

150th Anniversary of the American Civil War



Cape May County Civil War Round Table Newsletter July 2013

2013 Meeting Schedule

18 July: Don Ernsberger will speak on his new book *Stars and Bars over Philadelphia*, an alternative ending Civil war book.

Refreshments: Marty Runner

15 August: Ed Bonekemper will be giving us a presentation on *The Myth of the Lost Cause: A Fantasy View of the Civil War*.

Refreshments: Mike & Barbara Golla

19 September:

17 October: Refreshments: John Burke

21 November:

?? December:

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No Business was Conducted during the June Meeting.

Civil War Milestones = August

- 1861
- 10 Battle of Wilson's Creek (MO)
- 11 Union soldiers occupy Hatteras Island (NC)
- 1862
- 9 Battle of Cedar Mountain (VA)
- 29-30 Second battle of Manassas (Bull Run) (VA)
- 1863
- 21 Lawrence (KS) burned by Quantrill
- 1864
- 5 Battle of Mobile Bay (AL)

Civil War Related Events in August 2012



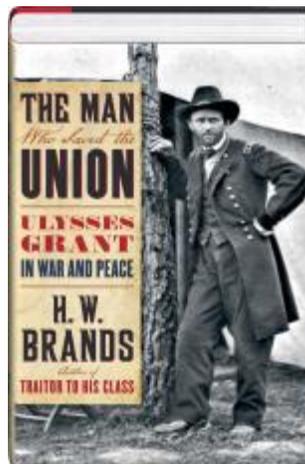
The raid on Lawrence (KS) August 1863

- 2 **VA** Walking tour, "The Historic Heater Farm: A House Divided," the Cedar Creek battlefield landmark and the family behind it. Meets at 8437 Valley Pike, Middletown. 7 pm. Free. nps.gov/cebe
- 2-4 **VA** Living history, "Summer Civil War Encampment," commemorates the arrival of Confederate troops after Gettysburg to Montpelier, home of James Madison, near Orange. Camps and demonstrations across Route 20 from the Montpelier Train Depot. Noon-5 pm Friday, 9 am-5 pm Saturday and 9 am-3 pm Sunday. Free. montpelier.org
- 2-4 **NY** Reenactment, "Civil War Days" at Tinker Nature Park, 1525 Calkins Road, Henrietta. Friday concert 6:30 pm. Camps open 10 am-4 pm Saturday and Sunday with

