

WINTER 2023 ★ Vol. 24 No. 4

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

# HALLOWED GROUND

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IN THE HARBORS

**HALLOWED GROUND**  
A quarterly publication  
of the American  
Battlefield Trust  
Winter 2023  
Vol. 24, No. 4  
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1156 15th Street, NW Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: 800-298-7878  
info@battlefields.org  
  
PO Box 1751  
Merrifield, Va. 22116-1751

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A Parting Shot

LOVE OF READING has always been one of my defining personality traits, noted by everyone from my elementary school teachers to my parents to my own children. It likely comes as no surprise that works of history and biography are particular favorites, deepening my knowledge and my understanding of a subject that everyone associated with the American Battlefield Trust holds dear.

From almost 25 years of interacting with members and from data gleaned in a number of surveys, I know I'm not the only bookworm in our ranks. I hear you trading recommendations on the bus at Trust events, and we can see how many Color Bearers click through to read the book review in each monthly e-newsletter. And I cannot help but conjecture that if Trust members are avid readers of history books, the corollary probably holds true, too. Folks out there with the same piles of "to be read" books on their nightstands, who just have not heard about this organization yet, would probably be more likely than average to be excited about joining our ranks.

I was musing on this theme with a friend and generous supporter a while ago, and he added that he was sure most historians and authors wish they could have some kind of Trust "seal of approval" to their work, an acknowledgment that an organization with our expertise and reputation considers theirs a meaningful contribution to literature on the subject. And, if there were such a mark on high-quality books about the first century of American military history, then those avid readers who see it on the shelf at their local bookstore or find it browsing Amazon might get introduced to our name and mission. Then, after a pause, he said: "David, what would you think about the Trust giving out a book prize? Any historian worth their salt would be honored even to be a finalist and talk about it nonstop. A whole new group of people would learn about what we do."

And while I didn't disagree with his vision whatsoever — frankly, I agree completely that it would help us find new members — I demurred. You see, beyond just the financial award to a winner, there are also other costs associated with such a program —

significant administrative strain and staff time certainly, but also probably things we would not foresee until we were deep into the process. And, even if it raised significant public awareness of our cause, I simply could not justify diverting the funds that members had entrusted to us for something that was less than laser-focused on our mission. Our donors expect and deserve transparency and fiscal responsibility from this organization.

A few days later, I got a phone call. "David, I have been thinking about our last conversation. You're absolutely right to keep focus on our core mission. But what would you think of this: What if I underwrite the program so you don't have to spend a penny of anyone else's money on it? I know this is a bit of an experiment, but I really believe this has potential to raise our profile and find new members."

And that is how the American Battlefield Trust Prize for History was born. This is certainly new ground for us, and I am grateful for the many introductions that friends and allies have made for us as the staff and Board have learned more about the publishing industry. But the more I have absorbed, the more excited I have become! There are incredible historians out there using the battlefields themselves as a primary source in their research because those hallowed grounds have the same power — if not even better — to illuminate that letters and diaries do; they are a tangible link to that moment in time and help us understand what happened on that ground.

I invite you to learn more about the mechanics of the Prize for History in these pages and on our website and hope that in the years to come, when you see a book advertised as a "Recipient of the American Battlefield Trust Prize for History," you swell with pride, knowing that our name is now a watchword, in another new way, for excellence in the field of history.

*David N. Duncan*

DAVID N. DUNCAN  
President, American Battlefield Trust

President Portrait by BUDDY SECOR, books by MELISSA A. WINN.

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ON THE TRUST WEBSITE

## BOARD A VIRTUAL VOYAGE TO REVOLUTIONARY BOSTON

Walk the Freedom Trail from your home with historian Chris Mackowski as he journeys through Boston's revolutionary past. This immersive trip calls on the famous stops of Copp's Hill Burying Ground, the Old North Church, the battle sites of Lexington Green and Concord Bridge as well as the War of 1812's USS *Constitution*. Find the virtual trip and additional resources on the history of the revolution in Boston at [www.battlefields.org/boston-virtual-field-trip](http://www.battlefields.org/boston-virtual-field-trip). Other editions take you to Baltimore, Charleston, New Orleans and Vicksburg!

## WHO NEEDS TEA? STAY AWAKE WITH SOME COFFEE HISTORY!

If you think coffee plays an important role in your life, check out this *Head-Tilting History* article on the critical contribution of this caffeinated concoction to colonial America and the Revolution at [www.battlefields.org/sip-sip-hurrah](http://www.battlefields.org/sip-sip-hurrah)

## BEFORE BOSTON REBELLED, RHODE ISLAND BURNED THE *GASPEE*

Our *Untold History* videos focusing on the American Revolution are ideal for educators and students, or anyone looking for a quick slice of history. To start, check out the upload covering the burning of HMS *Gaspee* at [www.battlefields.org/burning-of-the-gaspee](http://www.battlefields.org/burning-of-the-gaspee)

## A CITY ON THE BRINK

What was it like to live at the heart of rebellious New England as dissatisfaction with Crown rule grew? Explore our article "Everyday Life in Boston Before the Revolution" to learn about the history, economy and social structures of the colonial city at [www.battlefields.org/everyday-life-boston](http://www.battlefields.org/everyday-life-boston)

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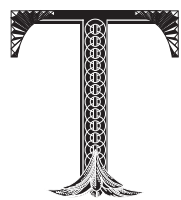
EXPLORE  
THIS ISSUE



Statue of Samuel Adams, Faneuil Hall, Boston, Ma., SHUTTERSTOCK

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

## ADVOCACY UPDATES at Port Hudson, Manassas, the Wilderness, Bristoe Station and Wyse Fork



**HIS AUTUMN**, the American Battlefield Trust and its partners remained busy fighting a number of critical threats to important battlefields. The latest information on these and other emerging threats — and opportunities for you to support the Trust in its advocacy work — is always available online at [www.battlefields.org/speak-out](http://www.battlefields.org/speak-out)

### PORT HUDSON, HIGH-DENSITY POWER LINES

Preservation advocates in Louisiana celebrated recent news that Entergy will find an alternate route for high-density power lines that had threatened to cut through key portions of Port Hudson Battlefield. The Trust joins Bayou State preservationists in commending this move to ensure a strong and reliable power grid, while avoiding sensitive historic resources.

While significant areas have been preserved in the state park, thousands of acres remain vulnerable. The proposed powerlines would have cut through the battlefield, adjacent to land preserved by the Trust and across an area that witnessed the advance of the Louisiana Guard, among the first actions of an all-Black regiment in the entire Civil War. The area already has industrial development, but this would have added 100-foot-tall transmission lines across the landscape.

### MANASSAS BATTLEFIELD, PRINCE WILLIAM DIGITAL GATEWAY

A year ago, in an all-night hearing the Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a comprehensive plan amendment opening a vast swath of land between Manassas National Battlefield and Conway Robinson State Forest to data center development. As the vote went contrary to overwhelming public opinion — a National Parks Conservation Association poll found as many 83 percent of residents were opposed to having this industry on the doorstep of public lands — voters spoke at the polls, with the Board chairwoman losing her primary over the issue.

As the current Board's term draws to a close and the window to approve final rezonings for specific plans approaches, developers are pushing for a December decision before the new board takes office. Professional planning staff have recommended that all three pending rezonings be rejected, a stance that was echoed by the Planning Commission following a 23 hours of public testimony. Spurred by this and other threats, the Trust recently joined the

new Virginia Data Center Reform Coalition. Learn more at [www.battlefields.org/pwdigitalgateway](http://www.battlefields.org/pwdigitalgateway)

### WILDERNESS BATTLEFIELD, WILDERNESS CROSSING

In late May, the Trust — alongside our allies at the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and Friends of Wilderness Battlefield, plus several private citizens — filed suit against Orange County, Virginia, alleging a host of failures of process and substance in the consideration and approval of a massive redevelopment plan that will bring 5,000 residential units, vast quantities of industrial development and millions of square feet of data centers to a historically sensitive area. Moving through a series of procedural steps, the lawsuit has now entered the discovery phase, with our counsel filing legal documentation that requires disclosure of critical information that developers and officials have attempted to obscure.

Meanwhile, our allies at the Piedmont Environmental Council have filed their own complaint surrounding irregularities related to the Freedom of Information Act in the county's handling of the proposal, which prompted the revelation that Amazon has been behind the proposal since at least Spring 2022. Keep up with the latest developments at [www.battlefields.org/wilderness-crossing](http://www.battlefields.org/wilderness-crossing)

### BRISTOE STATION BATTLEFIELD, WAREHOUSE DISTRIBUTION COMPLEX

On October 10, the Trust and its allies hosted a town hall with local residents concerned about plans to build a 772,000-square-foot warehouse distribution complex adjacent to the existing battlefield park and in an area that likely still contains Civil War military graves. Due to current land use regulations, no county approval is necessary for the project to proceed; however, impact on wetlands triggers a Section 106 review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is necessary and the Trust is among many consulting parties urging the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to intervene.

Despite the magnitude of this project, crucial details, like increased commuter and truck traffic — with its associated air, noise and sound pollution — viewshed impacts and building heights have not been disclosed, a lack of transparency ranking among local residents. Extrapolating from an adjacent project already under construction, the full build-out will include 175 dock doors for tractor trailers and 1,400 parking spaces for employees and contractors.

### WYSE FORK BATTLEFIELD, HIGHWAY INTERCHANGE

North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has proposed a 21-mile Kinston Bypass corridor, a portion of which runs along Highway 70, and will include an interchange that would be built on the Wyse Fork Battlefield. Up to this point, the proposed interchange footprint has been reduced from 55 acres to 30 acres, yet still on ground crucial to telling the Wyse Fork story. The Army Corps of Engineers met with consulting parties in November, coinciding with the Trust closing on 80+ acres of core battlefield at Wyse Fork. From this meeting, NCDOT agreed to study the possibility of moving the interchange to the east, which would preserve the endangered left flank of the Union defensive line of March 10, 1865, and steering clear of core battlefield. Additionally, we are hopeful NCDOT mitigations will help preserve additional battlefield land. The current plans for the Kinston Bypass protect the Cobb House, a Union headquarters that saw a concentrated Confederate attack on March 8, 1865, and afterwards served as a hospital.★

PLAY YOUR  
PART, "SPEAK  
OUT" HERE



## AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST PRIZE FOR HISTORY

*Will recognize outstanding  
work with \$50,000 award*



**SINCE ITS FOUNDING** in 1987, the American Battlefield Trust has worked to protect the sites on which this nation's formative conflicts — the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Civil War — were decided, recognizing that those landscapes themselves are primary sources by which scholars and armchair historians alike can come to more deeply understand the past. The organization is inaugurating a new program to call attention to landscape's intimate connection with the historical record: the American Battlefield Trust Prize for History.

The Prize will be made annually to a work of military history or biography that underscores the essential role of the nation's military conflicts on the founding, formation and perpetuation of our exceptional country. In creating this award through the generosity of an anonymous donor — meaning no money donated to the Trust for operations or programs is diverted to this purpose — we encourage authors to create works that showcase the rich research potential of historic battlefields. Our hope is to galvanize readers to action on behalf of these threatened sites, introducing the pressing need for preservation to audiences already interested in American history.

