

## National Park Service awards nearly \$2 million to protect over 200 acres at four Civil War battlefields



*The Faraway Farm barn witnessed the 1862 Battle of Shepherdstown in West Virginia. The Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant ensures that Faraway Farm, a location that witnessed the 1862 Battle of Shepherdstown, remains as it has for the past 160 years. American Battlefield Trust*

November 18, 2022, [newsmedia@nps.gov](mailto:newsmedia@nps.gov)

WASHINGTON – Today, the National Park Service’s (NPS) **American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP)** awarded \$1,903,065 in Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants to protect 212 acres at four Civil War battlefields in Mississippi, Virginia, and West Virginia. These projects support collaborations among state and local governments and their nonprofit partners to care for the places and stories of our shared heritage. These awards are made possible by the **Land and Water Conservation Fund**, which reinvests revenue from offshore oil and natural gas leasing to help strengthen conservation and recreation opportunities across the nation.

Today’s grant to the Jefferson County Landmarks Commission will support the purchase and placement of a perpetual conservation easement over nearly 122 acres of the Shepherdstown Battlefield in Jefferson County, West Virginia. The project brings together the county government, a local landowner, the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle, and the nonprofit American Battlefield Trust to ensure that the fields of Faraway Farm remain as they have been for much of the past 160 years.

In late September 1862, after the Union army beat back the Confederate invasion of Maryland at Antietam, Gen. Robert E. Lee retreated across the Potomac and left a rearguard to defend the river’s ford. Union troops suffered heavy casualties in crossing the river and trying to establish a beachhead. This rearguard action halted Federal pursuit of the retreating Confederates and cost Union Maj. Gen. George McClelland his job, but the Union victory at the end of the Maryland campaign was the “turning point” that President Abraham Lincoln was seeking. On Sept. 22, 1862, Lincoln issued the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, with the promise of forever freedom to persons held in slavery in secessionist states at the stroke of the new year. Today’s award builds on sustained preservation efforts that have protected more than 600 acres at Shepherdstown and on our collective commitment to healing and renewal.

Today’s awards are to:

- **Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission (\$972,291)** for preservation of 121.9 acres at **Shepherdstown Battlefield** in Jefferson County, WV.

- **Mississippi Department of Archives and History** (\$136,740) for preservation of 3.06 acres at **Chickasaw Bayou Battlefield** in Warren County, MS.
- **Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation** (\$536,277) for preservation of 42.19 acres at **Chancellorsville Battlefield** in Spotsylvania County, VA.
- **Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation** (\$257,757) for preservation of 44.75 acres at **Cedar Mountain Battlefield** in Culpeper County, VA.

NPS ABPP’s **Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants** empower preservation partners nationwide to acquire and preserve threatened battlefields on American soil. In addition, the program administers three other grant programs: **Preservation Planning, Battlefield Interpretation and Battlefield Restoration** grants. Financial and technical assistance support sustainable, community-driven stewardship of natural and historic resources at the state, Tribal and local levels.

Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants are available on a rolling basis. To learn more about how to apply, head to NPS ABPP’s website. For questions about NPS ABPP’s grants, please contact the program.

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## **NCR Rangers introduce local students to careers in the NPS at Boonsboro High School Career Day**



*Jim Nichols of Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park speaks to a group of 5th graders NPS*

November 16, 2022

Building relationships with local communities is a cornerstone of our work to carry out the NPS mission. On Wednesday, October 12, Ranger Joshua Baldwin from Antietam National Battlefield and Rangers Jay Copper and Jim Nichols from Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park had the perfect opportunity to do just that at a career day event at Boonsboro High School in Boonsboro, Maryland.

The career day was meant to serve high school students on the “homeland security” track, as well as a group of visiting 5th grade students from Boonsboro Elementary. In addition to representatives from law enforcement agencies and first responders, the event offered students classes on how to create resumes, a panel discussing college life, an “Adulting 101” course about finances, a presentation on life in the military, and many other opportunities to learn about life after high school.

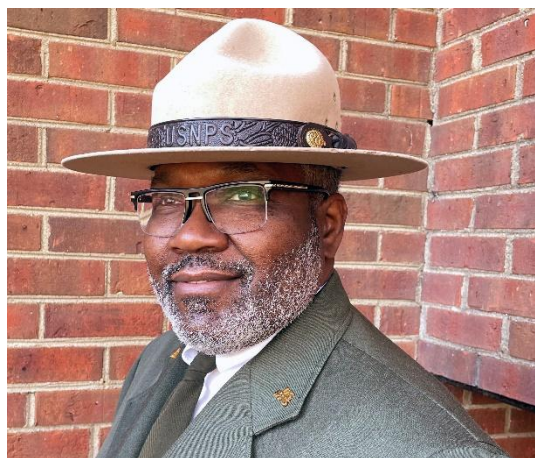
“I think we were successful in introducing the younger students to the National Parks in the area and showing them the various jobs that NPS Rangers do,” Copper said. “The high school students also got to see the varied public safety career opportunities in

their own county.” Boonsboro High School is roughly 5 miles from Antietam National Battlefield, 10 miles from Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, 15 miles from Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and just a few miles from the Appalachian Trail.

