



# THE OLD LINER NEWSLETTER



Cedar Creek | Oct 19, 1864 | 5:30 - 6:30 am  
(February 2023) American Battlefield Trust

## American Battlefield Trust Elevates Preservation in the Old Dominion By 47 Acres Preserved acreage at Cedar Creek and Cedar Mountain battlefields includes transfer to the National Park Service

Colleen Cheslak-Poulton, ABT, March 6, 2023

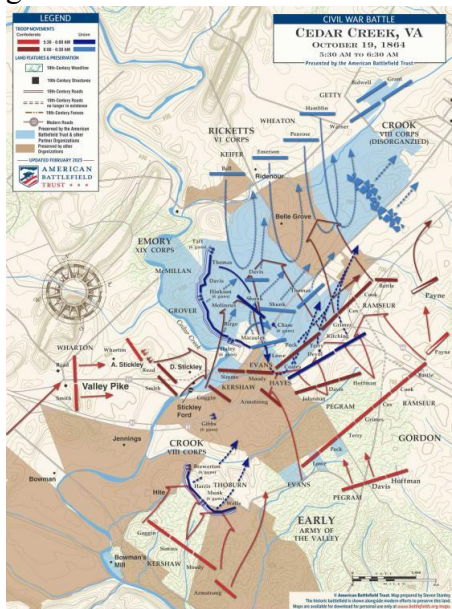
(Middletown, Va.) — The American Battlefield Trust’s most recent preservation victory has amounted in the protection of 47 acres across the Cedar Creek Battlefield in the Shenandoah Valley and Cedar Mountain Battlefield in the Virginia Piedmont. With the assistance of the National Park Service, American Battlefield Protection Program, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, Virginia Land Conservation Fund and determined Trust donors, this acreage now has the opportunity to be a place of learning and reflection for generations to come.

“Each parcel of hallowed ground we save presents a chance to further understand the history of our nation,” said Trust President David Duncan. “At Cedar Creek, we not only saved this roughly two and a half-acre parcel but also transferred it to the National Park Service for integration into Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park. It is always the Trust’s intention to find responsible long-term stewards who can properly protect and maintain the land we save.”

The newly saved and transferred property at Cedar Creek is adjacent to park headquarters and on a central part of the battlefield, once touched by the determined actions of Union and Confederate troops on October 19, 1864, during the boldly executed Battle of Cedar Creek.

Federals commanded by Colonels Rutherford B. Hayes and Howard Kitching — part of Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan’s Army of the Shenandoah — retreated across the ground, pursued by Confederate Maj. Gen. Stephen D. Ramseur's division in the early hours of the battle. While attempts were made to hold off Ramseur’s attack, Union forces were hit, and the line collapsed. Blue-clad soldiers again retreated across the now-preserved property. The battle was ultimately won by Union forces, who rallied and launched a crushing counterattack. This victory extinguished any hope of further Confederate offensives in the Shenandoah Valley.

“Preservation of the site means no additional residences in an area already-inundated with





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new construction around Middletown, plus preservation of the view of the Belle Grove manor house from the park's Morning Attack Trail," said Karen Beck-Herzog, site manager of Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park. "Grounds preserved by the Trust have opened battlefield lands previously held privately, allowing visitors to interact with the park in a variety of ways as they walk in the footsteps of soldiers."

More than 50 miles south of Cedar Creek, the Cedar Mountain Battlefield also benefitted from the battlefield preservation nonprofit's efforts, growing by nearly 45 newly-preserved acres. The feat was supported by the American Battlefield Protection Program and the Virginia Land Conservation Fund.

The 1862 Battle of Cedar Mountain, which concluded in a Confederate victory, featured a determined Maj. Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson rallying his Confederate troops with the wielding of a rusted saber sheathed in its scabbard. But the recently protected acreage, in particular, was the site of an hour-long artillery duel, including Confederate Capt. William Pegram's famed battery, that led to the battle's conclusion.

While the Trust has already committed to a 1,700-acre donation of land across the Cedar Mountain and Brandy Station battlefields to create a new Virginia state park unit, Culpeper Battlefields State Park, the organization remains committed to bringing preservation to an even higher level at these significant sites. The Trust is currently fundraising to save another seven acres at Cedar Mountain, plus 97 acres at Brandy

Station. To learn more about this opportunity, visit [www.battlefields.org/104AcresVirginiaPiedmont](http://www.battlefields.org/104AcresVirginiaPiedmont).