In this inaugural year, excellent and accessible works of military history aligned with the Trust's land preservation mission focused on the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War published in calendar years 2022 and 2023 are eligible; moving forward, consideration will be given only to the most recent calendar year. After a rigorous process to winnow the field, a group of finalists will be evaluated by a trio of exceptional historian judges: Dr. James Kirby Martin, Dr. James McPherson and Dr. Joan Waugh.

This spring, we will announce the winner, which will receive a \$50,000 prize, and two honorable mentions, which will receive \$2,500 each. The handsome award itself will be presented on September 21, 2024, in conjunction with the Trust's Grand Review in Raleigh, N.C.

Learn more about this exciting new program at [www.battlefields.org/bookprize](http://www.battlefields.org/bookprize)★

Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin and  
Medal of Honor recipient Brian Thacker.  
MELISSA A. WINN



## SALUTE TO OLD DOMINION

*Governor Glenn Youngkin recognizes  
Virginia preservation at Grand Review*



**ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023**, Gov. Glenn Youngkin joined Trust staff, Board members and Medal of Honor recipient Lt. Brian Thacker in Williamsburg, Virginia, during a brief reception before making remarks at the opening night presentation for the Trust's 2023 Grand Review event. During his remarks, Youngkin announced he had approved all seven of the Trust's applications to the Department of Historic Resources for grants awarded through the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund (VBPF) program to preserve hallowed ground. The following day, the governor's office announced more than \$1.3 million in grant funds will be allocated to protect approximately 211 acres of battlefield land throughout the Commonwealth.

"My administration is committed to preserving our history to allow future generations to learn from it — the bad and the good," Governor Youngkin said. "These commitments will continue the preservation and accessibility to these important resources. These battlefields, that we were at risk of losing forever, serve as a reminder of our journey as a nation."

In his remarks to Grand Review attendees, he thanked Trust members, donors, staff and Board members for their "lifetime dedication to freedom and history. A lifetime dedication that we know will benefit generation after generation after generation.

"To keep these memories alive, these battlefields must be preserved," he said. "So that we can remember not just the geography, but we can remember the deeds, the heroism that were demonstrated on them.

"There is no substitute than to be able to stand on those hallowed grounds and to be able to remember. And to be able to look forward," he added.

Youngkin's remarks followed a Trust-produced video created by Wide Awake Films highlighting the partnership between the Trust and the Commonwealth of Virginia, which has helped preserve 29,000 acres of battlefield land in Virginia.

"I can't wait to see the next video after we save the next 29,000 acres," Youngkin remarked to attendees.

In 2022, only a few days after his inauguration as Governor, Youngkin introduced a budget amendment to create the Culpeper Battlefields State Park. Slated to open in June 2024, Culpeper Battlefields State Park will be formed through a 1,700-acre donation by the Trust, which has been protecting land on the Culpeper County battlefields of Brandy Station, Cedar Mountain, Kelly's Ford and Rappahannock Station for decades.★



MELISSA A. WINN

## HISTORY TAKES A ROAD TRIP WITH AMERICAN REVOLUTION EXPERIENCE

*DAR co-sponsored traveling exhibit begins its nationwide journey in January*



GET READY for the American Battlefield Trust to arrive in your community! Our award-winning American Revolution Experience website, created in partnership with the Daughters of the American Revolution, is hitting the road as a traveling exhibit in 2024, counting down to the 250th anniversary of the war for independence by visiting 45 different locations through April 2025.

This multimedia exhibition captures the spirit of both our organizations by showcasing lasting connections to the people and places indelibly linked to that conflict. Coupling DAR's incredible archive of documents and artifacts with the Trust's industry-leading digital content, we created an award-winning interactive online exhibit that shares the experiences of ordinary people who witnessed the dawn of a new nation.

Thanks to federal matching funds from the inaugural cohort of awards by the American Battlefield Protection Program Interpretation Grants and an incredibly generous gift from NSDAR's America 250! Program,

three copies of the American Revolution Experience exhibit will hit the road in January.

The exhibit consists of 12 panels, designed to be arranged in pairs that cover thematic topics raised by the individuals featured in the exhibition. Examples include "Choosing Sides," "On the Front Lines" and "Help from Abroad." Three touchscreen displays augment the panels — one focused on the featured individuals, one highlighting places connected to those stories that can still be visited and one that includes Trust-produced animated maps that offer a deeper context with the Revolutionary War itself, as battles unfolded across the continent. Handouts providing Spanish language translation of the panel text will help make the exhibit accessible to a greater number of viewers.

The exhibit is proving extremely popular, with many DAR chapters booking engagements to coordinate with events in their communities. However, a limited number of booking windows remain, and Trust-allied organizations are invited to register their interest in hosting at [www.battlefields.org/ontour](http://www.battlefields.org/ontour)

In the interim, explore the American Revolution Experience digitally through its website at <https://american-revolution-experience.battlefields.org>★

Check out  
the American  
Revolution  
Experience  
Online!



## A TRIUMPH FOR WASHINGTON

*Transporting visitors to 1777 Princeton*



WITH ITS LATEST Revolutionary War-focused campaign, the American Battlefield Trust is poised to protect 261 acres of battlefield land in New York and South Carolina, and kickstart a dramatic, multiyear landscape rehabilitation and interpretation vision for the Princeton Battlefield in New Jersey. Thanks to a variety of federal, state and private grants, the fundraising need to secure the land and complete the current phase of restoration work is \$171,750.

After saving 15 acres of the Princeton Battlefield at Maxwell's Field, where George Washington rallied his troops and led a game-changing counterattack, the Trust began contemplating how that land could best be incorporated into the existing state park. Thus, a collaborative plan — deemed "Washington's Legacy" — was created to reinvigorate the interpretive and educational experience at the National Historic Landmark site and integrate the newly protected areas into the existing parkland in time for the 250th anniversary of the battle.

Putting "Washington's Legacy" into motion will transport future visitors to the 1777 wartime landscape. The Trust is working alongside New Jersey State Historic Sites and Parks and the Princeton Battlefield Society toward impactful enhancements, including the installation of a walking path, replanting of an orchard near where the William Clarke House once stood, the restoration of historical tree lines, the removal of 20th-century intrusions and more. Additionally, a new suite of digital tools and engaging interpretive signage will complement restored acreage. Learn more at [www.battlefields.org/washingtonslegacy](http://www.battlefields.org/washingtonslegacy)

The preservation opportunities attached to the fundraising campaign consist of a roughly 260-acre property at the Newtown Battlefield in Elmira, N.Y., and two small parcels totaling just over one acre at the Hobkirk Hill Battlefield in Camden, S.C. While the hallowed ground in New York provides insight into Iroquois involvement in the Revolutionary War, the southern parcels speak to the unrelenting Patriot spirit that started to turn the tide of the conflict in the south. Both efforts are being supported by federal and state assistance. Find more at [www.battlefields.org/261RevWarAcres](http://www.battlefields.org/261RevWarAcres)★

Help bring  
"Washington's  
Legacy"  
TO LIFE!



## CONGRESS DELIVERS

*ABPP Enhancement passes  
with bipartisan support*

IN EARLY NOVEMBER, the American Battlefield Trust applauded the House of Representatives for its swift passage of the American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act, HR3448. This bill strengthens an already outstanding program, the National Park Service-administered American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) that has been used to preserve, restore and interpret thousands of acres of endangered battlefield land from America's Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War.

"On behalf of the thousands of members and supporters around the world, as well as the millions of visitors to our nation's battlefields, we thank Congress for taking steps to ensure this program continues to thrive through our nation's 250th birthday and beyond," said David Duncan, President of the American Battlefield Trust. "The American Battlefield Protection Program has enabled the Trust and our partners across the country to move quickly to protect these hallowed grounds and ensure they are transformed into outdoor classrooms for future generations to understand what happened here and why it is important."

The legislation, introduced by Reps. Elise Stefanik of New York and Gerry Connolly of Virginia, enjoyed wide bipartisan support before being passed under suspension. "As co-chair of the Congressional Battlefield Caucus, I will always prioritize the preservation of the battlefields throughout our nation," said Representative Stefanik.

The bill would take key steps to improve the existing program, including allowing nonprofits and tribes to apply directly for land preservation grants, which will greatly speed the preservation process. It will also clarify the scope of the program, ensuring the program is used at only the most significant battlefield sites, and will give the National Park Service a mechanism to update battlefield boundaries when new research and information allows. "This bill builds on the hugely successful American Battlefield Protection Program and will allow us to better protect the history and legacy of battlefields across the country," emphasizes Representative Connolly.

The bill now moves to the Senate. In addition to Representatives Stefanik and Connolly, who also co-chair the bipartisan Congressional Battlefield Caucus, the Trust would like to thank House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman and Ranking Member Raul Grijalva for their leadership on this legislation.★

Antietam National Battlefield  
Sharpsburg, Md.  
MATT BRANT



# NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AWARDS BATTLEFIELD INTERPRETATION GRANTS

*Trust is among recipients of \$117,333 in matching funds*

THE NATIONAL Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program has announced its third cohort of recipients for Battlefield Interpretation Grants — and we’re thrilled to be among them! These one-to-one matching funds empower recipients to modernize and enhance battlefield education and interpretation — to inspire wonder, understanding and empathy at the places that witnessed some of our nation’s most challenging events. This grant program encourages the use of technology to connect with visitors through videos, mobile apps, interpretive signs, augmented reality and more.

“Today’s grants provided through American Battlefield Protection Programs help our preservation partners enhance our understanding of the spark that set off the American Revolutionary War and our way forward to democracy almost 250 years ago,” said NPS Director Chuck Sams. “By supporting these localized efforts, all Americans gain the opportunity to learn about this conflict from more than history books and understand their impact on the foundation of how we created a free and democratic nation.”

The NPS award includes \$74,508 for the American Battlefield Trust’s “New York’s Revolutionary War Battlefields” project, which aims to interpret three of New York’s state-managed Revolutionary War battlefields in Oneida, Rensselaer and Chemung Counties. The Trust will collaborate with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to create a mobile application dedicated to the Oriskany, Bennington and New Town battlefields. The project will bring extensive digital interpretation to New York State’s battlefield parks for the first time and share new historical narratives related to Native Americans, women and individual soldiers, in addition to the associated military history. The content presented will encourage visitors to deepen their understanding of the American Revolution by considering new information about participants and impacts on local populations.

