

150th Anniversary of the American Civil War



Cape May County Civil War Round Table
Newsletter
February 2015

Meeting Schedule

NOTE::: Meetings are now at the Military Room in the Barn at the Cape May County Historical Society on Route 9 just south of the Zoo!!! Time is 7pm

2015 Meeting Dates

No Meetings in January or February

19 March: David Bastain will tell us about *Grant's Canal & the Union Attempt to Bypass Vicksburg*.

Refreshments:

16 April: Program will be on the Siege of Petersburg, and will be given by one of the folks from Petersburg National Park. (tentative) **Refreshments:**

21 May: Byron Blake will be presenting on *The Life and Times of George Pickett* **Refreshments:**

18 June: *The Field of Shoes: The Battle of New Market* **Refreshments:**

16 July: To Be Announced **Refreshments:**

20 August: John Michael Priest will be telling us about *The Battles of South Mountain*. **Refreshments:**

17 September: Tracy Evans will be telling us about *The Lost Orders of General Lee*. **Refreshments:**

15 October: Craig Caba will be discussing the J Howard Worth Collection of Civil War Artifacts from Gettysburg as well as anti-slavery efforts in Gettysburg.

19 November: To Be Announced

?? December (date for Christmas dinner meeting to be determined)

NEW!!!

LIST OF LOCAL EVENTS!!!

Members are encouraged to participate; if you have Civil War garb / uniforms, please feel free to wear it! We would also appreciate members attending helping by handing out flyers as well as telling folks about our group.

6 April: Cape May County Historical Museum opens for the season. Seasonal hours and tours resume.

25 April: Avalon History Faire at field across from Avalon Historical Society.

2 May: History Fair/Spring Festival at the Cape May County Historical Society. There should be a large number of Civil War related books donated by the Union League up for auction, and hopefully some New Jersey re-enactment groups will be participating. *The Historical Society is supporting our Round Table; please support them in turn!*

13 June, 10am – 4pm: MAC Civil War event (Physic Estate)

20 – 21 June: Military Time Line at Cold Spring Village

16 – 18 July: 4H Faire at Cape May County Park

12 – 13 Sept: Civil War Weekend at Cold Spring Village

16 Oct: Cape May County Historical Museum begins winter hours, tours only by appointment.

12 & 19 Dec: Christmas Open House at the Cape May Historical Society Museum

The County Historical Society and Museum would like us to add that they are looking for volunteers to help with many aspects of their work – from helping in the library, working in the gardens, to acting as tour guides/docents in the museum.

Round Table Officers

President: Marty Runner

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REMINDER: Dues are Now Due, and have gone up to \$30 a year; \$35 if you want a hard copy of the newsletter mailed to you. Copy costs have gone up to \$.10 a page, so it's a lot more expensive to print the newsletter than it was even a few years ago! And you all know how more expensive it is to mail a letter, too... Send your dues to Jim Marshall!!!

Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting 20 January 2015

Members Present: Marty Runner, John Burke, Andy Lolli, Pat Munson-Siter

Discussion of potential presenters, schedule for meeting presentations started to be put together. In addition to the presenters and dates listed in our meeting schedule on page one, other potential lecturers include Tracy Evans on the Lost Orders (Orders 191) probably in June or July, a presentation on the Battle of New Market/The Field of Empty Shoes, Civil War Flags of New Jersey (possibly by Dr. Martin), and perhaps a presentation on the 7th New Jersey by someone like David Han or Paul Lieter.

We want to work with the Cape May County Museum on a joint trip to somewhere like Gettysburg. Perhaps with both groups participating we will be able to get enough people to sign up for the tour for it to be able to take place.

There are a number of local historically oriented events taking place this summer. The folks putting on these events would appreciate us turning up for them. If you have Civil War garb, you are welcome to wear it; but it is definitely not required. We would like to have a table or something similar at most of these events with our flyers, and we would appreciate it if members would volunteer to 'man' the tables, hand out flyers, etc even if you're only there for half an hour or so. This includes the 4H Faire at the County Park in July.

