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AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

# HALLOWED GROUND

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*The Battles for*  
**NEW ORLEANS**

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

**3**  
Web Exclusives

**4**  
From the Trenches

**11**  
Field Reports

**13**  
Ancestry

**14**  
Success Stories

**16**  
*The Battle of Moot*  
by Haley Smith

**20**  
*The Crescent City Explodes*  
by Joseph D. Ricci

**26**  
*The Pen Is Mightier Than the Sword*  
by Elizabeth Varon

**28**  
Page from the Past

**29**  
Profiles in Preservation

**30**  
Camp of Instruction

**32**  
Leading the Charge

**45**  
A Parting Shot

THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST preserves our nation's hallowed battlefields 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 160 sites in 25 states. For more information, call 800-298-7878 or visit our website at [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org). *Hallowed Ground* is the membership magazine of the American Battlefield Trust. It is produced solely for nonprofit educational purposes and every reasonable attempt is made to provide accurate and appropriate attribution for all elements, including those in the public domain. Contemporary images are reproduced only with permission and appropriate attribution; uncredited images are courtesy of the American Battlefield Trust. Feature articles reflect the research and opinion of the bylined author. ©2024 American Battlefield Trust.



**AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST**

PRESERVE EDUCATE INSPIRE

"Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans,"  
Recorder of Deeds building, Washington, D.C.  
by Ethel Magafan



## THE FIRST FORGOTTEN WAR

The United States achieved its greatest land victory of the War of 1812 at New Orleans with Americans halting British attempts to seize the crucial port at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Visit our page to learn more about the often forgotten second war for independence [www.battlefields.org/war-of-1812](http://www.battlefields.org/war-of-1812)

## EXPLORING THE CRESCENT CITY

Visit the "Paris of the American South" with an itinerary created by the American Battlefield Trust. Including key historic sites, museums and several restaurants, the Trust's New Orleans guide is perfect for families and friends spending a weekend in one of the nation's most diverse cities! Check it out at [www.battlefields.org/tourthecrescentcity](http://www.battlefields.org/tourthecrescentcity)

## TRUST VIDEOS

Don't have time to visit New Orleans? Check out the Trust's virtual field trip of New Orleans, videos about Louisiana's role in the Civil War and more at the Trust's YouTube channel found here: [www.youtube.com/AmericanBattlefieldTrust](http://www.youtube.com/AmericanBattlefieldTrust)

## NAVY AT NOLA

The wars that defined America were not just fought on land. During the War of 1812, wooden American and British ships engaged in some of the most dramatic and iconic battles, including the Battle of New Orleans. Learn more about the U.S. Navy's role in American history here: [www.battlefields.org/navy](http://www.battlefields.org/navy)



**IN A GEOLOGIC SCALE**, rock formations may contain distinct strata that clearly demonstrate the passage of eons and epochs. And I am fascinated by the way sites can contain layers of history within our specific subject of military history.

This issue's topic, New Orleans, is a wonderful example of a place with major significance to multiple conflicts, but it certainly isn't alone. Petersburg and Richmond, Va, saw battles in the Revolution as well as the Civil War; Pensacola, Fla., in the Revolution and War of 1812; Savannah, Ga., in the Revolution and the Civil War. The list goes on! Heck, in France there are monuments the United States erected in the 1920s to mark our troops' involvement in World War I that have pockmarks from the small arms fire of World War II engagements fought over the same ground.

During the course of just the Civil War, there were engagements fought over the same ground: Chancellorsville and the Wilderness, just one year apart, and Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor — where we remain engaged in a long-term preservation campaign for some of the most important unprotected Civil War landscape out there.

That square mile of "double battlefield" in suburban Richmond is so significant that the late Ed Bearss told his fellow Trustees: "Even if you have to sell every other piece of battlefield land the Trust has ever saved in order to preserve this land, you should do it. It's that important!"

When thinking about such profound layers of history, it's easy to overlook the fact that we are adding our own through preservation work. Someday, when our grandchildren visit these battlefields, there is every likelihood that interpretive signs will have been installed that tell the story of how they were preserved. First, by

the veterans themselves. Then, a hundred or more years later, by a special group of people who believed that, in the face of rampant development — of strip malls and massive data center complexes and industrial-scale solar arrays — that special places should be safeguarded.

Think about that: By saving history, we are *making* history. Thanks to the generosity and passion of this organization's members, there is a modern movement whereby private citizens are stepping forward to protect our collective heritage in a powerful and tangible way. It is because of YOU that future Americans will become guardians of these hallowed grounds and have the opportunity to, in turn, pass them along, undiminished.



Although history books contain details on the generals of vast armies, we know it was the individual soldiers who bore the brunt of battle. Their individual courage and steadfast determination were an equally decisive factor. Next year, we begin the commemoration of the Revolutionary War's 250th anniversary and while many will focus on the 56 men who *declared* our independence in Philadelphia, victory was actually *secured* by a far greater number, on hundreds of battlefields.

In the same way, while I'm aware that a handful of people will be most closely associated with the modern battlefield preservation movement, I believe that it's your name — and those of all of our donors — that should be immortalized. Please know that I am so grateful for each and every contributor to this organization and that, even if I can't carve our entire donor roll into granite or cast it in bronze, all your names are etched into my heart.

*David N. Duncan*

DAVID N. DUNCAN  
President, American Battlefield Trust

President Portrait by BUDDY SECOR

EXPLORE  
THIS ISSUE



-  FACEBOOK.COM/AMERICANBATTLEFIELDTRUST
-  X (FORMERLY TWITTER) @BATTLEFIELDS
-  YOUTUBE.COM/AMERICANBATTLEFIELDTRUST
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An array of dignitaries, state officials and Trust leadership officially cut the ribbon to open the park. Culpeper Battlefields State Park, Culpeper County, Va. All photos by JAMIE BETTS PHOTO



## ANNOUNCING VIRGINIA'S 43RD STATE PARK

*Dedication event culminates decades of preservation work*

**T**HAT JUNE 8, 2024, dawned a spectacularly beautiful day was a fitting culmination to decades of preservation work to secure and protect the Civil War battlefields of Culpeper County by immortalizing them in a new state park. The inspiring event celebrated the many individuals, groups and organizations that have fought back wave after wave of development to safeguard these special places.

“Virginia’s 43rd state park stands as a powerful reminder of our nation’s history and the importance of preserving that history for future generations, because we can’t know where we’re

going unless we know where we’re coming from,” said Gov. Glenn Youngkin in the remarks that made our vision a reality. “Culpeper Battlefields State Park connects us to our past and inspires us as we march together into our future. Visitors from all over will be able to appreciate the beauty of nature and reflect on the enduring spirit of resilience and unity that defines us.”

Ultimately covering 2,200 historic acres — following a series of property donations to the Trust and its partners — and created in partnership with governmental bodies, the park is now under full state ownership. Much of it is open to the public and includes trails and interpretive signs maintained by the American Battlefield Trust, Brandy Station Foundation and the Cedar Mountain Battlefield Foundation. In the face of regular development threats, private organizations have gradually acquired battlefield parcels since 1987. Preservationists have actively sought the formal state park designation for nearly a decade. In approving the new park, the Virginia state legislature appropriated further funds to acquire some 800 additional acres to expand and enhance the site.

“The addition of this property to Virginia’s state parks will ensure this land will remain available to the public and protected for future generations,” said Virginia Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources Travis Voyles. “The dedication of Culpeper Battlefields State Park stands as a symbol of our administration’s commitment to providing new opportunities for Virginians to



Virginia State Parks Director  
Melissa Baker



Thanks to a period cannon crew, the battlefield’s new era started with a bang

recreate outdoors while preserving the Commonwealth’s cultural heritage and natural beauty.”

“As we move forward, we will continue to engage partners and stakeholders in the planning process. A master plan will be developed with the input from our communities, and together we will chart the best possible road map for this new park,” said Matt Wells, Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). “While DCR serves as the steward of this place, it belongs to the community, to the Commonwealth and to its people.”★

Watch the Governor’s remarks.



Hundreds gathered for the celebratory event.

Governor Youngkin joined Trust staff and leadership in celebration.



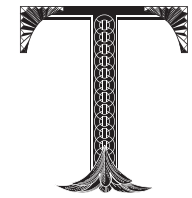
**WE’VE  
MOVED!**

THIS FALL, the Trust has moved its physical office space to better fit our organization’s evolving needs and take advantage of changes in Washington’s rental market. All membership correspondence should continue uninterrupted via our dedicated mailing service using the same address:

**American Battlefield Trust, PO Box 1751 Merrifield, VA 22116-1751**

Our physical headquarters is now located at  
**1030 15th Street, NW, Suite 900 East, Washington, DC 20005**

## FINAL NON-HISTORIC STRUCTURE removed from Slaughter Pen Farm



**THE FINAL** noncontributing structure on the Slaughter Pen Farm at Fredericksburg has been demolished, completing a years-long landscape restoration process and clearing the way for a new interpretive plaza at the site of one of the Trust's most significant preservation initiatives.

"This day has been a long time coming. In 2006, we committed to a complex and lengthy agreement to protect, preserve and restore Slaughter Pen Farm to honor the thousands of brave men who fought and died here during the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg," said Trust President David Duncan. "We're grateful to our members, donors and partners who have helped us uphold our promise and share the history of this powerful place with future generations."

Eventual removal of the long-vacant post-war farmhouse from the battlefield had been planned since the Trust acquired the site in 2006, a fixture in the long-range plans reviewed by relevant state and federal agencies. Alternate scenarios were explored but deemed nonviable. Various derelict barns and modern outbuildings were dismantled along the way, but demolition of the final structure had to wait until the last note on the Trust's loan for the \$12-million property was paid off.

Demolition began with the front porch on Friday, July 26, and crews from local contractor Rappahannock Construction Company completed the work on Monday, July 29. The Trust was pleased to work with owner Tim Welsh, who is related to the family who once farmed the land. Although he has fond memories of spending time



An excavator made short work of the home on the Slaughter Pen battlefield. MELISSA A. WINN



(L to R) Tom Van Winkle, president of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Tom Gilmore, the Trust's Chief Land Preservation Officer and NPS's Frank O'Reilly have worked tirelessly to restore Slaughter Pen Farm to its pre-war state. MELISSA A. WINN

there in his youth, he was glad to donate his firm's time and labor to see the landscape returned to its historical appearance.★

Learn more about the now 18-year process to preserve and restore the Slaughter Pen Farm.



In addition to helping the Trust tear down the home, Welsh has generously donated an 11.75-acre conservation easement from his own land, and helps to farm Slaughter Pen Farm for the Trust. Photo by MATTHEW HARTWIG



## AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST Prize for History



**LIZABETH VARON** has won the inaugural American Battlefield Trust Prize for History with *Longstreet: The Confederate General Who Defied the South*, a richly reported biography of the complicated Civil War leader who later encouraged an examination of the roots of the conflict and advocated for racial reconciliation. In accepting the prize, Varon said, "It is a humbling honor to win this

inaugural award from an organization, American Battlefield Trust, that does so much to promote and revitalize the study of America's formative military conflicts. I am especially grateful to be recognized with such an impressive group of fellow finalists, representing the dynamism of the field and the centrality of landscapes to the historical imagination."

This new literary prize seeks to underscore the irreplaceable perspective and primary research value of preserving the battlefields on which our nation was forged — during conflicts we still seek to better understand today. A selection committee led by Dr. Gary Gallagher winnowed the list of nominees from nearly 100 submitted by 24 different publishers to 11 finalists, which were then considered by this year's expert panel of judges: Dr. James McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Battle Cry of Freedom*; Dr. James Kirby Martin, professor emeritus at University of Houston; and Dr. Joan Waugh, professor emerita at UCLA.

Varon will receive \$50,000 as part of the prize. Honorable mention awardee D. Scott Hartwig will receive \$2,500 in recognition of *I Dread the Thought of the Place: The Battle of Antietam and the End of the Mayland Campaign*; fellow honorable mention awardee Friederike Baer will also receive \$2,500 for *Hessians: German Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War*.

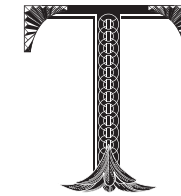
"An excellent book can ignite the imagination," said Trust President David Duncan. "Reading about the dynamic figures and events of the past inspires millions of Americans to travel to historic sites where they can stand in the footsteps of the past, often thanks to the work of historic preservation organizations who ensure that such places are safeguarded for future generations."