Kean University was also awarded nearly \$43,000 for their project “Battles of Connecticut Farms and Springfield” in Union and Morris Counties, New Jersey. In collaboration with Monmouth University, the University will enhance the interpretation of battlefield sites through archaeological research, georeferencing and wayfinding maps, multilingual interpretative signage, and an audio tour.★



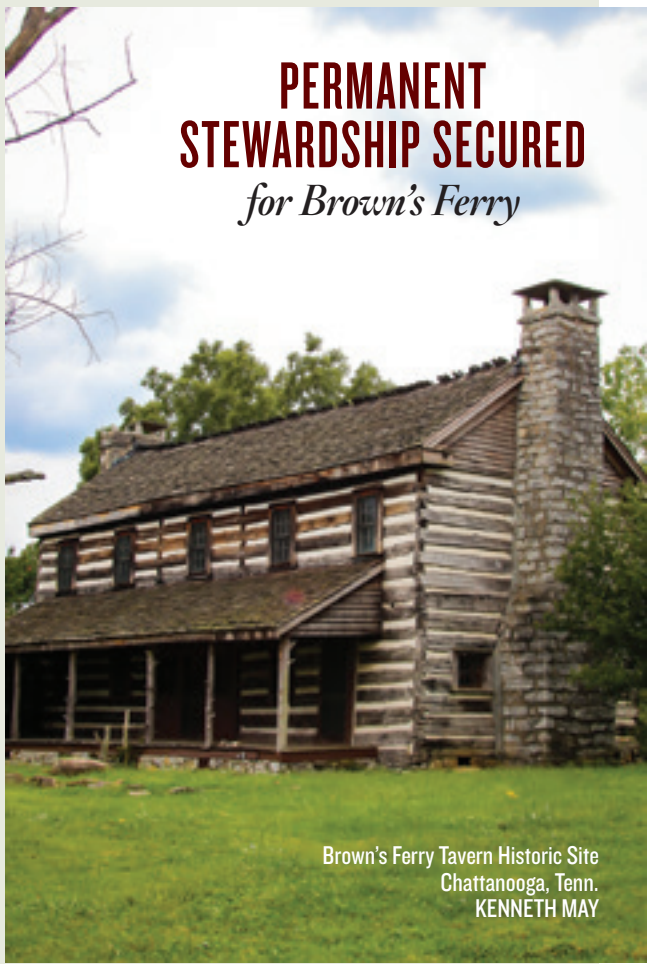
SHORTLY BEFORE the 160th anniversary of the October 27, 1863, Battle of Brown’s Ferry, the American Battlefield Trust was pleased to transfer nearly 25 acres of the battlefield, including the iconic Brown’s Tavern, to National Park Partners (NPP). This outstanding organization exists to champion conservation of the natural, historic and cultural resources of all six units of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park: Chickamauga Battlefield, Lookout Mountain Battlefield, Missionary Ridge, Moccasin Bend National Archeological District, Orchard Knob and Signal Point.

“It is incredibly fitting that such an important site is now in the permanent care of its ideal local steward,” said Trust President David Duncan. “Preserving for future generations properties like this one, with a history that stretches back across multiple narratives, is a particularly proud accomplishment for our organization.”

After its defeat at the Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863, the Union Army of the Cumberland was trapped and besieged in Chattanooga, dependent on a single, fragile supply line. In a bold plan to open a more direct supply line, Union troops used bridge pontoons to float past Confederate guards on Lookout Mountain and along the banks of the Tennessee River, putting in at Brown’s Ferry on the far west bank. Having established a bridgehead, the Federals drove back opposing forces in sharp fighting during the October 27, 1863, Battle of Brown’s Ferry. The resulting “Cracker Line” facilitated the men, food and supplies necessary for November’s Federal assaults on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge.

The original Brown’s Tavern, a log-construction building dating to 1803, still stands on its original site and its story far precedes the Civil War. It, along with the nearby ferry and more than 600 acres, was owned by Cherokee businessman John Brown, who served as a private in Col. Gideon Morgan’s command of Cherokees fighting for the United States in the War of 1812. The Brown family was forced to leave their home in 1838, as a part of the Cherokee Removal in Chattanooga, a phase of the Trail of Tears, although they later received special federal permission to return to their home. In recognition of this significance, Brown’s Tavern is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is included as a stop on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.★

## PERMANENT STEWARDSHIP SECURED *for Brown’s Ferry*



Brown’s Ferry Tavern Historic Site  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
KENNETH MAY

# STRONGER TOGETHER: TRUST AND AMERICANA CORNER

*Organizations join forces to elevate battlefield partners*



Twilight Tours at Slaughter Pen Farm  
Fredericksburg, Va.



WHEN LIKE-MINDED organizations unite behind a vision, great things are possible. That’s why the Trust is thrilled to join forces with Americana Corner, the brainchild of our Trustee Tom Hand, who is committed to sharing the inspirational stories inside the history of America’s founding and first century. Together, we are kicking off a new era of empowerment for groups across the nation that protect and share a portion of our incredible story.

Americana Corner’s 2024 Preserving America Grant Program will award \$1,000,000 to deserving organizations focused on the era between 1607 and 1876 that need assistance to: preserve sites, structures and objects; educate visitors; and create outreach materials to attract visitors. Individual awards will range between \$5,000–\$10,000. Since its launch in 2022, the Preserving America Grant Program has awarded \$1,574,000 to fund 200 projects across 37 states, as well as the District of Columbia. Learn more at [www.americanacorner.com/grants](http://www.americanacorner.com/grants)

Recognizing that such organizations need more than one-time influxes of cash for specific projects, we are teaming up to launch an annual gathering that will bring together leaders from Battlefield Partner entities — friends groups, historic sites, museums, historical societies, roundtables and more — to offer training and workshops covering critical but unsung topics from volunteer cultivation to fundraising to succession planning.

To make the inaugural event in 2024 a success, we need input from organizational leaders to help shape session topics and other logistical considerations. Please take five minutes to fill out our planning survey and help build an event that will serve your organization and its needs. Go to <https://battlefields.org/PartnersSurvey>★

Chalmette Battlefield —  
Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve  
Chalmette, La.  
BUDDY SECOR



## LET THE EDUCATIONAL TIMES ROLL!



NEXT SUMMER, the American Battlefield Trust’s National Teacher Institute will take on the Big Easy, with educators meeting in New Orleans on July 11–14, 2024. Registration for this acclaimed opportunity opens on January 24, 2024, as does the application window for travel scholarships.

The event will bring together educators from all over the world for three and a half days for breakout sessions, workshops, lectures and tours from some of the leading experts in the history and education fields. Our theme is “How the Leaders of the Past Shape the Leaders of Tomorrow.” Tour sites will include Chalmette Battlefield, Confederate Memorial Hall Museum, the National World War II Museum, the Cabildo, Metairie Cemetery and more.

This event is free to active educators but requires a \$175 refundable deposit to reserve your spot. Space is limited. At the conclusion of the event, educators can apply for continuing education certificates provided by St. Bonaventure University and paid for by the American Battlefield Trust and can request a refund of their deposit if they attended the event.

Thanks to generous donors, scholarships are available to reimburse up to \$1,000 in travel expenses for items like gas and tolls, plane or train tickets and hotel accommodations. Applications must be received March 1, with notifications made by March 17. Full eligibility details are available online.★

# STONO FERRY RECEIVES “Two For The Trails” Grant

THE AMERICAN Battlefield Trust is proud to announce we’ve been chosen as a recipient of Athletic Brewing Company’s Two For The Trails grant program! Launched in 2018, this outstanding initiative invests up to \$2 million each year to benefit the great outdoors by protecting, preserving and maintaining local trails. It’s the largest annual environmental grant program in the craft beer industry and pays homage to Athletic Brewing co-founder and CEO Bill Shufelt’s family practice of toasting post-trail adventures with two brews. The Trust will be using these funds to create a new trail system at the Stono Ferry Battlefield, located in Hollywood, S.C., to teach history and increase community recreation.

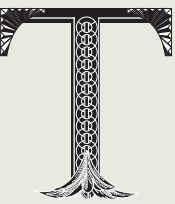


“Since 2018, we’ve donated \$4.3 million to projects across 43 states, the United Kingdom, and Canada,” said Athletic Brewing B Corp & Two For The Trails Manager, Cara Wilson. “The Two For The Trails program allows us to provide essential funding to projects aimed at enhancing and protecting the quality of outdoor spaces in the communities where our customers live, work and adventure.”

Land at Stono Ferry was preserved through The Liberty Trail initiative, which now creates the first opportunity to interpret the June 1779 fighting within a multidimensional community park featuring outdoor recreation like picnicking, fishing and bird watching. Situated on a bluff along the Stono River that overlooks an area known as “Church Flats,” the project aims to create a walking trail that conveys perspectives in early American history: from Native American tribes, early colonists and later planters who utilized the labor of enslaved Africans and African Americans. Although the Revolutionary War Battle of Stono Ferry was a Patriot defeat, it helped push the British out of South Carolina. American forces included both Continental troops and militia units, plus a company of Catawba warriors, African American troops and Polish and French soldiers serving with the American army. Their diverse stories are integral to understanding our nation’s origins.

Athletic Brewing, founded in 2017 by Bill Shufelt and John Walker, is the 13th largest craft brewer in America and the leading producer of nonalcoholic craft beer. In 2023, Athletic was ranked as the fourth fastest-growing company in the Americas by *Financial Times*. Athletic was also named one of TIME’s “100 Most Influential.” The company has won more than 75 prestigious brewing awards and has earned the title of North American Brewer of the Year in the last four International Beer Challenge competitions. Its full-flavored near beers and hop-infused sparkling waters are available on [www.athleticbrewing.com](http://www.athleticbrewing.com)★

# ALUMNI BOARD MEMBER JEFF RODEK *continues to honor soldier sacrifice through battlefield preservation*



THE AMERICAN Battlefield Trust’s Alumni Board is a dynamic group made up of veteran members of our Board of Trustees who remain eager to be involved in our mission despite their official terms on that body ending. The Trust is thrilled to continue work-

ing with them in this capacity, taking advantage of their considerable institutional knowledge and enthusiasm for our cause.

To participate on the Alumni Board, former Trustees must be elected by members of the Board of Trustees’ Governance Committee and have served at least three three-year terms on the Board of Trustees (although, the Governance Committee may make an exception). Members of the Alumni Board shall serve for a term of six years but may resign at any time and may be voted on for an extended term by the Board of Trustees’ Governance Committee.

JEFF RODEK will never forget the time he took his son to Gettysburg and watched as the then eight-year-old stood atop Little Round Top and realized — with awe — that he was in the same location as was displayed via historical photograph on a nearby plaque. Rodek never said a word as his son “watched and felt.”

A few years and several battlefields later, Rodek’s son suggested giving back to the battlefields, which fueled an online search that led the elder Rodek to the Trust. Soon after, he sent in a donation and received a phone call from past Trust President Jim Lighthizer.

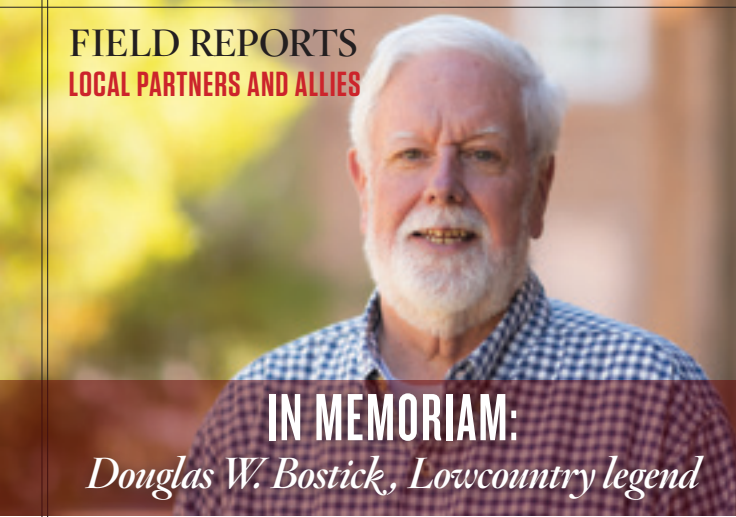
Since that first donation, Rodek has seen the organization expand its scope to include the preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites, in addition to its Civil War roots. He also bore witness to an expanded mission statement — relaying WHY preservation matters, increasing stewardship and restoration efforts, and providing a myriad of educational content.

