/11Most. ★

LAND TRANSFERS COMPLETED

Virginia projects were years, decades in the making



HIS SPRING, the American Battlefield Trust announced completion of transfers into two different national battlefield parks. Both were the fulfillment of long-term work, proof that preservation can require patience and persistence to achieve ultimate results.

On September 29, 1864, Union troops attempting to shift the stalemate at Petersburg, attacked from east to west against a curtain of Confederate fortifications stretching from New Market Heights to Chaffin's Bluff. After Fort Harrison was captured, Union troops set their sights on Fort Gregg, attacking it later that same day. Parts of the 8th and 9th U.S. Colored Troops advanced it, but made little progress, most likely pinned down on the crucial seven acres that the Trust preserved and has now transferred to Richmond National Battlefield Park. Fort Gregg remained heavily defended by Confederate artillery and infantry until Richmond fell in early April 1865. This move was especially important because for many years the park controlled a portion of Fort Gregg's remains, but the adjacent remainder was vulnerable; finally, ownership of the important cultural resource is unified.

Also known as Dabney's Mill, Armstrong's Mill, Rowanty Creek and Vaughan Road, the Battle of Hatcher's Run was fought February 5-7, 1865, and was one in a series of Union offensives during the siege of Petersburg aimed at cutting off Confederate supply traffic on Boydton Plank Road and the Weldon Railroad west of Petersburg, Virginia. This 52-acre property, which witnessed significant combat on the second day of the battle, was purchased by Trust predecessor organization the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites in 1990 and privately stewarded for 34 years. Until the expansion of Petersburg National Battlefield in 2017, the land had been ineligible for federal ownership and Trust advocacy on Capitol Hill was instrumental to making the change. ★



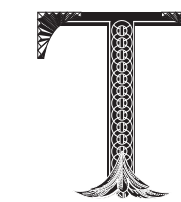
Hatcher's Run Battlefield
Petersburg, Va.
KRISTI ANN GORDON

Brandywine Battlefield Historic Site
Chadds Ford, Pa.
NOEL KLINE



BRANDYWINE OPPORTUNITY

Will also save land at Fort Ann, Sacketts Harbor



HIS SPRING, the Trust launched a major effort to protect hallowed ground at Brandywine, Newtown and Sacketts Harbor, three crucial moments in the early chapters of our nation's history. Each effort enhances existing parklands and enables a fuller interpretation of

critical history. These properties carry a combined value of \$4.8 million, but through a combination of federal and state matching grants, local government commitments and the enthusiastic partnership of allied land trusts, the Trust's portion of the cost is only \$201,500, creating a \$23.80-to-\$1 multiplication factor for donors.

The lynchpin of the preservation package, 15 acres at Brandywine, saw what was, by many measures, the largest battle of the Revolutionary War on September 11, 1777. Despite enduring a crushing defeat, the Continental forces showcased the resilience and determination that ultimately led to their victory in the war. The Trust has cumulatively preserved 187 acres at Brandywine, but because of the incredibly high cost of purchasing large parcels in the Philadelphia suburbs, each acquisition opportunity is both precious and ambitious. For this particular parcel, the purchase runs more than \$244,000 per acre, and the acquisition would not be possible without a close partnership that the Trust has developed with the North American Land Trusts, which is based in the area.

In the Empire State, we are seeking to protect 55 acres that will effectively double the size of the existing Newtown Battlefield State Park by connecting previously preserved properties associated with that August 1779 engagement. And at Sacketts Harbor, the 88-acre tract, situated on Lake Ontario and site of the 1813 battle, would not only complete the protection of the historic waterfront, but also establish an important link to the existing New York State Historic Site. ★

RETURN TO GETTYSBURG

2024 Annual Conference draws a crowd, highlights Trust impact across the battlefield

ATTENDEES at the American Battlefield Trust's 2024 Annual Conference in April were able to view and celebrate ongoing work at a number of high-profile sites. "I always love coming to Gettysburg," said one guest, "but seeing the battlefield through the lens of how my contributions have made a direct impact on the landscape and on what visitors can explore was incredibly rewarding."

Along the Baltimore Pike, near McAllister's Mill, members took in the completed restoration of a one-time mini golf course sold to the Trust by its preservation-minded longtime owners when they chose to retire. Site plans were finalized in consultation with the National Park Service to blend with the transition into the park and streamline an anticipated future transfer of ownership.

Closer toward the town center on the same approach, guests took in the recent acquisition of land on East Cemetery Hill near Stevens Knoll. Here, the Trust has completed the purchase of property including the Battlefield Military Museum, another business whose owner looked to the Trust when ready to evolve, and the historic McKnight House. Per the terms of its acquisi-



FROM TOP: The Trust's historians Kris White and Garry Adelman lead conference attendees on some of this year's innovative tours of the Gettysburg battlefield; Trust President David Duncan presents Gettysburg Foundation's Wayne Motts the O. James Lighthizer Preservation Legacy Award; attendees check in at conference registration; conference attendees get an in-depth tour of some of the Trust's recently saved land, including the McKnight House near Stevens Knoll.

tion, completed with the help of partners, including the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the American Battlefield Protection Program and the HTR Foundation, restoration will occur in staggered phases over a number of years, although stabilization and other work on the historic structure has begun.

For decades, General Pickett's Buffet was part of the battlefield backdrop experienced by millions of visitors. In 2022, the restaurateur decided to relocate to larger facilities at the Barn Resort – a revitalization of the vacant Boyd's Bear Country south of the battlefield – and engaged with the Trust toward preservation and restoration of the original site. With the help of the Gettysburg Foundation, the American Battlefield Protection Program and its generous members and donors, the Trust has now completed its purchase. Although only a half-acre, the site has layered history that extends far beyond July 3, 1863; during World War I it was the headquarters of Camp Colt, where American troops trained in tank warfare under a young Dwight David Eisenhower, and it later became a prisoner of war camp for captured German soldiers during World War II.

Even as the Trust looks toward interpretive plans for newly preserved sites, crafting them in conjunction with relevant local authorities, it continues to upgrade the visitor experience at other properties around Gettysburg. Conference guests were treated to a freshly upgraded exhibit space at Lee's Headquarters. Thanks to a collaborative agreement with the nearby Seminary Ridge Museum, the house will welcome guests on summer Fridays and select Saturdays, while the grounds are open daily. Additional stewardship work is ongoing at the nearby James Thompson House.★

HISTORY FIELD TRIP GRANT PROGRAM *crests 50,000 students served*



WHEN TEACHER Erin Gilbert and her colleagues at White Oaks Elementary School in Fairfax County, Va., set a syllabus and planned

their year, they were excited by the prospective return of a once-beloved sixth-grade field trip that had been sidelined since COVID. They had no idea that their application to American Battlefield Trust's History Field Trip Grant Program, which helps fund student trips to historic sites, would ultimately push that initiative past a remarkable milestone: 50,000 children served.

"We save hallowed ground so that this and future generations can use it to learn essential lessons of American history at the places where it unfolded," said Trust President David Duncan. It makes a lifelong im-

pression when school kids can visit historic sites in person, have an immersive experience and walk away with a deeper understanding of the past and how it remains relevant."

Born out of a keen understanding of the power of place and a belief that all students should experience the unique learning that can occur through quality on-site education, the History Field Trip Grant Program was first conceived in 2014, beginning in earnest the following year. It has grown steadily since, underwritten by donations from Trust members, with just under 800 total trips funded through the competitive application process. In total, it has sent school

children to 205 historic sites in 43 states; more than 60 percent of the classrooms impacted across 37 states and the District of Columbia are in Title I schools.

"There really is nothing like having the chance to be transported into the past by exploring a historic site or living history opportunity," said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA), co-chair of the Congressional



Battlefields Caucus, whose Northern Virginia district includes White Oaks Elementary. "The Trust's work to make that experience accessible to all American school children is commendable and I'm thrilled that history-loving students from the 11th District were the ones that pushed this worthwhile program over its impressive milestone."

Gilbert, chaperones, and some 115 sixth graders boarded buses early April 18 for the trip to Petersburg, Va., where they explored the 424-acre Pamplin Historical Park. The students were able to soak in the full measure of the park's fascinating heritage. They felt and heard the experience of battle in the park's award-winning National Museum of the Civil War



Soldier. They walked in the footsteps of the soldiers and saw the actual entrenchments they built during the Siege of Petersburg.

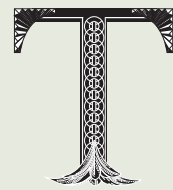
"We were thrilled to go back to Pamplin Park, a site that is always a huge hit with students because they get a powerful sense of connection with what ordinary people in the past went through," said Gilbert. "The Trust's History Field Trip Grant Program helped make our journey more affordable and can help put memorable trips within reach for other schools, too."

The History Field Trip Grant Program allows K-12 educators to apply for funding to offset the cost of day-trip field trips to battlefields, museums and other historic sites related to the Civil War, the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, in alignment with the Trust's mission. Grants range from \$250 to \$3,000, toward transportation costs, admission fees and reasonable fees for presenters and guides. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis but must be received one month before the trip; funds are dispersed after the trip and upon receipt of the required forms and receipts. Full details and application materials are available at www.battlefields.org/fieldtrips★



YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM CONTINUES TO IMPRESS

Innovative capstone projects take center stage



THE FUTURE OF HISTORY is bright indeed, thanks to the passion of young people like those who participate in the American Battlefield Trust's Youth Leadership Team. The high-schoolers selected for each annual cohort consistently demonstrate to Trust members and the world at large that protected

historic landscapes will be in good hands long into the future through the efforts of passionate and preservation-minded individuals who will carry on the legacy of our work.

Eight members of the 2023-24 class attended the Trust's Annual Conference in April, enjoying tours and having the opportunity to present on their community capstone projects to other attendees.

"It was exciting to meet and connect with similar history-minded people who want to share and ignite people's passion for our history while raising awareness for the importance of preserving historic sites," said Yujin Wu from New York. Wu introduced her capstone project, in which she interviews historians and local historic organizations and creates a documentary showcasing hallowed ground in New York City.

Then, even as the seniors among them prepared for graduation, six YLTers came to Washington to participate in our Youth Lobby Day, meeting with legislators to advocate for historic preservation funding and support. Participants met with legislators' staff and in some cases directly with a Senator and Representative including Pradyumn Bonu who met with Rep. Bradley Scott Schneider from Illinois to personally thank him for his continuous support for historic preservation.



Members of the 2024 Youth Leadership Team at the Trust's 2024 Annual Conference in Gettysburg; YLT member Pradyumn Bonu meets Rep. Bradley Scott Schneider of Illinois during the Trust's Youth Lobby Day; past-YLTer Jacob Bates and his period-band The Nutmeggers.

Members of the 2023-24 Youth Leadership Team include: Pradyumn Maurya Bonu (Buffalo Grove, Ill.), Alexander Chayrigues (Concord, Mass.), Daniel Gleason (West Suffield, Conn.), Isabella Hernandez (Eastvale, Calif.), Nathan Mercer (Macon, Ga.), Wynton Nama (The Woodlands, Texas), Tanisha Parikh (Katy, Texas), Lila Phipps (Scottsdale, Ariz.), Leo Tadikonda (Rhinebeck, N.Y.), and Yujin Wu (Flushing, N.Y.). Applications for the 2024-25 class opened in May, with full details available at www.battlefields.org/ylt.

Meanwhile, YLT alumni continue to excel in passion projects within the history field. Still in high school in Stonington, Connecticut, Jacob Bates, is getting ready for his first album to drop. In addition to planning a living history event at nearby Fort Trumbull during his YLT term last school year, an offshoot of his reenacting in the 8th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, Jacob has also formed a Civil War-era band, The Nutmeggers, with two other students. He plays the banjo while classmates accompany on fiddle and guitar.

Jacob even built his period-appropriate tack-head banjo by hand. The instrument is fretless, with a long neck and catgut strings. Built almost like a drum, Jacob says, "The skin is from actual animal skin, so it needs to settle. Then you wet it and stretch it out, tacking it in place in a clockwise-type pattern."