Our flyers are in the process of being updated, and we would appreciate it if members would be willing to take flyers to their local libraries, city and township historical societies, and so forth. WE NEED NEW MEMBERS, and we can only get them if people are aware that we are here, where

and when we meet, and so on. We will also be putting together displays for this summer at the Cape May Court House, the Lower Township, Wildwood Crest, and the Avalon Public Libraries.

Hank Heacock has told Marty he would volunteer to be our liason for press relations; and John Burke said tonight he would volunteer to help Hank with this task.

The concensus was that our group needs to step up our efforts to let the public know we are here, in order to be able to recruit new members. There are a lot of folks in this area who are interested in the Civil War (including some re-enactors) who don't know we are here.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Munson-Siter

NOTE: The secretary will be forever grateful to anyone who has any articles, information on local events, and so on that any of our members would like to send in for consideration to be included in the newsletter.

Please check out our Facebook Page! Cape May County Civil War Round Table.

It gets pretty discouraging to put stuff up on our FB page and it seems like only one or two other folks – one of whom isn't even a member of our group – even bother to look at what we post!

Civil War Historic Events in March

		1860
		No major battles, etc. in 1860
		1861
March	4	Lincoln inaugurated
		1862
March	7-8	Battle of Pea Ridge (AR)
	8	Confederate ironclad Merrimac enters Hampton Roads, destroys Union warships
	9	Battle of Monitor-Merrimac in Hampton Roads
	21	First battle of Kernstown (VA)
	28	Battle of Glorieta (NM)
		1863
		No major battles, etc. in 1863
		1864
		No major battles, etc. in 1864
		1865
March	2	Battle of Waynesboro (VA)

- 4 Lincoln inaugurated
- 25 Battle of Fort Stedman at Petersburg

Civil War Related Events in March 2015



1 VA Battle of Waynesborough commemoration. Includes living history demonstrations, speakers and reenactment with weekend battles in Waynesboro. 540-943-3943 or shenandoahatwar.org

*2 VA Car-caravan tour, "On This Day: Battle of Waynesboro," begins at the Plumb House, 1021 W Main St, Waynesboro. 4-6 pm. Free. shenandoahatwar.org

1 PA Film and commentary, "Buster Keaton in The General," at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett

7 PA Lecture, "To the Brink of Collapse: The Final Campaign of the Army of Tennessee," at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett

7 MD Talk, "The United States Colored Troops at Andersonville, Prison," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2:30 pm. Free. civilwarmed.org

7 DC Talk, "Women Soldiers in the Civil War," at Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office, 437 Seventh St NW, Washington. 2:30 pm. Free. civilwarmed.org

7 VA Living history, "Jack Tars and Virginia Boatmen on the James and Appomattox Rivers," at Grant's HQ at City Point, part of the Petersburg National Battlefield in Hopewell. 10 am-4:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete

7 VA Van tour, "Howlett Line," tour the Confederate Bermuda Hundred line south of Richmond. Meets at Henricus Historical Park, 251 Henricus Park Road, Chester. 10 am-2 pm. \$15. Reservations: chesterfieldhistory.com

7 VA Living history walking tour, "Battle of Smithfield," begins at the Isle of Wight Museum, 103 Main St, Smithfield. 2 pm. Free. historicisleofwight.com

7 VA Walking tour, "Fort Huger," 17146 Monument Circle, Isle of Wight County near Smithfield. 10 am. Free. historicisleofwight.com

7-8 VA Battle of Hampton Roads Weekend at the Mariners Museum in Newport News. Living history, talks, food, music plus Saturday Civil War beard competition. battleofhamptonroads.com

8 PA Lecture, "The Closing Scenes: Admiral David G. Farragut and the End of the Civil War," at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 1:30 pm. Free. nps.gov/gett

13-15 VA Civil War Weekend at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. Speakers, reception and more. \$275 includes all. Info: civilwar.vt.edu

13-15 VA Seminar, "1865," at Longwood University (Jarman Auditorium) in Farmville. Annual conference features speakers focusing on Lee's Retreat and Appomattox. Free. 434-352-8987 extension 232.