With a family history of service, Rodek sees preserved battlefields as living memorials to the soldiers who fought there and opportunities to educate the public about the significant actions that are woven into the tapestry of American history. After serving on the American Battlefield Trust’s Board of Trustees, Rodek continues to proudly demonstrate his support on the Alumni Board.★



Rodek and Trust President David Duncan

# FIELD REPORTS LOCAL PARTNERS AND ALLIES



# IN MEMORIAM: *Douglas W. Bostick, Lowcountry legend*



ON OCTOBER 24, the battlefield preservation community suffered a devastating blow with the passing of Douglas W. Bostick following a brief but characteristically bold battle with cancer. An iconic figure in the South Carolina history and preservation community, Bostick was the longtime leader of the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust (SCBPT) and a beloved collaborator and colleague to many at the Trust.

“It is impossible to overstate the impact that Doug Bostick made on South Carolina history over the course of decades — or the impact that history had upon him. A native of the Palmetto State — descendant of her Sons of Liberty in the tumultuous days before the Revolution — he made safeguarding its legacy and imparting it to new generations his life’s work,” said Trust President David Duncan.

“Doug’s vibrant leadership at SCBPT propelled forward our joint work to create The Liberty Trail, an initiative that seeks to protect the state’s Revolutionary War battlefields and unite those disparate sites from the Lowcountry to the backcountry through innovative digital interpretation. This work will continue, honoring his memory and building upon his legacy. As we soon mark the 250th anniversary of America’s independence, a commemoration for which he served on the state commission, millions of people will have a deeper understanding of that past because of Doug’s contributions to the field as author, interpreter and storyteller extraordinaire.”

An eighth generation South Carolinian, Bostick earned a bachelor’s degree from the College of Charleston and master’s degree from the University of South Carolina. In his long career, he served on the faculty of the University of South Carolina and the University of Maryland and authored some 26 books of nonfiction, covering topics as diverse as Revolutionary War history, South Carolina horse racing and Lowcountry foodways. Before his dozen years at the helm of SCBPT, Bostick impacted many other leading Charleston institutions through staff work, including Patriot’s Point Naval & Maritime Museum and Save the Light, Inc., as well as numerous others for which he volunteered and served in an advisory capacity.★

Doug Bostick photo by SARAH NELL BLACKWELL.

# S A V E T H E D A T E

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR PARK DAY 2024!

*Volunteers will gather nationwide on April 6*



**GET READY,** Boy and Girl Scouts, ROTC units and motivated citizens: On April 6, 2024, volunteers will muster at battlefields, museums, cemeteries and historical sites for the 28th annual Park Day!

Since 1996, community-minded citizens at Park Day events across the country have contributed hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours as they built trails, raked leaves, painted signs, erected fences and much more. While the spirit of Park Day is national and the Trust provides promotional support, service projects are locally driven, meeting the needs and goals of each individual site.

We hope to make this our biggest Park Day yet, as we approach the 250th anniversary of America’s founding. Both longtime stalwarts and new sites are invited to register online at [www.battlefields.org/parkday](http://www.battlefields.org/parkday). To maximize our ability to market Park Day sites, we ask that managers complete registration by February 1, 2024. As the event grows closer, specific details for individual locations will be posted so that volunteers can identify an opportunity near them.★

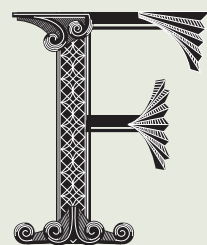
Prepare for  
Park Day 2024,  
TODAY!



**THE TRUST** had the pleasure of joining Capital One’s military business resource group, Salute and the Friends of Cedar Mountain for a volunteer clean-up at the Cedar Mountain Battlefield in Culpeper County, Va., on November 3. Approximately 20 Capital One associates joined the Trust and the Friends through guided trail maintenance activities and the taming of invasive species on-site, making a huge dent in targeted tasks at the battlefield. What made the event even more profound is the excitement that attendees expressed in helping to prepare the battlefield for its upcoming state park status — as acreage here will soon join with land at the nearby Brandy Station Battlefield for the creation of Culpeper Battlefields State Park, set to launch in June 2024.★

## BULLDOZERS ON BATTLEFIELDS

*Trust restores hallowed ground at Gettysburg, Eutaw Springs and Lookout Mountain*



FULFILLING the Trust's mission to use saved battlefield land as a teaching tool sometimes requires the restoration of the landscape. We can't just acquire lands that have been compromised and corrupted by decades of neglect and development and leave them as they are.

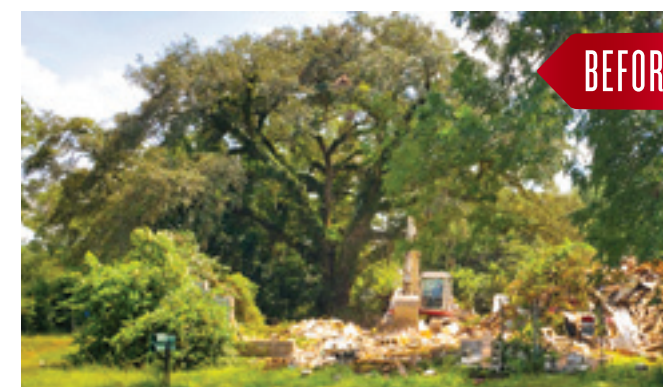
We have to restore hallowed ground. In

the autumn of 2023, the Trust announced the successful demolition of several structures and restoration of landscapes at Gettysburg, Pa., Lookout Mountain, Tenn., and Eutaw Springs, S.C.



The Lookout Mountain Tourist Lodge  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
BUDDY SECOR

## EUTAW SPRINGS, S.C.



SARAH NELL BLACKWELL

UPON a roughly four-acre tract of land saved by the American Battlefield Trust — in collaboration with our partner on The Liberty Trail, the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust (SCBPT) — stands a spectacular, centuries-old oak tree that was witness to the Battle of Eutaw Springs on September 8, 1781. It was the last major engagement of the Revolutionary War in the Carolinas.

While fighting initially erupted a little over three miles west of the site on the morning of September 8 — when General Nathanael Greene's column surprised a British patrol and foraging party — significant maneuvers and combat unfolded upon this land later in the day. All the while, the young oak stood as witness to a well-fought battle, after which the Continental Congress recognized Greene's exceptional service with one of only seven gold medals given during the war.

The now-imposing tree then saw the nation and its people transform, including its surroundings, which until this summer included modern features like a house, car port and chain link fence. Thanks to the generous help of our members, donors and partners, its surrounding landscape has been restored to a grassy field reminiscent of September 1781.

## GETTYSBURG, Pa.



NOEL KLINE



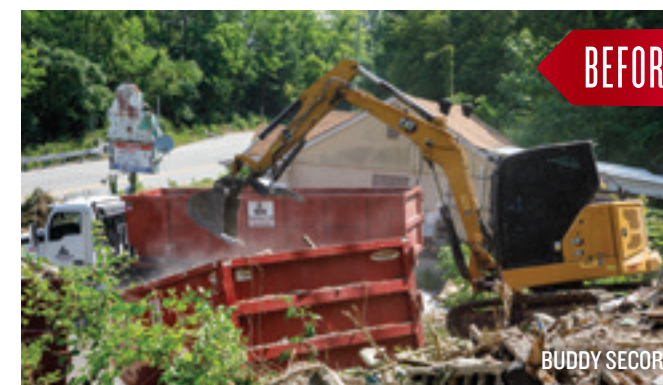
TOM NANK

ENTERING Gettysburg National Military Park from the east, visitors have for years driven past glimpses of the abandoned and overgrown Mulligan MacDuffers Adventure Golf & Ice Cream Parlor. With the help of our members and donors, this autumn we began removing the adventure park structures, hauling away old concrete and grading the land to lay down soil and grass seed at the site of an important position on the Union right flank during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Two artillery pieces of the 1st New York Light Artillery Battery M, commanded by Lt. Charles E. Winegar, were positioned on the edge of the property, split between there and Power's Hill — directly across Baltimore Pike. On the afternoon of July 2, 1863, 14 cannons were placed on Power's Hill. In conjunction with 10 more nearby artillery pieces to the north along Baltimore Pike, the two cannons on this land were positioned to cover the Union right — specifically the low ground to the south of Culp's Hill known as Spangler's Spring and Spangler's Meadow. Collectively, the Union cannons in the area unleashed such a destructive fire during the seven-hour battle near Culp's Hill on July 3rd that Confederate Gen. George Steuart called his position near Spangler's Spring "artillery hell."

When the restoration work is completed here, visitors to the battlefield can once again envision cannons and caissons located on the ground and Lieutenant Winegar commanding "Fire!" rather than "Fore!"

## LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, Tenn.



BUDDY SECOR



ANTHONY HODGES

FOR DECADES, a 1940s travel motel blemished approximately an acre of land next to the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park — hallowed ground that played an important role in the Battle of Lookout Mountain. In June 2023, with the unwavering support of our members and donors, the Trust was able to demolish the motel and lay down sod to restore the field.

Overlooking the Tennessee River, Lookout Mountain boasted a seemingly strong position for Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg and his Army of Tennessee as they kept the Union army pinned at Chattanooga. On November 24, 1863, after the successful Union capture of Orchard Knob the day prior, Gen. Joseph Hooker ordered his three divisions to attack the Confederate left at Lookout Mountain. The Wauhatchie Pike, the main road over the mountain during the time of the battle, runs by and through this field, the route of Confederate retreat. Some Union soldiers also crossed over the tract as they began their ascension of the mountain, helping lead to Union success at Missionary Ridge the following day on November 25.

The preservation — and now restoration — of this tract will ensure it continues to tell the story of the Battle of Lookout Mountain for generations to come.

Watch a video of  
the demolition of  
Lookout Mountain  
Lodge here.