The window for professional publishing houses to nominate works published during calendar year 2024 for consideration toward next year's prize opens on October 1. Further details are available at [www.battlefields.org/book-prize](http://www.battlefields.org/book-prize), and publishers may email [bookprize@battlefields.org](mailto:bookprize@battlefields.org) for nomination instructions.★

Photo above MIKE TALPLACIDO

## INFLUX OF \$1.3 MILLION FROM STATE BUDGET

*prompts progress at Princeton*



**HANKS TO \$1.3 million** in funding secured in the FY 2025 New Jersey budget by State Senator Andrew Zwicker, Assemblywoman Michelle Drulis, Assemblyman Roy Freiman and colleagues, the Princeton Battlefield State Park is set for revitalization.

This money will come to the American Battlefield Trust in support of *Washington's Legacy*, our large-scale reimagining of the battlefield in collaboration with New Jersey State Parks, the Princeton Battlefield Society and numerous other partners. Our key aims include improving visitor amenities and restoring the Princeton Battlefield landscape to its 1777 appearance. Money will also go toward planning for a future, state-of-the-art Visitor and Education Center that would feature exhibits showcasing the battlefield's significance and will provide spaces and programming for heritage tourism and school field trips.

"We are extremely grateful for the stalwart leadership of Senator Andrew Zwicker in securing this funding for the restoration and improved interpretation of the Princeton Battlefield," remarked American Battlefield Trust President David Duncan. "The state's investment to enhance the visitor experience at the park will help ensure this famous battleground will be ready for the influx of tourists expected for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution."

"Central New Jersey was the location for ... 10 crucial days of the Revolutionary War, and preserving our history is more important now than ever. In today's politically divided climate, places like Princeton Battlefield State Park serve as poignant reminders of American unity and the sacrifices made to secure the freedoms and independence we cherish," said Senator Zwicker. "As the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence approaches, I cannot think of a better time to begin work."★

Learn about Washington's Legacy effort.



Senator Andrew Zwicker presented a \$1.3 million check on behalf of the State of New Jersey to Ben Strong, Princeton Battlefield Society, and Shawn McBurney, American Battlefield Trust. MELISSA A. WINN

The Gettysburg Country Club is about to enter a new phase of preservation.  
MICHAEL ROSST

## FORMER GETTYSBURG COUNTRY CLUB *enters next phase*

**T**HE FORMER Gettysburg Country Club entered a new phase of its long preservation journey this summer, as the American Battlefield Trust launched a campaign to pay a second installment of its purchase cost and announced a new tenant for the modern clubhouse building.

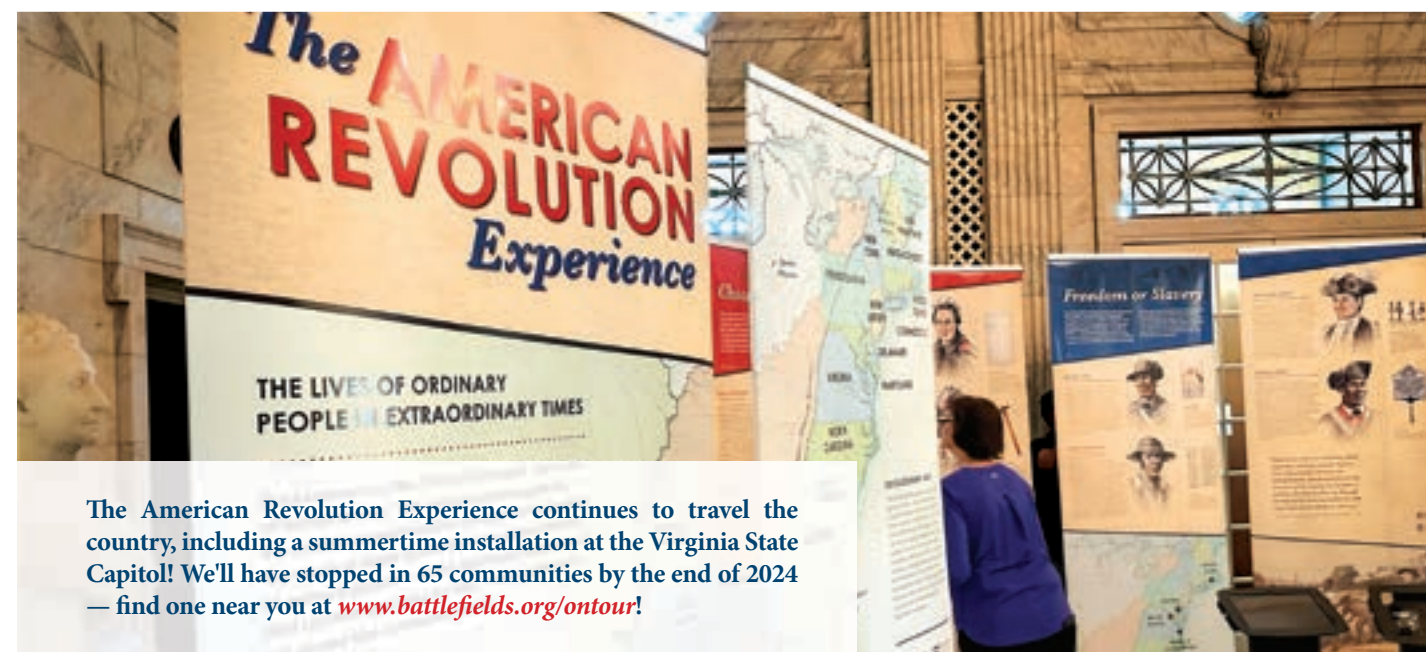
Cumberland Township will receive multiyear, rent-free use of the space as a temporary home for local police and administrators while their permanent offices undergo a major renovation. Under the current agreement, which runs through March 31, 2026, the township will pay only utilities and one-third of the mowing, maintenance and snow removal costs.

“We are pleased to be good neighbors and to offer this building for use by local officials while plans take shape for a landscape restoration and interpretation plan,” said David

Duncan, President of the American Battlefield Trust.

The Trust acquired the 15-acre property in November 2023, ending years of uncertainty about its eventual fate. The country club ceased operations in 2008, and its former golf-course acreage joined Gettysburg National Military Park a few years later. But developers had eyed the portion fronting Chambersburg Pike for a large apartment complex as recently as 2022, until local advocacy opened the door to a preservation solution. Ultimately, the Trust was able to negotiate a \$3-million purchase price and is engaged in an ongoing, phased fundraising campaign.

Cumberland Township offices will occupy the 2007 modern clubhouse buildings, while the Gettysburg Day Spa will continue its successful operations in the historic building that would have been familiar to President Dwight Eisenhower while he was an avid member and golfer. That historic building will be retained in any future landscape restoration plans that remove intrusive 21st-century elements.★



The American Revolution Experience continues to travel the country, including a summertime installation at the Virginia State Capitol! We'll have stopped in 65 communities by the end of 2024 — find one near you at [www.battlefields.org/ontour!](http://www.battlefields.org/ontour!)

Exhibit photo by MELISSA A. WINN

## HISTORY COMES ALIVE IN NEW ORLEANS *Innovative educators gather in the Big Easy*



Educators stand near the Chalmette Monument during the 2024 National Teacher Institute. DAN DAVIS

**T**HE TRUST'S 2024 National Teacher Institute brought the vibrant spirit of New Orleans to 170 educators, blending history, culture and education. Held from July 11—14, this year's event embraced the energy of the Bayou State, setting the stage for four days filled with learning, exploration and inspiration.

With the theme of “How the Leaders of the Past Shape the Leaders of Tomorrow,” teachers delved into a variety of lectures and sessions led by topic experts. From thought-provoking discussions on historical leadership to hands-on workshops, each session was crafted to spark creativity and inspire teaching techniques.

During one of the lectures, Darley Newman, host of *Travels with Darley*, shared stories from her globe-trotting adventures and offered insights on how to bring those stories to life. Meanwhile, a panel titled “From Gettysburg to Normandy and Beyond: The Next Generation of History” on YouTube examined how technology is reshaping the way history is taught.

Other sessions covered a wide range of topics, including “Frederick Douglass: Forming the Language of Freedom,” “Hacking the History: Digital Sources for Studying the Revolution,” and “How American Women in WWI led the Women's Movement,” among many others.

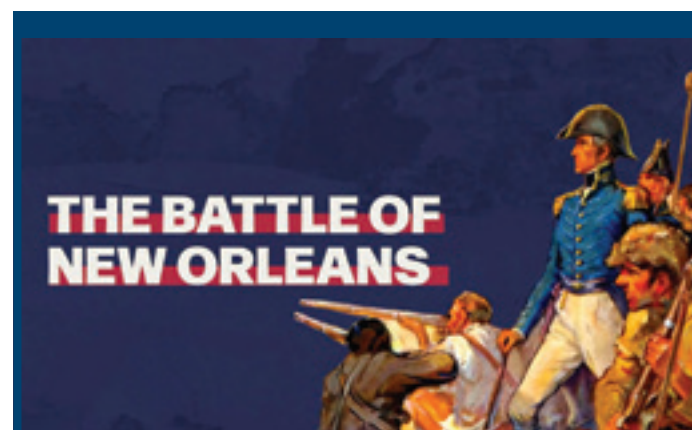
But it was the magic of New Orleans itself that truly set this year's Institute apart. For the first time, the National Teacher Institute offered optional tours, allowing educators to step beyond the traditional workshops and into the heart of New Orleans.

Educators explored the history of the 1815 Battle of New Orleans at the Chalmette Battlefield unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, strolled through the city's historic cemeteries, and explored the remnants of Civil War-era New Orleans. Participants also toured the Destrehan Plantation and experienced the National World War II Museum.★



**ON JUNE 30**, history buffs gathered at the Adams County Historical Society for the Ultimate GettysNerd Game Show, where contestants were quizzed on all things Gettysburg. After a qualifying round, the final five were put to the test to determine the ultimate GettysNerd. Following a thrilling competition, George Maturi claimed the title.

**Think you have what it takes to be a GettysNerd?** The Gettysburg Trivia Show is now available to watch on the Trust's YouTube channel — play along and see if you can match the champion!★



**DID YOU KNOW:** The Trust has developed full curricula covering the American Revolution, War or 1812 and the Civil War — plus additional standalone lesson plans. Register as a Battlefield Educator for enhanced access to our free resources at [www.battlefields.org/learn/educators!](http://www.battlefields.org/learn/educators!)

Register as a Battlefield Educator for enhanced access to our free resources.





## MEET THE CLASS OF 2024-2025

*Youth Leadership Team  
members make an impact*

**C**ONGRATULATIONS to the members of the 2024-2025 Youth Leadership Team cohort! This group of 10 dynamic students is ready to bring history to life in their communities while serving as the youth face and voice of the Trust. Over the next year, they will advocate for historic preservation and education through personalized projects that reflect their passions. By engaging their peers, neighbors and local officials, these students will raise awareness about the importance of preserving our nation's heritage and promote visits to historic sites.

Once chosen from a pool of competitive applicants, participants receive comprehensive training aligned with the Trust mission, including the intricacies of land preservation and the principles of place-based education, plus essential advocacy skills like engaging with media and petitioning support from public officials. In addition to working toward their capstone project, team members will participate in a special youth-focused lobby day in Washington and present at the Trust's annual Conference.

The full roster of the 2024-2025 Youth Leadership Team includes: Eshaam Bhattad, 17, of Buffalo Grove, Ill.; Hannah Cho, 17, of Irvine, Calif.; Henry Henick, 17, of Washington, D.C.; Austin Ingall, 15, of Temperance, Mich.; Julia Lever, 17, of Madison, Miss.; Marissa Liner, 16, of Avon, N.C.; Abigail Lovins, 16, of Austin, Texas; Harper Quale, 16, of Austin, Texas; Colby Tuller, 16, East Calais, Vt.; Grace Zhou, 16, of New York, N.Y.