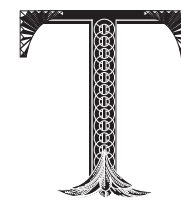
Once it's released this summer, information on how to listen to The Nutmeggers' *In High Water: Songs of the Civil War* will be available on the Trust website. We'll also share Jacob's extensively researched liner notes, which include the history of the tune and details on known performances and references to the song, as well as sheet music. ★

Learn about
YLT MEMBERS
and alumni



VOLUNTEERS SPRUCE UP HISTORIC SITES FOR SPRING

28th annual Park Day allows thousands to experience hands-on heritage protection



THE AMERICAN Battlefield Trust extends its most sincere thanks to the more than 3,000 volunteers who turned out to make our 28th Annual Park Day a smashing success! One of our longest running and most successful programs, this nationwide effort clearly demonstrates how invested communities remain in their own unique historic resources. Since its inception, some 110,000 people have cumulatively spent 475,000 hours volunteering to clean up and improve battlefields and other historic sites. Each site that chooses to participate creates a custom project based on its specific needs, under the umbrella of the larger effort.

In 2024, we had our most diverse crop of participating sites

yet, representing conflicts from the French and Indian War through World War II — a span of 181 years of American military history! Geographically, our volunteers were out in force at 100 locations stretching from New England — at the Revolutionary War Butts Hill Fort in Portsmouth, R.I. — to the South Pacific — with our friends at War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam.

The Trust is constantly looking for ways to grow and evolve this beloved program to meet the needs of participating sites, which now include a broader array of battlefields, forts, museums, period homes, historic cemeteries and other relevant places than ever before. We look forward to debuting new innovations in 2025 to help more sites participate and encourage even greater volunteer engagement. ★



GROUNDBREAKING INTERPRETATION *without disturbing the ground*

EIGHT MILITARY CAMPAIGNS were inaugurated within Culpeper County during the Civil War, more than in any other county in the nation. Geographically situated midway between the warring capitals and connected to the North by the colonial-era Carolina Road, as well as the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, Culpeper's vital strategic position ensconced south of the Rappahannock River ensured the county would attract the focus of opposing military planners.

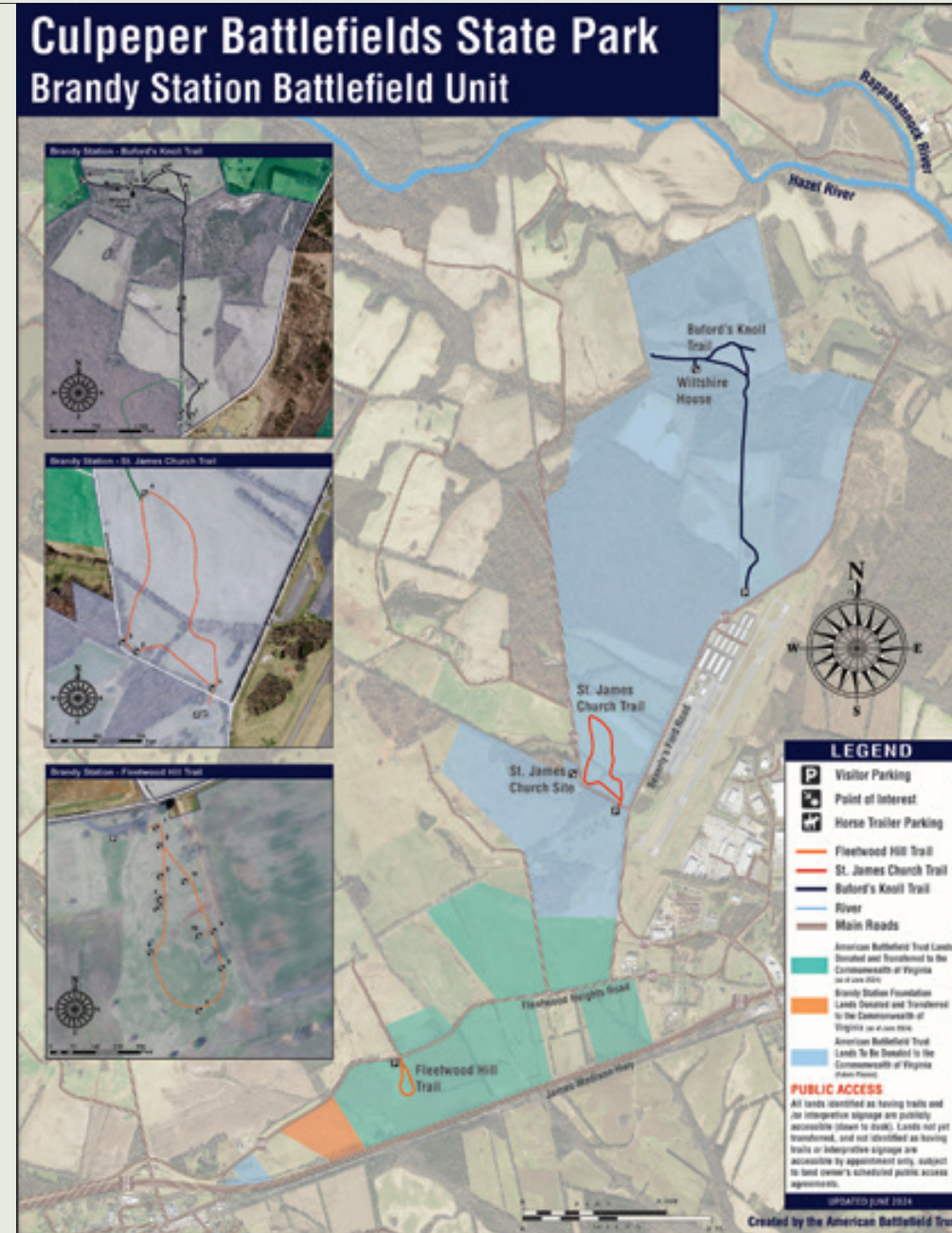
Some 160 years later, the Brandy Station Battlefield has been the focus of innovative interpretation efforts designed to help visitors at home and learners across the globe envision what the battlefield was like in June 1863. A Trust-produced virtual tour lets users explore the battlefield in 3D — an experience made even more dramatic and immersive by the use of virtual reality goggles! Three distinct vistas — Fleetwood Hill, St. James Church and Buford's Knoll — are rendered with pop-up points of interest and educational vignettes.

Through the modern magic of augmented reality, two fascinating structures no longer extant on the landscape can also be brought to life, either while in the field or in your backyard. A visit to the one-mile walking trail around the former site of St. James Church can be greatly enhanced by using a smartphone to superimpose the structure back on the modern landscape. The area was the scene of fierce fighting during the battle's early stages and seized by Union troopers when Confederates in the area redeployed to Fleetwood Hill. Six months later, Union soldiers dismantled the small brick church and used the materials to construct their winter quarters.

To enrich the experience at Fleetwood Hill, the Trust has digitally reconstructed a slave cabin similar to those that would have been found on the slopes. Fleetwood, the plantation that gave the hill its name, was built by a Revolutionary War gun manufacturer, and was occupied by a tenant during the battle and heavily damaged by fighting. Nationally, fewer than 300 examples of slave cabins from the 19th century remain, limiting interpretive opportunities. The ability to place a digital version on the landscape as one explores the walking trail emphasizes the layers of history that unfolded on the site.

Those desiring a guided tour of the battlefield but who are unable to secure a historian to accompany them should consider downloading the Trust's GPS-enabled Brandy Station Battle App™ guide. Featuring 15 tour stops with explanatory text, audio and video content, plus an additional 14 points of interest and other onboard resources, the app is indispensable for those looking to explore the battlefield with confidence.★

Cedar Mountain Battlefield
Culpeper County, Va.
JENNIFER MICHAEL



YOUR GUIDE TO VIRGINIA'S 43RD STATE PARK *Collaboration between Trust and Commonwealth helps shape site's future*



ALTHOUGH the American Battlefield Trust has been protecting hallowed ground, then interpreting it with trails and signs — plus augmenting the preserved acreage at existing federal, state and local facilities — for nearly 40 years, it isn't often that we are party to the creation of a new state park from the ground up! But that's exactly what will happen, through cooperation with the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation and Department of Historic Resources this summer: the dedication of the 43rd Virginia state park.

Culpeper Battlefields State Park's official dedication by Gov. Glenn Youngkin on June 8, 2024, is the culmination of a decades-long preservation effort chronicled elsewhere in this issue. Particularly in the

past two years, since legislation for the park was signed into law, Trust staff have worked closely with state officials on the complex logistics that will initially allow the donation of more than 2,000 acres of battlefield land from the Trust and the Brandy Station Foundation to the Commonwealth.

About 260 acres centered around the crest of Fleetwood Hill were first donated to the state, with additional transfers happening in gradual phases through 2027. A master management agreement is being created for the Trust and the Commonwealth to cooperatively handle stewardship and care of the grounds over the next several years during the transfer process and as the park builds staffing and operations infrastructure. Many existing agricultural leases will continue uninterrupted and Trust-installed infrastructure, like parking areas, will remain largely unchanged, even as unused-modern structures are removed. Trust-owned lands will maintain the same sunrise-to-sunset access, and walking trails and interpretive signage will be retained.

Although the majority of the new park's acreage is located at the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain battlefields, future transfers may include parts of Kelly's Ford and Rappahannock Station, which, in addition to opportunities for historical interpretation, would facilitate recreational access to the Rappahannock River. The park may also grow to include notable archaeological resources, thanks to the inclusion of land on Hansbrough's Ridge near Stevensburg that contains the well-preserved remnants of a Union winter encampment. As these additional properties are fully under state management, Virginia's master plan process for the park will commence to determine what additional park amenities and programming will be offered.

Nor is the Trust retiring from the business of protecting battlefield land in Culpeper County — far from it, in fact. The legislation that formally authorized the park's creation further appropriated a total of \$5.5 million for the purchase of additional lands that will enhance the park, especially those that connect previously preserved holdings. We continue to explore opportunities for such land acquisition projects.★

BRANDY STATION TRANSFORMATION

How preservation brought the battlefield from endangered to park-worthy

THE JOURNEY of Virginia's Brandy Station Battlefield from one of the nation's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in 1993 to the Commonwealth's 43rd state park this summer is the stuff of preservation legend. It is a tale of remarkable resolve, tremendous tenacity and long-term vision by a host of entities over the course of decades — beginning with the Trust's predecessor organization, the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS), and extending through Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin and his administration — that moved from impassioned advocacy fight to the donation of more than 2,000 acres across the battlefields at Brandy Station, Cedar Mountain, Kelly's Ford and Rappahannock Station, plus Hansbrough's Ridge, site of a Union army encampment in 1863-64.

Creation of the park in the heart of the bucolic Virginia Piedmont was approved by the Virginia General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Youngkin as part of the Commonwealth's two-year budget plan in June 2022, after seven years of behind-the-scenes discussions. In addition to clearing the way for the Trust and Brandy Station Foundation to donate land outright to the state, the budget also appropriated a further \$3 million for the Trust to acquire 800 more acres of historic land that will augment the overall experience for park visitors.

The first big threat to Culpeper County's battlefields came in the early 1990s, when 1,500 acres at Brandy Station were rezoned for commercial development. The racetrack proposal demonstrated the vulnerability of the battlefield to development, spurring APCWS to acquire in 1997 a 571-acre tract on the northern part of the battlefield around Buford's Knoll. The vulnerability of this crucial

battlefield demonstrated, land acquisition efforts began in earnest and in 1997, APCWS purchased a 571-acre tract in the northern part of the battlefield around Buford's Knoll.

While the Battle of Brandy Station raged across thousands of acres of the Virginia countryside, the key to the battlefield was Fleetwood Hill. This was the site of General J.E.B. Stuart's headquarters. Thousands of troopers engaged in fierce combat at close quarters in an attempt to claim this crucial strategic position. In 2008, the Civil War Trust took its first steps toward preserving this land, acquiring not one, but two crucial tracts on both sides of the hill. For the first

time in 150 years, the land where Stuart's cavalry faced off against General David Gregg's Union troopers for control of the Virginia countryside had been at least partially preserved. But there was much more work to be done.