In addition to discussing careers in the National Park Service, Copper, Baldwin, and Nichols took the opportunity to educate the students on wildland fire prevention. They were sure to send a group of visiting 5th graders home with pencils, frisbees, Smokey Bear comic books, as well as information on the nearby parks. Copper said the event offered an opportunity to “tell why NPS Rangers are different than other police agencies and explain why it is important to protect our national parks.”

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## Lewis Rogers Named Superintendent of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park



*Sup*  
erintendent Lewis Rogers. NPS

November 18, 2022. John Harlan Warren, FREDERICKSBURG, Virginia. – National Park Service (NPS) Northeast Regional

Director Gay Vietzke announces Lewis Rogers as the next superintendent of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. He begins his new assignment December 18.

“Lewis’s greatest strength is the experience of having seen the agency from every possible level,” said **Regional Director Vietzke**. “His 38 years in our agency, at 12 different sites with strong historical and cultural themes, gave him the experience to know how our parks work. As he has done at Petersburg National Battlefield, he will continue to bring hidden history into the light of day for all our visitors to learn and appreciate.”

“I am proud to be a steward of America’s history,” said **Superintendent Rogers**. “The most exciting thing about national parks is the intersection of story and place. This is the stuff that makes your hair stand up. But too often in public history, too many faces have been cropped out of the whole picture. To understand what really happened, stewards of our shared history need to reveal the entire picture, with all of its participants. That’s what makes history so interesting.”

Rogers currently serves as superintendent at Petersburg National Battlefield, a position he has held since 2010. He joined the NPS in 1984, working over the years in law enforcement, interpretation and wildland fire fighting, with experience also in structural firefighting, emergency medical services and emergency incident management. He has served as an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) counselor and conflict resolution counselor. Lewis spent eight years in the U.S. Naval Reserves as a Sea Bee in the Construction Battalion. He was

trained as a heavy equipment operator at Port Hueneme, California. Later he was attached to Naval Marine Construction Battalion 23 in Roanoke, Virginia. He also served as Security Force at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown.

Rogers has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Parks and Recreation, with a concentration in Resource Management, from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. He is also a graduate of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia, where he received certifications in the Basic Law Enforcement and Basic Criminal Investigator Training Programs.

Rogers currently lives in Ashland, Virginia with his wife and daughter and a son who lives nearby.

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## **Following Business Relocation, American Battlefield Trust to Acquire, Restore "General Pickett's Buffet" Site**

**Restaurant's relocation to a larger facility will allow longtime owner to pursue preservation of land associated with climactic July 3, 1863, Confederate assault**

Jim Campi and Mary Koik. ABT

November 16, 2022

**(Gettysburg, Pa.)** — When he made the decision to relocate his popular business, the iconic General Pickett's Buffet, to larger facilities south of the battlefield, Gettysburg restaurateur Gary Ozenbaugh knew exactly what he wanted to become of the original

site: he approached the American Battlefield Trust about preservation options.

“As he contemplated the future of his business, Gary Ozenbaugh, made a proactive and profound choice,” said Trust president David Duncan. “By treating his enterprise as two distinct assets — a successful business and the real estate it occupied — he was able to pursue a personal preservation goal without diminishing his beloved community’s economic vitality or negatively impacting his employees and vendors. He is to be commended for demonstrating a deep understanding of the values that make Gettysburg unique, and the Trust is honored to help realize his vision.”

For decades, the restaurant has been part of the battlefield backdrop experienced by millions of visitors, standing at the edge of Gettysburg National Military Park and visible from much of the area where the climactic Pickett's Charge occurred on July 3, 1863. Now, following a \$1.5-million campaign to cover acquisition and subsequent restoration costs, the Trust will be able to more seamlessly integrate the site into the adjacent parkland.

“It has been a privilege to contribute to the Gettysburg community for so many years, welcoming classroom field trips and family road trips by the tens of thousands,” said Ozenbaugh. “I know that, through working with the Trust, I am able to help enrich the experience of visitors for generations to come.”