		battles at 2 pm each day. sites.google.com/ site/ tinkercivilwardays			admission. civilwarmed.org
3	VA	Ranger program, "One Regiment's Fate (2nd Connecticut Heavy Artillery on June 1, 1864)," at the Cold Harbor unit of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. 10:30 am. Free. nps.gov/rich		10	VA Ranger program, "Taken Only in Photographs: Drewy's Bluff," at the Drewry's Bluff unit of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. 2 pm. Free. nps.gov/rich
3	VA	Ranger program, "An Exhibition of Manly Daring: The Confederates at Malvern Hill," at the Malvern Hill unit (Parsonage) of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. 2 pm. Free. nps.gov/rich		10	VA Walking tour, "The Struggle for Survival: Richmond 1863" begins at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. 10:30 am. \$10. moc.org
3	VA	Talks, "The Life of Robert E. Lee" and "Why Appomattox?" at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. 11 am and 2pm. Free with museum admission. moc.org		10	VA Special tours, "The Deadliest Enemy," disease takes its toll at Ben Lomond Historic Site in Manassas. Tours on the hour 11 am-3 pm. \$5. 703-367-7872.
3	PA	"Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital: Candlelight at Christ Church," 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.		10	PA "Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital: Candlelight at Christ Church," 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.
3-4	WV	Living history, "Under Fire: The Battle of Boliver Heights, 1862," at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Demonstrations at 1, 2 and 3 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/hafe		10-11	PA Living history, infantry camps at the Pennsylvania Memorial and Pitzer Woods, Gettysburg battlefield. Free. nps.gov/gett
3-4	MD	Living history, music, talks, "Aftermath of Gettysburg — Fort McHenry 1863," at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore. Recreates the flow of wounded and prisoners to the city. Free Civil War tattoo with music Saturday 6 pm. Other activities free with site admission. Camps 9 am-4 pm. nps.gov/fomc	★ 150	10-11	MD Living history, "Defenders of the Sunken Road," camps and weapons firing demonstrations at the Antietam National Battlefield. Free with park admission. nps.gov/anti
3-4	MD	Living history and ranger programs, "United States Colored Troops," at the Monocacy National Battlefield near Frederick. nps.gov/mono		14	VA Talk, "United States Colored Troops," at Baine's Books and Coffee, 205 Main St, Appomattox. 12:15 pm. Free. moc.org
3-4	MD	Living history, "The US Army Signal Corps: The Civil War and Today," at the Pry House Field Hospital Museum, on the Antietam Battlefield near Keedysville. 11 am-5 pm and 9:30-10:30 pm Saturday and 11 am-3 pm Sunday. Donation requested. civilwarmed.org		15	VA Lecture, "Harrisonburg's Confederate General Hospital," at the Heritage Museum in Dayton. 7 pm. Free. 540-879-2681.
3-4	PA	Living history, artillery camp at the Pennsylvania Memorial and infantry camp at Spangler Spring, Gettysburg battlefield. Free. nps.gov/gett		16	VA Car-caravan tour, "The Tragic Deaths of Stephen Ramseur and Charles Lowell: Examples of a Generation Lost," meets at Belle Grove, 336 Belle Grove Road, Middletown, on the Cedar Creek battlefield. 7 pm. Free. nps.gov/cebe
7	VA	Talk, "They Also Served — Animals in War," at the Petersburg National Battlefield visitor center. 5 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/pete		16	VA Talk, "Quantrill's Sack of Lawrence, Kansas, and the Un-civil War" at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. Noon. Free with admission. moc.org
10	MD	Talk, "Preparing and Dispensing Civil War Prescriptions," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 2 pm. Free with museum		16-17	PA Annual Music Muster at the Gettysburg National Military Park. Concerts at the battlefield and in town. nps.gov/gett
				17	DC MD Bus tour, "The Battle of South Mountain," a Smithsonian tour with Ed Bearss, begins at 550 C St SW, Washington. 8:30 am-7 pm. \$165. smithsonianassociates.org (click on Civil War).