Both the Cedar Creek and Cedar Mountain battlefields will be participating in the Trust's annual Park Day clean-up effort on April 15. In its 27th year, Park Day has seen thousands of volunteers gather at battlefields and historic sites across the nation to keep our nation's heritage not only preserved, but pristine. Find details on this beloved tradition at [www.battlefields.org/parkday](http://www.battlefields.org/parkday).

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### THEY WERE SENT ON A SUICIDE MISSION AT CEDAR CREEK. THEIR VICTORY RALLIED THE UNION.

**The fierce clash proved to be a fitting coda for the resolute 8th Vermont.**

By Alex McCarthy, Historynet 3/13/2023



*This counterattack by Vermont troops, including the 8th Vermont (shown at rear), spurred Union victory at Cedar Creek, as shown in a painting adorning a wall at the Vermont State House. (Pictures Now/Alamy Stock Photo)*

Squire E. Howard awoke before dawn on October 19, 1864, to what he thought was thunder. The clamor, though, wasn't coming from the clouds but from the fog enveloping the left flank of the Union Army of the Shenandoah at Cedar Creek—and the

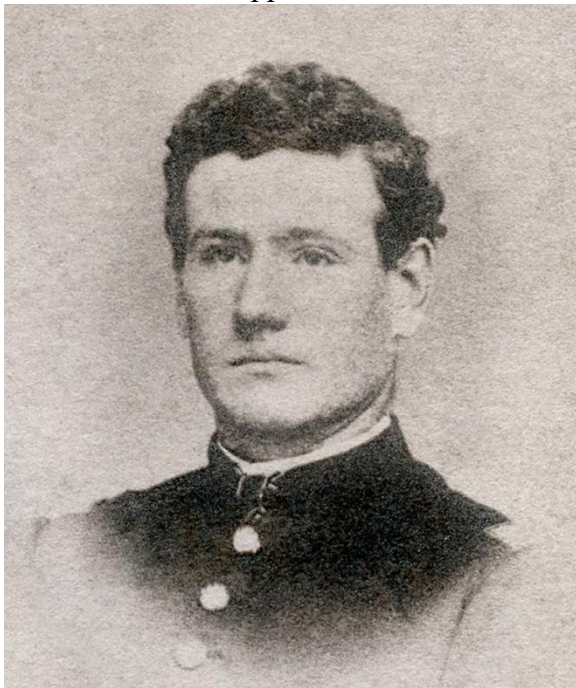


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sounds accompanied a raging band of Confederate soldiers. “It was like the howls of the wolves around the wagon train in the early days of the great prairies,” he would write.

Captain Howard and his comrades in the 8th Vermont Infantry had anticipated another fight at some point, just not in the dead of night. Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal Early, however, wasn’t known to readily accommodate his opponents.



*Squire E. Howard (History of the Eighth Regiment Vermont Volunteers 1861-1865)*

The Rebels’ initial fog-shrouded thrust that morning was chaotic, as the sleeping Union troops were quickly overwhelmed, many choosing to flee half-clothed rather than put up a fight. The retreat, recalled Captain D. Augustus Dickert of the 3rd South Carolina, was “a living sea of men and horses.”

When the attack began, the Union army’s colorful commander, Phil Sheridan, was resting 12 miles away in Winchester. His

subordinates on site scrambled to respond, fortunate to receive additional time when famished Confederates stopped mid-attack to pilfer food and supplies from Union camps.

Among those trying to make sense of the situation was Brig. Gen. William H. Emory, the 19th Corps’ commander. Knowing he was ordering a likely suicide mission, Emory directed 8th Vermont commander Colonel Stephen Thomas to engage Brig. Gen. John B. Gordon’s attacking Confederates head-on. Gordon’s Division totaled roughly 2,000 troops. Thomas, in command of the 2nd Brigade that day, had about 800 men from four regiments, including the 8th Vermont.

Meeting again on the Cedar Creek battlefield 19 years later, Emory grasped Thomas’ hand and reflected: “I never gave an order in my life that cost me so much pain as it did to order you across the pike that morning. I never expected to see you again.”

### A BUDDING REPUTATION

Formed in 1862, the 8th Vermont quickly developed a sterling reputation for bravery. Thomas, Howard, and Captain Moses McFarland were but a few of the regiment’s eventual list of standouts.

Thomas, gray hairs sprinkled throughout his dark beard, was a 51-year-old state representative with no military experience when the war broke out. A Democrat, he was hand-selected to lead the regiment. Though at first hesitant, “his patriotism overbore all his doubts,” wrote George Benedict in *Vermont in the Civil War*.