# ON THE PRECIPICE

Consequences of the French and Indian War

by WILLIAM R. GRIFFITH IV

THE SKIRMISH begun by George Washington and his colonial compatriots at Jumonville Glen, Pennsylvania, in 1754 was a spark that soon became a global conflagration. Long-simmering tensions between Britian and France boiled over in the Americas, Europe, West Africa, India and

the Philippines. Prussia and Hanover were drawn into the fight on the side of Britian; Spain, Austria, Saxony, Sweden and Russia took up arms allied with France. When the Treaty of Paris was finally signed on February 10, 1763, the future trajectory of North America had fundamentally shifted. Fighting in the theater of conflict known globally as the Seven Years' War and locally as the French and Indian War (although various Native American groups

took up arms on both sides), concluded with the surrender of Montreal on September 8, 1760, but it continued in Europe until late 1762, with Britian emerging triumphant. Imperialist members of Parliament did not want to yield the territories gained during the war, but another faction believed that it was necessary to return a number of France's antebellum holdings to maintain a balance of power in Europe. This latter measure would not, however, include France's North

American territories and Spanish Florida. In the words of 19th-century historian Francis Parkman, "[H]alf the continent had changed hands at the scratch of a pen," and France's North American empire had vanished. The treaty granted Britain Canada and all of France's claims east of the Mississippi River, excepting the city of New Orleans, which France was allowed to retain. The Louisiana Territory beginning on the opposite bank was ceded to Spain, although British subjects were guaranteed free rights of navigation on the river. Spain extended Britain's King George III's North American empire in the form of Florida, transferred in exchange for the return of Havana and Manila. This gave Britain total control of the Atlantic Seaboard from Newfoundland all the way down to the Mississippi Delta. Further, the conquered Caribbean islands of Saint Vincent, Dominica, Tobago, Grenada and the Grenadines remained in British hands. The loss of Canada, economically, did not greatly harm France. It had proved to be a money hole that cost the country more to maintain than it actually returned in profit. The sugar islands in the West Indies were much more lucrative, and to France's pleasure, Britain returned Martinique and Guadeloupe. Although His Most Christian Majesty King Louis XV's influence in North America had receded, France did retain a tiny foothold in Newfoundland for fishing rights.

The inhabitants of the British colonies in North America were jubilant upon hearing the results of the Treaty of Paris. For nearly a century, they had lived in fear of the French colonists and their Native American allies to the north and west. Now France's influence on the continent had been nearly extinguished, and they could hope to live out their lives in peace and autonomy without relying on Britain's protection. But the war's aftermath drove a profound wedge between Britain and her colonists. The global conflict had ballooned Britain's national debt nearly twofold, and the colonies were asked to shoulder a good portion of the burden of paying it off via taxes imposed on necessities that the colonists considered part of everyday life. Proud English folk, the colonists viewed themselves as *partners* in the British Empire, not *subjects* of it. King George III did not see it this way. Another major point of contention was the land west of the Appalachian Mountains, which had been heavily fought over during the war. Many in the British military and

the colonies viewed "conquered" land as His Majesty's dominion. To them, the territory west of the Appalachians was not shared or Native land — it was rightfully open for British trade and settlement. Disputes soon erupted with the Native Americans, who had previously allied with the French, inhabiting the region. What transpired next has gone down in history as Pontiac's Rebellion (1763–1764), after a regionally powerful Odawa war chief, and involved members of the Seneca, Ottawa, Huron, Delaware and Miami tribes. Various uprisings and uncoordinated attacks against British forts, outposts and settlements in the Ohio River Valley and along the Great Lakes ravaged the frontier. Although a handful of forts fell, two key strongholds, Forts Detroit and Pitt, did not capitulate. In an attempt to quell the rebellion against British authority, the Proclamation of 1763 was issued. The French settlements north of New York and New England were consolidated into the colony of Quebec, and Florida was divided into two separate colonies. Any land that did not fall within the boundaries of these colonies, which would be governed by English Law, was granted to the Native Americans. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 further alienated the British colonists. Many sought

to settle the west, and Pennsylvania and Virginia had even already claimed lands in the region. The proclamation prohibited the colonies from further issuing any grants. Only representatives of the Crown could negotiate land purchases with the Native Americans. Just as France had boxed the colonies into a stretch along the East Coast, now George III was doing the same. The French and Indian War had initially been a major success for the 13 British North American colonies, but its consequences soured the victory. Acrimony over taxes imposed to pay war debt, constant struggle with Native Americans over borders and territories and the prohibition of expansion to the west fueled an ever-increasing "American" identity as the colonists — already 3,000 miles away from Britain — grew philosophically and emotionally further apart from the mother country.★ William R. Griffith IV received his bachelor's degree in history from Shepherd University and master's degree in military history from Norwich University. A published historian, Griffith has written for the U.S. Navy Cruiser Sailors Association, Emerging Civil War and the Journal of Civil War Medicine. He is also a Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide.



# |||| WHO WERE THE SONS of LIBERTY?

by MARK MALOY

**A**MONG THE SOCIAL and political fallout of the French and Indian War, was the rise of a secret society that set the stage for revolution. The British Parliament rationalized that the fighting in North America had been to protect the colonists and their interests, and thus, they should pay their share in taxes to help pay off their war debt. First, the Sugar Act taxed the transport and sale of raw sugar, molasses and rum throughout the colonies, spawning smuggling operations. Meanwhile, via the Quartering Act, Crown soldiers were forcefully housed with American colonists, who had to feed them out of pocket. Mounting resentment came to a head over the Stamp Act, which charged for a required stamp on all paper products — everything from legal documents to newspapers to playing cards. A secret group called the Loyal Nine gathered crowds around the Liberty Tree on Boston Common and provoked them to riot, targeting taxable goods and tax collectors, which put colonial officials at risk of being tarred and feathered or even killed. Raiding the home of Lieutenant Governor Thomas Hutchinson, they made off with an estimated £250,000 worth of his possessions. The Loyal Nine, having sparked resistance, turned to publishing patriotic ideas in the *Boston Gazette*, eventually signing their missives of political dissent as “The Sons of Liberty.” The group quickly snowballed into a larger network of resistance. Through coordinated work among various chapters, the Sons of Liberty forced the British Parliament to repeal the Stamp



On March 5, 1770, British soldiers shot into a crowd of rowdy colonists in front of the Custom House on King Street, killing five and wounding six.

Act within the year. But victory came at a price: Parliament then passed the Declaratory Act, stating unequivocally that the British king and Parliament had the power to enact any and all legislation onto the colonies. This gave new relevance to the rallying cry of “No taxation without representation!”

Parliament, still desperate for revenue, subsequently passed the Townshend Acts, which raised taxes and tariffs on British imports as diverse as lead, paint, ink, porcelain, glass and tea. Additionally, the act functioned as a general search warrant, allowing British soldiers to enter any colonist’s home to find and take smuggled goods. Under the direction of the Sons of Liberty, Boston colonists organized a boycott of all British goods; anyone who dared sell British goods risked vandalism and physical violence. The situation came to a head on the night of March 5, 1770, when eight British soldiers guarding the Customs House were provoked into opening fire on an angry mob. When the smoke cleared, five colonists were dead and another six wounded. Despite complete uncertainty about how the incident escalated, Paul Revere, a Boston silversmith, engraver and Sons of Liberty member, created an image of this “massacre” that fueled anti-Crown sentiment by depicting the “complete brutality” and “barbarism” of the British Army.

Resistance efforts saw many duties on the colonies eased, but the high tax on tea remained, spurring Sons of Liberty-led tea parties in Boston, Charleston and elsewhere.

In retaliation, the British government passed the Intolerable Acts, alternately the Coercive Acts, which, among other retaliations, closed Boston Harbor, suspended trial by jury and prohibited elections and the meeting of the state assembly. Armed conflict felt increasingly inevitable as the situation across the colonies grew more and more volatile. When delegates of the Second Virginia Convention gathered in Richmond in 1775, Sons of Liberty member Patrick Henry gave voice to the sentiment, exclaiming “Give me liberty or give me death!”★

# THE DAUGHTERS of LIBERTY?

by KATE GRUBER

**A**LTHOUGH women were not permitted to serve as elected officials in governing bodies or the growing number of extra-legal committees organizing resistance to British policy, they voiced their political opinions in other ways. Formed during the Stamp Act crisis in 1766, the Daughters of Liberty formalized female political agency with famous Patriot Sam Adams famously declaring, “With ladies on our side, we can make every Tory tremble.”

Daughters of Liberty chapters became widespread and mobilized critical social and economic support for the patriotic cause. Given the Stamp Act’s tax on liquor licenses, female tavern owners pressed for its repeal. The 1767 Townshend Acts had massive impact on household consumer goods, and the Daughters of Liberty organized widespread

nonimportation agreements and circular letters, some of which survive, bearing the names and marks of many women signers.

Participation gave women a political arena in which to support patriotic movements without stepping outside their typical gender roles. Spinning bees are perhaps the most widely known and famous example of this collective action, with women banding together to manufacture textile goods rather than import them. On December 24, 1767, the *Massachusetts Gazette Extraordinary* reported, “We hear that there was held two or three evenings ago, an assembly of Ladies of the first quality ... who ... have made spinning their only employment.” Others took up the effort through their traditional tasks and daily work. One lady “did the morning work of a large family, made her cheese, etc., and then rode more than two miles, and carried her own wheel, and sat down to spin at nine in the morning ... and went home to milking.”

Daughters of Liberty were adamant against drinking British-imported tea, es-

pecially at gatherings where they came together to spin, so as “to render their conduct consistent.” Women found substitutions in locally sourced herbs and other libations, with one group found to “drink nothing at their meetings but New England Rum.”

By their dress, consumption and purchasing power, women could translate their participation in the local and global economies into political action. Women who identified as Daughters of Liberty were noted in newspapers for simple, homespun frocks that lacked the adornment of British imports like ribbons or lace. In December 1769, the *Virginia Gazette* reported that patriotism “manifested in the dress of the ladies,” who wore homespun gowns to a high society ball and expressed that “all assemblies of American Ladies [should] exhibit a like example of public virtue and private economy, so amiable united.” Some Daughters of Liberty stated that they “would not even admit the addresses of any gentlemen” who did not also oppose British taxation without representation.★



Chapters of the Daughters of Liberty participated in the war effort by melting down metal for bullets and sewing and tending to soldiers’ uniforms and linens.

# LIBERTY in LEAF



**T**HE Liberty Tree was a large elm — planted in 1646, it was already a venerable specimen on the eve of the American Revolution — near the Boston Common that became a popular meeting place for the Sons of Liberty, a secret society advocating for the rights of colonists against British taxation and rule. Later, other towns across colonial America began designating their own liberty trees.

The first large protest at Boston’s Liberty Tree was held in 1765, when an effigy of stamp collector Andrew Oliver was hung from the branches alongside a green painted boot with a devil holding a paper reading “what greater joy did ever New England see than a stampman hanging on a tree!” A crowd of protestors took the effigy of Oliver to his house, where they proceeded to behead and burn the likeness before assaulting his home. Oliver resigned as the stamp collector in response.

When the Stamp Act was repealed, lanterns were hung in the Liberty Tree’s branches, and many other protests and public displays took place throughout the 1760s and 1770s. However, in 1775, during the Siege of Boston, Boston Loyalists and British soldiers cut the stately elm down and burned it; after Patriots regained control of Boston in 1776, a liberty pole was erected over the stump. Today, the site is marked by a small plaza and commemorative plaque.★



# *the* TIPPING POINT

BOYD

## THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

When a group of men dumped 340 chests of tea into Boston Harbor on December 16, 1773, they ignited a revolution that ultimately formed a new nation.