*14 NC Lecture, "The Significance of the Battle of Bentonville," at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh. 2 pm. Free. 919-807-7900.

14 DC Talk, "Clara Barton: Advocate for Equality," at Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office, 437 Seventh St NW, Washington. 2:30 pm. Free. <http://www.civilwarmed.org/>

14 VA "United States Colored Troops in Winter Camp," special program at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 10 am and 1 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/pete

*20-22 MD Conference, "... he Belongs to the Ages" In Memoriam — 150 years," based at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. Friday tour of Lincoln assassination sites in Washington, lectures Saturday, Booth escape route tour Sunday. See surrattmuseum.org/annual-conference for registration details.

20-22 PA Symposium, "Reunion/Reconciliation," at the Seminary Ridge Museum in Gettysburg. Details, registration: <http://www.seminaryridgemuseum.org/>

21 WI Living history, music, "Civil War Expo," at the Civil War Museum in Kenosha. 10 am-3 pm. kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/events

*21 VA Living history, "Battles of Fort Stedman and Jones Farm," at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 10-11 am (Stedman) and 2-3 pm (Jones Farm). Free with park admission. nps.gov/pete

*21 VA “Abraham Lincoln at the Siege of Petersburg,” ranger program at Grant’s HQ at City Point, part of the Petersburg National Battlefield in Hopewell. Noon. Free. nps.gov/pete

21 VA Civil War Institute, “Appomattox: The Last Days of the Civil War,” at Bridgewater College, McKinney Hall, in Bridgewater. 9 am-4 pm. Free. shenandoahatwar.org

21 VA Living history at Historic Point of Rocks, 1011 Point of Rocks Road, Chester. Explore Union hospital site with medical living history programs. 10 am-4 pm. Parking at Dodd Park, 201 Enon Church Road, with shuttles to site. 804-751-4946.

21 VA Lecture, “The Richmond-Petersburg Campaign, October 1864,” at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. 2 pm. Free. 703-591-0560.

21 VA Van tour, “The Richmond Front 1864-1865,” leaves from Lee Hall Mansion in Newport News. 8 am-4 pm. \$50. Reservations: 757-888-3371 extension 306.

21 DC Talk, “Female Nurses in the Civil War,” at Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office, 437 Seventh St NW, Washington. 2:30 pm. Free. <http://www.civilwarmed.org/>

21 PA “An Evening with the Painting,” an “after-hours” experience with the Gettysburg Cyclorama at the Gettysburg NMP visitor center. 5 pm. \$20/adult. gettysburgfoundation.org/18

*21-22 VA Reenactment, “150th Anniversary of the Battle of Bentonville,” at the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site near Four Oaks. nchistoricsites.org/bentonvi

21-22 VA Bus tour, “Lee’s Retreat to Appomattox,” includes Petersburg and Richmond area sites, Sailor’s Creek and Appomattox. Tour based in Manassas area. \$350. Details, registration: 703-367-7872.

22 VA Lecture, “1865: ‘Great God Take Care of Us,’” at the Mt. Zion Historic Park, 40309 John Mosby Highway, Aldie. 3 pm. 703-327-9777.

22 VA “Civil War in Isle of Wight County: A Historical Update,” at the Isle of Wight Museum, 103 Main St, Smithfield. 2 pm. Free. historicisleofwight.com

22 VA Book talk, “Stuart’s Finest Hour,” at the Manassas Museum. 2 pm. Free. manassasmuseum.org

*25 VA Real time anniversary tours of the Battles of Fort Stedman and Jones Farm,” ranger-led tours at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 5-9 am (Stedman) and 3-5 pm (Jones Farm). Free with park admission. www.nps.gov/pete

27 VA Book talk, “Unionists in Virginia: Politics, Secession, and Their Plan to Prevent Civil War,” at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Noon. Free with admission. moc.org

27-28 IN Civil War show at Beech Grove High School, 5330 Hornet Ave, Beech Grove. 4-8 pm Friday, 9 am-4 pm Saturday. 317-784-2617.