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Howard had enlisted as a sergeant in Townshend, Vt., and received a Medal of Honor for heroism during the 1863 Bayou Teche Campaign. McFarland would be one of the 8th's heroes at Cedar Creek. A 43-year-old father with piercing eyes, he was regarded for his stamina and drive. He also was no stranger to death, as only two of his five children survived past the age of 4. In the summer of 1864, the regiment was called east from Louisiana to help repulse Early's near-successful raid on the U.S. capital. It was then assigned to the 19th Corps' 1st Division when Sheridan took control of the Army of the Shenandoah in August 1864.

At the Federals' September 19 victory at Third Winchester (Opequon), the Green Mountain boys clashed with a soon-to-be familiar foe, Gordon's Division—holding their line for two hours amid a relentless firefight.

Thomas then led a valiant bayonet charge, telling his men "we'll drive them to hell." Implemented without orders from above, the charge was another block in Thomas' budding reputation as an inspirational leader.

"What Sheridan was to the army under him, Colonel Thomas was to his regiment," Howard wrote. "Many had been the critical moments in our history when his level head and iron nerve had been our salvation."

### "MORE LIKE DEMONS"

At Cedar Creek, with Thomas now in charge of the 2nd Brigade, command of the 8th Vermont was handed to Major John Boardman Mead, a 33-year-old father of two. The undersized regiment did not hesitate in accepting the challenge of a showdown with

Gordon, but as McFarland later wrote: "It was a sacrifice to the God of war of the few that the many might be spared, a propitiation offered against hope that out of defeat might come victory."

The engagement with Gordon would last less than half an hour, many comparing the fighting to hell itself and the combatants to demons. After clawing their way uphill in the fog, the Vermonters entrenched in a wooded area. They were shocked, however, to see men in blue uniforms charging at them, whooping and hollering. Some of the Vermonters responded by opening fire. "Captain, we are firing on our own men," insisted Lieutenant Aaron K. Cooper, hunkered down next to McFarland. As McFarland replied, "I think not," Cooper—his guard down—was riddled with bullets.

The men in blue coats were indeed Confederates, benefactors of the raids on Union tents earlier in the attack. "As the great drops of rain and hail precede the hurricane, so now the leaden hail filled the air, seemingly from all directions," recalled Private Herbert E. Hill.

Steadily pushed back, the 8th managed to reform in a ravine. McFarland, though, received news that Mead had been wounded, and Captain Edward Hall, his second-in-command, mortally wounded. The regiment was now in McFarland's hands. Hand-to-hand combat broke out. "Men seemed more like demons than human beings," recalled Private Hill, "as they struck fiercely at each other with clubbed muskets and bayonets."

The fiercest struggle was for the 8th's colors. Corporal Alfred S. Worden had to fight off a bayonet attack by a stocky Confederate, who



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was shot dead by a fellow Vermonter. Corporal John Petrie, holding the colors, would be mortally wounded, crying out as he fell to the ground: “Boys, leave me...take care of yourselves and the flag!” But when fellow color guard Corporal Lyman F. Perham scooped up the colors, he was shot and killed almost instantly.

Engaged in what he called “the boiling caldron [*sic*] where the fight for the colors was seething,” Howard would be wounded twice, and later wrote that bayonets were “literally” dripping with blood amid the chaos, and that only one member of the color guard avoided being killed or wounded. “It seemed as though we were passing into the very jaws of death and that the gates of hell were open to receive us,” McFarland wrote.

Overrun and taking heavy losses, the Federals eventually had no choice but to fall back. Howard, one of his shoes filling with blood from a wound, heaped praise on those who continued to engage in brutal bayonet clashes.

Although the regiment briefly re-formed to try to halt the Confederate surge, it was fruitless. “Longer resistance would have resulted in [the regiment’s] entire death and capture,” Mead wrote. It was indeed a horrific scene across the battlefield. Captain John W. DeForest of the 12th Connecticut recalled seeing pools of blood everywhere. “The firm limestone soil would not receive it,” he wrote, “and there was no pitying summer grass to hide it.”

### FLIPPING THE SCRIPT

As noted on the 8th’s memorial at the Cedar Creek and Belle Haven National Historical Park, the regiment had 110 killed or

wounded out of 164 engaged, including 13 of 16 commissioned officers. But was the horrible sacrifice worth it? Those who survived said yes, having bought critical time for their army to re-form their ranks and launch its decisive counterattack. Recounted Hill: “Bleeding, stunned, and being literally cut to pieces, but refusing to surrender colors or men, falling back only to prevent being completely encircled, the noble regiment had accomplished its mission.”