In 2009 and 2010, two landowners donated conservation easements on their land to the Commonwealth of Virginia, ensuring the preservation of 782 acres. These easements permanently prevented any kind of development on two tracts, including a large section of the battlefield north of Fleetwood Hill. One of these tracts included the stone wall that Rooney Lee's Confederate troopers used in their defense against Buford's men. Preserving this land not only prevented the destruction of this hallowed ground, but also connected two major pieces of the battlefield.

But the crest of Fleetwood Hill — called by historian Clark B. "Bud" Hall the "most fought-upon, marched-upon, and camped-upon piece of ground in American history," was still in private hands, crowned by a large modern house. Thankfully, after negotiations, the landowner was willing to sell to the Trust and, in 2013, the organization embarked on a \$3.6 million fundraising campaign to purchase and restore

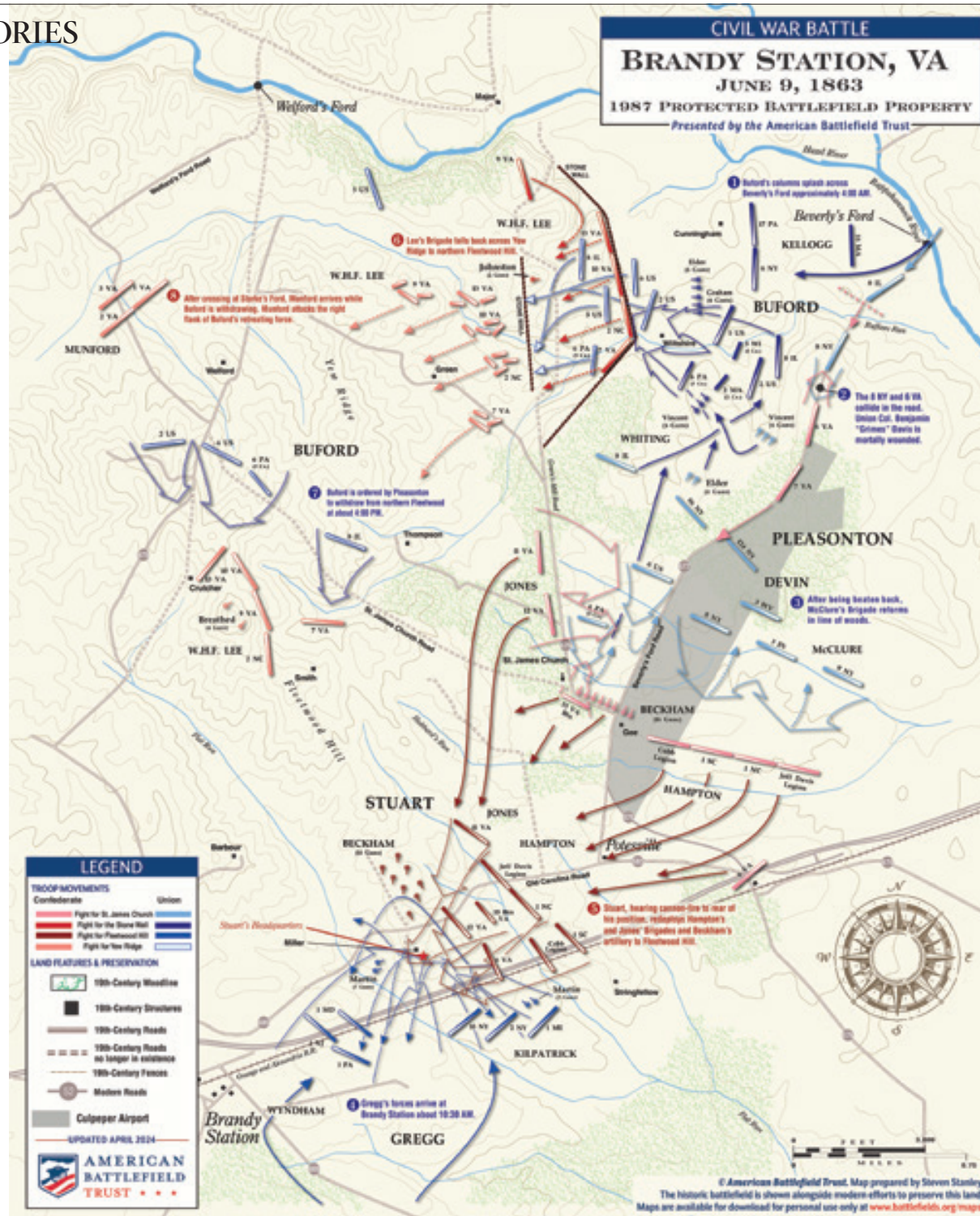


Fleetwood Hill in 2008, before the modern house and outbuildings were removed to restore the landscape to its 1863 appearance. ROB SHENK

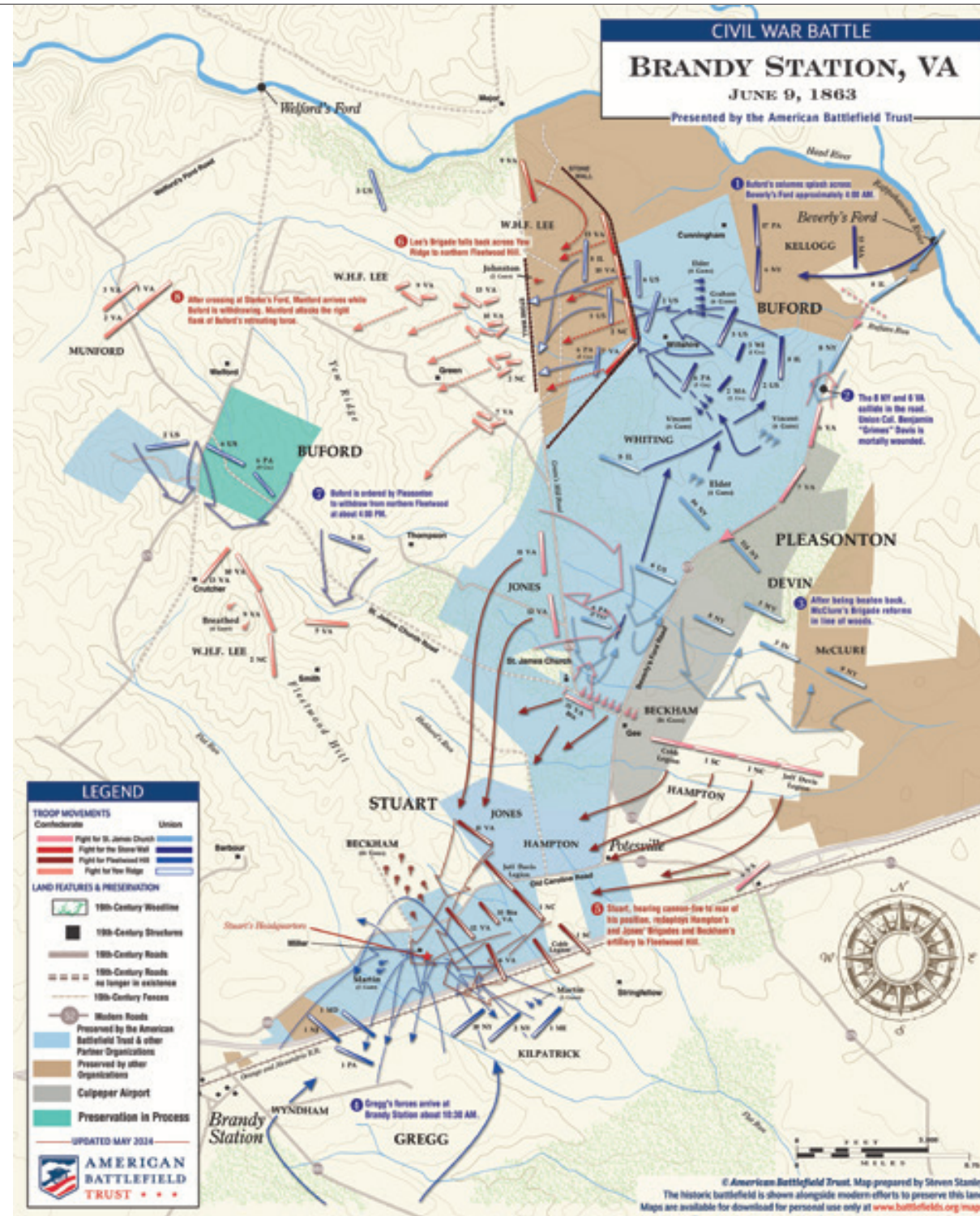


Fleetwood Hill restored to its 1863 appearance and with interpretive signage. MIKE TALPLACIDO

SUCCESS STORIES
LAND SAVED FOREVER



1987
No preserved acreage



2024
2,159 acres saved

the 56-acre property to its wartime appearance. Thanks to member donations, matching grants from the federal American Battlefield Protection Program and the Commonwealth of Virginia, plus assistance from the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, reclamation work began the following year.

The plan approved by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, which holds a conservation easement on the property, was the most ambitious then undertaken by the Trust. It included removal of two houses, a detached garage, two in-ground pools, and a pool house, the aluminum barn having already been relocated for the benefit of the local 4-H club. Only a well that predates the

Civil War remains on the hill, and a paved area now serves as a parking area. An interpretive trail was added, complementing those previously accessible on Buford's Knoll and leading to St. James Church, and based on historic photographs and maps, trees were replanted to resemble those in place during the battle. According to the remarks of former Virginia House of Delegates Speaker William J. Howell at the site's dedication, the effort was "a first-class example of successes the Commonwealth can achieve through public-private partnerships."

"This particular land is the true heart and soul of the battlefield," former Trust President James Lighthizer said at the time. "Thanks to partners such as the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, the Journey

Through Hallowed Ground, and the Brandy Station Foundation, as well as donors who contributed funds above and beyond the purchase price, we can ... watch the years roll away and reveal the 19th-century landscape."

"At the American Battlefield Trust, we are fond of saying that 'we build parks and tell stories,' some of the greatest stories in American history. In this instance, we mean it especially literally — the creation of this new state park is the culmination of hard work across long years," says Trust President David Duncan. "First, the preservation of this land, both safeguarding it from threats of inappropriate development and then its outright purchase. But also, significant effort to

demonstrate that this new park will be a meaningful addition to Virginia's landscape in terms of recreation opportunities and economic potential via heritage tourism."

Playing a major role in the entire process has been Virginia State Senator Bryce Reeves, who has long pushed for a state park such as this in Culpeper County. He worked diligently with Gov. Youngkin to get state park approval included in the state's 2022 biennial budget. "I look forward to the day when Virginians and visitors from throughout the country can learn about our nation's history by visiting these hallowed grounds," Reeves told the Friends of Culpeper Battlefields blog. ★



THE BATTLE OF CEDAR MOUNTAIN

*Suffering in the sweltering Virginia sun,
the Confederates fell into complete chaos
before a general nicknamed "Stonewall"
brought the beat.*

by GREG MERTZ

A

S THE CIVIL WAR escalated during the spring and summer of 1862, both armies made adjustments in leadership, organization and policies. The August 9, 1862, Battle of Cedar Mountain was impacted by modifications made during the weeks prior to the fight and, in turn, influenced further evolutions, especially in leadership of the Army of Northern Virginia.

The first five months of 1862 saw Union triumphs across the map, with Federal victories recorded in Battles at Mill Springs, Ky., Pea Ridge, Ark., and Glorieta Pass, N.M. In Tennessee, Brig. Gen. Ulysses Grant secured the unconditional surrender of Forts Henry and Donelson and pounded the Confederates at Shiloh, the bloodiest battle of the war, to date.

New Orleans and Fort Pulaski fell to the Union navy, among other inroads along the coast.

A bright spot for the Confederates was the spring's Shenandoah Valley Campaign, in which Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's swift-moving 17,000-man army had achieved a series of small but impressive victories and startled some Federal authorities. Jackson then took his troops to Richmond to join the Army of Northern Virginia, newly commanded by Gen. Robert E. Lee. In the Seven Days' Battles in late June and early July 1862, the massive Federal army nearly on the doorstep of the Confederate capitol in Richmond had been repelled.