- 17 **VA** Ranger program, "Richmond (Almost) Taken: The First Battle of Drewry's Bluff," at the Drewry's Bluff unit of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. 10:30 am. Free. nps.gov/rich
- 17 **VA** Ranger program, "Death Fairly Revealed in That Ravine: United States Colored Troops at Fort Harrison, Fort Gilmer, and New Market Heights," at the Fort Gilmer unit of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. 3 pm. Free. nps.gov/rich
- 17 **VA** "Crossing to Freedom," a celebration of the anniversary of slaves crossing the Rappahannock River to freedom in 1862, at Cow's Ford on the river near Remington. 9 am-4 pm. See thequestforhistory.blogspot.com
- 17 **VA** Walking tour, "Civil War Trail & Gilmore Farm," tour a Civil War winter camp and watch reenactors build huts at Montpelier, home of James Madison near Orange. 2 pm. \$5 plus Montpelier admission. montpelier.org
- 17 **VA** Walking tour, "Butler's Offensive at Point of Rocks," guided tours of the site of military and hospital activity in 1864. Begins at trailhead in Dodd Park at Point of Rocks, 201 Enon Church Road, Chester (south of Richmond). 10 am. \$8. Registration: 804-751-4946 or chesterfieldhistory.com
- 17 **VA** Talks, "Military Justice in the Union Army at the Siege," at the City Point unit (Hopewell) of the Petersburg National Battlefield. 10:30 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete
- 17 **WV**  Living history, "Fort Mulligan Day Festival," with camps, talks and more at Fort Mulligan in Petersburg. 9 am-9 pm. 304-257-9266.
- 17 **VA** Walking tour of Fort Huger, Confederate fort on the James River at 15080 Talcott Terrace near Smithfield. 10 am. Free. 757-357-0115.
- 17 **MD** Lecture, "The Battle of Gettysburg Revisited," at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton. 4 pm. Free. surratt.org
- 17 **MD** Walking tour, "Civil War Annapolis," begins at the information booth at the City Dock. 10 am-noon. \$16/adult. annapolistours.com
- 17 **PA** "An Evening with the Painting," special two-hour, after-hours view of and talks about the Gettysburg Cyclorama. 6 pm. \$20/adult. Tickets: gettysburgfoundation.org
- 17 **PA** "Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital: Candlelight at Christ Church," 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.
- 17-18 **NY** Civil War living history at Hamlin Beach State Park on Lake Ontario. Camps, music and demonstrations 10 am-10:15 pm Saturday and 9:30 am-4 pm Sunday. Schedule: hamlinreenactment.com
- 17-18 **PA** Living history, "Civil War Weekend" at the Eckley Miners' Village, 2 Eckley Main St, Weatherly. Camps, demonstrations and more. 10 am-5 pm both days. Admission fee. More info, directions: eckleyminersvillagemuseum.com
- 17-18 **VA** Living history, tours, talks and more, "Civil War Weekend: 1863 in the Valley" at various sites in Winchester. More info: visitwinchesterva.com
- 18 **WV**  Reenactment, "Battle of Dry Creek," at the Greenbrier State Forest, near White Sulphur Springs, off I-64 exit 175. Camps open 10:30 am with battle at 1 pm. battleofdrycreek.org
- 18 **VA** Boat tours, "Civil War on the James River," two-hour tours leave from Deep Bottom Park east of Richmond. 8 and 10 am. \$50. Reservations, details: 804-938-2350.
- 18 **VA** Ranger programs, "Battle for Weldon Railroad," at the Petersburg National Battlefield, Western Front Stop No. 1. 1 and 3 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete
- 18 **VA** Talks, "19th-Century Women's Fashion," at the Museum of the Confederacy in Appomattox. 11 am and 2 pm. Free with museum admission. moc.org
- 24 **VA** Walking tour, "Permanent Petersburgers," at Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg. Prominent Civil War citizens. 7 pm. Free. nps.gov/pete
- 24 **VA** Car-caravan tour, "If Anyone Thinks the Rebels Won't Fight, Come Down Here and Try Them On." Tour of the Seven Days Battles begins at the Chickahominy Bluff unit of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. 10 am-4 pm. Free. nps.gov/rich
- 24 **PA** "Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital: Candlelight at Christ Church," 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.
- 24-25 **PA** Living history, Iron Brigade camp at the Pennsylvania Memorial and infantry camps at Pitzer Woods at Spangler Spring, Gettysburg battlefield. Free. nps.gov/gett

- 24-25 **MD** Living history, camps and weapons firing demonstrations at the Antietam National Battlefield. Free with park admission. nps.gov/anti
- 24-25 **VA** Living history and tours, "Civil War Weekend" based at the Manassas Museum. Camps, demonstrations and Civil War-era baseball game. manassasmuseum.org
- 25 **VA** Living history, "Eyewitness to War," tours of the Mt. Zion Church and cemetery in Aldie. 1-5 pm. Free, donations welcome. nvrpa.org/park/mt_zion
- 25 **VA** Living history, artillery demonstrations at the Petersburg National Battlefield. 1-4:30 pm. Free with park admission. nps.gov/pete
- 27-28 **PA** Living history, medical program at the Pennsylvania Memorial, and sharpshooter camp at Spangler Spring, Gettysburg battlefield. Free. nps.gov/gett
- 30-Sept 1 **VA** Anniversary activities commemorating the Battle of Second Manassas at the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Living history, ranger talks and tours. nps.gov/mana
- 31 **VA** Ranger program, "Federal Victory at Cold Harbor: June 1, 1864," at the Cold Harbor unit of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. 10:30 am. Free. nps.gov/rich
- 31 **VA** Ranger program, "Get Back to the Land: Civil War Armies and the Landscape," at the Gaines' Mill unit of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. 2 pm. Free. nps.gov/rich
- 31 **PA** "Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital: Candlelight at Christ Church," 30 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg. 8 pm. Free. 717-334-5212.
- 31 **DC** Bike tour, "Civil War Defenses of Washington," follows off-road trails to remains of the city's fortifications. Begins at Fort Dupont Park, Fort Dupont Drive SE in Washington. 10 am. Free. Sign up: 202-426-7723.