Incredibly, the 8th Vermont was not done fighting for the day. Howard was among those taken to a nearby field hospital, but Thomas took the lead in rallying the men. And, in what would long remain a contentious issue, the Confederate army decided to halt its attack. According to Gordon, that was Early’s call. The commander, he claimed, was satisfied enough with the morning’s progress: “Well, Gordon, this is glory enough for one day. This is the 19th. Precisely one month ago today [at Third Winchester] we were going in the opposite direction.”

By the end of the day, however, Confederate troops were again in retreat. Upon learning of Early’s surprise attack, Sheridan had mounted his charger, Rienzi, and ridden furiously to the battlefield from Winchester. Sheridan’s presence helped produce an inspired Federal counterattack that broke the Confederate line and re-established Union control of the battlefield.

The 8th Vermont, freshly removed from the “gates of hell,” had a big hand in the counterattack, flipping the script against a familiar foe: Gordon’s Division. Thomas led the way, and even when his horse was killed



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under him, he remained galvanized. Now under a bright sun, Early's army was driven from the battlefield. The Vermonters followed the Confederates as far as Strasburg, about four miles. Most, unfortunately, would spend a difficult night without blankets, tents, or fires.



*Prominent clashes for the 8th Vermont in both Louisiana and the Shenandoah Valley are cited on the obverse of its regimental flag. "Cotton" refers to the clash Union gunboats and troops had with CSS J.A. Cotton at Bayou Teche. (Vermont State Curator's Office)*

Cedar Creek marked the regiment's last major action of the war. From that point on, it served mainly in a defensive role in the Valley

Thomas received a Medal of Honor for his efforts in the battle, formally recognized for "distinguished conduct in a desperate hand-to-hand encounter, in which the advance of the enemy was checked." (Three members of the 1st Vermont Cavalry also received Medals of Honor, as did Lt. Col. Amasa Tracy of the 2nd Vermont.)

Thomas became a Republican and reentered politics after the war, serving as Vermont's lieutenant governor and in various other political and business positions before his

death in 1903 at the age of 94. McFarland dedicated himself to repairing buildings and locations that had been damaged during the war before he died at 89 in 1911. Howard died in 1912 at the age of 72.

Cedar Creek was essentially the final major blow for the Confederacy in the Valley, but in reality Jubal Early wasn't quite finished just yet.

For the Vermont soldiers, the battle was probably their most celebrated day. A large painting by Civil War veteran Julian Scott, hanging prominently in the state house in Montpelier, depicts the 1st Vermont Brigade's counterattack. It features members of the 8th Vermont, including Thomas—visible in the background.

Mead recovered from his Cedar Creek wound, and in his official report to the adjutant general in September 1865 he acknowledged the regiment's record of bravery and fearlessness: "I hope I may not be charged with egotism when I say, the 8th regiment was not excelled by any other in service in devotion to the cause for which it was raised, in its readiness and willingness to meet all necessary exposure and danger incident to a soldier's life."

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### **Media Advisory: America's Volunteers Called to Action to Maintain Our Nation's Heritage on Park Day**

**American Battlefield Trust's 27th annual Park Day encourages volunteers nationwide to uplift historic sites on April 15**

Mary Koik, ABT, March 14, 2023



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# PARK DAY 2023

27 Years of Inspiring  
Volunteers for History



(Washington, D.C.) — For more than a quarter of a century, the American Battlefield Trust’s Park Day effort has welcomed volunteers of all ages to get our nation’s battlefields and historic sites ready for spring. In communities across the country, Park Day has become an annual tradition, ensuring that these sites of great importance are primed to welcome their warm weather crowds. Hands-on projects, from trail maintenance and fence repair to historic sign installation and ground maintenance, help keep communities engaged with history in their own backyard. This year, the Trust will celebrate Park Day on **April 15, 2023**.

“The tradition of Park Day is one that can be enjoyed together as a community, a family, a team — the list goes on and on,” says Trust President David Duncan. “But it’s more than a day to gather and soak in the outdoors; it’s about putting a spotlight on the historic treasures scattered across this great, diverse nation. Even more, it’s about service to the places that make up our American story.”



*Volunteers help perform maintenance at Monocacy National Battlefield. Matt Brant*

Throughout its history, Park Day has yielded more than 458,000 cumulative hours of volunteer labor and over 100,000 participants. From Boy and Girl Scouts, Lions Club members, church groups, Wounded Warrior groups, ROTC units, youth groups, Rotarians and more, each volunteer has rallied behind the importance of keeping these pieces of American history clean and accessible for visitors from every corner of the world. Understanding and embracing the benefits of preservation, many local businesses and community organizations provide volunteers with food and drink.