*by* ROB ORRISON

PHOTO *by* ROBERT TARDIO

T

HE TOWN MEETING held in Boston on the night of December 16, 1773, at the Old South Meeting House was no ordinary gathering. Such events were a foundation of the political process for Massachusetts and most of the New England colonies, with leaders calling residents together to discuss important political, economic and social decisions facing the city or colony. Royal authorities had watched these meetings more closely since the 1760s, during opposition to the Stamp Act, as colonial Whigs (anti-royal leaders) had used them to protest British policies they saw as threats to their liberties.

This town meeting was a follow-up assembly to previous meetings held in November and was meant to occur in Faneuil Hall. The large turnout, however, required the crowd to move to the more spacious Old South Meeting House: Nearly 5,000 came to discuss the city's and colony's responses to a new tax on tea and, more directly, the ships in the harbor that held tea from the East India Company. The colonial Whigs did not want the cargo unloaded, but the captains of the ships could not leave the harbor with the tea unless they had approval from the governor. Conversely, Governor Thomas Hutchinson did not believe he had the authority to allow the ships to leave without unloading the tea. Added to this, Hutchinson was more than frustrated with those who had rejected royal authority over the years. Thus, a legal and theoretical standoff ensued. That night, the people of Boston took the matter into their own hands.

On the surface, the Tea Act of 1773 was rooted in helping pay off the debt of the British Empire incurred from its recent, global war with France. Also, the revenue raised would pay British officials in the colonies, thus making them more loyal to Parliament and the British Crown. It was one of many parliamentary laws, or acts, passed to raise revenue in the colonies. Its underlying pur-

pose, however, was to allow Parliament to display its authority to pass laws that were binding on the British colonies. Due to colonial opposition and resistance, many of these acts were repealed; like its predecessors, the Tea Act sparked an immediate response throughout the colonies.

The Tea Act was also seen as a mode for saving a British-held company, the British East India Company. Before 1773, the company had to sell its tea in London and was subject to duties. It had collected large quantities of tea in London warehouses and was looking for a way to dispense with it cheaply. The Tea Act allowed the company to sell directly to American ports without paying duties. This also forced American buyers to purchase their tea, which was subject to a tax from the East India Company. The good news was the price of tea was reduced because the company no longer had to pay the duties in London, but colonists resisted the notion that Parliament could force them to buy tea from one supplier (many made a good living off smuggled tea sales) and that they were also required to pay a tax on it.

The popular refrain of "taxation without representation" had been around since the 1750s and became well-known in 1764 in response to the highly unpopular Sugar Act and 1765 Stamp Act. Colonial Whigs believed they had no representation in Parliament because they did not elect representatives to Parliament. British political theory and law believed in the model of "virtual represen-

tation," which meant that although the colonists did not vote for individual members of Parliament, that body as a whole acted in the best interest of all British subjects. Colonial leaders, who for decades were allowed to vote for their representative bodies in their respective colonies, did not accept this theory. The opposing views on representation began to open opposition to British authority over colonial matters.

Though passed in May 1773, the Tea Act did not impact the people in the colonies until fall. Seven ships of tea were sent to four American ports, Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Charleston. Meanwhile, colonial Whig leaders began to organize a resistance to the East India Tea that was en route. In fact, in every other city but Boston the tea was refused and was either forced to be returned to England or confiscated by local officials. It was in Boston that a determined governor and a history of opposition to the monarchy led to a singular event in American history.

On November 28, the *Dartmouth* arrived loaded with tea in Boston Harbor. British law gave ships with imports 20 days to pay the duties, or the local customs officials could confiscate the cargo. Hutchinson, when petitioned, would not allow the ship to leave the port without paying the duty. His sons, who acted as the tea consignees (authorized to receive the tea and see to its distribution) for Boston, also refused to back down and resign their positions,

which had happened in other American ports. Soon, two more ships, the *Beaver* and the *Eleanor*, arrived with more unwanted tea. Unable to return the tea to England, and unable to unload the tea due to the threats of local groups such as the Sons of Liberty, the captains of the ships were in a tight and dangerous spot.

When the public gathered at the Old South Meeting House that December evening in 1773, they were regaled with speeches by Sam Adams, John Hancock, Joseph Warren and other Boston Whig leaders, calling for a return of the tea to England. Later in the evening, word came that a last-minute plea to Governor Hutchinson to let the ships return was refused. Sam Adams announced publicly, "This meeting can do nothing further to save the country."

The events that happened next have been debated since 1773: Soon after Adams's statement, men arrived outside the meeting house disguised as Mohawk Indians. Whether or not these men were signaled to move toward the ships with tea is unknown. As they marched down Milk Street to Griffin's Wharf, where the three ships holding tea were docked, the thousands gathered inside the Old South Meeting House began to



Every year on December 16th, history enthusiasts reenact the Boston Tea Party of 1773 at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum at Griffin's Wharf. MICHAEL BLANCHARD

was, coupled with sophisticated organization. As they made their way to the ships, the Whig leaders inside the Old South Meeting House stayed behind and were never directly part of what happened next.

The men, with a crowd behind them, approached the wharf. There they divided into three groups, one each for the *Dartmouth*, *Beaver* and *Eleanor*. Having lived and worked in a port city, most of the men knew where to find the cargo they were looking for and

too. Learning that some was already for sale at a Boston shop, they again donned their Mohawk garb to break in and dump the last vestiges of the shipment in the harbor. Meanwhile, the ships bound for New York and Philadelphia returned to London without offloading their cargo, although the tea ship that arrived in Charleston met its own dramatic fate.

The American Revolution did not just "happen." It was the culmination of various

ULTIMATELY, SOME *340 chests of tea*, WEIGHING *92,000 pounds*, WERE DESTROYED THAT DECEMBER NIGHT.

pour out of the building. Chants of "Boston a teapot tonight!" and "Hurrah for Griffin's Wharf!" were reportedly heard. Some followed the men in disguise; others continued to protest in the streets, while still others headed home, believing that a confrontation was about to take place.

Many details remain unknown about who exactly the "Mohawks" were that marched on Griffin's Wharf that night. The men used lamp soot and red ochre to disguise their faces and carried a wide assortment of weapons. As they made their way to the wharf, they yelled and whooped, attempting to imitate Native Americans in a war party. If they had coordinated with leaders in the Old South Meeting House, it is still unknown. The identities of most of these men either were never recorded or are lost to history; that is how tight their veil of secrecy

how to operate on a ship. Thus, most of the other cargo and private property on the ships was not touched: They were only after the tea. After the chests were hauled onto the deck, they were broken open and dumped into the harbor. Some of the men watched to make sure no one tried to steal any of the tea being dumped. The approximately 150 men worked quickly as the crowd of spectators grew.

Ultimately, some 340 chests of tea weighing 92,000 pounds were destroyed that December night. The British East India Company reported the lost cargo was worth £9,659 — the equivalent of \$1,700,000 in today's dollars. A fourth tea ship bound for Boston that had run aground near Cape Cod had its cargo salvaged, taxed and sold privately. When the Sons of Liberty discovered the warehouse where that tea was being stored the following March, they destroyed it

events and acts that individually did not guarantee separation, but one can retroactively see how they led to the inevitable. The Boston Tea Party was one of these events; it gave the tinder box of revolution in America more fuel and many believe this small incident lit the fuse leading to open war between colonies and mother country, because this time Great Britain would respond in a way it never had before. The spark came 16 months later, on Lexington Green.

*Rob Orrison serves as division manager for the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division. He also sits on the board of directors for both the Mosby Heritage Area Association and Virginia Civil War Trails. Of his four published works, his latest is To Hazard All: Guide to the 1862 Maryland Campaign (2018).*



"Destruction of tea at Boston Harbor" (1846), Currier & Ives LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



THE CHARLESTON TEA PARTY PROTEST

# DEFYING *the King*

by  
KATHERINE  
PEMBERTON

*IN OCTOBER 1773, seven ships set sail for the  
American colonies loaded with cargoes of taxed tea from Great Britain's  
East India Company. Not all of them went to Boston.*

# The

TEA ACT OF 1773, passed by the British Parliament in May of that year, was one of several taxes and duties imposed on the American colonies in the lead-up to the Revolution, as the British government tried to recoup serious financial losses resulting from the French and Indian War. In 1765, the British government had passed the Stamp Act, the first direct tax on the 13 colonies, but it was repealed after colonists strongly objected, labeling it “taxation without representation.” Even so, Parliament did not give up its claim to having the authority to tax or impose laws upon the colonists. As a result, the Townshend Revenue Acts were passed in 1767, placing duties on several types of imported goods coming to the colonies, including paper, paint, glass and tea. Resentments flared once again, and boycotts of English tea were put into place by angry colonists, including those in Charleston. Three years later, most of the Townshend Act duties were repealed. The notable exception was the duty on tea. This was retained to make the important symbolic point that Parliament believed it retained complete authority to tax and legislate the colonies.

While some colonists gave up their personal boycott, many others turned to smuggled Dutch teas that had no duties. This put a financial strain on the East India Company, and Parliament was eager to bail it out, perhaps because many members of Parliament also had investments in the company. The Tea Act of 1773 effectively reinforced the East India Company’s state-sanctioned monopoly on tea sales to the American colonies, and allowed the company to ship directly to the colonies and to commission authorized agents to sell it there. Ironically, cutting out the middleman reduced the cost of tea in the colonies, but that did not slow the growing ire of many colonists. A writer calling himself Junius Brutus warned in the November 15, 1773, edition of the *South Carolina Gazette* that the Tea Act would “establish a precedent for subjugating you to future impositions equally unjust and impolitic — to raise a revenue out of your pockets, against your consent — and to render assemblies of your representatives totally useless.” This same edition reported that a large cargo of East India tea was en route to Charleston and was expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

On December 1, 1773, the ship *London* sailed into Charleston Harbor carrying 257 large chests of East India Company tea consigned to merchants Roger Smith, Peter Leger and William Greenwood. The next day, concerned Charlestonians posted notices and circulated handbills inviting all inhabitants to assemble in the Great Hall of the Exchange Building at 3:00 in the afternoon of December 3. Colonel George Gabriel Powell, a fair-minded and respected member of the colonial assembly from the South Carolina backcountry, was selected to chair the community meeting and the ones to come,

as debates continued for months. According to some accounts, the issue was hotly debated in the meeting, but Peter Timothy, publisher of the *South Carolina Gazette*, reported that “After some time spent in calm deliberation, it appeared to be the sense of the people, that the gentlemen in trade should be requested to enter immediately into a written agreement, not to import any more teas, that would pay duties, laid for the UNCONSTITUTIONAL purpose of raising a revenue upon us, WITHOUT OUR CONSENT.”

The East India Company consignees were asked to come forward, and according to Lieutenant Governor William Bull, they were, by “threats and flatterys,” convinced to give up their shipment. The account in the *Gazette* was a bit milder, noting that after being advised that their receipt of this and future East India tea “would be exceedingly disagreeable to their fellow-citizens, and the body of inhabitants of this province,” the merchants agreed, with one of them even claiming to an appreciative crowd that he had already decided weeks before its arrival to refuse the cargo. The ship’s master, Captain Alexander Curling, also appeared at the meeting. He was in something of a bind, as he was obliged by law to satisfy the customs officer by paying duties and unloading his cargo within 20 days, since the ship had technically docked, and he was also engaged to take on another cargo in Charleston before departing. He was told by the inhabitants that, nonetheless, he should sail out of Charleston with his ship full of tea and return to England.