The Man Who Saved the Union

Ulysses Grant in War and Peace

[by H.W. Brands](#)
Book Excerpt

The Man Who Saved the Union

The journey began generations before he was born. His ancestor Mathew Grant crossed the Atlantic from England with the Puritans in the 1630s, and subsequent Grants migrated progressively west: to Connecticut in the seventeenth century, Pennsylvania in the eighteenth, Ohio in the nineteenth. Jesse Grant, of the sixth generation of American Grants, for a time lived in Deerfield, Ohio, with a family named Brown, of whom a son, John, would attempt to start a slave revolt at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, in 1859.

Jesse Grant never got much formal education and always felt the lack; he vowed that his sons would not suffer similarly. Jesse married Hannah Simpson in 1821; ten months later, on April 27, 1822, Hannah bore a son they named Hiram Ulysses on the partial inspiration of an aunt with a penchant for the classics. The boy attended private schools, since public education hadn't reached Georgetown, in southwestern Ohio, where he grew up. At fourteen he was sent across the Ohio River to Maysville, Kentucky, to boarding school, but the experience didn't take and he returned to Georgetown. At sixteen he enrolled in an academy in Ripley, on the Ohio bank of the Ohio River, with no greater success. He later acknowledged that the failure was his own fault. "I was not studious in habit," he said, "and probably did not make progress enough to compensate for the outlay for board and tuition."

Yet he was no rebel. "He was always a steady, serious sort of boy, who took everything in earnest," his mother recalled. "Even when he played he made a business of it." For this reason his parents paid attention when he registered his preferences and dislikes. Jesse owned and operated a tannery, in which Ulys, as family and friends called the boy, was expected to work. But he detested the place and what went on there. "He would rather do anything else under the sun than work in the tannery," Jesse recounted. Jesse remembered informing Ulys a few times that he would have to grind bark (for the tannic acid it contained). "He would get right up without saying a word and start straight for the village, and get a load to haul, or passengers to carry, or something another to do, and hire a boy to come back and grind the bark." Other aspects of tanning were equally distasteful. In the "beam room" hides were defleshed by being drawn forcefully over beams; Ulys entered only under paternal duress and told his father that as soon as he could support himself he would never go near the smelly place again. Jesse excused him. "I don't want you to work at it now if you don't like it and mean to stick to it," Jesse recalled saying.

So he let the boy work outdoors. Ulys loved horses and early displayed a gift for riding and managing them. "He had the habit of riding our horses to water, standing up on their bare backs," Jesse remembered. "He began this practice at about five years old. At eight or nine he would ride them at the top of their speed, he standing upon one foot and balancing himself by the bridle reins." Ulys drove the team that transported wood and other supplies for the tannery; from the age of eleven, when he was big enough to handle a plow, he took charge of all the horse-powered tasks on the family farm.

He impressed his father with his self-sufficiency, and Jesse let the boy travel by horse and wagon around southwestern Ohio and into Kentucky. The journeys often involved some aspect of the family business: purchasing supplies, delivering messages or finished products. Ulys especially liked to buy horses and felt much older than his years when he made a good bargain.

Sometimes the bargains weren't so good. A neighbor had a colt that Ulys, then eight, fancied; the neighbor asked twenty-five dollars for it. Jesse didn't want to spend more than twenty, but Ulys pleaded and persuaded his father to let him offer more if necessary. As the story was later told, the boy approached the neighbor: "Papa says I may offer you twenty dollars for the colt, but if you won't take that, I am to offer twenty-two and a half, and if you won't take that, to give you twenty-five." The neighbor laughed and received his full price.

Grant remembered the incident sixty years later, not fondly. "This transaction caused me great heart-burning," he said. "The story got out among the boys of the village, and it was a long time before I heard the end of it. Boys enjoy the misery of their companions, at least village boys in that day did, and in later life I have found that all adults are not free from the peculiarity."

In his eighteenth year Ulysses looked forward to leaving school, but Jesse had other plans. An acquaintance and former friend, Thomas Hamer, represented Georgetown's district in Congress;

the friendship had foundered in the breakup of the old Republican party of Thomas Jefferson and the emergence of the Democratic and Whig parties. The Democrats favored Andrew Jackson and opposed the Bank of the United States, while the Whigs backed Henry Clay and supported the national bank. Thomas Hamer was a Jackson man, Jesse Grant a Clay man, and sharp political words led to a personal rupture.