27-29 VA Seminar, “1865 — The Final Days,” at Liberty University in Lynchburg. Friday evening banquet \$20, free for Saturday lectures. liberty.edu/civilwar

*28 VA Living history, “Battle of Five Forks,” at the Five Forks Battlefield Contact Station, part of the Petersburg National Battlefield. 10 am-4 pm. Special “faces” program at noon. Nighttime tours 6-8 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/pete

*28 VA Living history and Panel Discussion, “The River Queen Conference,” at the Beacon Theater, 401 N Main St, Hopewell. 3:30-5 pm. www.nps.gov/pete

*28 VA Living history, commemorative events at the Sailor’s Creek Battlefield Historical State Park near Rice. Hillsman House open 9 am-1:30 pm, special living history program on the battlefield 2 pm. Visitor center open 9 am-7 pm. \$10/car parking fee. 804-561-7510.

28 VA Symposium, “Symphony of Stitches,” focus on Civil War dolls with talks and artifacts, at St. Paul’s Heritage Center, 106 S High St, Edinburg. Benefits the Edinburg Mill Museum. \$30/full day. Details: 540-984-9309.

28 VA Civil War Institute, “‘We learned that we are indivisible’: The Civil War’s End & Its Legacies,” at Shenandoah University in Winchester. Includes lectures and tour of the Cool Springs battlefields. 9 am-5 pm. \$45. Registration: 540-665-5442.

28 VA Seminar, “The Civil War’s End & Its Legacies,” at Shenandoah University, Cool Spring Campus in Bluemont. \$45. Details, registration: 540-665-5442.

28 VA Tour, “Dam No. 1 and Endview Plantation,” Peninsula Campaign site tour begins at Endview in Newport News. \$25 includes admission to Endview and transportation to Dam No. 1. 9:30 am-noon. Reservations: 757-888-3371.

28 VA Living history with field hospital and special tours at the Sailor’s Creek Battlefield State Park near Rice. Details: 804-561-7510.

28 PA Lecture, “Defiance on the Border: Maryland Confederate Women Vs. Their Union Occupiers,” at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. 1 pm. Free with admission. nationalcivilwarmuseum.org

28 DC Talk, "Female Spies in the Civil War," at Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office, 437 Seventh St NW, Washington. 2:30 pm. Free. civilwarmed.org

28 ALL Civil War Trust Park Day, annual volunteer cleanup and preservation day at Civil War battlefields and sites around the country. civilwar.org/aboutus/events/park-day

*29 VA Living history and tours in Farmville commemorating the April 7, 1865, passing of the armies through town. 434-392-1482.

*29 VA Special talks and tours at the High Bridge Trail State Historical Park near Farmville. Talk 10 am at River Road parking, 11:30 am and 12:30 pm fortification tours. Gen. Smyth tour 11:30 am. \$4/parking fee. 434-315-0457.

*29 VA Living history, "Battle of Fort Gregg," at the Petersburg National Battlefield (Stop 4, Western Front). 10 am-4 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete

29 VA Living history with skirmish plus earthwork tours at the High Bridge Trail State Park near Farmville. 434-315-0457.

29 VA Book talk, "'Stand to It and Give Them Hell!': Gettysburg as the Soldiers Experienced it from Cemetery Ridge to Little Round Top, July 2, 1863," at the Manassas Museum. 2 pm. Free. manassasmuseum.org

PRESERVATION NEWS

NOTE: The Civil War Trust is now teaming up with other historical groups to help preserve battlefields from other wars, like the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

Groups seek to save hallowed ground in Princeton

A bold move by Gen. George Washington helped turn the tide for American forces at the Battle of Princeton on Jan. 3, 1777. A group that has concentrated on Civil War battlefields has now turned its attention to earlier wars.

By Edward Colimore, Inquirer Staff Writer

POSTED: NOVEMBER 12, 2014

PRINCETON - The battle was going against the Americans.

Gen. Hugh Mercer was knocked to the ground when his horse was shot out from under him. He was surrounded by advancing British troops and bayoneted seven times.