Learn more at [www.battlefields.org/ylt](http://www.battlefields.org/ylt)



**THIS SUMMER**, the Trust debuted its first-ever *Gettysburg History Hikes and Experience* for history lovers of all ages. Led by Trust historians and Licensed Battlefield Guides, participants wandered through the fields of Pickett's Charge, climbed the boulders of Devil's Den and stood atop Cemetery Ridge. The event offered a hands-on, immersive way to connect with the past, allowing attendees to walk in the footsteps of soldiers and discover the stories behind of one of America's most famous battles.

## HONORS RECEIVED

*for Trust outreach efforts*

**A**CCOLADES CONTINUE to roll in for the American Battlefield Trust's work to educate and inspire! In recent months, we were thrilled to receive honors in two major competitions, recognizing both our traditional and ground-breaking digital efforts to bring the past to life.

*Hallowed Ground* magazine received a 2024 APEX Grand Award in the Topics and Writing category, with judges loving our Winter 2023 issue on the 250th anniversary of colonial tea parties. Judges — like Trust members — loved how thoroughly the issue fed into the overall theme, the “clear and engaging writing” and the surfacing of little-known facts that “many school textbooks skim over.”

Meanwhile, our innovative “Step Into History” video series was an Honoree in the 28th Annual Webby Awards for the “Best Use of Augmented Reality” category! Hailed as the “Internet’s highest honor” by the *New York Times*, The Webby Awards, presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences (IADAS), is the leading international awards organization honoring excellence on the Internet. Up against tech titans and international corporations, our work with Wide Awake Films stood out for putting technology to use in an unexpected capacity.★



## MUSKET BALLS FOUND

*Tangible remains of the “Shot Heard ‘Round the World”*

**N**O MATTER HOW CLEAR the historical record of primary source materials may be surrounding a notable event, the tangibility of archaeological evidence can solidify and deepen our understanding of the event profoundly. That the Americans fired at the British across the Old North Bridge in Concord, Mass., is unquestionably true — going down in history thanks to local poet Ralph Waldo Emerson in his *Concord Hymn*, as “the shot heard ‘round the world.” But the event came vividly to life this summer when the National Park Service announced that archaeological work within Minute Man National Historical Park had recovered five musket balls from that volley.

On April 19, 1775, British forces dispatched from Boston to capture and destroy weapons stockpiled by colonial rebels were first met by American militia on the Lexington Green before continuing to Concord. Minutemen, alerted by midnight riders throughout the countryside, also converged on Concord. A force of 96 redcoats was left to defend the North Bridge, while some 120 more went to seize the supposed rebel stockpile. Once the British soldiers saw the Minute Men marching toward the bridge, they retreated to the opposite side and prepared for combat.

The company of Minute Men from Acton, led by Captain Isaac Davis, a gunsmith, reached the bridge first. The British fired the first volley, killing Davis and Abner Hosmer. Major John Buttrick yelled, “For God’s sake, fire!” and the militiamen returned a volley, killing three British soldiers and wounding nine more. The British soldiers quickly retreated to the town.

While performing compliance activities in preparation for the park’s upcoming Great American Outdoors Act project in advance of next year’s 250th anniversary of the skirmish, National Park Service archaeologists discovered the musket balls in the area where the British troops took defensive positions. Analysis shows that they were fired from the opposite side of the river, as opposed to having been dropped by the British troops during the hectic moments of their retreat from the North Bridge.★





## STORM DAMAGE

### Tornado upended trees, regular operations at Bushy Run Battlefield



**ON JUNE 26, 2024**, an F1 tornado touched down on western Pennsylvania's Bushy Run Battlefield, leading to the closure of the museum and grounds for public safety. This unfortunate event also forced the cancellation of the annual reenactment, resulting in a significant loss of income and leaving the site in need of immediate financial and volunteer support to restore it to its former glory.

The staff and volunteers at Bushy Run Battlefield extend a heartfelt invitation to individuals to become members or volunteers. Your contribution is not just about physical labor, but also about becoming an integral part of our mission to keep history alive. Although most of the cleanup from the tornado is complete, there is still much work to be done to make the grounds beautiful. We are deeply grateful for any donation or volunteer effort, no matter how big or small, as it will significantly help the Bushy Run Battlefield Heritage Society and is a testament to your commitment to our cause.

Bushy Run Battlefield is a place of great historical importance. It is dedicated to commemorating and explaining the decisive Battle of Bushy Run, which took place during Pontiac's War (1763–64) between the British and Native Americans. This British victory was instrumental in ensuring their continued control over North America. The team at Bushy Run Battlefield, which is administered by the governmental Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, is committed to preserving and promoting the significance of this historic event.

Our primary goal is to deepen the public's understanding and appreciation of the battlefield, Pontiac's War and the French and Indian War period. We achieve this through tours, exhibits and educational programs designed to engage and educate the public about this vital part of history.

Keep an eye on the park's website, [www.bushyrunbattlefield.com](http://www.bushyrunbattlefield.com), for important updates about the reopening of the museum and grounds, leading to a series of exciting events and volunteer opportunities. Next year, visitors to the reopened battlefield will experience an enriching and enjoyable day of exploration and education. ★



## UNTANGLE YOUR GENEALOGICAL WEB

*New to ancestor research? We've got some tips and tricks!*

**F**ROM MISSPELLINGS and mind-boggling chicken scratch on census records to long-told family stories without a paper trail to prove, ancestry research can often feel like a tangled web that is far too intimidating to unravel. But just think, how much more gratifying can your understanding of the past be if you establish personal ties to events and places that molded the nation?

A believer in bridging the past with the personal, the American Battlefield Trust is proud of our collaboration with Ancestry and its Fold3 initiative devoted to military records. Not only does Trust content enrich the experience for users searching the more than 30 billion documents in the Ancestry collection, but this relationship also makes it easier than ever for our members to dive into their own family trees. Trust members are eligible for a 25 percent discount on a premium subscription to Fold3 — with even further savings available to Color Bearers.

If, thanks to this added impetus, you're ready to begin your ancestry journey, confirm cherished stories or perhaps identify a personal connection to your favorite battlefield — here are some tips from the experts to get you started!

To find an ancestor's military connections, start with the basics: a name and place of residence. If you aren't lucky enough to build this context off a family tree created by others, begin with a grandparent's name and you'll be able to climb your way up the family tree. As you uncover relevant documents in the Ancestry system, pay particular attention to obituaries and census records, which often link to parents' and siblings' names and provide helpful clues into hometowns, occupations, physical appearances and spouses.

Once you've come across a male relative who would've been be-

tween the ages of 15 and 45 during the years 1775–1783, 1812–1815, or 1861–1865, you can determine if they served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 or the Civil War. Since most units were raised and named by state, knowing where they enlisted is particularly useful. Using that ancestor's name and location, utilize Fold3 to determine military service. Typical service records unearthed in this system include enlistment records, muster rolls, casualty reports, award citations and pension applications.

But finding *your* soldier or sailor can be tricky, especially with a common last name. If you're lucky, you might come across an enlistment registration that notes their age, occupation, marital status or place of birth — defining details that can be compared with birth, marriage and census records to determine whether it is indeed your "John Smith." When examining pre- or post-war census records, keep in mind that many soldiers relocated following military service — a big geographic shift doesn't mean you're looking at separate people. Researching the unit to determine which towns or counties raised particular companies may also help rule out (or in!) particular candidates.

In addition to the records within Fold3, the unit histories contained in the National Park Service's Soldiers and Sailors System may prove helpful.

Even if you don't find records placing a direct ancestor in the ranks, you may find uncles who served — or perhaps a female relation who aided the wounded as a nurse. Once you gather enough evidence to say with certainty that the person you've identified in military records is your ancestor, you'll likely want to learn more about where they fought and the legendary figures they may have encountered.

These connections may be hard-won — or even impossible to nail down — but the research can take you on an unforgettable ride. Just think, the next time you receive a Trust battle map in the mail, you may very well see the name of a unit in which your now-found ancestor marched! That hallowed ground will carry new significance, even if you've traversed it several times before. ★





## RECENT PRESERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS

January — June 2024

### Bentonville, North Carolina

In March 1865, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman divided his force as he marched north into the Carolinas. Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston confronted an isolated wing of Sherman's army on March 19 and experienced early success until Union reinforcements arrived late in the day. On March 21, the Confederates attempted a final, desperate counterattack before retreating.

*The Trust acquired a 1.6 acre tract located at a key intersection associated with the final day of the Battle of Bentonville, the effort was made possible thanks to appropriated funds from the North Carolina 2023 General Assembly. The property was transferred to the State of North Carolina for incorporation into the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site. The Trust has now saved 2,067 acres at Bentonville.*

### Brandy Station, Virginia

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

*In May, the Trust acquired 95 pristine acres at Brandy Station that had been threatened by warehouse development thanks to funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Commonwealth of Virginia legislative funding. The tract has been transferred to the Commonwealth of Virginia as part of the new Culpeper Battlefields State Park. The Trust has now saved 2,157 acres in Brandy Station.*

### Chickasaw Bayou, Mississippi

Between December 26 and 29, 1862, Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman failed in his bid to compromise Vicksburg's Confederate defenses at Chickasaw Bayou. The outnumbered Confederates stood strong while Sherman's Federals suffered eight times as many losses. While the defeat subverted the Union's first attempt at capturing Vicksburg, the tide turned in July 1863.

*In February, the Trust acquired a four-acre tract at Chickasaw Bayou, site of the first major engagement of the Vicksburg Campaign. The preservation effort was made possible thanks to partners and grants including the American Battlefield Protection Program and the state of Mississippi Historic Site Preservation Fund. The Trust has now saved 25 acres at Chickasaw Bayou.*

### Corinth, Mississippi

After the September 19, 1862, Battle of Iuka, the Confederate



Trenches still intact  
White Oak Road Battlefield  
Dinwiddie County, Va.  
KRISTI A. GORDON

armies in the area moved toward Corinth, hoping to seize the city and then sweep into Middle Tennessee. Since the siege the previous spring, Union forces had erected various fortifications, which they manned upon the approach of the Confederates. The Southern attack was initially successful, pushing the Federals back to their inner defenses, but after a period of desperate hand-to-hand fighting, their gains were entirely reversed, leading to a general retreat.

*In spring, the Trust acquired two tracts totaling four acres associated with the battle with the help of funding from the State of Mississippi Historic Site Preservation Fund. The Trust has now saved 824 acres at Corinth.*

### Cold Harbor & Gaines' Mill, Virginia

On June 27, 1862, Gaines' Mill was the third in the Seven Days' Battles. Union Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan gave orders to hold off Gen. Robert E. Lee's Confederates long enough for the Army of the Potomac to begin heading south toward the James River. Outnumbered and eventually overwhelmed, Union troops retreated across the Chickahominy River, burning the bridges behind them. The Battle of Cold Harbor was fought over two weeks in the spring of 1864 as the culmination of the Overland Campaign across much of the same ground.

*In April, the Trust acquired a one-acre tract at Cold Harbor and Gaines' Mill in Virginia. The tract was witness to the Union VI Corps assault during the opening of Cold Harbor and was strategically used by Confederate forces at Gaines' Mill. The Trust has now saved 280 acres at Cold Harbor and 363 acres at Gaines' Mill.*

### Glendale, Virginia

Glendale, also known as Frayser's Farm, was the sixth of the Seven Days' Battles. On June 30, 1862, three Confederate divisions en-

countered Union forces near Glendale, just outside of Richmond. They penetrated Federal defenses near the Willis Church, routing a division, but Union counterattacks sealed the break and saved the line of retreat. Escaping from Glendale that night, Union forces established a strong defensive position on Malvern Hill for the final battle on July 1.

*Thanks to funding pending from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, the Trust acquired 12 acres at Glendale in April. The Trust has now saved 710 acres at Glendale.*

### Munfordville, Kentucky

The Battle of Munfordville took place in Hart County, Ky., between September 14 and 17, 1862. In late August 1862, Confederate forces commanded by Gen. Bragg marched north from Chattanooga toward a Union garrison alongside the Louisville-Nashville Railroad in Munfordville. While the first Confederate offensive on the Union fortification was derailed by miscommunications among Confederate officers, Gen. Bragg marched his troops over 25 miles to force what was ultimately a Union surrender.