Lincoln, conversely, was astonished that the Federal success of early 1862 had been seemingly erased in the span of a week. He questioned how long the federal government should



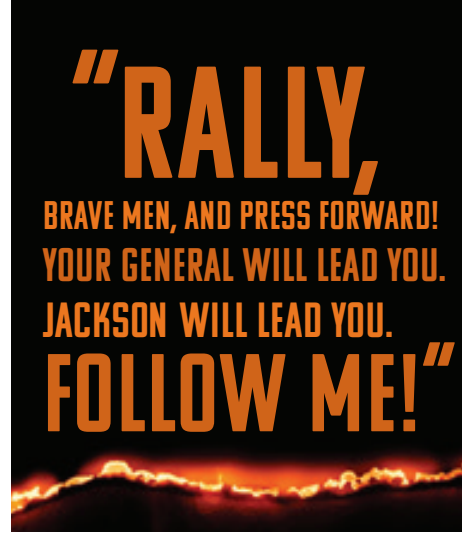
Cedar Mountain Battlefield
Culpeper County, Va.
CHRIS LONDON

continue to offer the seceded states the opportunity to rejoin the Union with slavery intact, and he contemplated an emancipation proclamation and harsh consequences for Southern citizens who refused to take an oath of allegiance to the United States.

To implement such a change in federal policy, Lincoln needed a politically sympathetic army commander and looked to fellow Republican Maj. Gen. John Pope. The President also took the opportunity to address the lack of coordination and cooperation that had created room for Jackson to maneuver so successfully in the Valley. The three former departments totaling 50,000 Federal troops he had so stymied in piecemeal fashion each became a corps in Pope's new Federal Army of Virginia.

Pope's proclamations were largely met with moral outrage, and the difficulty of protecting Confederate citizens from Pope's army and its harsh policies toward civilians would not prevent Lee from trying. He turned to Jackson with the admonition, "I want Pope to be suppressed."

But Lee was also obviously aware of some deficiencies in Jackson's leadership style, and he questioned Jackson's ability to command a larger number of troops than he had directed in the Shenandoah Valley.



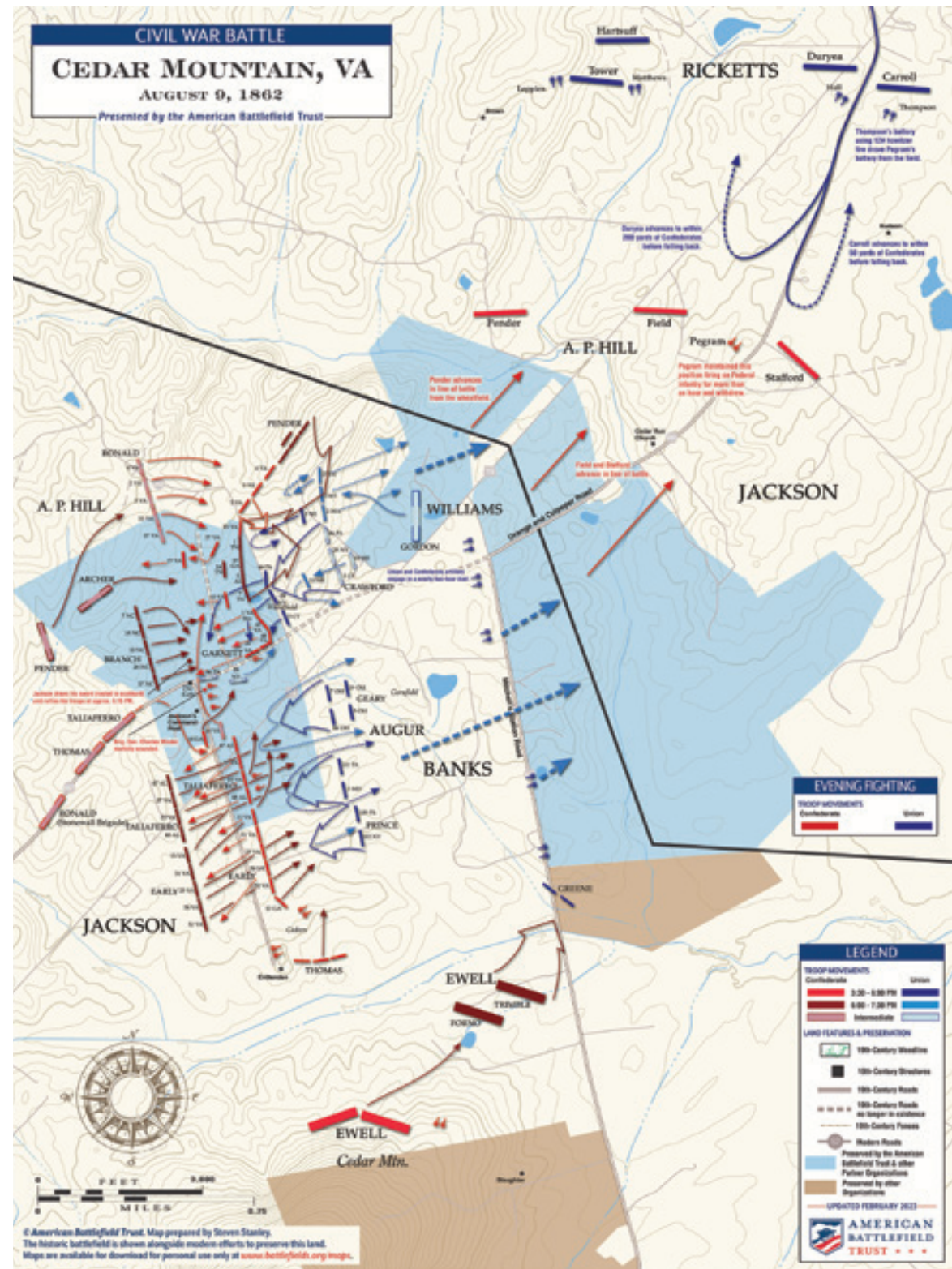
For example, Lee knew that Jackson chose to share little of his plans with his subordinates. So, reinforcements sent to Jackson prior to the Battle of Cedar Mountain came with some advice: "[B]y advising your division commanders ... much trouble can be saved you ... as they can act more intelligently." The battle in the shadow of Cedar Mountain demonstrated Jackson would heed Lee's sound counsel.

On August 9, 1862, Jackson decided to strike one of Pope's three isolated corps under Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks before the Federal army consolidated. During a brutally hot day that likely hit the century mark,

Jackson first engaged Banks in an artillery duel as the Southerner's infantry formed for an assault.

Although outnumbered nearly 2-to-1, the Union army received something of an assist from Brig. Gen. Charles Winder, who commanded one of Jackson's three divisions. Whether because Winder was sick and perhaps not himself on the day of battle, or because the former artilleryman settled into what he was most comfortable doing by giving an inordinate amount of attention to his cannons, or perhaps being over-confident in the numerical superiority of the Confederate force, Winder did not attend to the proper alignment of his infantry on the Confederate left. Winder had ordered a brigade commanded by Col. Thomas S. Garnett to attack the right end of the Federal artillery line, clearly visible across farm fields. But Garnett discovered what turned out to be a division of Federal infantry in position in woods protecting that end of the row of cannon, and asked Winder for further instructions. Garnett recalled being told by Winder "to remain where I was for a few moments." Before Winder could investigate, a shell fragment sliced his abdomen and nearly tore off his arm.

Brig. Gen. William B. Taliaferro,



replacing the mortally wounded Winder as division commander, undertook his own reconnaissance and discovered just how vulnerable Garnett's alignment was. But before Taliaferro could make any adjustments and undertake the initiative, Banks attacked, causing chaos among the poorly positioned Confederate left. Garnett's line collapsed and Jackson responded

by riding to the point of danger to rally his troops. While attempting to draw his saber, he reportedly found it rusted in his scabbard from non-use, so he unhooked it and used his sheathed sword to stop the rout, calling out, "Rally, brave men, and press forward! Your general will lead you. Jackson will lead you. Follow me!"

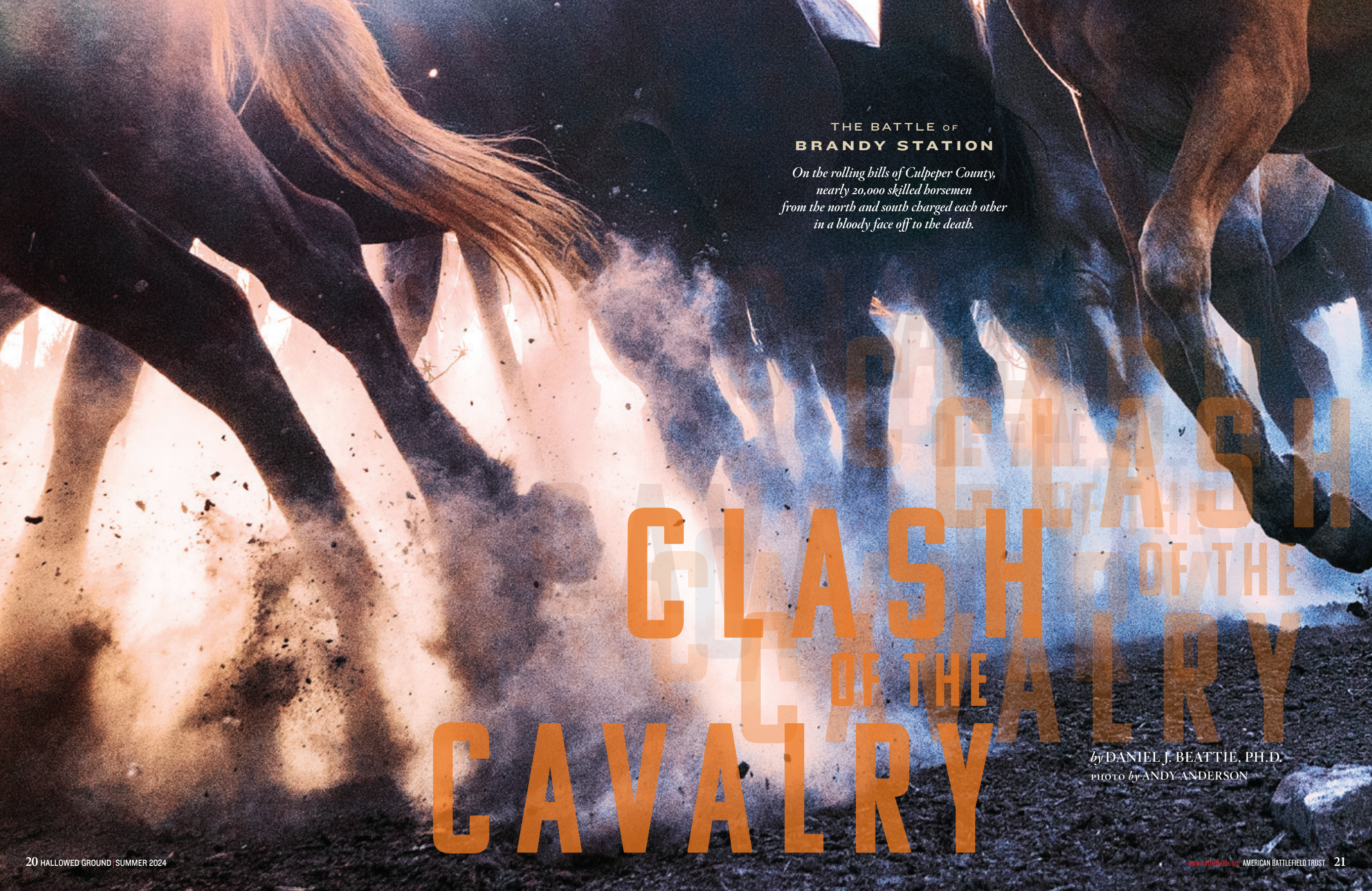
With the timely arrival of reinforce-

ments, a Confederate counterattack brought their superior numbers to bear and turned a near-defeat into victory. Federal reinforcements were too little, too late, and the Federal brigade under Brig. Gen. Samuel Crawford that had done most of the damage to Jackson's forces ran out of steam and had to give way. Federal casualties were 2,381, while Confederate losses numbered 1,276.