At the conclusion of the meeting on December 3, a select committee was established that included planters Charles Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney and Thomas



The basement where the 1773 tea was stored at the Old Exchange.  
ROB SHENK

Ferguson, as well as mechanics (artisans) Christopher Gadsden and Daniel Cannon. They were charged with contacting the merchants around town to secure their signatures on a petition agreeing not to import or sell any teas subject to the Tea Act duties. The *Gazette* reported that within a few days they had received the signatures of 50 merchants. The codified petition read:

*WE the undersigned, inhabitants of this province, being new fully convinced, that we have vainly flattered ourselves, with hopes of the repeal of an act of parliament of Great-Britain, passed in the year 1767, imposing a duty on tea imported from thence, for the purpose of raising a revenue upon us, in America, without our consent, DO hereby solemnly promise and agree, each for him or herself, that we will not, either directly or indirectly import, buy or sell, or any way encourage or countenance the importation, buying or selling, any teas that will pay the aforesaid duty: And that we will not purchase any goods of any person or persons whosoever, that shall hereafter import, buy or sell any such teas: And this we do, because we conceive, that the payment of such duties, will be acknowledging a power which the British Parliament hath assumed, and which we deny them to have under our excellent constitution, “to tax us against our consent.”*

While the committee was made up of planters and mechanics, the town’s mer-

IN SEPTEMBER 1776, *the stored tea was sold to raise funds for the American cause for independence.*

chants were not included, and as a somewhat conservative group, they were concerned about recent events regarding commerce and trade. On December 9, “a General Meeting of the Gentlemen in Trade” was held at Mrs. Swallow’s Tavern at the northeast corner of Church and Broad Streets, just a short walk from the Exchange Building. This meeting was the formation of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce. Known today as the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, it is the oldest city commercial chamber in the country, and its formation speaks to the complicated nature of business and politics at this pivotal time.

Debate over the *London*’s cargo continued until December 22, when the customs clock expired. By law, Collector of Customs Robert Halliday was required to seize the tea if no duties had been paid within 21 days after a ship’s arrival. This was done quickly and efficiently, and all 257 chests of tea were confiscated and stored in the basement of the Exchange Building. This mild response embarrassed some of Charleston’s more ardent patriots, especially once news

of Boston’s energetic December 16 Tea Party reached South Carolina. However, as the Earl of Dartmouth commented in a letter to Lieutenant Governor Bull, “What passed at Charles Town in consequence of the arrival of Captain Curling, Altho’ not equal in criminality to the Proceedings in other Colonies, can yet be considered in no other light than that of a most unwarrantable Insult to the authority of this Kingdom.” Another insult for Britain was to come, as several years later, in September 1776, the stored tea was sold to raise funds for the American cause for independence.★

*Katherine Pemberton is the museum director of The Powder Magazine in Charleston, S.C., and a board member of SC Charleston 250, Inc., the city’s commemorative body. A lecturer in the joint Clemson University/ College of Charleston graduate program in historic preservation, she has also spent time with the Historic Charleston Foundation, the Charleston Museum and on the South Carolina State Review Board for the National Register of Historic Places.*



Old Exchange & Provost Dungeon in Charleston, S.C.  
ROB SHENK

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?  
*Five historical teas that went overboard at the Boston Tea Party*

**D**URING the Boston Tea Party, about 150 patriots took nearly three and a half hours to dump all the tea aboard the three vessels docked in Boston Harbor.

But what did they actually dump? According to historians at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, the patriots used anything they could get their hands on, including their own hats and shoes, to scoop densely packed loose tea from 340 wooden chests on board the ships.

Five different types of tea were thrown overboard. The bulk of those teas were black teas, including 240 chests of Bohea, 15 of Congou and 10 of Souchong. Bohea, pronounced boo-hee, was the most commonly consumed tea by the colonists and was so popular that its name became synonymous with the word “tea.” In his December 17, 1773, diary entry, John Adams wrote, “Last Night 3 Cargoes of Bohea Tea were emptied into the Sea. This is the most magnificent Movement of all. There is a Dignity, a Majesty, a Sublimity, in this last Effort of the Patriots, that I greatly admire.”

Congou black tea is a finer quality black tea with a strong and pleasant bitter flavor. It was often served with milk. Souchong is a classic black tea known for its distinctive smoky aroma.

The remainder of the tea tossed overboard in Boston Harbor was green tea, which made up 22 percent of the vessels’ shipments, including 60 chests of Singlo and 15 of Hyson, which was favored by colonists including both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

With 60 chests of Singlo on board, you might think it was a popular seller in the colo-



BOHEA



CONGOU



SOUCHONG



SINGLO



HYSON

nies, but it was, in fact, largely unknown. According to tea expert Bruce Richardson, Singlo green tea was picked later in the season and spoiled sooner than other teas.

“It was only included in the ill-fated shipment because the East India Company had quite a bit of stock that needed to be liquidated before it became undrinkable,” Richardson says. “They wanted to introduce the tea to the colonies in the hope that Americans would develop a taste for it.”

Hard to say whether they ever did, since this tea never made it to the pot or their tables. ★

LEFT: One of only two known surviving tea chests from the Boston Tea Party, referred to now as the Robinson Half Chest, is on display in the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum; RIGHT, a small sampling of tea leaves from the Boston Tea Party collected on December 17, 1773; FAR RIGHT: Reenactors spill tea into the harbor at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum; BELOW, five historical teas of varied quality and flavor were thrown overboard in the harbor.



WATER OR FIRE?  
*Boston wasn't the only place Patriots had to contend with troublesome tea*



TEA PROTESTS weren't confined to a handful of urban centers in the winter of 1773, but extended from Maine to the Carolinas and lasted until the outbreak of armed hostilities in the spring of 1775. Some were purely non violent incidents, like in Philadelphia in late December 1773, where the ship returned to London without offloading. Or Edenton, N.C., in October 1774, when local women organized a protest.

Others closely followed the Boston model, tossing tea overboard from the ships before it could be offloaded and the tax collected, as done in New York in April 1774; Chestertown, Md., in May 1774; and Yorktown, Va., in November 1774.

In other cases, tea was publicly burned rather than drowned, as witnessed in Lexington, Mass., in December 1773; Princeton, N.J., in January 1774; Lyme, Conn., in March 1774; and Providence, R.I., in March 1775. But Annapolis, Md., seemingly could not choose between fire and water, burning an entire ship with its cargo of tea still aboard in October 1774. ★

THE ACTS THAT FUELED REBELLION  
*Legal measures imposed by the British led to revolt and ultimately, independence*

IN THE DECLARATION of Independence, Thomas Jefferson spelled out the rationale by which it had become necessary for the colonists to dispose of English rule, describing a “long train of abuses and usurpations” enacted upon the fledgling colonies by the British crown. This maltreatment was derived from a litany of legal measures and acts imposed by the British in the lead-up to independence.

October 7, 1763  
ROYAL PROCLAMATION OF 1763

Wishing to avoid conflict between settlers and Native Americans in territories gained from the French and Indian War, Britain forbid settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. This restriction angered colonists who believed they had fought for this land in the war with France.

April 5, 1764  
SUGAR ACT

To tackle debts incurred during the Seven Years’ War, the British government reduced the tax on sugar and molasses but strengthened collection enforcement. The royal crackdown on profitable smuggling prompted nonimportation campaigns, or boycotts, of British goods.

April 19, 1764  
CURRENCY ACT

Parliament prohibited the issuance of paper currency by the colonial governments, replacing the questionably valued bills with coins issued by the British but reducing colonists’ ability to alleviate debts and pay taxes.

March 22, 1765  
STAMP ACT

Faced with recession, Parliament required all paper products, including legal and trade documents, playing cards, dice and newspapers, to possess a taxed stamp. Immediately, the law was met by protests, riots, boycotts, harassment of collectors and a meeting of colonial representatives at the Stamp Act Congress in October, which denounced taxation without parliamentary representation.

May 15, 1765  
QUARTERING ACT

Acting on complaints from military leadership in North America, Parliament required colonial governments to provide public lodging and provisions for British troops.

March 18, 1766  
REPEAL ACT/DECLARATORY ACT

At the behest of British merchants suffering from colonial boycotts, Parliament repealed the Stamp Act while simultaneously declaring its right to “make laws and statutes” over America “in all cases whatsoever.”

June 1767 – July 1768  
TOWNSHEND ACTS

Consisting of the **Suspending Act**, **Revenue Act**, **Indemnity Act**, **Commissioners of Customs Act** and **Vice Admiralty Court Act**, the legislation championed by Chancellor of the Exchequer Charles Townshend sought to fund governance of North America, pay Britain’s war debt and punish her obstinate subjects. The laws increased duties on goods predominantly imported into the colonies, while streamlining collections and authorizing controversial enforcement methods such as writs of assistance and military vice admiralty courts for smugglers. Colonists responded with protests, additional nonimportation campaigns and rhetorical condemnations.

May 10, 1773  
TEA ACT

Seeking to reduce tensions, the British government repealed all Townshend duties except the tea tax. Parliament, however, awarded the floundering East India Company a monopoly on the tea trade, leading to large-scale protests.

March – June 1774  
INTOLERABLE (COERCIVE) ACTS

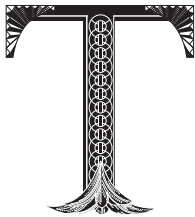
In retaliation for the Boston Tea Party, Prime Minister Lord North urged Parliament to punish Boston. The **Boston Port Act** closed the city to all ocean-borne trade and the **Massachusetts Government Act** and **Impartial Administration of Justice Act** restricted local authority and judicial sovereignty. Additionally, the 1774 **Quartering Act** extended the previous mandate to private residences, while the **Quebec Act** antagonized the English colonies by granting political and religious protections to French Canadians and expanding the province’s borders. Britain’s escalating restrictions increased colonial solidarity, culminating in the first Continental Congress in fall 1774.

March 30, 1775  
NEW ENGLAND RESTRAINING ACT

Hoping to bring the defiant New England colonies into line, Parliament restricted all trade to and from New England to the British domains. In April, these were extended to all colonies except New York and North Carolina.



TAKE A VIRTUAL VISIT  
*to mark 250th events in Boston and Charleston*



HIS AUTUMN, the Trust debuted a collection of new ways to visit iconic, historic destinations without leaving the comfort of home! Virtual Field Trips of Charleston, New Orleans and Vicksburg join the growing roster alongside Boston and Baltimore. And new video driving tours of Chickamauga and Yorktown let you ride shotgun with expert guides.

“As preservationists and educators, we at the American Battlefield Trust believe it is critical to make place-based resources on the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War free and accessible to all,” said the Trust’s President David Duncan. “Teachers have told us time and again that video is the medium best suited to engage students in the modern classroom, and we’ve listened.”