Scores of sites tied to the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War have already enlisted in this year’s Park Day initiative, and more will follow through Friday, March 17. Using the Trust’s Park Day hub at [www.battlefields.org/parkday](http://www.battlefields.org/parkday), site managers can register for the event and potential volunteers can browse participating sites using an interactive map.

Please note that as Park Day sites consider weather and local public health guidelines, some may choose to participate at another



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time. For any questions regarding weather policies, rain dates and other considerations, the Trust recommends that volunteers contact their site of interest.

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### Frederick Douglass Bible used in swearing-in ceremony for Maryland Governor Wes Moore



Capt.

*Frank Hilsher, USPP, Tara Morrison, National Capital Parks - East (NACE) superintendent, and Mike Antonioni, park curator, helped facilitate the use of the Frederick Douglass' Bible during the swearing-in ceremony for Maryland Governor Wes Moore. U.S. Park Police photo by Sgt. Thomas Twiname*

Sean P. McGinty, National Park Service,  
January 19, 2023

Yesterday, the National Park Service helped facilitate the use of Frederick Douglass' Bible in the swearing-in ceremony for Maryland Governor Wes Moore in Annapolis, Md.

Gov. Moore is the first African American elected as governor for the state of Maryland, and the third African American governor in the United States.

The Bible is cared for by the NPS as part of the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site museum collection. It was presented to Douglass by the members of the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal church in 1889 as he prepared to travel to Haiti, where he served as President Benjamin Harrison's United States resident minister and consul general until July 1891. On the front cover of the leather-bound Bible, "Frederick Douglass" is inscribed in gold lettering.

Because of the fragile condition of the Bible, park and regional museum curators prepared a special carrying box that Gov. Moore's wife Dawn used to hold the Bible while he took the oath of office. They also provided special handling and care instructions to the governor's staff before the ceremony.

Frederick Douglass was born on a plantation on the Eastern Shore of Maryland around 1818. He died 77 years later in his home at Cedar Hill, high above Washington, DC. In his journey from an enslaved man to internationally renowned activist, Douglass changed how Americans thought about race, slavery and American democracy. Since the early 1800s Douglass's life has been a source of inspiration and hope for millions. His legacy serves as an inspiration for all Americans to live up to the highest ideals and make the United States a land of liberty and equality for all.

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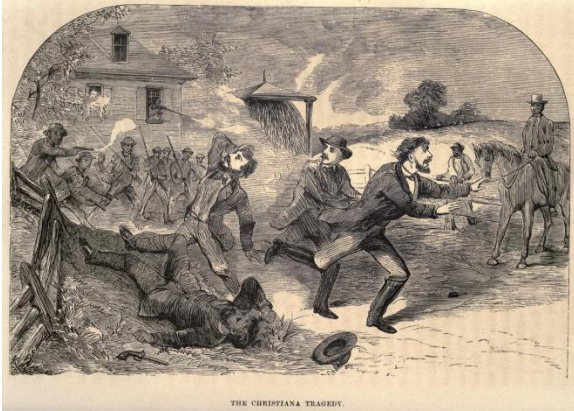
### Crisis at Christiana

Fergus M. Bordewich, Blue & Gray  
Dispatch, March 10, 2023





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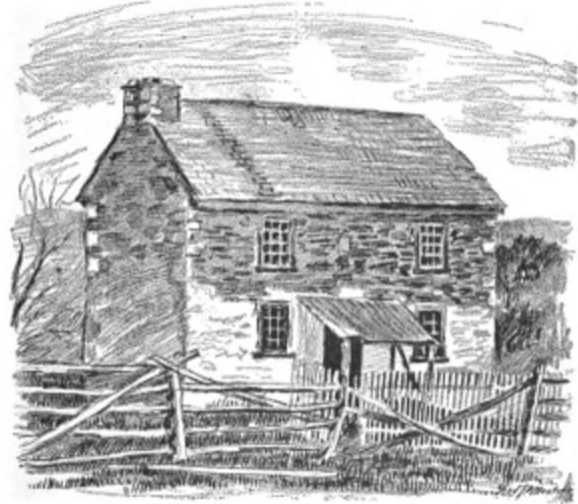


*"The Christiana Tragedy," an 1872 depiction of the shooting of Edward Gorsuch. public domain*

Edward Gorsuch was an angry man, believing that he had been a fair master to the four field hands who escaped from his Maryland plantation in 1849. In 1851, he learned from a pro-slavery spy that two of the former bondsmen had been seen in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, just over the state line. With the new Fugitive Slave Law behind him, Gorsuch with his son Dickinson and several friends traveled to Philadelphia, where they were joined by U.S. marshal Henry Kline and two constables. They set off for Lancaster County unaware that they were being tracked by Philadelphia abolitionists, who warned fugitives of their coming.