Though Jackson did not follow Lee's advice, and it can be argued that Jackson's army suffered from his subordinates lacking adequate information about the march and the battle plan, Jackson was victorious and was on the road to commanding half the Confederate army – some 35,000 troops

Federal officers captured during the battle "were not entitled to the privileges of ordinary prisoners of war," and if Pope executed any Confederate civilians in accord with his proclamations, these officers would be executed in retaliation. In the end, Pope's army would not be the force to carry out the hard hand of war. The federal government eventually declared Pope's proclamations be rescinded, Pope himself removed from the Civil War and assigned service fighting Native Americans in the Dakotas, and his former army merged into the Army of the Potomac.★

Greg Mertz retired as supervisory historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in 2021, after a nearly 40-year career in the National Park Service. A frequent contributor to many history publications, he is the founding president of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, former vice president of the Brandy Station Foundation and an active and in-demand tour guide.



THE BATTLE OF
BRANDY STATION

*On the rolling hills of Culpeper County,
nearly 20,000 skilled horsemen
from the north and south charged each other
in a bloody face off to the death.*

CLASH
OF THE
CAVALRY

by DANIEL J. BEATTIE, PH.D.
PHOTO by ANDY ANDERSON

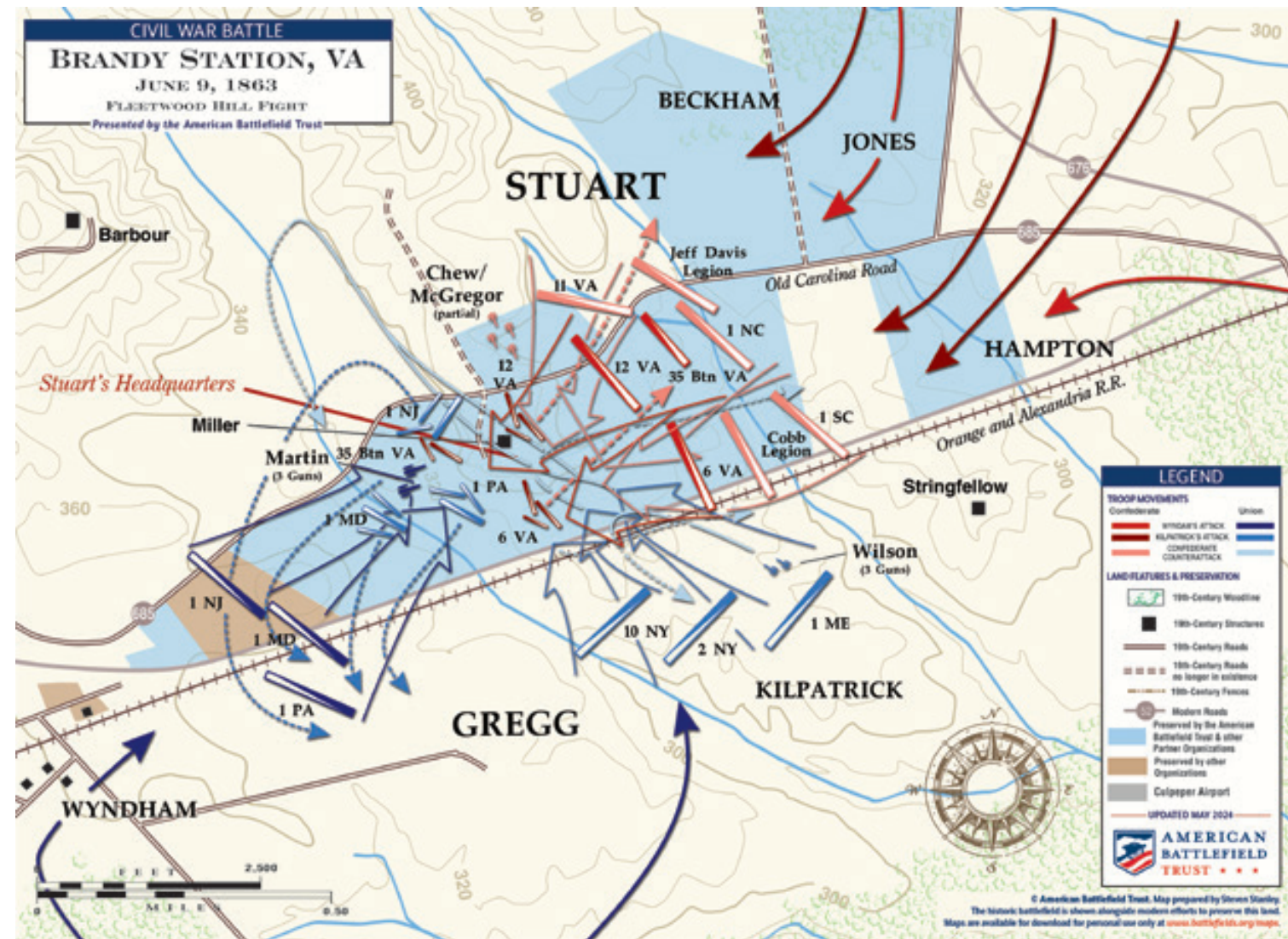


THE ROAD TO GETTYSBURG began at Brandy Station. But the cavalry clash in Culpeper County, Virginia, counts for more than just the opening round of Lee's Second Invasion of the North. The battle showed both sides that the Federal cavalry had come of age; it signaled that horsemen Blue and Gray were now equal in ability; and it refuted for good the snide remark of Joe Hooker, "Whoever saw a dead cavalryman?"

As commander of the Army of the Potomac, Hooker had, in fact, re-formed his cavalry in the early spring of 1863. He ordered the horsemen in his command concentrated into a cavalry corps, the better to perform the traditional cavalry tasks of screening their own army and reconnoitering to find out what the enemy army was doing. For two years, under the able J.E.B. Stuart, the Confederate cavalry had performed these responsibilities superbly, often at the expense of the Federal horsemen.

In early June 1863, Hooker ordered his cavalry corps commander, Alfred Pleasonton, to take most of the Union cavalry up the Rappahannock River from Fredericksburg to Culpeper County. Hooker had learned the Confederate cavalry — and possibly some of Lee's infantry — were massing in that region of plentiful forage and strategic opportunities. Either Stuart meant another large-scale cavalry raid, or he was the vanguard of another thrust by Lee at Washington, D.C., or on other Northern soil. Hooker instructed Pleasonton "to disperse and destroy" Lee's mounted arm.

War had visited Culpeper's woods and rolling fields several times in the preceding two years. Armies had marched through it, camped there, sparred with each other there and fought there in the battle of Cedar Mountain in 1862. Dismantled fences, missing live-



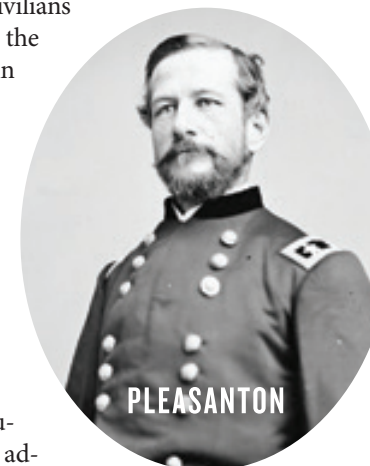
Brandy Station Battlefield
Culpeper County, Va.
JUDITH MUFFLEY



THE CONFEDERATE CAVALRY WAS READY FOR WAR THAT SPRING. IN LATE MAY AND EARLY JUNE, STUART STAGED SEVERAL MAGNIFICENT CAVALRY REVIEWS IN CULPEPER. NEVER BEFORE WERE LEE'S HORSEMEN SO NUMEROUS, SO CONFIDENT, SO READY.

stock, ruined roads, embittered civilians and the graves of local boys were the price Culpeper had paid so far in the bitter conflict. In early June 1863, war came calling again.

The Confederate cavalry was ready for war that spring. In late May and early June, Stuart staged several magnificent cavalry reviews in Culpeper. Never before were Lee's horsemen so numerous, so confident, so ready. Lee indeed meant to carry war across the Potomac. Stuart's 9,700 troopers would lead an ad-



PLEASANTON



STUART

vance across the Rappahannock and mask the army's approach to the Potomac. Stuart was set to cross the Rappahannock early on June 9, the day after the last grand review, at Beverly's Ford.

Another great cavalry force also planned a crossing at Beverly's Ford that morning. A column of 4,500 cavalry and 1,500 infantry, wearing Union blue and towing 16 cannons, arrived at the Rappahannock first. This imposing force crossed without much opposition and gave J.E.B. Stuart his first great shock of the day. Alfred Pleasonton was also surprised. He had expected to find Stuart's men near Culpeper Court House, 10 miles from the river.

The Federal commander had divided his force in two. Another Union column, about the same size as the wing at Beverly's Ford, was supposed to cross the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford eight miles downstream, at

dawn. The two columns were to join at the village of Brandy Station before proceeding against Stuart. It was a reasonable plan, since Brandy Station was no more than eight miles from either ford — except that Stuart's cavalry was there.

Stuart recovered quickly from the surprise. He dismantled his headquarters on Fleetwood Hill and dispatched couriers to his brigades. He ordered the part of his command nearest the river to pull back to a low ridge near a little brick church dedicated to St. James. He was unaware at first of the second threat from Kelly's Ford.

But he was not the only Confederate taking actions that would dramatically shape the battle. Closer to Beverly's Ford, Rebel soldiers scrambled to their horses or artillery pieces. The 6th and 7th Virginia Cavalry and one cannon from South Carolina bought time along the Beverly's Ford Road while Stuart's battalion of horse artillery fell back and his brigades assembled.

The best Union cavalry general, John Buford, led the Yankee attack at Beverly's Ford, though corps commander Pleasanton accompanied the column. It took

THE BATTLE CAME DOWN TO A STRUGGLE FOR FLEETWOOD HILL, A CONTEST THAT CONSUMED THE AFTERNOON.... THE HILLTOP CHANGED HANDS SEVERAL TIMES. THE BATTLE DEVOLVED INTO A GIANT, SWIRLING MELEE.

Buford more than three hours to sort out the confusion of the initial contact, finish the crossing and deploy his force. Though he had no word from the other wing, under Gen. David McMurtrie Gregg, Buford elected to launch a bold attack on the Confederate center.

At about 8:00 a.m., with textbook discipline and uncommon valor, the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry surged across an open field toward 16 Confederate fieldpieces belching canister. The cavalry ably supported the 6th Pennsylvania troops who attacked with them, but the Confederate artillery was also supported — by nearly 5,000 mounted and dismounted cavalry. The gallant charge shattered on the defenders' line.

Understanding the strength of the Confederates at St. James Church, Buford

left four cavalry and two infantry regiments to hold against Confederate attacks and guard the vital ford. He then took his remaining men northward to work his way around the Confederate left flank. On the Cunningham and Green Farms, Buford was opposed by Rooney Lee's brigade. In vigorous mounted and dismounted fighting, Buford gradually forced Lee back to Yew Ridge and northern Fleetwood Hill. Stuart, however, was now pressing the line Buford had left in front of St. James Church. Both sides anxiously awaited reinforcements. Stuart needed Thomas Munford's brigade from across the Hazel River. Buford wondered where Gregg was.

The morning had not gone smoothly for Gregg, whose column consisted of his



Brandy Station Battlefield
Culpeper County, Va.
JENNIFER MICHAEL



Brandy Station Battlefield
Culpeper County, Va.
JUDITH MUFFLEY

own division, that of Col. Alfred Duffie and an infantry brigade. He found no Confederates guarding Kelly's Ford, but Duffie's command became lost. The frustrated Gregg got all his men over the river by 9:00 a.m., four hours late. For four hours, cannon fire rumbled in the distance.

Gregg sent Duffie's men westward to check the Fredericksburg Road near Stevensburg for signs of infantry. Since a small brigade of North Carolina cavalry blocked the direct route to Brandy Station, Gregg took a roundabout road that brought him to Brandy Station by 11:00.