American soldiers were falling back in disarray when "a tall man on a white horse could be seen galloping toward the scene of battle," wrote historian Richard M. Ketchum.

Gen. George Washington had arrived. He rode between the lines, calling out to his men, "Will you give your general to the enemy?"

The bold move helped turn the tide at the Battle of Princeton on Jan. 3, 1777, leading to a patriot victory.

Now another battle is being fought, to save those grounds and others where history was made during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

The effort is being led by two national historic-preservation advocacy groups, the Civil War Trust and the American Revolution Institute of the Society of Cincinnati, that are to announce their initiative - and plans to purchase more than four acres of the battlefield - at noon Tuesday, Veterans Day, next to the Princeton Battle Monument.

They will be joined by members of the Princeton Battlefield Society and state and local officials.

The national effort - called Campaign 1776, a project of the Civil War Trust - follows the organization's preservation of 40,000 Civil War battlefield acres in 20 states over the last three decades. The trust raised millions of dollars in private donations to purchase the land.

Now, in partnership with the National Park Service and other groups, it's working on three fronts - three wars.

It will start in New Jersey and work with the state Green Acres program and the municipality of Princeton to raise \$1 million by the end of the year to purchase the land for Princeton Battlefield State Park.

"The truth is, we would have preferred another organization to take up the cause, but none came forward - and it's now or never," said Jim Lighthizer, president of the Civil War Trust and Campaign 1776. "We're the best at preservation.

"What better way to honor the memory of our veterans than to save the places where they created history, where they fought and died," said Lighthizer, whose Campaign 1776 is to donate \$25,000 and begin accepting other donations.

Legislation has been introduced in Congress - and will likely come up for a vote in 2015 - to provide federal funds to match private donations to purchase Revolutionary War and War of 1812 tracts in the same way money is provided for Civil War battlefields, said Mary Koik, a spokeswoman for the Civil War Trust.

The trust had been discussing expanding its preservation efforts into other wars when it was approached in 2013 by the National Park Service, which had completed a study of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields.

"They asked us to get involved," said Lighthizer. "We looked at it and wondered, how are we going to do it?"

"It was a significant undertaking," he said. "We decided to make it a special project of the Civil War Trust."

Large donors came forward, providing \$300,000 toward the Campaign 1776 project's operations. The trust hopes to raise a total of \$800,000 by March.

The Princeton Battlefield seemed a good place to begin, since it was a key clash, "the first American victory over British regulars by Washington," said Lighthizer, whose great-great-grandfather George Lighthizer, a German indentured servant, fought at Princeton. "This was enormous in American history."

The land is privately owned. Its purchase would protect it from potential development, according to officials.

The wider preservation effort is focused on 10,000 to 15,000 acres of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields across the nation, while 200,000 to 250,000 acres of Civil War battlegrounds remain, Lighthizer said.

There are fewer acres for the earlier wars because the armies were smaller and more years have passed, allowing for development.

Campaign 1776 hopes to save two to four sites in 2015 and five to six in 2016, officials said.

"Beyond the highways and the strip malls, some of our great historic places survive, substantially as they were 150 or 250 years ago. . . . And in too many cases, they survive unprotected," said Jack D. Warren Jr., executive director of the American Revolution Institute of the Society of Cincinnati, in a statement. The society was formed by Continental Army officers in 1783 to perpetuate the memory of their service.

"We can save these battlefields where our independence was won, but we have to do it now," Warren said. "We cannot have this conversation in 50 years. We cannot have it in 20, and in some cases, we cannot have it in 10."

For more information about the Civil War Trust's programs, go to www.civilwar.org.
ecolimore@phillynews.com

Cedar Creek Battlefield Partners Celebrate Preservation Victories as Anniversary Commemoration Begins

(Middletown, Va.) – At a news conference this morning, representatives of Belle Grove, Inc., the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, the National Park Service, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Shenandoah County, and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation joined the Civil War Trust at Belle Grove Plantation to kick-off events commemorating the 150th

anniversary of the Battle of Cedar Creek and reaffirm the unique partnerships that have borne fruit in several recent preservation victories. Since its foundation in 2002, Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park remains among a handful of public-private partnership parks in the country, and has proven the viability of the management model; together the participating groups have saved approximately 1,692 acres of historic landscape to date.