Yet Jesse needed Hamer's help six years later when he learned that a West Point cadet from the district had to withdraw from the military academy. Jesse wanted Ulysses to receive the nomination in the young man's place. He approached Ohio senator Thomas Morris but was informed that Hamer held the right of appointment. Jesse suspended his hostility toward Hamer long enough to ask him to nominate Ulysses.

Hamer was willing to move beyond their differences; moreover, with the nomination deadline swiftly approaching, he had no other nominee. He put Ulysses forward.

Only at this point did Jesse apprise his son of what he had been doing on his behalf. "Ulysses, I believe you are going to receive the appointment," he said. "What appointment?" Ulysses asked. "West Point," Jesse answered.

Ulysses was less grateful than Jesse thought fitting. The young man didn't know much about the military academy, but what he thought he knew disposed him against it. "I had a very exalted idea of the requirements necessary to get through," he recalled later. "I did not believe I possessed them, and could not bear the idea of failing."

One thing alone, the prospect of a journey, made the appointment appealing. "I had always a great desire to travel," he explained. He had ventured as far as a horse could conveniently take him from Georgetown, and the prospect of crossing the eastern mountains was alluring. "Going to West Point would give me the opportunity of visiting the two great cities of the continent, Philadelphia and New York." His curiosity overcame his fear and he agreed to go.

Yet even as he imagined what he would see in the big cities, he secretly hoped fate would spare him from actually becoming a cadet. "When these places were visited," he recalled, "I would have been glad to have had a steamboat or railroad collision, or any other accident happen, by which I might have received a temporary injury sufficient to make me ineligible, for a time, to enter the Academy."

THE MAN WHO SAVED THE UNION by H. W. Brands
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The Man Who Saved the Union

Review by William C. Davis

As a teenager I had the good fortune to become acquainted with

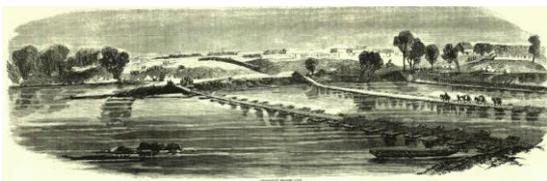
Major Chapman Root Grant, the grandson of General and President U. S. Grant. “Chappie” had been in the cavalry in the early years of the century, was with Pershing’s incursion into Mexico after Pancho Villa, and was a distinguished herpetologist in later civilian life. When I met him he was 80 and almost blind. I read to him on my visits, and in return he let me wander through a house filled with memorabilia of his grandfather’s Civil War and White House years. For a youngster interested in history, it was thrilling.

From that experience, and decades as a professional historian to follow, I came to regard U. S. Grant as perhaps the most interesting major figure of the war. After all, it would have been a miracle if Robert E. Lee had not become the first soldier of the land. He was born to it in the tradition of the great families of old Europe. But Grant was altogether different, a distinctively American story in the mold of Harry Truman. He came from middle class obscurity; no great blood, no family military tradition. Despite a fine performance in the War with Mexico, he failed at almost everything else until 1861 when the coming of war proved to be his salvation. Once in uniform again and rising in rank, he found the one thing he could do truly well, indeed better than anyone else. And when his war was over, even though he rose to the presidency, he was really back on the road to failure.

Once dismissed as a clumsy butcher who won solely because of overwhelming superiority in men and resources, Grant has enjoyed steady reappraisal over the years, and is now generally acknowledged as the superior executive manager and strategist that he really was. His presidential years are also undergoing a more sophisticated appraisal, polishing away some of the tarnish. An example is distinguished biographer H. W. Brands’ new work *The Man Who Saved the Union: Ulysses S. Grant in War and Peace*.

Almost half of the book deals with Grant’s postwar years and presidency, and throughout Brands’ thorough research informs a narrative that is powerful and incisive, and most of all supremely readable. It is surely the best overall biography we have had in years.