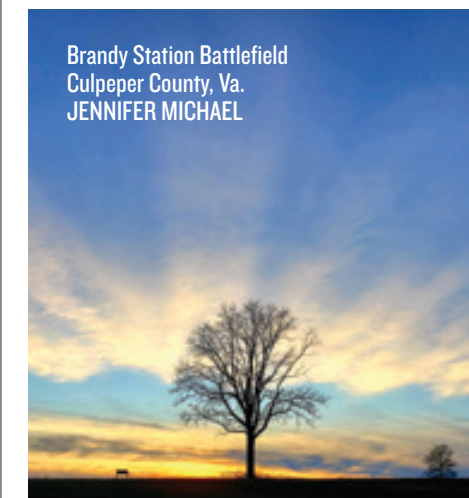
Ahead was Fleetwood Hill, unoccupied except by one Confederate fieldpiece bombarding his lead brigade. Fearing a trap, Gregg carefully deployed his troops before seizing the hill.

The eruption of Union forces from Brandy Station, in the Confederate rear, was the second great surprise of the day for Stuart. Nevertheless, the Southern leader acted decisively, even brilliantly. Pulling most of his regiments from the St. James line, he sent them galloping for Fleetwood Hill, a mile away.

While Gregg and Stuart raced for the key piece of terrain on the battlefield, two Southern regiments stalled Duffie's 2,000-

man division near Stevensburg. Oddly indecisive, Duffie failed to participate in the rest of the action that day.

The battle came down to a struggle for Fleetwood Hill, a contest that consumed the afternoon. The Confederates reached the grassy crest first with cavalry and artillery and poured down the reverse slope upon the Yankees. The hilltop changed hands several times. The battle devolved into a giant, swirling melee. Men of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Maine strug-



Brandy Station Battlefield
Culpeper County, Va.
JENNIFER MICHAEL

gled with Virginians, Georgians, Carolinians and Mississippians.

By late afternoon, the Federals had used up all their reserves. Though Buford continued to press back the Rebels on northern Fleetwood, the southern part of the hill, more than a mile away, was held by exhausted but triumphant Confederates. Then Munford's fresh brigade at last arrived on Buford's flank and rear. Pleasanton saw that further effort was fruitless and ordered his subordinates to recross the Rappahannock.

As such things are measured, the Confederates had won the battle: The Stars and Bars flew on Fleetwood Hill and near St. James Church, while the Stars and Stripes retreated. In 14 hours of fighting, Stuart had lost about 500 men killed and wounded, the Federals about 900. Small numbers compared to the terrible toll of Gettysburg, three weeks later. Yet many veterans who rode and fought over Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia during the next two years remembered Brandy Station with pride as the largest and most hotly contested clash of sabers in the long and bloody war.

Daniel J. Beattie is a historian and writer from Charlottesville, Virginia.

CULPEPER IN THE CROSSHAIRS

by CLAIRE BARRETT

A TOTAL OF EIGHT Civil War campaigns touched Culpeper County, more than any other community in the nation and clashes between jockeying armies occurred with regularity, particularly around fords and strategic crossroads. Although there were also engagements at Culpeper Court House, Morton's Ford and elsewhere, preservation activities at Kelly's Ford and Rappahannock Station place them within the state park's ecosystem.

KELLY'S FORD

"I wish you would put up your sword, leave my state, and go home. You ride a good horse, I ride a better. If you won't go home, return my visit, and bring me a sack of coffee," taunted Brig. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee to his old West Point buddy and Union cavalry officer, William Averell.

Lee's note — left for Averell after he conducted a daring raid north of the Rappahannock River in February of 1863 — was not without merit. Since the outbreak of the war in 1861, Confederate horsemen had routinely routed Union cavalry. At the sight of their horsemen on the roads, Northern soldiers would famously shout, "There's going to be a fight! The cavalry's coming back!"

That began to change on January 25, 1863, when Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker assumed command of the Army of the Potomac. Hooker transformed scattered mounted brigades into a formal Cavalry Corps, and by March of 1863, what the newly organized Union Cavalry Corps lacked in confidence, experience and leadership, they made up for in superior equipment and numbers, outnumbering their Confederate cohorts in both men and horses.

Averell, goaded by Lee's barb, requested to cross the river to "rout or destroy" Fitzhugh Lee and his command as they sheltered south of the river near Culpeper Courthouse in Virginia. After Hooker granted his request, Averell took his force of 2,100 Union cavalrymen at daybreak on March 17 and crossed the Rappahannock at a low passage in the river dubbed Kelly's Ford, 25 miles upstream from the city of Fredericksburg.

A furious Averell specifically made the choice to reintroduce the saber in his hunt for Lee, telling his men to "sharpen their sabers and expect to win." And in what would become the first all-cavalry action of the war, Averell's men engaged Lee's much smaller force of 800 in open battle.

Pressing their advantage nearly two miles across open ground, the Union riders were then repulsed five times by gray-clad sharpshooters before Lt. Simeon Brown managed to press through on the sixth charge and dislodge Lee's men on the southern bank. The Confederate forces, exhausted from a full day's fight and disheartened by the mortal wounding of J.E.B. Stuart's chief artilleryman John Pelham, were in complete disarray.

Yet, with the momentum and advantage swinging toward the Union side, Averell "lost his nerve and withdrew to Union territory that evening." Despite failing to achieve his primary objective, the clash proved that the refitted Union cavalry was, at long last, able to contend with the vaunted Confederate troops.

"It was a square, stand-up fight of over four hours duration, and the result proves that our cavalry, when well handled, is equal if not superior to the enemy," a member of the Fourth New York Cavalry later recalled.

The battle help set the stage for the June



1863 fight at Brandy Station and set in motion the ultimate cavalry clash at Gettysburg that July.

THE SECOND BATTLE OF RAPPAHANNOCK STATION

It was the Forgotten Fall of 1863, but for the men under the command of Gen. George Meade, that November was full of skirmishes up and down the Orange and Alexandria Railroad as Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee made his way back into Virginia following his defeat at Gettysburg.

The Battle of Rappahannock Station, the second time a clash had occurred near the small Virginia village, was the first major Union offensive attack since Gettysburg. Gen. Meade, pressured to make a

move on Lee before campaign season concluded and buoyed by the slight Union success on October 14 at the Battle of Bristoe Station, devised a two-prong attack to dislodge the Confederate army hunkered down along the south bank of the Rappahannock River in Culpeper County.

Then, according to Battlefield Tours of Virginia, General Lee established a "strong defense fortification on the north bank of the Rappahannock.... This foothold on the north bank, connected by a single pontoon bridge, would help to prevent a flanking movement by the enemy and would also make them divide their forces." To Lee, Meade would be forced to play right into his hands.

Meade would, in fact, split his forces. He tasked Gen. John Sedgwick to attack Lee's fortifications at Rappahannock Station and Gen.

Kelly's Ford Battlefield
Culpeper County, Va.
MATTHEW HARTWIG

William H. French with a forced crossing at Kelly's Ford — but the November 7 battle soon became a rout for the Confederacy.

Lee's plan depended on a smaller detachment of men, the famous Louisiana Tigers under Jubal Early, to hold off General Sedgwick's soldiers at the Rappahannock

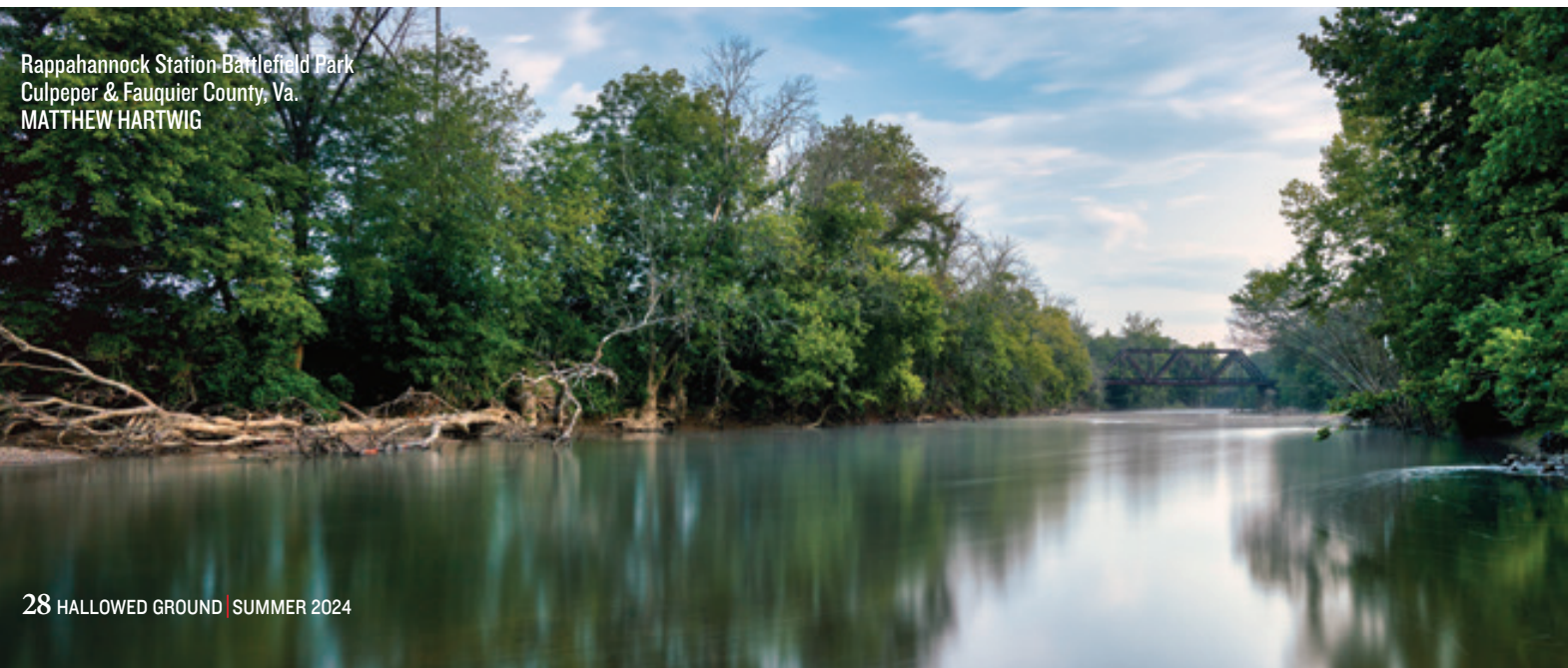
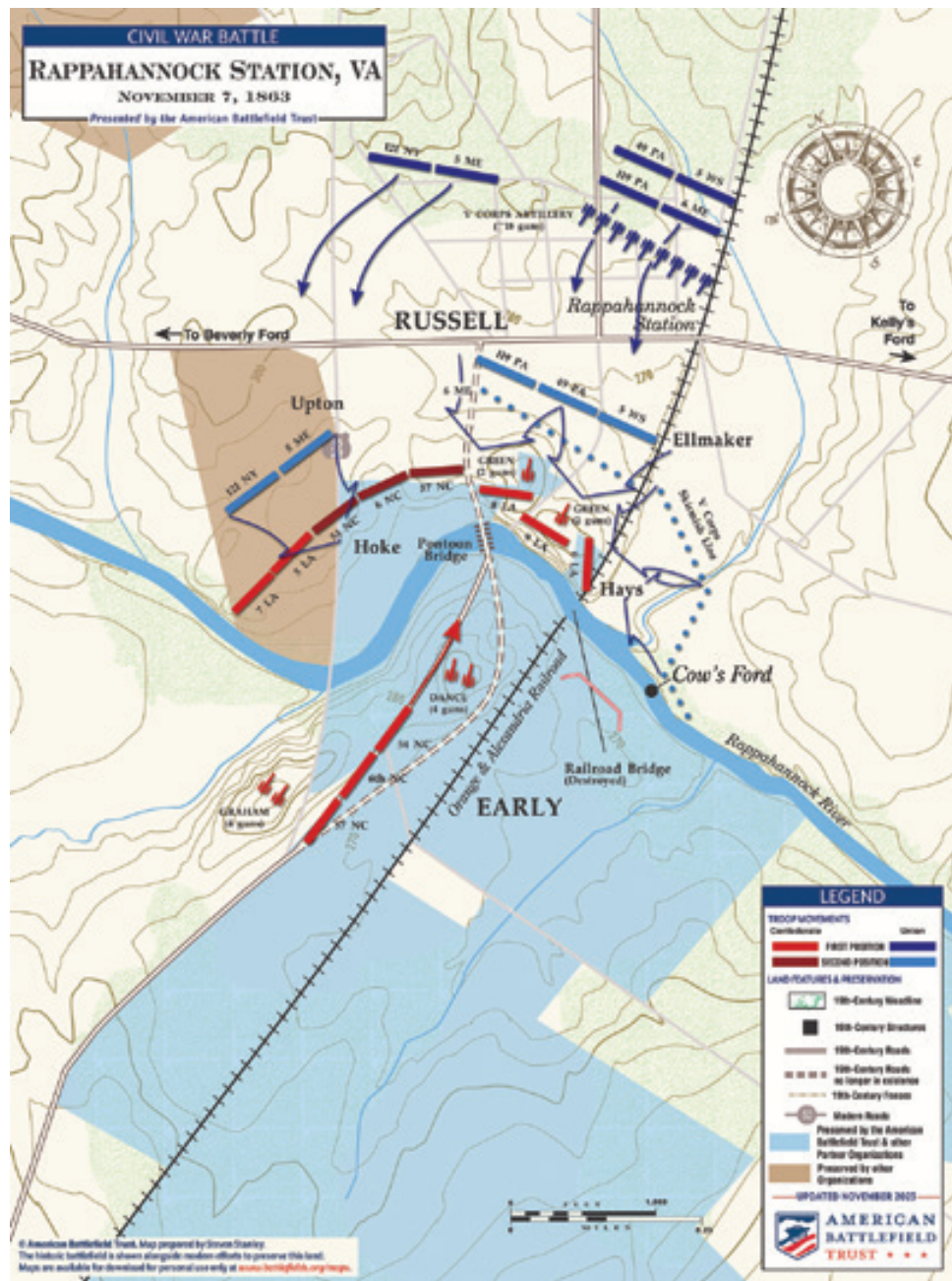
AS DAYLIGHT FADED, SEDGWICK RELEASED A RARE NIGHTTIME ATTACK, AND A VICIOUS BAYONET ASSAULT ENSUED