The event saw the Civil War Trust announce the purchase at public auction and preservation of 6.7 acres of core battleground north of Middletown. While the Trust had previously protected a property known as Rienzi's Knoll, the new acreage is the first time land within the Park Service boundary has been protected on the battlefield's northern portion. The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, meanwhile, shared additional details of its recent protection of the 179-acre Island Farm property on the southern end of the battlefield.

Additionally, the partner groups announced the launch of a new website, www.savingcedarcreek.org, to showcase the ways in which the united efforts are focusing attention on the region's rich history and providing a platform to advocate for future preservation, interpretation and advocacy initiatives.

"There is no time more fitting to trumpet these preservation successes than on the eve of the sesquicentennial of the Battle of Cedar Creek," said Trust president James Lighthizer. "The steadfast determination of all our partners in the Valley has made this park an outstanding example of what such combined and focused efforts can do to secure the legacy of this hallowed ground. Today, 150 years after brave men fought and died here, we are honored to stand in such good company saluting their memory."

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation chief executive officer Keven Walker agreed, saying, "We are in the midst of an amazing movement in the Shenandoah Valley to preserve these battlefields, protecting them from numerous threats and ensuring their survival for generations to come. Preserving these additional acres of battlefield will help ensure that the incredible story of the Valley's last great battle will never be forgotten."

On October 19, 1864, Lt. Gen. Jubal Early's Confederates surprised Union troops near Cedar Creek after an audacious night march, driving first one, then another, then a third Union corps from the field. As Early paused to reorganize, Union Maj. Gen. Phil Sheridan arrived from headquarters in Winchester just in time to rally his troops and launch a crushing counterattack from which Early's forces could not recover. Sheridan's victory at Cedar Creek extinguished

any hope of further Confederate offensives in the Shenandoah Valley and helped secure Abraham Lincoln's reelection to the presidency.

"The success of Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our partners," said Amy Bracewell, site manager of Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP. "By working together, we can save additional land in the park, and host incredible events, like the sesquicentennial commemorations coming up this weekend."

Belle Grove Plantation, site of today's event, is one of the outstanding historic mansions of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is also a National Historic Landmark, a Virginia Historic Landmark and a historic property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A centerpiece of the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, Belle Grove serves the Shenandoah Valley and Virginia as an educational center through the many interpretive programs it offers. More information is available at <http://www.bellegrove.org/>.

Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation's annual battle reenactment takes place this weekend, October 18-19, on the Cedar Creek Battlefield. Tickets and more information are available at <http://ccbf.us/>.

Commemorative events sponsored by the park partners include special tours of the battlefield and Belle Grove Plantation, as well as reenactments of the Battle of Cedar Creek. More information and other details are available at <http://www.nps.gov/cebe/planyourvisit/civil-war-sesquicentennial.htm>.

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP would not be possible without the tireless work of its dedicated partners in the Shenandoah Valley. These partner organizations work together to promote the history of these sites, protect the endangered historic resources, and interpret these significant historic landmarks. More information about the partnerships can be found by visiting www.savingcedarcreek.org.

The Civil War Trust is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its mission is to preserve our nation's endangered Civil War battlefields and to promote appreciation of these hallowed grounds. To date, it has preserved more than 39,000 acres of battlefield land in 20 states, including 21,000 acres in Virginia and 621 at Cedar Creek. Learn more at www.civilwar.org, the home of the [Civil War sesquicentennial](#).

Congress Enacts Landmark Legislation to Preserve America's Endangered Battlefields
LEGISLATION EXPANDS SUCCESSFUL
FEDERAL CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD GRANT
PROGRAM TO INCLUDE PRESERVATION OF

REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 BATTLEFIELDS

(Washington, D.C.) – The Civil War Trust today applauded members of U.S. Senate and House of Representatives for enactment of landmark legislation to preserve America's endangered battlefields.