The area's antislavery underground was well organized. Slave hunters had to contend with a secret Black militia led by tough-minded William Parker, a former enslaved individual, which mobilized on short notice to defend fugitives and recover kidnap victims. Parker's home outside Christiana was the cockpit of Black resistance in Lancaster County. Two of Gorsuch's one-time slaves plus Parker, his wife, Eliza, and several armed men waited on the second floor as Gorsuch approached at dawn on

September 11. Kline and Gorsuch entered the house and attempted to climb the narrow stairs but were driven back by defenders wielding pitchforks and axes. Parker's men made a sudden rush and forced the surprised whites out of the house.



*Line drawing of William Parker's house, circa 1851 | public domain*

Kline gave Parker fifteen minutes to hand over the fugitives.

"You can burn us, but you can't take us," replied Parker. "Before I give up, you will see my ashes scattered on the earth."

The Parkers kept a horn to use in times of emergency. William told Eliza to blow it. As the whites began firing at her, she blew blast after blast through the open window.

Neighbors raced toward the sound, some on horseback, others on foot, armed with guns, clubs, barrel staves, and corn-cutters, until perhaps fifty Blacks and several whites faced Gorsuch's posse, just ten paces apart.

Gorsuch was furious and hungry. "I have come a long way this morning, and I want my breakfast," he declared. "I'll have my property, or I'll breakfast in hell."

"Old man, you had better go home to Maryland," someone told Gorsuch.



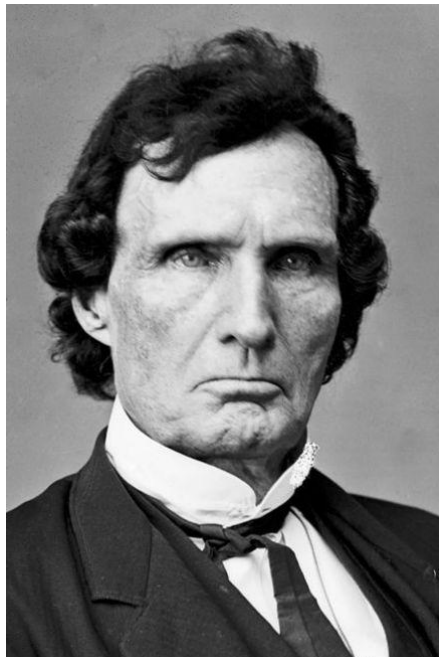
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Furious at such “insolence,” Gorsuch’s son Dickinson fired his revolver at Parker but missed. Parker’s brother-in-law fired back with a double-barreled shotgun. Dickinson staggered and collapsed.

Edward Gorsuch went down under a hail of blows. The rest of the whites broke and ran. Only two Blacks were seriously injured. It was said afterward by veterans of the fight that “the Lord shook the balls out of their clothes.”

Dickinson, though severely wounded, eventually recovered. Edward Gorsuch was the only fatality. His death sent waves of shock through Washington and across the South.

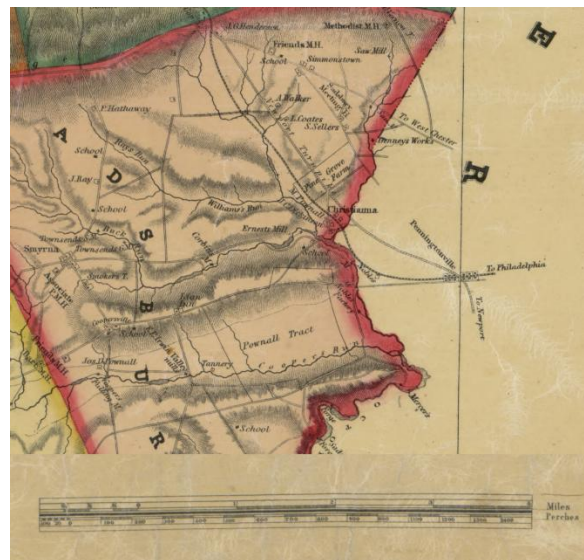


*Thaddeus Stevens | LOC*

William Parker knew he couldn’t remain in Lancaster County. He disappeared into the maze of underground lines that led north through New York State to safety in Canada. Back in Pennsylvania, the government set out to make an example of the local resisters.