*Supported by funding pending from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Trust acquired a two-acre tract in Munfordville. The Trust has now saved 137 acres at Munfordville.*

### Newtown, New York

The only major battle of the Sullivan Expedition, a campaign against the Iroquois Nation in western New York, the Battle of Newtown ended with an American victory. In response to Indian raids on American settlements, George Washington launched a campaign against the British-backed Iroquois, which culminated on Aug 29,

1779, at the Battle of Newtown, which left the Iroquois demoralized and eventually forced them to relocate.

*In June, the Trust acquired 50 acres at Newtown thanks to funding pending from the American Battlefield Protection Program and pending State of New York land acquisition funding. The property will eventually be transferred to the State of New York. The Trust has now saved 377 acres at Newtown.*

### Shepherdstown, West Virginia

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

*In January, the Trust helped secure a conservation easement on 149 acres at Shepherdstown thanks to funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board. The Trust has now saved 893 acres at Shepherdstown.*

### White Oak Road, Virginia

Intending to cut Lee's communications with Maj. Gen. George Pickett at Five Forks, Maj. Gen. Gouverneur Warren directed his corps against the Confederate entrenchments along White Oak Road on March 31, 1865. Victorious, Warren's forces set the stage for a Confederate defeat at Five Forks the next day.

*In the summer, the Trust acquired 12 acres at White Oak Road, where Union forces struck a decisive blow and set up the Confederate defeat at Five Forks. The property will eventually be transferred to the National Park Service for incorporation into the Petersburg National Battlefield. The Trust has now saved 963 acres at White Oak Road.*

# *The* BATTLE *of* MOOT

*Before news reached the states about the end of the War of 1812, one last naval and land battle was fought in New Orleans against the British Empire, catapulting a general into the political limelight.*

*by* HALEY SMITH



PHOTOGRAPH *by*  
ZACK SMITH

**T**HE TREATY OF GHENT was signed in Belgium on December 24, 1814, officially ending the War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain. But it took months for news of the diplomats' peaceful resolution to the conflict and the treaty's ratification to cross the Atlantic; word did not reach the American and British militaries until May 1815. And in the

interim, the British Royal Navy executed an assault on the port city of New Orleans.

Originally, the vision was to take Mobile, Ala., but Vice Admiral Alexander Cochrane convinced the admiralty that an attack on New Orleans would more effectively weaken the United States. Cutting off the mouth of the Mississippi and seizing the Crescent City some 95 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico would cause the American South and West to lose access to trade and necessary resources for survival. To ensure success, the British developed plans to simultaneously attack by sea and land. Cochrane dispatched Major Edward Nicolls's of the Royal Marines to recruit and train local Native American tribes from west Florida to the Mississippi Delta to fight on the King's behalf with the promise that their lands would be returned to them. In addition, the Royal Navy would blockade the port and transport 8,000 infantry troops to Louisiana.

Around September 5, American Acting Secretary of War James Monroe warned Major General Andrew Jackson, based in Mobile, of suspected British designs on New Orleans. A contingent of Royal Marines attacked Fort Boyer, across Mobile Bay, unsuccessfully on September 14, while the main body remained ensconced at Pensacola. Jackson, responding to American misfortunes to the north, including the burning of Washington, took the fight to West Florida in early November, taking the city with fewer than a dozen casualties.

Leaving a small garrison behind, Jackson took the bulk of his force to Louisiana. While the Americans were en route, the Royal Navy approached the

mouth of the Mississippi River. Cochrane ordered the HMS *Armie* and *Sophie* to sail near Bayou Bienvenue and look out for American ships. As the ships patrolled the area, they established rendezvous points for the future attack on New Orleans. When the vessels entered Lake Borgne, they met a squadron of five American gunboats, a dispatch boat and a tender — a ship providing supplies, communication and transportation to the other ships — led by Thomas Catesby Jones. Most of the American gunboats were each equipped with five guns and a crew of around 35 to 40 men.

Jones and his men had been warned of Cochrane's plan of attack, so when they first spotted the British fleet, he had some of his men scope it out. Recognizing the sheer number of men and ships, Jones moved his fleet to a shallow area of the lake for a more tactical position. Cochrane needed to defeat the flotilla of American gunboats to get his ground troops into New Orleans successfully. After evaluating the lake, it was determined that it was too shallow to send a ship of the line to pursue the American flotilla. Instead, Cochrane placed the commander of the *Sophie*, Nicholas Lockyer, in command of a fleet of British rowboats. Under Lockyer, 42 open boats and barges were equipped with carronades and 1,200 sailors and Royal Marines now heading toward Jones.

On December 12, Lockyer's men rowed through the night toward Lake Borgne, and it was not until late the following day that Jones's fleet was in range. Once the enemy was in sight, Lockyer divided the men and assigned them different targets, including the American sloop *Seahorse*. Lockyer sent three barges to the Bay of Saint Louis to capture or sink the *Seahorse*. Spotting the approaching British barges, the American sailors fired, using three six-pounders. After 40 minutes of fighting, the British retreated. Knowing they were at a disadvantage, the

*Seahorse's* captain blew up his ship to prevent the British from seizing it.

Due to harsh weather, Lockyer's boats and Jones's fleet were forced to stop their cat and mouse game for the evening. But the wind had settled by the following morning, and the British continued their advance toward Jones. His compromised position within the Rigolets of Louisiana meant the crew began preparing for the oncoming engagement. After 36 hours of rowing, at 10:00 a.m., 42 of Lockyer's heavily armed barges met Jones's squadron of five gunboats. One in range, two gunboats unsuccessfully fired down upon the enemy. Lockyer's barges were fast and small, making them a hard target for larger ships and giving the British the advantage. As the battle progressed, two barges were sunk due to failed attempts to seize Jones's ships. During the heat of the fight, a musket ball hit Jones's shoulder, forcing him to retire below deck. Command of the

# THE BATTLE

PROVED A SWIFT VICTORY FOR THE *United States*.  
 JACKSON AND HIS MEN UTILIZED EARTHWORKS AND VOLLEYS TO  
 DAMAGE THE *British line*.



American fleet fell into the hands of Lieutenant George Parker. By midday, Lockyer's men had successfully boarded and seized one of the gunboats and fired on the rest of Jones's fleet. Confused, the American fleet continued to fight, aiming at both the captured gunboat and the advancing barges. The British quickly overwhelmed the Americans, and the Americans surrendered at 12:40 p.m. on December 14.

The British lost 17 men, with 77 wounded. The American fleet suffered six deaths and 35 wounded. As Lockyer's men raided and seized the gunboats, the American sailors were questioned about the size of Jackson's incoming army. With a rough estimate of a couple thousand men heading toward New Orleans, Cochrane's fleet set sail toward the mouth of the Mississippi. With the removal of the American fleet, Admiral Cochrane sailed toward Pea Island with General Edward Pakenham and his men to lay siege to New Orleans. The British military established Pea Island as a meeting point for additional incoming troops. As the British continued to build their forces, Jackson received word of Jones's loss at the Battle of Lake Borgne. Without Jones's gunboats, surveillance of Cochrane and the British fleet was lost, leaving Jackson without vital information. Desperately, Jackson requested assistance from Master Commandant Daniel Patterson and militiamen from Kentucky to prevent the loss of New Orleans to the British.

Jackson and Patterson began collecting supplies to face the British on land and sea. After the Jones's loss, the American navy around New Orleans consisted of three ships, the USS *Louisiana*, the USS *Carolina* and a gunboat. Fortunately, Cochrane decided against sailing up the Mississippi River due to its extreme difficulty. By doing so, Cochrane yielded naval superiority to Patterson's small flotilla. As the number of British troops grew at Pea Island, Patterson and Master Commandant John Henley sailed the

*Carolina* down the Mississippi and fired upon a British unit. Surprised British troops ran for cover from the cannon fire, which was used to signal Jackson's troops to attack. Jackson and his men boldly met the enemy in a nighttime attack. Fighting ensued for several hours until Jackson and his men retreated into the night near Rodriguez Canal alongside the river. The Americans established a marine battery in preparation for retaliation by the British.

As Jackson's men prepared for the incoming assault from General Edward Pakenham's troops, the *Louisiana* and the *Carolina* continued to patrol the waterways in search of British encampments. On December 27, the *Carolina* sailed down the river, approaching a heavily armed British unit near Villere Plantation. Once spotted, the unit began firing using heated artillery, also known as hot shots, at the *Carolina*. Henley and his men were forced to abandon the ship, and moments later, *Carolina* exploded, killing one sailor and wounding six more. The sinking of the *Carolina* prompted Pakenham to begin marching his men toward New Orleans and the *Louisiana* to retire upriver out of artillery range. This left Jackson with no naval defense, although Commodore Patterson removed several cannons from the ship and placed them along the west bank of the river to protect the infantry.

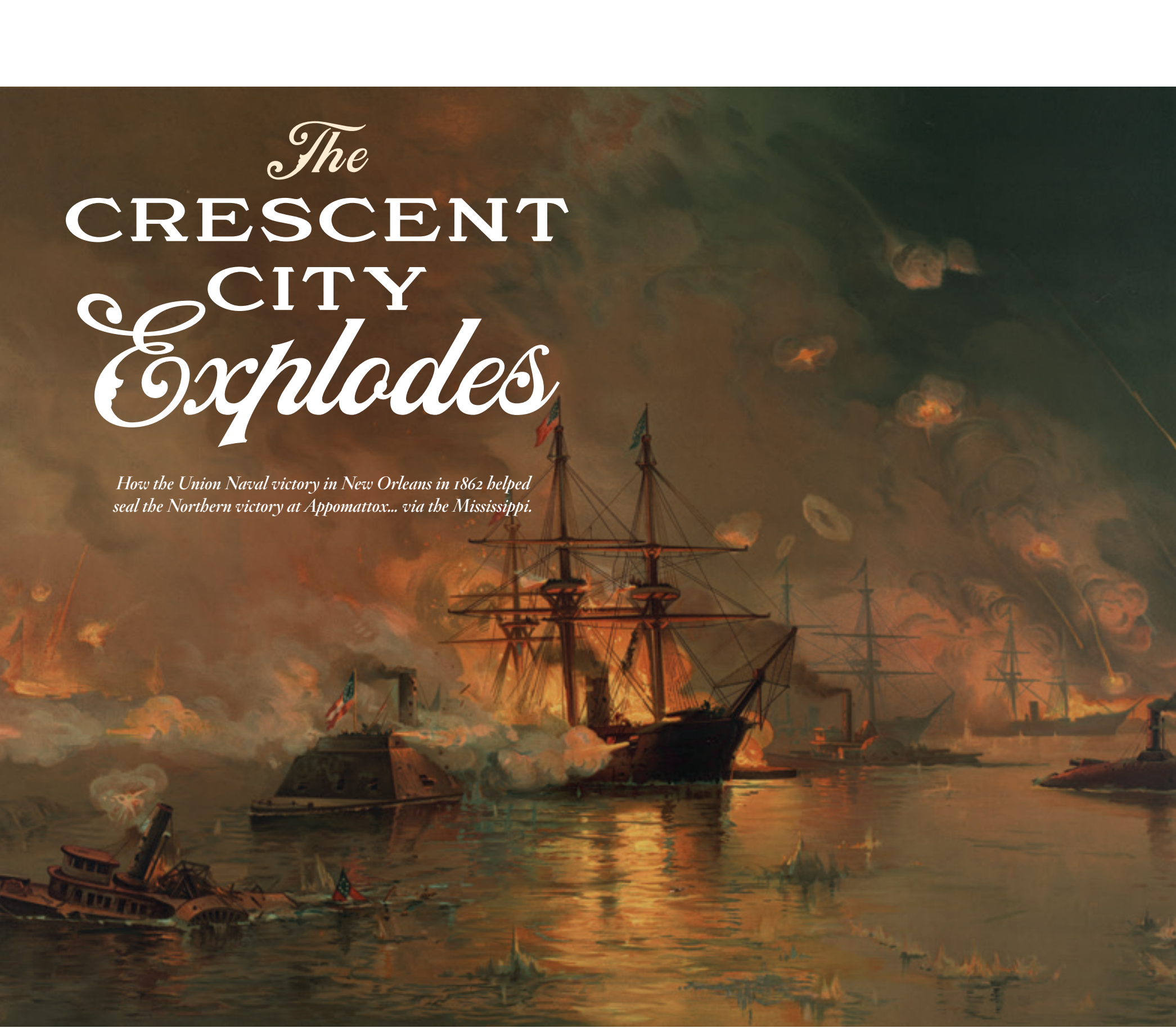
On the morning of January 8, General Pakenham's 8,000 men faced Andrew Jackson's 5,700 at Chalmette Plantation for the Battle of New Orleans. The battle proved a swift victory for the United States. Jackson and his men utilized earthworks and volleys to damage the British line. The Americans suffered 13 casualties, a minimal figure compared to the British loss of 291, which included General Edward Pakenham. The victory on January 8 aided Jackson's popularity and his presidential campaign in 1828. Yet the British did not leave *Louisiana* after the defeat at Chalmette Plantation; instead, the navy

remained for a week and made it a goal to destroy Fort St. Phillip. Fortunately for the United States, Jackson had strengthened the fort years prior by adding additional mortars and howitzers to its battery. After the battle, the crew of the remaining American gunboat and 400 regulars occupied the fort, anticipating a British attack. Cochrane and his fleet began firing on Fort St. Phillip to damage and distract Jackson, while safely retreating the British soldiers back to the ship to flee. Cochrane's bombardment caused enough damage to be taken as a viable threat but on January 18, the British officially left the mouth of the Mississippi and returned to Great Britain.