Station bridgehead until the larger contingent of his army was able to quell General French at Kelly's Ford. Very little went Lee's way, however.

General Sedgwick shelled the Confederate Tigers all day but made no move in the daylight, leading Lee to believe this was only a feint. As daylight faded, however, Sedgwick released a rare nighttime attack, and a vicious bayonet assault ensued. Shadows engaged in hand-to-hand combat that led to a melee, with the Confederates believing Meade's force to be much larger than it was.

More than 1,600 men clad in gray were captured, forcing General Lee's army farther south into Orange County, as Meade's men settled in around Culpeper for the winter.★

Claire Bennett served as the longtime news and social media editor for the History-Net magazine network and is on the staff of Military Times.



Rappahannock Station Battlefield Park
Culpeper & Fauquier County, Va.
MATTHEW HARTWIG

PAGE from the PAST
TANGIBLE LINKS TO HISTORY

ESCAPE TO FREEDOM

Capturing the journey at Cow's Ford



UGUST 19, 1862, was a hot, frenetic day. More than 55,000 men within John Pope's Army of Virginia were in full retreat after a string of summer losses and a crushing defeat at the Second Battle of Manassas. Falling back from the Rapidan River through Culpeper

County, so many bodies were attempting to flee north that a human traffic jam formed as lines of Union soldiers waited through the night to cross the Rappahannock River.

Among the mass exodus were formerly enslaved men and women, boys and girls, walking and riding on wagons, horses or oxen. For many of these individuals, the retreat of the Union Army that summer was seemingly their last bid for freedom, and they attached themselves to the men clad in blue, heading north.

This frantic retreat was famously captured by Irish-born photographer Timothy O'Sullivan, who cut his teeth working with Mathew Brady and Alexander Gardner. From a series of at least seven photographs taken on that day, one image, captioned "Fugitive Negroes, fording Rappahannock" has become one of the most frequently reproduced Civil War photographs.

In it, five African Americans traverse the ankle-deep water. Two women sit atop a wagon pulled by oxen, while two men guide the oxen. A young, barefoot Black boy rides bareback next to the wagon, wearing what appears to be a military jacket. Several Union soldiers look on, while several more appear disinterested in the scene. The picture was snapped a few hundred yards downstream from the Orange and

Alexandria Railroad bridge, at a narrow crossing inelegantly named Cow's Ford.

The crossing itself is not unique — albeit it was for those families — but the series of photographs taken by O'Sullivan is. The war correspondent's photographs represent the only known images of enslaved peoples escaping to freedom. Taken less than a month before the deadly Battle of Antietam and four months before President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, the crossing at Cow's Ford captures what Lincoln's words on paper could not — the physical act of enslaved people liberating themselves.

"It was a scene repeated thousands of times that summer," writes historian John Hennessy. "[S]laves on a profound but uncertain journey into freedom, into a world that, in 1862, was hardly prepared to receive them.... The scene captures not the posed and tidied up aftermath of emancipation, but rather freedom in progress, unpolished, uncertain."★



A GOOD MARINE

Clark Hall's legacy of service to his country and battlefield preservation starts in Vietnam



WHEN CLARK "BUD" HALL was a boy, growing up the youngest of eight in Neshoba County, Mississippi, he had two goals — to be a Marine and to be an FBI agent. "I accomplished both," he says, without a hint of hubris, but instead an endearing mix of modest determination and

humble astonishment looking back at what many consider a storied life.

The truth is, he "accomplished both" and then some.

Building upon esteemed careers in the military and with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hall went on to help spearhead the modern battlefield preservation movement, the culmination of which is today's American Battlefield Trust and nearly 60,000 acres of saved battlefield land, including his beloved Brandy Station Battlefield, which has now been preserved forever as part of Virginia's newest state park.

BASIC TRAINING

An athletic teenager, Hall benefitted from the mentorship of coaches who recognized in him tenacity and leadership skills. He then joined the Marine Corps and "found the home for which I had been searching for 18 years."

As a quiet, active and self-disciplined young Marine, Hall was, again, recognized and rewarded, moving through the ranks quicker than most. "Leadership positions were not sought, but rather earned, and promotions always came as a surprise, and a delight," he says.

In June 1965, his unit was shipped off to Vietnam, a place, Hall admits, "We never even heard of." The experience was heavy, rough and bitter — indescribable, really. And Hall saw many good Marines wounded and killed.

After enduring tough assignments in charge of men fighting in the jungle, many operations he would rather forget, but are impossible to, he served as security detail leader for Lt. Gen. Lewis Walt. During this assignment, Hall got to see a larger perspective of the war — the strategic. After his long service in Vietnam, he was selected as a drill instructor for new Marine recruits.

INVESTIGATIVE SKILLS

Upon returning from Vietnam, Hall attended Kansas State University and worked part-time as a deputy sherriff, setting his sights on his next role: FBI agent. In 1971, he entered the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was assigned to the Minneapolis Division, where he worked interstate theft investigations and illegal gambling businesses. In 1972, he transferred to the Milwaukee Division and joined the Organized Crime Squad, investigating Sicilian criminal activities, including illegal gambling, police corruption and mob killings.

Again, with an aptitude for the job in front of him, he served as the nationwide gangland slayings coordinator for the Bureau, and in 1977, was selected by the FBI's Organized Crime chief to be transferred to the Las Vegas Division, where he was



JENNIFER MICHAEL



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Clark "Bud" Hall at Brandy Station; Corporal Hall, first in file, leads his gun squad out of the burning village of Cam Ne in Vietnam, 1965; Hall holds a photo of a sign announcing a proposed racetrack at Brandy Station, development successfully halted by preservation efforts; Hall (third from left) with the Las Vegas FBI crew investigating mafia activities; **BOTTOM:** Ed Wenzel, Brian Pohanka and Hall at Ox Hill Battlefield, Chantilly, Va.



FBI, LAS VEGAS, PHOTO



DEBORAH FITTS

assigned to investigate top organized crime figures. This complex and successful investigation exposed serious police corruption in Las Vegas, as well as hidden ownership of Las Vegas casinos by Midwestern organized crime families.

His later career included being appointed as the assistant director for the Office of Special Investigations, managing congressional investigations for select committees involving intelligence and federal criminal matters. Hall was designated as chief investigator of the House Select Committee to Investigate Covert Arms Transactions with Iran. This threshold joint House and Senate inquiry examined the role of the National Security Council in providing arms to Iran in exchange for the release of U.S. hostages held there.

A MONUMENTAL DISCOVERY

In 1984, working in Washington, D.C.,



ROB SHENK

Battle of Ox Hill raged, Hall's interest was piqued. The marker plot was overrun and two of the rails had fallen in.

Using his investigative skills, he soon uncovered the history of the markers, erected in 1915 to commemorate the generals on the battlefield where both had been mortally wounded during the fight. "I was immediately stunned as to why the markers were so badly neglected," Hall says, and that "nobody cared."

"Looking back," he adds. "I do realize my Vietnam experience had a great deal to do with this subsequent, *almost necessary* involvement in battlefield preservation. Horrified by the sudden death of Marine buddies and then coming home to an uncaring public that shrugged its shoulders (and worse) over our sacrifice.... *Nobody cared* except for the families of those who were lost."

Knowing the ultimate sacrifice of these

two generals and observing that "nobody cared," Hall says, "This, I could not abide, as before, and considering I was in America, on American turf, I went to work." Trees and vines were removed from the marker plot, and the rails were re-connected and painted. Thereafter, Hall mowed the plot every Sunday morning.

"Someone finally cared, and soon our number was three," Hall says.

When Northern Virginia development threatened to encroach the land and developers sought to move the monuments, Hall, along with fellow battlefield preservationists Ed Wenzel and Brian Pohanka, established the Chantilly Battlefield Association, widely perceived as the first Civil War battlefield preservation organization of the modern era. Hall and others soon set their sights on saving additional battlefield land, and in 1987, the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites was formed. It is one of the two preservation organizations that would merge to form today's American Battlefield Trust.

The rest, as they say, is history, or at least the preservation of it.

A deep personal connection to the battlefields and the stories of the soldiers they hold compels Hall to continue the fight. "That people don't care, I simply can't fathom," Hall says. ★

BRAVERY AT BRANDY STATION: *The legacy of George Caspar Hupp*



ON JUNE 9, 1863, Sgt. George Caspar Hupp turned 26 years old — he also charged into battle as part of the 8th Illinois Cavalry at Brandy Station. Partaking in the battle that “made the Federal cavalry,” young George was wounded that day and left to suffer with the impact of the battlefield injury for the remainder of his life.

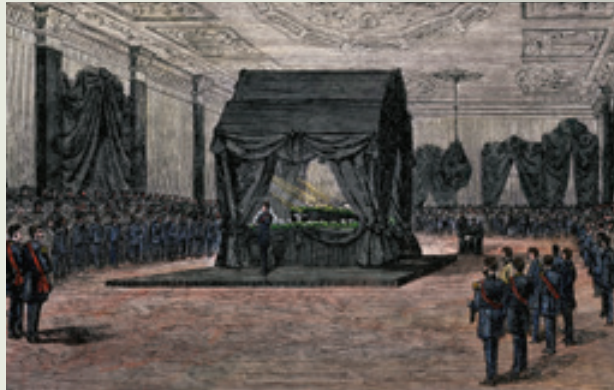
But George’s Civil War service both preceded and succeeded his experience at the Battle of Brandy Station. On September 18, 1861, George Caspar Hupp, a farmer from Northville, Ill., mustered in for service with the 8th Illinois Cavalry. He was 23 years old, stood at 5’10”, with brown hair and brown eyes to match. His soldiering skills must have impressed, as George was immediately selected sergeant of Company K and held the rank for three years before he was promoted to second lieutenant and later to first lieutenant — the rank he held until being honorably discharged at the close of service, July 17, 1865, in St. Louis, Mo.

Said to be a brave soldier — always ready for duty and prompt to obey or command — George fought at Williamsburg; Fair Oaks, east of Richmond; Gaines’ Mill; Antietam; Fredericksburg; Chancellorsville; and Brandy Station, as already mentioned, with his regiment attached to the Army of the Potomac. With his injury at Brandy Station — which sources fail to detail — it is debatable whether he went on to serve with the regiment at Aldie, Upperville and Gettysburg.