Each Virtual Field Trip takes viewers on a whirlwind journey to some of each city’s most historic landmarks and institutions alongside an energetic and engaging host. They are designed to blend historical narration, scenic footage and interaction with an impressive line-up of subject matter experts and living history interpreters. Two of the four titles can transport you to “tea party” locations virtually, should a physical trip for the 250th anniversary be impractical.

In the Boston Virtual Field Trip, viewers encounter a range of nation-defining

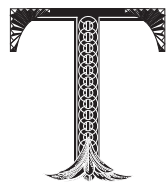
artifacts at the Massachusetts Historical Society; throw tea into Boston Harbor with “Phyllis Wheatley” at the Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum; walk sections of the Freedom Trail, stopping at Copp’s Hill Burying Ground and the Old North Church; meander to Minute Man National Historical Park; and much more!

The Charleston Virtual Field Trip includes a host of sites tied to the city’s colonial, Revolutionary and Civil War significance — from the city’s founding as Charles Town to the discovery and raising of the *H.L. Hunley*. Of particular interest to those with tea on their mind, are the chapters focusing on the Powder Magazine and the Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon.

Rave reviews are pouring in for these series from educators and viewers of all ages. You can explore these resources from the comfort of home at [www.battlefields.org/learn/videos/visit-historic-charleston](http://www.battlefields.org/learn/videos/visit-historic-charleston)★

## ROOTED IN REFORM & REVOLUTION

### Tracing Family Lines from the Protestant Reformation to the American Revolution



HE TWIN PASSIONS for history and faith that have driven the life of Rev. Jeff Miller might not be surprising considering his family tree. Before entering seminary — and, ultimately, serving as rector of the oldest congregation in the United States south of Virginia, at

St. Philip's Church in Charleston, S.C. — Miller had a successful career in the National Park Service, leading tours of many battlefields, especially Antietam.

This longtime Trust supporter can trace patriarchal branches of his family tree back to outspoken German friar Martin Luther (1483–1546), who changed history by articulating his frustration with the sale of indulgences within the Catholic Church in his famed Ninety-five Theses, jumpstarting the Protestant Reformation.

But faith is not what drove Martin Luther's five times great-grandson — Reverend Miller's five times great-grandfather — to come to America. Bernhard Marianus "Conrad" Luther, was an enlisted German soldier hired by the British to help defeat the cause of American independence. International genealogists at Lutheriden-Vereinigung (the Lutheran Association) — who work with descendants of Martin Luther and his wife Katharina von Bora — place Conrad in New York by 1776.

Conrad Luther was born in Erfurt, within the Germanic territory of Thuringia, in 1754, the city where his famous ancestor attended university, entered St. Augustine's Monastery, and was later ordained. Conrad's father, Johann Melchior Michael Luther, was a professor of medicine at Erfurt University.

During this era, many German principalities were militaristic in mindset, boasting a body of well-trained soldiers to manage both internal conflict and external struggles with other European powers. As their feudal economies suffered, German princes hired out their armies to allies. During the American Revolution, Great Britain called on the services of approximately 34,000 German soldiers, with more than half hailing from the principality of Hesse-Kassel

— which neighbored Thuringia to the west.

In the *General History of Cambria County, Pennsylvania*, Conrad Luther is said to have served with these Hessian soldiers, but the text does not clarify which principality he was associated with. While different volumes of this book exist, each claim that Conrad deserted — but *where* is the question! One version says he "contrived to escape" when General Washington attacked the Hessian forces near Trenton, N.J., amid the Ten Crucial Days Campaign. Another stated that Conrad deserted while in Lancaster, Pa. Yet another version states that he joined the American army in Lancaster. Across iterations, details ultimately place Conrad in Lancaster, alongside a young woman — Elizabeth (Barth) Smith — who'd supposedly helped him escape the deadly consequences of desertion.

Questions abound. Approximately a thousand Hessian and British soldiers captured at Trenton on Christmas night of 1776 were marched to Lancaster as prisoners of war. Might Conrad have been among the captured Hessians who escaped? Or, treated well by his captors, did he take up extra work in the form of Continental service? There are a number of possible scenarios, but the lack of primary sources prevents certainty.

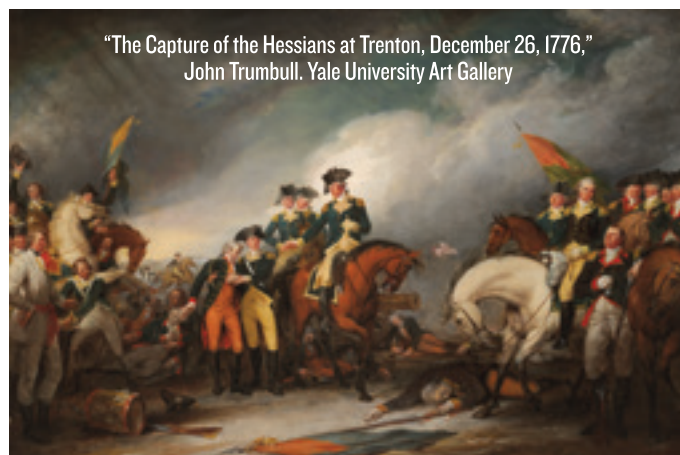
Regardless of Conrad's elusive case, many German soldiers were charmed by the political and social freedoms promised by the rising American nation. Up to half of the German troops who arrived in North America did not re-cross the Atlantic at the war's conclusion. While casualties account for a portion of that number, thousands — Conrad Luther among them — chose to stay and chase the American dream. He made an "Oath of Allegiance to the State of Pennsylvania," with his mark recorded on November 10, 1782. He and Elizabeth became parents to a baby boy, Christian, in approximately 1784, although their marriage at Lancaster County's First Reformed Church was not recorded until December 10, 1789.

The 1790 U.S. Census reports Conrad as the head of a five-person household in Lancaster. Following the birth of another son, William (ca. 1792), the Luther family moved to Cambria County, Pa., where they farmed and saw the births of Mary Ann (ca. 1793), Jacob (ca. 1794) and John (ca. 1800). While Elizabeth and the children became part of the local Catholic Church through

Father Prince Gallitzin, there is no record for Conrad's baptism, leading one to question: Did family history guide his choice?★



Reverend Miller and his ancestor, Martin Luther (1483–1546)



"The Capture of the Hessians at Trenton, December 26, 1776," John Trumbull. Yale University Art Gallery

## PROFILES *in* PRESERVATION RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT



### JACK WARREN *Bringing the Revolution to the next generation*



WHEN I WAS 10, my father offered to take me to Gettysburg Battlefield," Jack Warren says. "I had never been to a Civil War battlefield, and it sounded like fun."

There was just one condition, he explains. "Dad said I had to write a paper about the battle before we would go, so I could act as guide. My father was well read on the Civil War and had been to Gettysburg in the late 1950s. He had no need for a junior guide. But I didn't know that. I got out the *American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War* and my father's set of *Lee's Lieutenants* and set to work." Warren was hooked and eventually wrote dozens of papers, of gradually increasing sophistication, and together father and son visited scores of Civil War battlefields. "He even graded the papers," Warren adds, "and critiqued my sources."

Jack Warren has been writing history and fighting for the preservation of battlefields and historic sites ever since. He grew up to become one of the nation's top authorities on George Washington. He served as an editor of Washington's papers at the University of Virginia and has written extensively on Washington and the Revolutionary War, but he has never lost his passion for Civil War battlefields. He is also a longtime

supporter of the American Battlefield Trust. "The work the Trust does," he says with conviction, "is the most important historical work being done in the United States in our time."

In the early 1990s, he was part of the opposition to the Disney theme park that threatened Manassas Battlefield. Then in 1996, he joined the campaign to preserve Ferry Farm, the site of George Washington's childhood home. "It was some of the most historic ground in America," Warren says. "George Washington grew up there and later sold it to James Mercer, who died fighting beside Washington at Princeton. The Army of the Potomac occupied the farm during the Battle of Fredericksburg and built a pontoon bridge at the ferry crossing. The idea of allowing it to be buried under a Walmart parking lot was too much to bear."

When the fight was over, Warren was instrumental in fundraising to buy the property and securing its National Historic Landmark designation, for which he was honored by the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation with its E. Boyd Graves Preservation Award.

He moved on to another forgotten George Washington site — the house where he lived while visiting Barbados in 1751. It was being used by the local power company for office space, its 18th-century features hidden beneath drywall and indoor-outdoor carpeting. Now restored to its period appearance, it's one of the island's most important historic assets.

Warren served for 18 years as executive director of The Society of the Cincinnati — the nation's oldest private patriotic organization, of which George Washington was first president general. He persuaded the organization to create the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati and immediately threw its weight behind the Trust's work to save the ground over which Washington led the charge that won the Battle of Princeton.

"Much of the honor goes to the Princeton Battlefield Society," he says. "It fought a long delaying action until the Trust, just then embracing Revolutionary War battlefield preservation, joined the fray." His role, as in the past, was to provide scholarly muscle, sparring with opponents who denied the importance of that hallowed ground.

"I marvel at how well the Trust orchestrates these efforts," Warren says. "The Trust rarely loses, which probably makes some members underestimate how hard the fights are and how much the Trust needs their support. I've seen some of these campaigns close up and assure my fellow members — the Trust needs us all desperately."

Warren's new book, *Freedom: The Enduring Importance of the American Revolution*, calls on readers to embrace the ordinary Americans who fought and won the Revolutionary War as our nation's founders. American Battlefield Trust President David Duncan calls it "an essential, desperately needed book ... a timely reminder of how deeply we are the direct beneficiaries of the actions of people who changed our world forever. I learned something new on every page and came away inspired to do my part to preserve our republic for future generations."

His favorite battlefield moment? "At a Trust event on the First Day's field at Gettysburg, Garry Adelman held up a poster-size print of a wartime photograph of the battle, and from where I stood the photograph aligned perfectly with the ground where we were standing and for an instant it was 1863. I wish my father had been there with me."★

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ON A DECEMBER NIGHT in 1773, members of the Sons of Liberty donned Mohawk Indian disguises to dispense three Boston-berthed ships of their precious cargo of tea. Today, visitors to the historic city may view costumed figures stalking the same body of water. However, these actors are there to educate rather than protest, guiding guests through the immersive experience of the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum.

Reopened in 2012, the museum thrusts visitors directly into the Boston Tea Party. Provided with the role of a historic participant, guests hear Samuel Adams deliver a fiery condemnation of the tea tax and can hurl crates off authentic replicas of the brig *Beaver* and trader *Eleanor*. For artifacts, the museum possesses the Robinson Tea Chest, the only known remaining chest from the event, and a vial of tea collected from the harbor in 1773.

Technology and participation assist the museum's efforts to

plunge guests into this dramatic event. Holographs present the differing Patriot and Tory perspectives, while talking portraits allow King George III and Samuel Adams to engage in enthusiastic debate. Meanwhile, Abigail's Tea Room is open to those who prefer to taste their history, as patrons can sample the five blends thrown overboard that historic night.

For the 250th commemoration of the Tea Party, the museum hosts a slew of special events and programs, including a genealogical project, a grave marker initiative and a large-scale reenactment on December 16, to augment its typical hour-long tours. Whether fascinated by the Revolution or looking to drink up some of Boston's rich history, the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum is an essential stop.★

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