On February 14, 1815, news of the official ending of the war reached New Orleans. Although the battle occurred after the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, it played a significant role in the United States's victory during the War of 1812. The United States grew in popularity and dominated the high seas after back-to-back victories against the British Royal Navy. After the war, Daniel Patterson worked to restore the naval station in New Orleans. Promoted to captain, Patterson requested additional ships sent to the station for further protection of the port. Favoring swift shallow-draft vessels, the lightweight ships would prove beneficial due to the large number of lakes, streams and swamps located around the coastal city. As a gesture of gratitude for Patterson's service and prevention of the British invasion, Congress sent 24 ships to join the station. Despite the war ending, Patterson continued to serve in combat due to the upsurge in piracy and illegal trading within the port. New Orleans would continue to operate as a successful naval station until its closure in 1827, defending the United States from criminal activity and foreign enemies. ★

*Haley D. Smith earned her master's degree in military history from George Mason University, with research focused on the U.S. Navy.*





# *The* CRESCENT CITY *Explodes*

*How the Union Naval victory in New Orleans in 1862 helped seal the Northern victory at Appomattox... via the Mississippi.*

# IN

*The Night the War Was Lost*, historian Charles Dufour attempts to “pinpoint the place and the time in the West where the Union Navy won the crucial decision which ... pointed the way to Appomattox.” It was, as Dufour attested, “on the Mississippi River, below New Orleans, in the pre-dawn hours of April 24, 1862, when Flag Officer David G. Farragut with fourteen vessels ran past Forts Jackson and St. Philip to put the South’s great city at his mercy.”

Indeed, New Orleans was the South’s largest, most populated city at the outbreak of the Civil War. Its location at the mouth of the Mississippi River made it a vital hub for industry, manufacturing, shipping and commerce. In the spring of 1861, New Orleans ranked among the most important Confederate cities, second only to the Rebel capital of Richmond, Virginia. But from the general apathy of Richmond authorities in choosing and supporting an officer to protect the Crescent City, to the understanding of the city’s material value, war policy regarding the city was poorly coordinated. Most importantly, the Confederate strategy to defend New Orleans relied on an antiquated system of fortifications — brick-and-mortar sentinels — to guard the navigable approaches to the city. The capture of New Orleans highlighted a fatal flaw within the Confederacy’s war planning: the failure to understand the strategic, operational and tactical modes of warfare.

by JOSEPH D. RICCI

When Brig. Gen. Johnson K. Duncan reported to Maj. Gen. David E. Twiggs in May 1861, the task before them was immense. Twiggs was a decorated Mexican War soldier personally chosen by Confederate Attorney General Judah P. Benjamin to protect New Orleans. While an accomplished soldier in the past, Twiggs was then 71 years old, “enfeebled” and a shadow of his former self. Duncan, on the other hand, was a 32-year-old member of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point class of 1849. By 1855, frustrated by life in the peacetime army, he resigned and relocated to New Orleans to become a builder and architect, working alongside P.G.T. Beauregard to complete work on the U.S. Mint in New Orleans in 1859. When the war broke out, Duncan re-entered military service on behalf of the Confederacy and commanded the First Louisiana Artillery Regiment. In January 1862, he assumed command of the defenses of New Orleans along the southern approach to the city, which was guarded by Fort St. Philip — like Twiggs, a relic of a bygone era — and the newer Fort Jackson. The two soldiers could not have been more different, but they were united in objective: defend New Orleans.

While Twiggs set to work organizing the training of men and administering military affairs in the city, he also dealt with the Confederate War Department’s meddling. Constant demands for additional reinforcements in other theaters of the war drew well-trained regular army soldiers from the Crescent City to far-off fields in Kentucky, Virginia and even Florida. Thus challenged by the manpower crisis, Twiggs’s strengthening of the fortifications and fixed defenses of New Orleans fell by the wayside. Duncan’s dual forts — plus Fort Pike, which protected the Rigolets; Fort Proctor, which guarded the eastern approaches over Lake Borgne; Fort Livingston, which sat upon Grand Terre on the Gulf of Mexico; and Battery Bienvenue, positioned near Bayou Sauvage on Lake Borgne — were all that stood in the way of a naval threat to the city.

During the War of 1812, the legendary

British Admiral Horatio Nelson's adage, "a ship's a fool to fight a fort," still held true; brick-and-mortar forts were typically able to keep wooden sailing vessels at bay. But in the 1860s, the advent of steam-powered navigation had largely rendered even the most modern masonry fortress obsolete. Thus, perhaps unsurprisingly, Twiggs lacked the energy and alacrity to manage every aspect of his assignment. Faced with complications from his advanced age, he resigned and was replaced by Maj. Gen. Mansfield Lovell in October 1861.

While the Confederates fumbled over command, Federal war planners devised a strategy to seize New Orleans and reclaim the mouth of the Mississippi River. The plan, approved by President Abraham Lincoln, required Flag Officer David G. Farragut's Gulf Blockading Squadron to set course for the Mississippi River and maneuver past Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip to seize the city. Meanwhile, in New Orleans, Lovell attempted to address concerns about the city's preparedness for war. Lovell and Duncan coordinated a plan to install a chain to extend across the Mississippi River between Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip that, in theory, was intended to block the waterway to northbound vessels.

It was far too little, far too late. In March 1862, Lovell wrote to Maj. Gen. Samuel Jones in Mobile, Alabama, his desperation evident: "Time is passing rapidly. More than a dozen ships of war are at the mouth of the river.... What is Mobile worth with the Mississippi in the hands of the enemy?" He was met with yet more orders to dispatch troops away from the city to reinforce Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard. Clearly exasperated, Lovell wrote to the *Creole*, "People send here for everything, and I have stripped the department, but never get anything in return that I ask for." Despite all his setbacks and worry, Lovell believed that the defenders of Forts Jackson and St. Philip were up to the task of protecting the city, and he notified Richmond of his confidence.

By April 10, some 40 Federal naval vessels crossed the sandbar at the mouth of the river and weighed anchor 80 miles south of New Orleans. In the city, arrangements were underway for the warship, *CSS Louisiana*, to be sent down to Fort Jackson and used as a floating battery. The Confederate naval efforts in the defense of New Orleans, as demonstrated by the sacrifice

of the *Louisiana* as a gun platform, were makeshift at best. A failure to communicate within the Rebel navy left the gunboats *Manassas*, *McRae*, *Louisiana* and *Jackson*, as well as the steamers *Governor Moore* and *General Quitman* to suffer a gripping command paralysis. The vessels fell to the command of Capt. John K. Mitchell, while the River Defense Fleet — made up of the gunboats *Warrior*, *Stonewall Jackson*, *Resolute*, *R.J. Breckinridge*, *Defiance* and *General Lovell* — fell to the command of Capt. John A. Stevenson. Mitchell and Stevenson disagreed as to who should have overall command and this only furthered Duncan's growing im-



the fire rafts were lit, and the river between the forts was cloaked in darkness. The *USS Cayuga* came into range and was detected by the garrison at St. Philip. Cannon blasts soon illuminated the sky, and the naval fleet was silhouetted against the flashing, fiery backdrop. All of Duncan and Lovell's pained preparation over the preceding months had been in vain. Farragut's squadron punched through the Confederate defenses and ran the guns of the forts. By daybreak on April 25, all but four of his vessels had cleared the gauntlet and continued toward the city. With only scarce defenses left in their path, the fall of Confederate New Orleans was certain.

## AT EVERY LEVEL, CONFEDERATE LEADERSHIP FAILED TO UNDERSTAND AND MEET THE DEMANDS OF DEFENDING THE CITY OF *New Orleans*.

patience. Frustrated with Mitchell, Duncan appealed to Lovell, but met resistance from Commandant William Whittle. In a last bid to strengthen the defenses at the forts, Duncan messaged Mitchell directly and informed him of the urgency. The Federal fleet, as he well knew, could strike at any moment. Finally, Mitchell allowed the *Louisiana* to be towed into position.

Fire rafts burned on the river illuminating the viewshed between Forts Jackson and St. Philip for days leading up to April 24, 1862. Just after 3:30 a.m., using the cover of darkness, Farragut's *USS Hartford* led the way for 17 warships to steam north toward New Orleans. After a concentrated mortar bombardment commanded by Farragut's foster brother, Cmdr. David Porter, in the days preceding the attack, the moment had finally come. Oddly, none of

If Twiggs had moved slowly in preparing the city for war, Lovell made haste to evacuate whatever meager troops he had left at his disposal. After a massive struggle to tow the unfinished *CSS Mississippi*, crews set her ablaze and sent the burning hulk down river. Somewhere south of the city, the ship that "could have raised the blockade of every port in the south" sank to her murky, abrupt end. By 2:00 p.m., Farragut's fleet anchored in New Orleans. The city, however, was not ready to surrender. When the demand came, Lovell refused. Then, after he delivered a speech to the citizens of New Orleans, Lovell and his staff rode to the Jackson Railroad and boarded the last train to Camp Moore in Tangipahoa, Louisiana, where he had sent the rest of his garrison.

Further south, despite having failed to



hold back the Federal navy, the garrisons of the forts stood firm, but under growing duress. On April 27, Duncan addressed the "soldiers of Forts Jackson and St. Philip" saying:

You have nobly, gallantly, and heroically sustained with courage and fortitude the terrible ordeals of fire, water, and a hail of shot and shell wholly unsurpassed during the present war. But more remains to be done. The safety

of New Orleans and the cause of the Southern Confederacy, our homes, families, and everything dear to man yet depend upon our exertions. We are just as capable of repelling the enemy today as we were before the bombardment. Twice the enemy has demanded your surrender and twice has he been refused. Your officers have every confidence in your courage and patriotism, and feel every assurance

that you will cheerfully and with alacrity obey all orders and do your whole duty as men and as becomes the well-tried garrisons of Fort Jackson and Saint Philip. Be vigilant, therefore, and stand by your guns, and all will yet be well.

But all was not well. Duncan's rousing speech "failed of the desired effect" and by midnight, the garrison at Fort Jackson broke into mutiny. As morning came on April 28, Duncan surrendered to Porter.