Late in the war, the unit was stationed in Burke’s Station, Va. From May to July 1864, the 8th Illinois fought in the Battles of Todd’s Tavern, Cold Harbor and Monocacy. They were continually harassed by Confederate Col. John Mosby’s Rangers, but nonetheless held their own, causing Mosby to later write that the 8th Illinois was “the best cavalry regiment in the Army of the Potomac.”

George’s unit was also pressed into action after one of the country’s most somber moments — the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865:

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



assassin could be secreted.”

Later, as Lincoln lay in state in the Capitol Rotunda, members of the 8th Illinois Cavalry were among

those who stood guard. Whether Hupp drew such duty is unknown, but it is certain that he would have been nearby with a heavy heart.

After the war, Hupp returned to Illinois and — not even a year later — married Mary Callagan, the daughter of Irish immigrants. Together, they settled on a farm in Serena Township, moved to Northville Township only a few years later and made their last home in Somonauk. They had six children — Clara, Harley, William, Eureka, Fred and Arthur.

After George passed on October 31, 1906, a sincere and admiring obituary appeared in the *Bureau County Tribune* of Princeton, Ill. Aside from his accomplishments, the writing also acknowledged his upstanding character:

“Mr. Hupp was industrious and thorough, a man of high ideals. Scrupulously honest and honorable, just and true in all his dealings, he prospered in all his dealings, he prospered in all his business affairs. After a life of good works and useful activities, of sincere and unselfish devotion to his country, his family and his fellow men, a just man has passed to his reward leaving to his family the priceless heritage of a good name and an honorable and upright life.”

Subsequent generations of the Hupp family have kept George’s legacy alive and have been a powerful force in the world of battlefield preservation. His third great grandson, William Hupp, is the current vice chair of the American Battlefield Trust’s Board of Trustees. A marker honoring the contributions of both men stands on Fleetwood Hill at Brandy Station, where the Trust vigilantly preserved pivotal acreage that will now be met with the footsteps of visitors to Culpeper Battlefields State Park.★

Inset: Lincoln casket viewing, ALAMY.com

CULPEPER ORGANIZATIONS *United in a common cause*



CULPEPER Battlefields State Park is the successful culmination of years of work shared by the American Battlefield Trust, the Commonwealth of Virginia and numerous partner organizations that have dedicated their time and energy to the creation of this expansive new protected space. Without the perseverance and expertise of these groups in the Culpeper region, this achievement would not have been possible.

Created in 1989, the **Brandy Station Foundation (BSF)** is the foremost preservation group representing the Brandy Station Battlefield. Since its inception, the BSF immediately jumped into the fight against development threats to the battlefield that started in the late 1980s, including proposals for a corporate complex and a Formula One racetrack. Today, the BSF works to protect land at the Kelly’s Ford (March 17, 1863) and Brandy Station (June 9, 1863) Battlefields. Both sites serve as testament to the

work ethic of preservationists, with more than 2,157 acres saved at Brandy Station and nearly 1,370 acres at Kelly’s Ford. In August 2002, the BSF purchased the historic Graffiti House, which it operates as a visitor center and museum. Purported to have been a military hospital during the war, the Graffiti House is marked by the etchings and signatures of Civil War soldiers, both Union and Confederate.

Founded in 2004, the **Cedar Mountain Battlefield Foundation (CMBF)** focuses on preserving, restoring and interpreting the Battle of Cedar Mountain. More than 637 acres at Cedar Mountain have been permanently protected, thanks to the group’s work. Additionally, CMBF has sought to re-create the 1862 appearance of the battlefield by reforesting more than six acres of land with 2,000 trees, restoring 150 yards of the historic Orange-Culpeper Road and building a split-rail fence. These efforts extend to visitor-use and environmental improvements as well, as CMBF has installed interpretive signage on the battlefield and engaged in wildlife habitat management. Programming includes an annual living history event to commemorate the battle and guided tours of the battlefield twice a month, along with special events such as the Cedar Mountain Rally 5K and 10K. A recently renovated visitor center will play a role in administration of the new state park.

Established in 2019, the **Freedom Foundation** committed to telling the stories and history of United States Colored Troops (USCT) with connections to Culpeper County. Through research, the Freedom Foundation has identified more than 120 such USCT soldiers while also working to bring recognition of its USCT history to the community. In cooperation with the

Kelly’s Ford Battlefield
Culpeper County, Va.
MATTHEW HARTWIG





Piedmont Environmental Council and Civil War Trails, the Freedom Foundation established a memorial to three USCT troops executed by Confederate soldiers outside Madden's Tavern and three interpretive signs acknowledging the area's USCT and free Black history. Madden's Tavern and the nearby Ebenezer Baptist Church were both established by a free Black man, Willis Madden, further proof of the area's established African American community. Additionally, the Foundation developed a local USCT driving tour, helped to refurbish and renovate the Elkwood Drive Cemetery in Brandy Station and commissioned a historical marker for USCT Sgt. Charles H. Chinn, who is buried there.

Friends of Culpeper Battlefields represents a broad consortium of local government representatives, businesses and preservation groups that collectively promote battlefield preservation, management and heritage tourism in Culpeper. In 2015, local partners and the Trust joined to create the Culpeper Battlefields State Park Alliance to promote the creation of battlefield park in the county, which morphed into the current Friends of Culpeper Battlefields. Current partners include, but are not limited to:

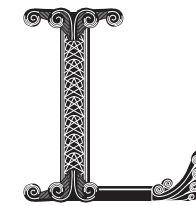
- **The Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area** aims to promote and support civic engagement through history education, drive economic development through heritage tourism, and preserve cultural landscapes in one of the nation's most important historic regions.
- Established in 1972, the **Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC)** safeguards Virginia's Piedmont, promoting sustainability. With headquarters in Warrenton, VA, PEC operates across nine counties and Charlottesville.

- **Culpeper Battlefield Tours**, launched in 2022, provides walking, horseback, car and bus tours of the Brandy Station Battlefield and explains its role in the Gettysburg Campaign. These tours are conducted by certified guides who are some of the foremost local experts on the Civil War and Culpeper's wartime history. Tours of each category can vary in length and destination and can be further customized to tailor to a specific interest or personal connection.
- Chartered in 1956, **Historic Germanna** recognizes the experiences of the many people who have called Culpeper home. This public history organization's programs focus on educational, genealogical and historical resources, while its preservation of Salubria, near Hansbrough's Ridge in Culpeper County, offers visitors the opportunity to visit a fascinating colonial site.
- **The Museum of Culpeper History**, housed in the historic Culpeper Train Depot, is the central interpretive institution for the area. Covering more than 215 million years, the museum recounts Culpeper's prehistoric, American Indian, Revolutionary and Civil War history. The museum also organizes lectures, walking tours and special events throughout the year.
- Representing the local business network of Culpeper, the **Culpeper Chamber of Commerce** is an extraordinary resource for assisting the area's commercial enterprises and nonprofit groups — more than 450 individuals and organizations.
- **Culpeper Tourism** has been a key element of the campaign to draw heritage tourism to the area. Also located in the historic Culpeper Train Depot, Culpeper Tourism's visitor center offers information, maps and brochures to help inform a wonderful visit to Culpeper.★

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COUNTRY'S MIGHTIEST MILITARY
 DECORATION

Culpeper's Medal of Honor connections



LIKE SO MANY other landscapes worldwide, Culpeper County has a connection to our nation's highest award for valor. A total of seven Medals of Honor were awarded for actions in and around Culpeper during the course of the Civil War. War first visited the county in the summer of 1862, when Union Maj. Gen. John Pope set his sights on capturing the rail junction at Gordonsville, southwest of Culpeper. Gen. Robert E. Lee countered by sending Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson to defend the town.

Jackson clashed with elements of Pope's command under Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks at Cedar Mountain on August 9. During the battle, **Pvt. John Younker** of the 12th U.S. Infantry voluntarily carried an order through enemy fire and was wounded. He received the Medal of Honor for this action on November 1, 1893. Amid an attack, **Capt. George Corliss** picked up and carried the 5th Connecticut's flag, "until he was brought to the ground by a bullet wound in the leg. He, however, planted the flag-staff in the earth ... and bravely upheld the flag after he had fallen." Like Younker, Corliss also received the medal.

Lee eventually concentrated his attack, and Pope pulled back behind the Rappahannock. Two weeks after Cedar Mountain, the two sides skirmished at Rappahannock Station. There, **Pvt. Charles Breyer** of the 90th Pennsylvania witnessed a shell sever the arm of a comrade. Breyer immediately grabbed the shell, which had not detonated, and threw it out of harm's way, saving his own as well as the lives of others. He received the medal for this act in July 1896. Another member of the regiment, **John Henry White**, also received the medal for carrying canteens under fire to retrieve water for fellow soldiers.

Later in the month, Lee defeated Pope on the Manassas Battlefield and then launched an invasion of the North that culminated at Antietam Creek on September 17. The armies returned to Virginia, where the Federals suffered setbacks at Fredericksburg in December and Chancellorsville in May 1863. Following up on these victories, Lee decided to invade the North once again. On June 9, the largest cavalry battle of the war took place in Culpeper across the fields and ridges near Brandy Station. Subsequently, Maj. Gen. George Meade defeated Lee at Gettysburg in July, and the armies again drifted back to Virginia. Meade and Lee then engaged in the Bristoe Station Campaign that fall before the Confederates fell back to the Rappahannock.

Meade attacked the Confederates on November 7 at

Rappahannock Station and Kelly's Ford. **Sgt. Otis Roberts** of the 6th Maine received the medal for capturing the flag of the 8th Louisiana in hand-to-hand combat at Rappahannock Station. **Capt. Walter Morrill** of the 20th Maine also received the medal there when he "joined the storming party with about 50 men of his regiment and by his dash and gallantry rendered effective service in the assault."

Lee withdrew behind the Rapidan, and Meade followed. After crossing the river at Raccoon Ford on November 27, the 5th New York Cavalry engaged Confederate cavalry. At some point during the fight, **Pvt. Loron Packard** assisted another trooper and saved him from three Confederates. Packard later received the medal for this action.

Stymied in front of the Confederate position at Mine Run, Meade returned to Culpeper, where the Army of the Potomac went into its winter encampment. The army departed in May 1864, opening the Overland Campaign. Although the conflict moved elsewhere, the actions in and around Culpeper that resulted in a Medal of Honor continue to resonate more than 160 years later.★



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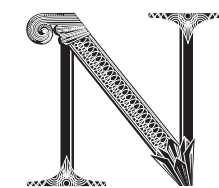


A PARTING SHOT HERITAGE SITES

CULPEPER, VIRGINIA



Downtown Culpeper, Va.
JUDITH MUFFLEY



NAMED the "Prettiest Town in Virginia" in 2018 by *Architectural Digest*, visitors to Culpeper, Va., can bask in its beauty, and will also be amazed by its vast and important history, stretching back to colonial days, when George Washington

himself was commissioned to survey and plot the town in 1749 at the age of 17. The town's extensive history is celebrated and embraced today and can be explored at a wide array of destinations across and around town, including the hallowed ground of several battles fought here.

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Culpeper Resolves of 1774, a public statement supporting American independence, and learn about the role the Culpeper Baptist Church played in supporting protections for religious freedom at the **Museum of Culpeper History**, housed in the town's historic train depot.

No visit to Culpeper is complete without a visit to the town's iconic **Graffiti House**, a Civil War-era house used as a hospital by both Union and Confederate troops. Drawings, messages and the signatures of Civil War soldiers treated here are scrawled about the walls of the second floor, giving the house its popular moniker.

Culpeper offers a host of award-winning breweries and eateries at which to refuel and relax after a day of exploring. The area's **Gray Ghost Vineyards** is the most awarded winery in all of Virginia and nearby **Death Ridge Brewery** has been voted the best brewery in Culpeper.

Looking for some unique outdoor experiences? Culpeper has those, too!

At the **Auburn Sunflower Patch**, visitors can pick and purchase their own flowers; at the **Bealeton Flying Circus Air Show**, you can watch planes take flight; and visitors to **Lenn Park** can pack in for a charming park experience, including a mix of history and modern-day facilities. <https://visitculpeperva.com/contact/> ★



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