One of the things Chappie Grant had was a Mark Twain Scrapbook [Grant’s friend and publisher, Twain was ever the inventor]. On its self-adhesive pages Grant’s widow placed the notes he wrote to her in his last weeks while racing death to finish his memoirs, the cancer in his throat having robbed him of speech. Those little notes are eloquent testimony to a hero’s resolve to win his final battle. Win it he did, and *The Man Who Saved the Union* will reward any reader who wants to get acquainted with one of history’s great soldiers, and even greater peacemakers.



Civil War Trust Honors and Awards Battlefield Preservation Activists at Annual Conference Dinner

THE TRUST ANNUAL CONFERENCE ENDED WITH AWARD PRESENTATIONS RECOGNIZING TIRELESS EFFORTS OF BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION ADVOCATES

(Jackson, Miss.) – The Civil War Trust 2013 annual conference in Jackson, Miss., culminated with a dinner banquet Saturday night, during which Trust president James Lighthizer recognized excellence in the battlefield protection movement with its annual preservation awards.

“The individuals and organizations we honor this evening represent some of the greatest achievements in the preservation community,” Lighthizer said. “With their help, we remain steadfast in our mission to save America’s battlefields, while promoting awareness and greater appreciation for these pivotal places in our nation’s history.”

Over the years, the Trust has honored a wide variety of individuals and groups for their achievements in preserving endangered Civil War battlefields with its Preservation Awards. Previous winners include historians, scholars, National Park Service personnel, celebrities and even residential developers. Despite such disparate backgrounds, all have given unique and lasting contributions to historic preservation.

The 2013 Preservation Award winners recognized:

Carrington Williams Battlefield Preservationist of the Year:



For his service to the American public through his long tenure as historian at Vicksburg National Military Park, Terrence Winschel received the Carrington Williams Battlefield Preservationist of the Year Award, named for the first chairman of the Civil War Trust. Winschel served VNMP for years after falling in love with the park during his first NPS posting as a 22-year-old seasonal ranger. He recently retired after serving at VNMP in various capacities continuously since 1978, and plans to spend his retirement giving tours, researching and writing.

State Leadership Award: The Trust awarded the State Leadership Award to Mark Christ, community outreach director

for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Christ is the author of "Civil War Arkansas 1863," for which he also won the 2013 Booker Worthen Literary Prize from the Central Arkansas Library System. He also serves as a member of the Arkansas Sesquicentennial Commission and as chairman of the board of directors for the Arkansas Humanities Council.

National Park Service Preservationist of the Year Award:

The award was presented to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield park historian Connie Langum. A native of Neosho, Mo., Langum has spent 18 of the 22 years of her Park Service career at Wilson's Creek, including additional duties as Midwest coordinator for the American Battlefield Protection Program. Additionally, she is a long-time volunteer for the Trust, regularly contributing her time and expertise to its preservation projects.

Civil War Discovery Trail Site of the Year Award: The Trust named Raymond Battlefield in Raymond, Miss., as the top destination on the [Civil War Discovery Trail](#) for 2013. The Battle of Raymond, fought on May 12, 1863, featured Maj. Gen. James McPherson against Confederate Brig. Gen. John Gregg and resulted in a Union victory. Raymond Battlefield was once listed on the Trust's "Top Ten Endangered Civil War Battlefields," but today stands a testament to the dedicated historians and preservationists across the country who have worked to protect its landscape and interpret its history.

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 **36,000 acres of battlefield land** in 20 states, including more than 3,300 in Mississippi. Learn more at www.civilwar.org, the home of the Civil War sesquicentennial.

Shaped by history, Gettysburg celebrates milestone = By MARK SCOLFORO / Associated Press – Mon, Jun 24, 2013

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP) — Gettysburg changed the direction of American history 150 years ago, and the town hasn't been the same since.

The couple of hundred thousand visitors expected at events to mark the anniversary of the 1863 clash won't have to look far to find remnants of the pivotal campaign of the Civil War, even outside the grounds of the meticulously maintained national park.

Cannonballs and shrapnel remain embedded in a few of the roughly 200 buildings that remain from the period.

Many of the businesses in the rural county seat cater to the throngs of tourists that stream into one of the country's most historic places, from General Pickett's Buffet to Abraham's Lady, a battle-era clothing shop.

And residents can be eager to share their expertise — and their pride.