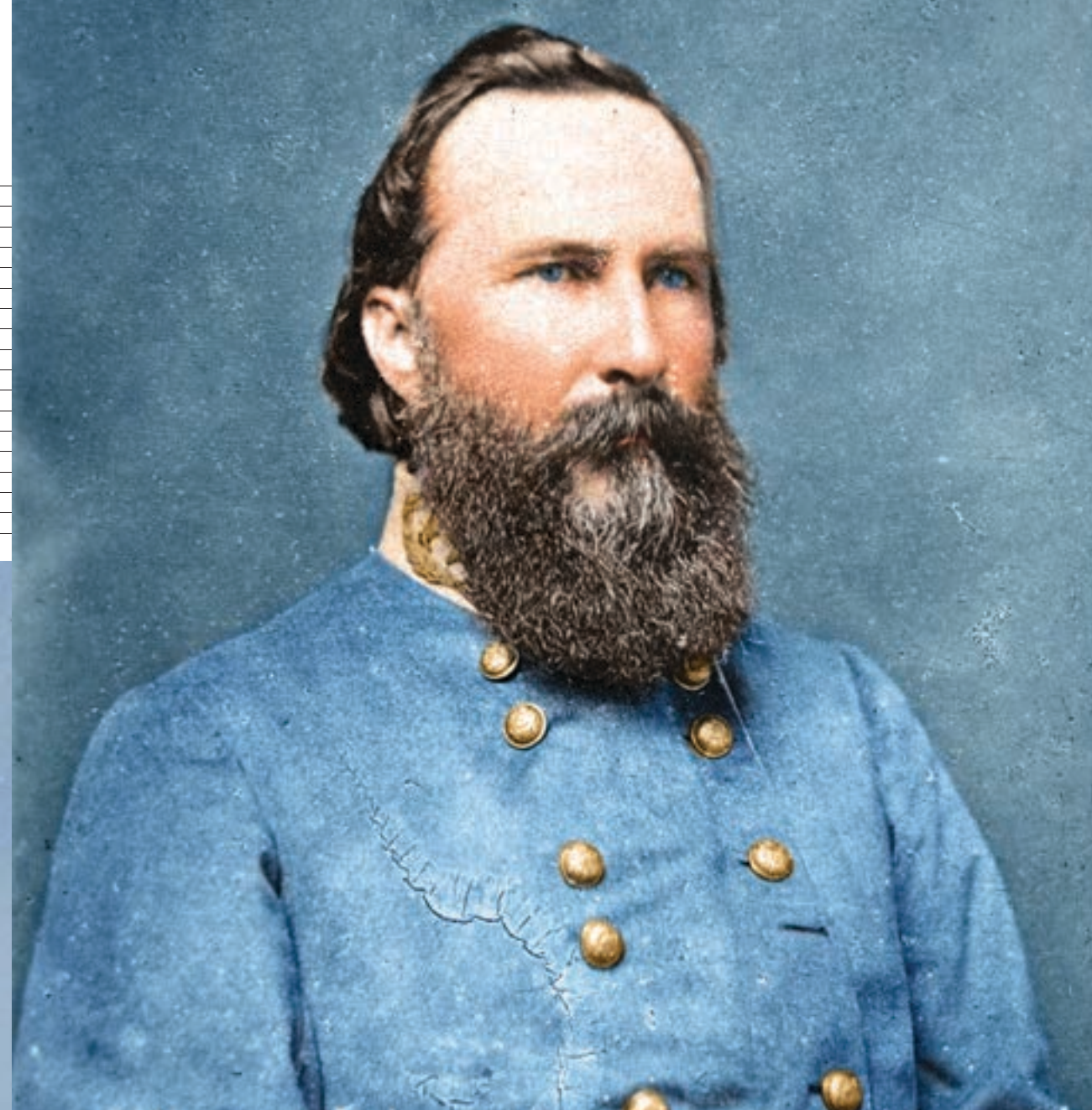
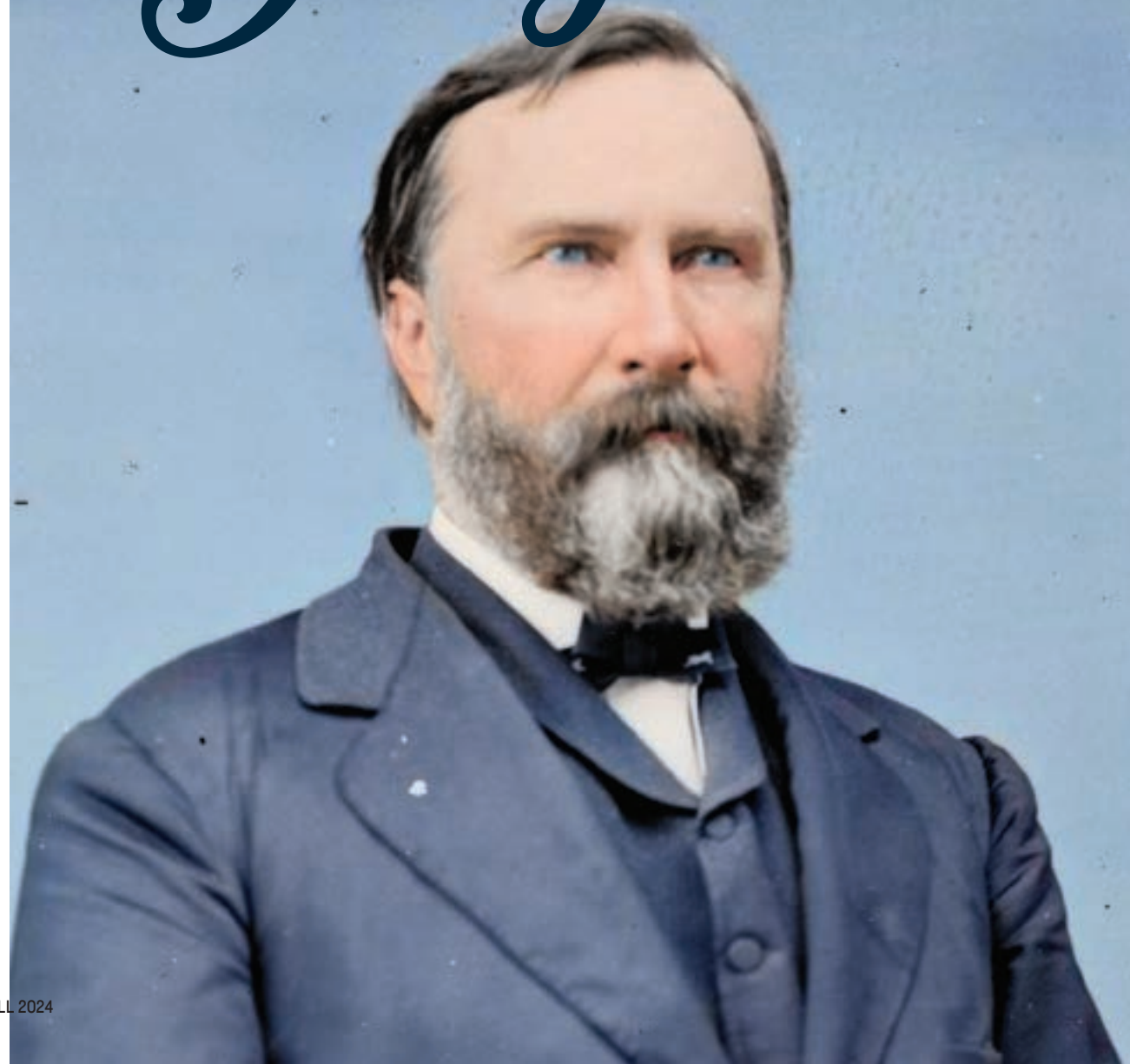
In New Orleans, Farragut was becoming impatient and threatened to bombard the city into submission. On April 29, after days of blustering, New Orleans Mayor John T. Monroe watched as Farragut, his officers and a detachment of U.S. Marines hoisted the American flag over the Customs House. The Crescent City was back in Federal hands.

Detailing the larger impact of the capture of New Orleans, historian Allan Nevins concluded that, "Confederate leaders had made a tardy, ill-coordinated effort to muster at the river barrier ... the Southerners had been hampered by poverty, disorganization, lack of skilled engineers and craftsmen, friction between State authorities and Richmond, and want of foresight." At every level, Confederate leadership failed to understand and meet the demands of defending the city of New Orleans. With the Confederacy's largest, most important city and the mouth of the Mississippi River in Federal hands, the experiment in rebellion was living on borrowed time.

Today, the city's Civil War fortifications sit in disrepair. These long neglected silent sentinels have been left to nature. With each passing day, the tides sweep over the last remnants of the forlorn defense of New Orleans.★

*New Orleans native Joseph D. Ricci holds a master's degree in history from Southeastern Louisiana University. He is a historian with the Battle of Franklin Trust and host of their podcast, The Dispatch, as well as Home Brew History Podcast.*

# The Pen is Mightier



## THAN *the* SWORD

*The former Confederate general's 1867 musings to southern newspapers transformed his post-war years and helped change his status from hero to persona non grata.*

By ELIZABETH VARON

The following is an excerpt from the inaugural winner of the American Battlefield Trust's Prize for History:  
*Longstreet: The Confederate General Who Defied the South* by Elizabeth Varon

# After

the Civil War, former Confederate Gen. James Longstreet and his family moved to New Orleans, where Longstreet formed a cotton-brokerage partnership and became president of the Southern and Western Life and Accident Insurance Company. According to many he would always be considered, “Rebel Number 3.” But his actions in New Orleans would soon make him an outcast in the South.

Longstreet was widely “loved and venerated” by whites in New Orleans, both as a “famous warrior” and one of the city’s “most influential merchants,” as the local press put it. Nothing he had said or done in his life had prepared the public for what came next.

In March, April, and June 1867 Longstreet published four letters expressing his support for the newly announced program of congressional Reconstruction. Congress’s Reconstruction Acts were a dramatic turning point in the nation’s history; they were also a crossroads for Longstreet, who in the spring of 1867 very consciously chose a different path than most former Confederates.

Longstreet’s letters changed the course of his life forever...

His new course was charted in March 1867 when a prominent New Orleans Democratic newspaper, the *Times*, solicited the view of the city’s leading citizens on the dominant question in Southern politics: Should former rebels comply

with Congress’s new Reconstruction program, or should they resist it? On March 18, Longstreet wrote to the *New Orleans Times* the following: “There can be no discredit to a conquered people for accepting the conditions offered by their conquerors. Nor is there any occasion for a feeling of humiliation. We have made an honest, and I hope that I may say, a creditable fight, but we have lost. Let us come forward, then, and accept the ends involved in the struggle. Let us accept the terms, as we are in

## THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

duty bound to do.”

Longstreet developed this theme in a second letter to the *New Orleans Times*, on April 6. Again he spoke of the need to accept defeat, only this time he enumerated what exactly he felt Confederates had staked in the war and lost: “The surrender of the Confederates armies in 1865 involved,

1. The surrender of the claim to the right of secession.
  2. The surrender of the former political relations of the negro.
  3. The surrender of the Southern Confederacy.”
- The South’s duty, as he put it, was to “speed the work of reconstruction and put our people [in a] condition to make their own laws.” He acknowledged the prevailing Southern opinion that “we cannot do wrong, and that Northerners cannot do right.” But he urged that “each



should extend charity if they expect it in return.”

Among former Confederates, reactions to Longstreet’s initial letters were muted; his sterling military reputation gave him the benefit of the doubt. As the *Richmond Dispatch* put it, military commanders were “presumed to be men of chivalry and honor” and “practical in all cases.” Longstreet, it seemed, was simply advising the South to face reality: it no longer had the power to fight and so must “frankly and manfully” conform to the law. Longstreet’s letters were interpreted as a plea that Southerners assert themselves in Reconstruction politics in order to “make the best of a bad bargain,” as none other than Confederate naval hero Raphael Semmes stated in an op-ed entitled “Longstreet’s Epistles.” This early press coverage often aligned Longstreet with others, such as Robert E. Lee and P. G. T. Beauregard, each of whom urged Southerners to be law-abiding and to rebuild their political

influence within the Union.

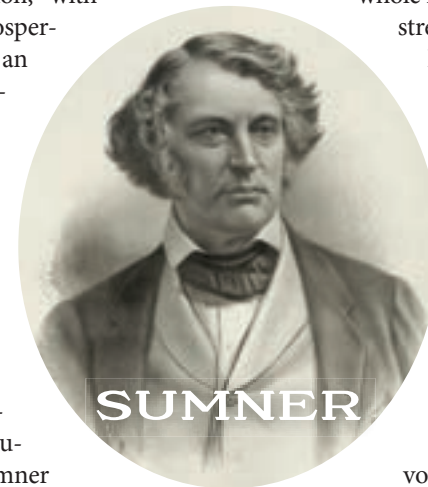
Even newspapers that were critical of Longstreet’s early letters refrained from writing him off altogether. Pronouncing his first letter to the *Times* a “curiosity,” the *Augusta Constitutionalist* stipulated that because of his wartime “deeds of valor,” Longstreet deserved a “respectful hearing.” The paper then chided him for knowing “little of politics or statesmanship” and went on to declare that the South should not sacrifice its principles by accepting the “degrading” terms of the Reconstruction Acts. Longstreet’s letter was “unfortunate,” it concluded, and might in time “prove pernicious.” The *Memphis Public Ledger* took a similar tack, reminding Longstreet that Congress’s plan was “punitive and mandatory,” and scolding that his letters filled the minds of his admirers with “regret” (at his having gone public with his unorthodox views).