Marshals charged thirty-eight Christiana men with “levying war” against the United States government, the largest indictment for treason in American history. After a brilliant defense of the first defendant by the fiery abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens, the jury took only fifteen minutes to return a verdict of not guilty. It was obvious that the other trials were likely to produce the same result. The government declined to prosecute anyone else, and the charges against them were eventually dropped.

The events at Christiana awakened northerners to the realities of the Fugitive Slave Law. Perhaps a thousand fugitives would be recaptured under its provisions during the 1850s. But many times that number of northerners would now resist the law as slavery reached into their own communities to snatch hapless fugitives from their homes.





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*1851 map of the area. Note Penningtonville station to the east in Chester County, Christiana itself, and the Pownall tract to the southwest of Christiana, where the Parker house was located (in the western portion). | public domain*

*Fergus M. Bordewich's most recent book is Congress at War: How Republican Reformers Fought the Civil War, Defied Lincoln, Ended Slavery, and Remade America. He is also author of The First Congress: How James Madison, George Washington, and a Group of Extraordinary Men Invented the Government.*

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### The Secret History of Light in the Old South

Robert S. Davis, March 20, 2023,  
[blueandgrayeducation.org](http://blueandgrayeducation.org)



*Arc lamps illuminating Baltimore Street in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1909 | public domain*

Humanity feared the dangers of the night for thousands of years. Torches and lanterns proved dangerous and inadequate as sources of illumination. The treacherous whale hunting industry, which provided an important source of lamp oil, declined during the 19th century. Streetlights with tallow candles proved impractical as they

provided only limited light, went out too soon, and lost candles to thieves. Manufacturing gas artificially from coal or wood for light provided the answer.

Illuminations from this source gave the Gas Light Era its name. Safe and impossible to steal, it burned bright and was dependable, although its waste products prove to be an environmental hazard to drinking water even to the present-day.

The first commercial use of manufactured gas lighting in America began in Baltimore in 1816. By 1860, almost every city in the United States with a population of 10,000 or more had gas lighting—a fact that changed the lives of American society. It defined the middle class, who, once stuck at home in the evenings, could travel and go outside with relative safety. Crime declined, as manufactured gas streetlights forced miscreants into the shadows. In factories, on the other hand, workers were faced with excruciating long hours as they labored through the night—a fact that sped up production and the economy.





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*Historic Gas Lamp, State of Georgia Judicial Building, Atlanta, Georgia | CC*

But smaller towns did not receive gas lighting, including those in the Deep South. There it arrived thanks to a group of entrepreneurs who incorporated the Augusta Gas Light Company in Georgia in 1849. The company took years to raise sufficient capital and to find a contractor able to build a gas light system. In 1851, the famed Camden Iron Works of New Jersey sent William Helme, superintendent of the gasworks in Trenton, New Jersey, and George Shoemaker Hookey, formerly the superintendent of the gasworks in Pennsylvania, to establish a gas lighting works in Augusta.

Helme built the works and served as its superintendent until 1853. He went on to build other gasworks companies including what is today Atlanta Gas Light. Hookey took over the Augusta operation as superintendent and sold coal, fixtures, and other products connected with gasworks. Eventually, he came to own most of the Gaslight Company of Augusta/Augusta Gaslight Company.

In 1858, another group of Augusta investors sought to bring gas lighting to other Deep South communities. As Trembley, Pardin & Company, the partnership had Henry Pardin construct the gasworks in progressive towns that still had relatively small populations: Natchez in 1857 (population 6,612 in 1860), Shreveport in 1858 (2,190 in 1860), and Holly Springs in 1860 (2,067 in 1860). Trembley, Pardin & Company eventually became the modern Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company (today's CenterPoint Energy).

The city council of Baton Rouge (5,429 in 1860) turned down the proposal for the company's gas streetlight system, however, and M. H. McGill & Company of Pennsylvania built the gasworks in Athens, Georgia, in 1859 (population 3,848 in 1860) and Rome, Georgia, in 1860 (4,010). Southern gasworks became victims of the Civil War's destruction. They recovered after the war, but the hopeful future of many of these towns was gone, and the artificial gas lighting industry struggled. By 1890, both natural gas and electricity across America replaced manufactured gas to provide light, heat, and power.