"To have one of the most iconic battles in the history of our country or the world to take place here and to have this historical heritage in our community is wonderful," said Randy Phiel, the county's top elected official and the logistics manager of an annual re-enactment. "This opportunity won't come again. It's our Olympic moment."

Gettysburg was a quiet backwater in the mid-19th century, but roads connected it to all points on the compass, including south, where the Confederate Army under Gen. Robert E. Lee had launched his army to take the war to its northern opponents.

With a population of 2,400, about one-third its current size, the town was dominated by the carriage industry when war broke out, said Bob Alcorn, a 73-year-old Air Force veteran who leads walking tours of the town. The story that Confederates arrived in Gettysburg looking for shoes appears to be apocryphal, as there was not a single shoe factory in Adams County — though there were 30 in neighboring Franklin County.

What it did have was a location on the road to Harrisburg, the state Capitol, along with three newspapers, two telegraph units, two brickyards and a rail spur that connected the town to Hanover Junction, 15 miles east, and strong trading ties with Baltimore, 60 miles southeast.

Alcorn shows visitors the third-floor rooftop where Union Gen. O.O. Howard monitored the fight, a corner where a townswoman used a mirror to help signal soldiers to safety and a building where some legal maneuvering by noted abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens helped an academy's founders get their hands on a tax-sale property.

A block from the square, a tiny graveyard holds the remains of Edward McPherson Woods, a 3-year-old boy who died July 6, 1863, after being shot by his toddler brother with a military musket. Edward was among several local children killed by abandoned weapons and ordnance after the armies had moved on.

Another battle relic is the row of war-era houses on High Street where Gettysburg residents trapped between the lines took in severely wounded soldiers from a church that had been converted into a hospital. These days, most of the Civil War hospitals in Gettysburg — and there are many — are marked with simple red flags.

Richard Waybright, 83, whose family owns Mason Dixon Farms Inc., an enormous dairy operation outside town, is old enough to remember the battle's 75th anniversary in 1938. He heard his grandfather recall how the invading army cleaned out the smokehouse, paying for the hams with Confederate dollars.

At the time of the war, Gettysburg was home to Pennsylvania College, and a small number of its 116 students had stayed behind for summer classes despite the arrival of the rival armies. When the real shooting began, the students were quickly dismissed, and the main building — which today houses the Gettysburg College administration — also became a field hospital.

College President Janet Morgan Riggs said its history is becoming a bigger presence on campus. Students can now minor in Civil War-era studies, the college runs a Civil War

institute that attracts scholars each summer and, for the past 11 years, freshmen have been brought to the national cemetery to hear President Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address" and other speakers.

"For a period of time, we did not embrace this historical context," Riggs said. "I don't know if there was a fear we'd be seen as a Civil War college, but over the last couple decades we have certainly embraced it."

These days, Gettysburg can feel a bit like an open-air museum, with people walking its streets in period garb. One reason for the lost-in-time feel is the park itself, which surrounds the town and chokes off much of what would certainly be miles of suburban development. A strip of development runs eastward on Route 30, but anyone hoping to build on land that can be seen from the park can run into preservation regulations.

The park offers locals the use of some 30 miles of bucolic roadways and vast open spaces as well as a constant string of cultural events, both on and off park property. About 400 such events are scheduled for June 28 through July 7.

The stream of visitors can put a crush on police, sanitation, road maintenance and emergency services.

The Gettysburg Convention and Visitors Bureau estimates visitors spent \$605 million in 2011, generating \$115 million in tax revenues and supporting 7,500 jobs.

"Most of the tourist-related jobs are lower-paying," Phiel said. "They aren't necessarily career-type situations."

Tourism is the region's top industry, rivaled in size only by the fruit orchards that were established after World War I. Many of its residents commute to nearby towns for work, and retirees have moved in, drawn by its rural nature or a love of the Civil War.

Cape May County Civil War Round Table
c/o

www.cmccwrt.com



Statue of Admiral Farragut, Farragut Square, Washington DC

As retirees move into the area from Baltimore and Washington, Waybright worries about the younger generation. Many county schools have experienced declining enrollment over the past five years, and half of his 17 grandchildren "headed to the big city" to find careers.

"We're now over 100,000 (population)," Waybright said. "But it's awful, what's happening to our schools."