Regret soon turned to rage. On June 3, 1867, Longstreet wrote a third letter, which appeared in the *New Orleans Times* and was reprinted with extensive commentary across the country. This letter was

## LONGSTREET’S LETTERS WERE INTERPRETED AS A PLEA THAT SOUTHERNERS ASSERT THEMSELVES IN POLITICS IN ORDER TO “MAKE THE BEST OF A BAD BARGAIN.”

addressed to a former Union soldier and staunch New Orleans Republican named John M. G. Parker, the brother-in-law of Union general Benjamin Butler. Parker was one of a number of Republicans who made overtures to Longstreet in the spring of 1867, reflecting their sense that he had already begun to distance himself from his fellow Confederates and was receptive to new ideas. Parker invited him to attend a Republican rally in May that was to feature a speech from Massachusetts senator and abolitionist Henry Wilson.

Longstreet accepted the invitation and was hailed at the ensuing rally with acclaim and applause. His June 3 letter began by saying that he was “agreeably surprised to meet such fairness and frankness in a politician [Wilson] whom I have been taught to believe uncompromisingly opposed to the white people of the South.” Longstreet again professed to offer a “practical” approach to Reconstruction, with the aim of peace and prosperity. But then he made an altogether arresting rhetorical pivot: “It matters not whether I bear the mantle of Mr. Davis or the mantle of Mr. Sumner, so [long as] I may help to bring the glory of ‘peace and good-will toward men.’” This was highly provocative, as the Radical Republican Massachusetts senator Charles Sumner



was heartily loathed by Confederates.

The letter would get more provocative still. Longstreet offered the “self-evident” proposition that “the highest of human laws is the law that is established by appeal to arms,” and he then deduced that since the “sword has decided in favor of the



North,” Northern principles had become the law. It was the duty of the defeated South, he insisted, to “abandon ideas that are obsolete.” Among the things he classed as obsolete was the Democratic Party itself, which was nothing more, he said, than a vehicle for old “prejudice.” Sounding a whole lot like a Republican, Longstreet described Congress’s Reconstruction Acts as “peace offerings” that the South should accept as starting points “from which to meet future political issues.” Moreover, he addressed directly the issue of race relations, casting Black suffrage in the South as a fait accompli and arguing that the experiment of Black voting should be extended to

the North and “fully tested.”

On June 7 Longstreet submitted a fourth letter as a coda to his June 3 offering. He reiterated his claim that the “war was made upon Republican issues . . . [and] that the settlement should be made accordingly.” The “object of politics,” Longstreet

observed, “is to relieve the distress of the people and to provide for their future comfort.” In his view, Republicans shared his desire for peaceful reunion, while recalcitrant Southern Democrats, determined to wage ideological war on the North and to resist change with violence, did not. Peaceful reunion was only possible, he reckoned, if those white Southerners willing to concede defeat stepped forward to assume some of the burdens of leadership.

Longstreet’s June letters ignited a political firestorm....★

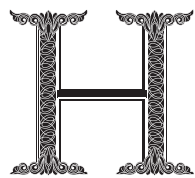
*Elizabeth R. Varon is the Langbourne M. Williams Professor of American History at the University of Virginia and served as the Harold Vyvyan Harmsworth Professor of American History at the University of Oxford for the 2023-24 academic year. Previous acclaimed works include Armies of Deliverance: A New History of the Civil War.*

*In her remarks accepting the inaugural prize at our recent Grand Review in Raleigh, N.C., Varon noted: “When we invest in battlefield preservation we are investing not only in saving landscapes but also in promoting education, and preserving certain habits of mind — the careful, patient, rigorous study of evidence, both material and literary; the appreciation of expertise, both professional and amateur; and the realization that no matter how useful and constructive our various new technologies can be, there is no substitute for seeing and experiencing a landscape with your own eyes.”*



## CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL HALL

Home to one of the largest collections of Civil War memorabilia in the world



HISTORY, and military history in particular, should not be relegated to simple facts and figures. At the Confederate Memorial Hall Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana, history is certainly more than that.

Home to “one of the largest collections of Civil War Memorabilia in existence” — in fact, the second largest in the world — the museum’s vast collection boasts rare Louisiana-made swords and guns as well as personal ephemera from the likes of Robert E. Lee, Braxton Bragg, P.G.T. Beauregard and President Jefferson Davis.

Founded in 1891, the museum first began simply as a small alcove in Howard Library (now Patrick Taylor) carved out as a space where Confederate soldiers could come and donate their war relics.

Yet as the repository kept growing, so too did the desire for more space to honor the sacrifice of Confederate soldiers. Local philanthropist Frank T. Howard, whose New York-born father fought for the Confederacy, donated the means, and Memorial Hall, known as the “Howard Annex” came to be.

Today, the museum boasts an in-depth archive and is home to a plethora of artifacts and personal items from Civil War soldiers. Of particular note are the relics from Jefferson Davis’s life and his time in Confederate office, including his horse saddle, the family bible, the family’s baby crib and many other personal items.

Upon his death in 1899, Davis lay in state within the museum’s walls — with more than 60,000 mourners passing through its doors to pay their final respects.

That same year, Davis’s widow, Varina, shipped 21 cases of memorabilia to the museum, with a note enclosed, stating:

“The pressure brought upon me by Montgomery and Richmond and others places for relics is very great, but my heart is in New Orleans Memorial Hall. There I owe [my] most affectionate gratitude and there I send my most precious relics.”

The museum is home to more than well-known Confederates, however. Artifacts that tell the tale of the ordinary soldier’s extraordinary war are woven throughout its exhibits.

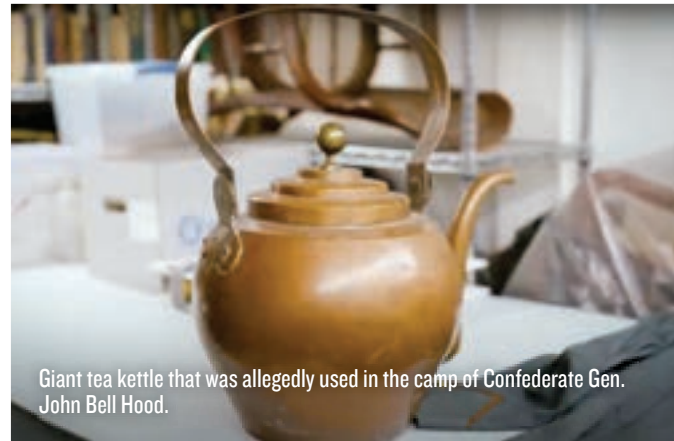
The Chickering Piano, taken into the trenches near Jackson, Mississippi by members of the Washington Artillery, was used as a means of boosting morale. Years later, according to the museum, “the same soldier, who was playing the piano in the trenches, resumed his position at the keyboard and finished a musical piece that was interrupted by combat many years before.”

The artifacts that make up the museum aid in telling the thousands of war stories that make up the very fabric of our nation’s complicated past.

History is not simple facts and figures. The Confederate Memorial Hall Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana, proves that. ★



Frock coat, epaulettes and other military items belonging to Confederate Gen. Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard.



Giant tea kettle that was allegedly used in the camp of Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood.



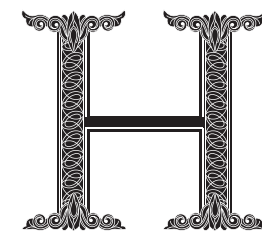
Flag of secession that flew over New Orleans on January 26, 1861, when Louisiana seceded from the Union.



Plate from a tea set belonging to Winnie Davis, daughter of Jefferson Davis.

## CAPTURING THE STORIES

Evolving work of the National World War II Museum



HOW DID A CITY more synonymous with the War of 1812 and the Civil War come to be home to the extraordinary National World War II Museum? Higgins Industries, which designed, built and tested the eponymous amphibious landing craft vital to Allied success in Normandy, was a New Orleans shipbuilder. Spearheaded by longtime University of New Orleans history professor Stephen Ambrose, whose *Band of Brothers* and *D-Day* inspired both public interest and acclaimed film and television productions, the National D-Day Museum was dedicated on June 6, 2000. Four years later, Congress designated it the nation’s official museum for the entire war, supporting subsequent expansions in its subject matter and collections.

The facility faces difficult questions: How does a nation remember a war that was not just a war, but total war? A war that contained technological advancements that aimed to not only kill on a mass level but save on one, too. A war that contained ideological, religious and political clashes. One that marshalled more than 100 million men and women, civilian and soldier, into combat? One that affected almost every corner of the Earth and whose omnipresent shadow still lurks around the corner?

In no small part, the museum safeguards the memories of those who were there. Since its creation, they have been on a mission to capture the oral histories of every surviving veteran of World War II and highlight the service of the men and women of the Greatest Generation. As we mark the 80th anniversary of the events concerned, this takes on increased significance: Today, fewer than 120,000 veterans of World War II are still alive — less than one percent of the 16.4 million Americans who served.

“Preserving the stories of the men and women who served in World War II has been at the heart of our institution since its founding,” said museum President and CEO Stephen J. Watson. “We have the enormous responsibility to ensure that the memories and experiences of the war will not be lost as those who lived through it leave this world. It is our hope that this museum, built in honor of the WWII generation, will allow visitors to



Second from the right, Elizabeth “Lee” Miller was just one of the few female photographers accredited as official war correspondents. Here she sits alongside fellow female war correspondents — a small “band of sisters.”

connect with history and the people who sacrificed so much during World War II for years to come.”

As the era moves from “living memory,” this work will be all the more important. The war’s many aspects must be told comprehensively and accurately and with compelling connections to our modern lives. That’s why the National World War II Museum integrates narratives based in the air, on land and on sea, as well as delivering an experience across multiple media: immersive galleries covering the Pacific, Europe and the home front, a 4-D multimedia experience narrated by Tom Hanks and numerous podcasts to enjoy as preparation for or follow-up to your visit.

In profiling stories across a spectrum of war experience, the museum is uniquely positioned to bring the oft-forgotten to light.

For example, the Women at War section, features the complicated life of prolific World War II photographer Elizabeth “Lee” Miller.

By 1939, Miller had been many things: a model for *Vogue* and *Harper’s Bazaar*, Pablo Picasso’s muse and a journalist. Known for her numerous romantic liaisons with European elite, as war broke out on the European continent, Miller, located in London at the time, found new purpose and passion.

Just one of four female photographers accredited as official war correspondents with the U.S. armed forces in 1944, Miller was the first and only wartime photographer to record the first Allied use of napalm at St. Malo, France, and provided witness to the horrors of the Holocaust. Her photographs of the liberation of Dachau were widely spread by the Allies as evidence of Nazi crimes.

In her report back to *Vogue*, after witnessing the abject savagery of the Final Solution, Miller simply wrote “Believe it” — which became the subsequent title of her work featured in *American Vogue*.

After the war, Miller receded somewhat from the spotlight, unable to reckon with what she had seen and done during the war. It was only after her death in 1977 that her son, Antony Penrose, discovered Miller’s work — hidden upstairs in the family attic.

If you think Miller’s story is the stuff that gripping cinema is made of, you aren’t alone. Her story will come to life this fall, with Oscar winner Kate Winslet slated to portray Miller in the upcoming film *Lee*, with Alexander Skarsgård co-starring as Roland Penrose, an English Surrealist painter, photographer and poet, and Lee’s paramour.