The legislation, part of an omnibus lands package included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 3979), reauthorizes a highly successful federal matching grant program for the preservation of Civil War battlefields. In addition, the bill expands that existing program to provide grants for the acquisition of land at Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields.

"This is a historic moment for the battlefield preservation movement," remarked Civil War Trust president James Lighthizer. "For 15 years, the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program has been an invaluable tool for protecting the hallowed battlegrounds of the Civil War. Now, for the first time, battlefields associated with America's other formative conflicts, the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, will also benefit from this public-private partnership."

The legislation, originally introduced in 2013 as the American Battlefields Protection Program Amendments Act (H.R. 1033), reauthorizes the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program, a matching grants program that encourages private sector investment in historic battlefield protection. Since the program was first funded by Congress in FY 1999, it has been used to preserve more than 23,000 acres of battlefield land in 17 states. The battlefields protected through the program include some of the most famous in the annals of America, including Antietam, Md., Chancellorsville and Manassas, Va.; Chattanooga and Franklin, Tenn.; Gettysburg, Pa.; Perryville, Ky.; and Vicksburg, Miss.

The bipartisan bill was sponsored by U.S. Senators Tim Kaine (D-Va.) and Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) and Congressmen Rush Holt (D-N.J.) and Rob Wittman (R-Va.) in their respective chambers. In addition, the bill was championed by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chair Mary Landrieu (D-La.) and House Natural Resources Chairman Doc Hastings (R-Wash.). A complete list of House and Senate cosponsors can be found on the Congress.gov website ([Senate](#) and [House](#)).

"We owe our Congressional champions in the House and Senate an enormous debt of gratitude for believing in this program and guiding it through an often complicated legislative process," Lighthizer noted. "Thanks to their tireless efforts, thousands of acres of genuine American history that might have been lost to development can still be preserved for future generations."

In addition to reauthorizing the existing Civil War matching grants program, the bill expands the program's authority to provide grants to protect Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields. Similar to the Civil War grants, which are awarded for priority battlefield land identified in a 1993 government report on Civil War battlefields (updated in 2011), funding for Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields will target sites listed in a 2007 study by the American Battlefield Protection Program. Among the battlefields that could potentially benefit from the expanded program are: Bennington, N.Y. and Vt.; Brandywine, Pa.; Cowpens, S.C.; Caulk's Field, Md.; Guilford Courthouse, N.C.; Princeton, N.J.; River Raisin, Mich.; Saratoga, N.Y.; and Yorktown, Va.

In his remarks, Lighthizer also noted that this legislation, by encouraging the protection of battlefield land, also honors the courage and sacrifices of all who served in America's military. "Preserved battlefields are living monuments – not just to the soldiers who fought in those hallowed fields – but to all Americans who have worn our nation's uniform. There are no better places to learn about the human cost of the freedoms we enjoy today."

Cape May County Civil War Round Table
www.cmccwrt.com

The combined Civil War, Revolutionary War and War of 1812 matching program is authorized at \$10 million a year for seven years, through the end of FY 2021. The FY 2015 Omnibus Appropriations Act (H.R. 83) currently under consideration by the Congress includes \$8.9 million for the program.

In addition to the American Battlefields Protection Program Amendments Act, the lands package in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) also included other important battlefield preservation initiatives, including modest expansions of the national military parks at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, as well as legislation to explore adding Mill Springs Battlefield in Kentucky to the National Park System. President Obama is expected to sign NDAA into law later this month.

The Civil War Trust is the premier nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of America's hallowed battlegrounds. The Trust is the principal nonprofit advocate for federal battlefield preservation programs and legislation. Although primarily focused on the protection of Civil War battlefields, through its Campaign 1776 initiative, the Trust also seeks to save the battlefields connected to the Revolutionary War and War of 1812. To date, the Trust has preserved more than 40,000 acres of battlefield land in 20 states. Learn more at www.civilwar.org.