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### **Two Baltimore Confederate statues vandalized; no suspects identified**

By Lilly Price, Baltimore Sun  
Mar 17, 2023 at 4:01 pm



*Vandals sawed an arm and a scabbard off two Baltimore Confederate statues last summer, according to Baltimore's Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation. The statues have been stored for the past six years inside a cage of metal fences and concrete barriers but the gate was unlocked. (Jerry Jackson)*

Vandals sawed an arm and a scabbard off two Baltimore Confederate statues in



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storage last summer, according to Baltimore's Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation.

The statues have been stored behind a chain-link fence in a weedy corner of a city impound lot off Pulaski Highway since they were removed from parks around the city in August 2017 at the order of then-Mayor Catherine Pugh.

CHAP staff discovered the damage in September, but the exact date the Lee-Jackson Monument and the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument lost their bronze appendages is unknown.

The Lee-Jackson Monument, dedicated in 1948, depicts Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson atop horses. An unknown person or persons sawed off a scabbard and drilled a hole into the leg of one of the horses.

The Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument, which was dedicated in 1903 and doused in red paint by protesters in 2017, depicts the angel Glory holding a dying Confederate soldier clenching an unfurled Confederate flag. The soldier's arm and the flag were sawed off and a small hole was drilled in his knee.



*Vandals sawed an arm and a scabbard off two Baltimore Confederate statues last summer, according to Baltimore's Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation. For the past six years the statues have been surrounded by metal fences and concrete barriers. (Jerry Jackson)*

Maryland Historical Trust, which has a preservation easement to protect the two statues and the Confederate Women's Monument, sent a staff member and an employee from the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab to inspect the damages in December. The staff determined the bronze is actively corroding around the cuts and recommended patching the holes and removing the corroded areas to prevent further water damage.

Elizabeth Hughes, director of the Maryland Historical Trust, wrote in a November letter to CHAP that members of the board were "deeply disturbed to learn that, despite the City's reassurances about the security and safety of the Monuments, vandals were still able to gain access to them."

The vandalism, she wrote, highlights the "ongoing threat posed to the Monuments."



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Eric Holcomb, CHAP’s executive director, did not respond to requests for comment. While the statues have been surrounded by metal fences and concrete barriers for nearly six years, the gate of the enclosure was unlocked, Holcomb told Hughes and other members of a “Monument Relocation Working Group” during an October meeting.

The vandalism likely occurred in August and there are no suspects, city spokesperson Cirilo Manego said in a statement. The city has not filed a police report about the vandalism, according to Baltimore Police spokesperson Det. Niki Fennoy. Manego said the city agency responsible for filing insurance claims has been contacted, but Baltimore has a large deductible.

The Confederate effigies were among four that were removed from various locations across the city the same month as the deadly white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. The city has struggled with what to do with them, but last summer a Los Angeles visual art space asked to borrow them for an exhibit this fall.



*Vandals sawed an arm and a scabbard off two Baltimore Confederate statues last summer, according to Baltimore’s Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation. For the past six years the statues have been surrounded by metal fences and concrete barriers. (Jerry Jackson)*

City and state historical officials saw the exhibit as an opportunity to both showcase the monuments — as public access is required by the preservation easement — and educate viewers about racism and the Lost Cause myth that the Civil War was an honorable fight about states’ rights and secession instead of slavery.

Holcomb expressed hope that the monuments would find a permanent home in one of Baltimore’s museums once they returned from Los Angeles, according to the Monument Relocation Working Group’s October meeting notes.

But joint exhibit by LAXART and The Museum of Contemporary Art, called “Monuments,” has been postponed until 2025, museum directors Hamza Walker and Johanna Burton said in a statement.

It’s unclear when the monuments will be crated and transported to Los Angeles, but Manego said LAXART hopes to move them this year.

“Currently, we are working hard to get these pieces ready for the LAXART exhibition,” Manego said in a statement. “Once these monuments are back from loan, we will decide what to do with them.”

After the vandalism was discovered, a chain-link roof was added to the statues’ cage and the gate was chained and locked. The city Department of Transportation impound lot has surveillance cameras, but it is unclear where they are located.

In her letter, Hughes recommended that the city add cameras to directly monitor the



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monuments. She also suggested crating the monuments and relocating them to a storage facility, or accelerating their transfer to LAXART.

In a separate incident, the granite plinth of the Lee-Jackson Monument in Wyman Park Dell was spray-painted as part of an October art installation sanctioned by Johns Hopkins University. The installation, called “A Walk of Remembrance,” honored the lives of people who were enslaved on the university’s campus.

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