As with even the best period film, historians will likely find things to quibble with in the production. But it should spark the imagination of new audiences and, hopefully, inspire a subset to explore beyond the Hollywood glamour at the National World War II Museum and other quality institutions that keep such stories alive. ★





## HOSTILE, BITTER, DEFIANT AND EXPLOSIVE

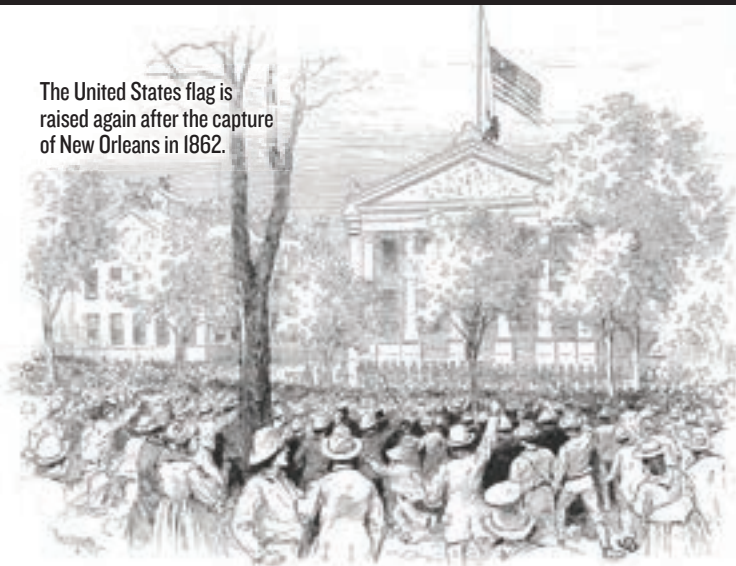
*Inside occupied New Orleans*

**T**HE UNION ARMY'S capture of the profitable port city of New Orleans was an incredible victory. The Big Easy was the largest city in the Confederacy and served as a major hub of trade in material and human goods. Its strategic location on the mouth of the Mississippi River meant that control of the city opened a path for Federal troops to venture deep into the seceded states. However, New Orleans's residents did not readily accept their occupation.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin "Beast" Butler ruled the city with an iron fist, closing churches and newspapers that retained Confederate sympathies to impose strict censorship. The Crescent City made its displeasure known. Women spit at and jeered Union soldiers, prompting the controversial "Woman Order." Also known as General Order No. 28, it declared that "any women who insulted or showed contempt for any Federal officer or soldier would be regarded and treated as a common prostitute." While the new law did help quell outward hostilities, Butler was widely criticized; Confederate President Jefferson Davis issued a call for his execution should he be captured, and French and British newspapers condemned the order.

Union occupation resulted in the closure of the ports across the city, leading to mass unemployment. Thousands suffered in poverty without jobs or food to eat. To help alleviate this, Butler helped establish the first welfare programs by issuing General Order No. 25, which taxed individuals and businesses that contributed to the Confederate government. He coupled Order 25 with General Order No. 55, which put 11,000 families on welfare. Overall, the military government employed 2,000 men at \$.50 a day to help clean up the city, and Butler instituted a garbage disposal system. The blockade also

The United States flag is raised again after the capture of New Orleans in 1862.

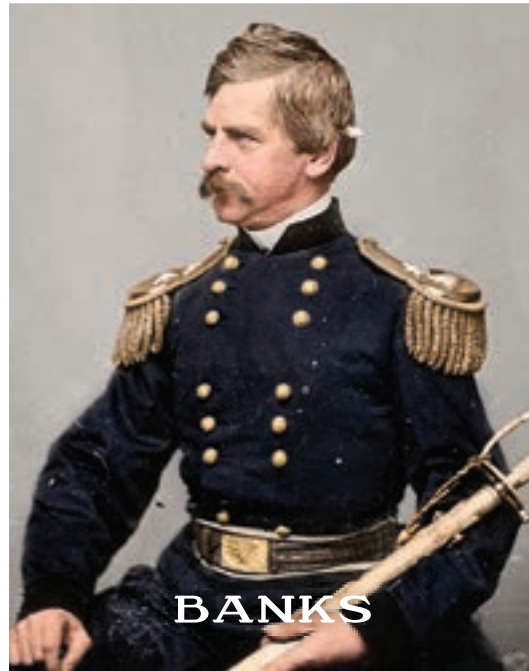


created a quarantine that prevented the spread of deadly yellow fever.

Even in the 1860s, New Orleans was a melting pot of diverse backgrounds and beliefs. Although the city had many dedicated Confederate sympathizers, it was also full of immigrants who resented both enslavers and the enslaved for depleting job opportunities. Butler seized this opportunity to raise two white infantry and cavalry regiments and three regiments of free Black and formerly enslaved men. The Free State movement also gained traction under Butler's rule. Spearheaded by New Orleans Unionists, Free Staters pushed for Louisiana to re-enter the Union.

However, the federal government removed Butler from his role and replaced him with Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks in December 1862 after Butler's actions invoked outrage on the national and international stage. Banks quickly reversed several of Butler's orders, including reopening churches previously closed to Confederate sympathies, freeing political prisoners and returning sequestered property. He also halted the Free State movement, dashing hopes that Louisiana would return to the Union.

The fall of Vicksburg in 1863 helped restore part of New Orleans's economy by giving the Union army full control of the Mississippi River. However, the city never forgot (or forgave) Butler's occupation, as troops remained in the city throughout Reconstruction. That said, although life for New Orleans residents was not easy during its occupation, the Union's presence saved much of the city from mass destruction, and the city was quickly able to bounce back to its pre-war economy and status after the Confederate surrender at Appomattox.★

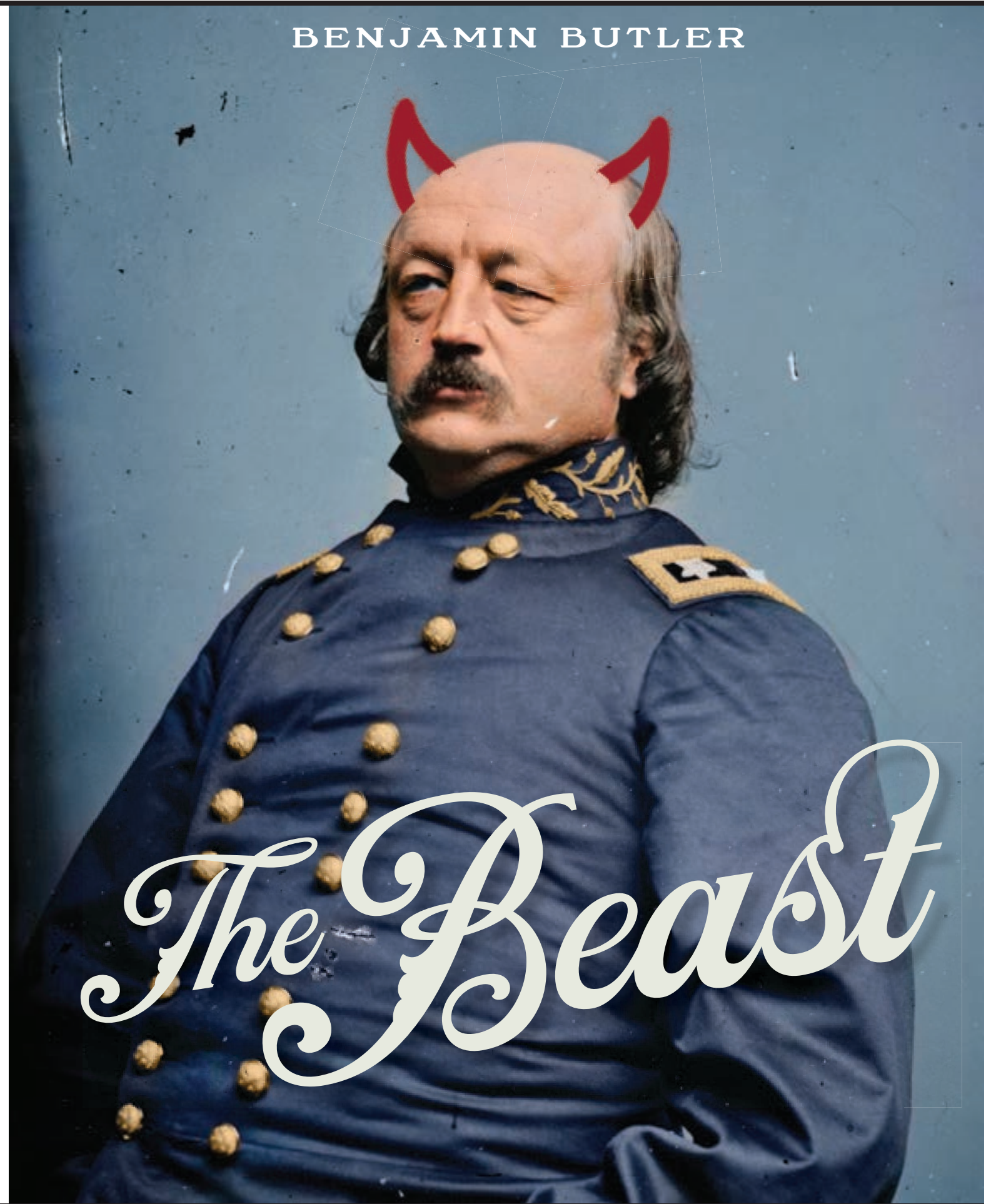


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U.S. Colored Troops at Port Hudson.



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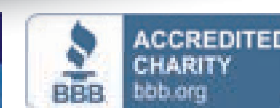
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As a member of the DAR, you can continue this legacy by actively promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education for children.

Preserving the American Spirit  
[www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)  
 (202) 879-3224

**Who is eligible for membership?**

Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. DAR volunteers are willing to provide guidance and assistance with your first step into the world of genealogy.

**How is Patriot defined?**

DAR recognizes as Patriots not only soldiers, but also anyone who contributed to the cause of American freedom. To find out if your ancestor is recognized by the DAR as a Revolutionary Patriot, use the request form available online. Visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org) and click on "Membership."

**How many members does the National Society have?**

DAR has nearly 190,000 members in nearly 3,000 chapters worldwide, including chapters in 14 foreign countries and one territory. Since its founding in 1890, DAR has admitted more than 1 million members.

**How can I find out more?**

Go to [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org) and click on "Membership." There you'll find helpful instructions, advice on finding your lineage and a Prospective Member Information Request Form. Or call (202) 879-3224 for more information on joining this vital, service-minded organization.

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The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR or SAR) was founded in 1889. SAR is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and promoting education for our future generations. SAR members volunteer untold hours of service each year in their local communities. SAR is very active in assisting veterans. We proudly assist teachers with living history interpreters, lesson planning materials, and reenactment events for school-aged youth to attend.

- ★Remembering Our Past...By honoring those who served or assisted the efforts for Independence during the Revolutionary War.
- ★Promoting Core Values...By inspiring communities and institutions with more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers.
- ★Shaping Future Generations...By educating our youth about the founding of our nation and American ideals and traditions.

Having an ancestral connection to our nation's revolutionary era, the SAR is a collegial organization whose mission is to further the founding ideals. As a hereditary society, our members are connected through a shared sense of honor, privilege, and responsibility to perpetuate the "cause" of the founders to create an independent nation of free people.



Join the SAR | SAR.org



## A PARTING SHOT HERITAGE SITES

### JEAN LAFITTE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND PRESERVE



DEAN BERNARD

**N**AMED AFTER the swashbuckling pirate and hero of the Battle of New Orleans, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve is home to six historical sites that highlight the diverse wildlife of the bayou, tell the story of Cajun culture and honor

the soldiers of the War of 1812. Scattered outside New Orleans, the park offers many activities for visitors, including boat tours of Bayou Lafourche, musical performances and living history programs.

British and American troops clashed at the Battle of New Orleans on Chalmette Battlefield, one of the six sites at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park. A resounding American success, this was the last large-scale battle of the War of 1812. On January 8, 1815, General Andrew Jackson led his outnumbered and hastily assembled troops to victory, cementing the idea that American democracy was here to stay. The United States, so proud of its triumph, treated January 8 as a national holiday — much like the Fourth of July today.

Located on the Chalmette Battlefield, the national cemetery

is one of the oldest resting places in New Orleans — established by the U.S. government in 1864 to bury Union troops who died during the Civil War. The cemetery has since expanded, and there are now over 14,000 headstones marking the graves of veterans from the War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War, both World Wars, Korean War and Vietnam War.

Today, visitors can learn more about the famous battle through a series of programs and self-guided tours of the grounds. One way to get a bird's eye view of the grounds is to climb the 100-foot-tall Chalmette Monument. Citizens laid the cornerstone for the monument in 1840, on the 25th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, but construction stalled during the Civil War, and it wasn't completed until 1908. ★

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve  
419 Decatur Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
504 589-3882  
[www.nps.gov/jela](http://www.nps.gov/jela)



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