To secure the land, the Trust will apply for a 50 percent matching grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program. But Ozenbaugh, being preservation-minded, has agreed to allow the Trust to take



ownership before year-end for half of the purchase price, while awaiting disbursement of the federal grant to cover the remainder.

This means that, thanks to funds already committed, including a contribution from the Gettysburg Foundation, the Trust must raise an additional \$550,000 by December 15 to complete the transaction. An online donation mechanism allowing donors to take advantage of this matching opportunity is now available at [www.battlefields.org/3to1match](http://www.battlefields.org/3to1match).



*Pickett's Buffet from Cemetery Ridge at the Gettysburg National Military Park. American Battlefield Trust*

Although the beloved eatery is moving on from its Steinwehr Avenue roots, it is not disappearing from the Gettysburg landscape. A restaurant from the same proven team is set to open as an anchor of the reimagined Boyd's Bear complex, which has sat vacant since 2011. The new vision for the property was first unveiled in September by new owner Brian Smith, who grew up less than a mile from the site. The scenario is a true win-win for everyone involved: more preserved battlefield and a new interpretive site to draw visitors, and a beloved institution thriving in a new location, retaining local jobs and accommodating even more customers.

“I’m thrilled that this outstanding and beloved local business will flourish with us at its new home in The Barn Resort (formerly Boyd’s Bear Country) located at 75 Cunningham Road in Gettysburg,” said Smith. “This is the heart around which we are growing a vision to create a family-focused destination that supports the many treasures of Gettysburg while allowing for the preservation of historically significant areas. We look forward to welcoming guests in late spring of 2023.”

In purchasing the Pickett’s Buffet site, the Trust is acquiring a half-acre that overlooks the field of Pickett’s Charge, across which, on July 3, 1863, some 12,000 Confederate soldiers advanced, without cover, toward Cemetery Ridge. In World War I, the area now used as restaurant parking was the headquarter of Camp Colt, where American troops trained in the emerging art of tank warfare before deploying to Europe; in 1918, the site was commanded by a young Dwight David Eisenhower who so loved the battlefield and town that he later made Gettysburg his home. The same site eventually became a prisoner of war camp for captured German soldiers during WWII.

Additional information on the parcel’s multilayered history and the developing plan to restore the area to its wartime appearance — as well as a donation mechanism for history lovers and national park aficionados to contribute towards its purchase before the December 15 deadline — are available at [www.battlefields.org/3to1match](http://www.battlefields.org/3to1match).

The American Battlefield Trust is dedicated to preserving America’s hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about what happened there and why it matters today. The nonprofit, nonpartisan

organization has protected more than 55,000 acres associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War. Learn more at [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org).

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## Park Plans Coalesce in Culpeper County

**From strategy sessions to new interpretive trails and augmented reality offerings, an exciting destination is taking shape**

Jim Campi, Mary Koik, ABT

November 4, 2022

**(Culpeper, Va.)** — The opening of the Culpeper Battlefields State Park is still some 20 months away, but exciting history is already blooming as local enthusiasts and leaders make tangible progress and unveil new ways to present the county's rich heritage.

Visitors to the open plain where the historic St. James Episcopal Church once stood in the heart of the Brandy Station Battlefield can now call up an augmented reality experience on their smart phones and experience a virtual recreation of the 1840 church, which was torn down for the bricks used to build chimneys for winter huts by encamped Union troops in the winter of 1863.

“It’s an easy-to-use AR experience which quickly and clearly conveys the historic church from the outside and gives users the opportunity to explore inside, too – an experience which had been impossible at the modern-day site,” said Joe Grocott, lead 3D artist with Zubr Curio, the Trust’s technology partner.



*New sign installations at Brandy Station Battlefield in Culpeper, Va. American Battlefield Trust*

The QR code taking visitors to that opportunity to step into the past is found on one of 10 new interpretive markers installed on that section of the battlefield this autumn. The trail tells the story of the Civil War’s largest cavalry battle and points out key features on the landscape, which remains almost unchanged since June 9, 1863, when more than 18,000 mounted Union and Confederate troopers clashed there.

In July, ten new markers were installed at the Cedar Mountain Battlefield, the other major Culpeper County battlefield that will be part of the new, 1,700-acre state park. Nearly all of the land at both Civil War battlefields has been acquired and preserved over the past 30 years, parcel by parcel, in a \$17 million effort by the American Battlefield Trust and its partners.

The Trust, the multi-state Civil War Trails program, the Culpeper County Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the Friends of Culpeper Battlefields installed the signs in a cooperative effort.

“The Brandy Station Battlefield and its trail system are promoted through Civil War

Trails maps, directional signage and other heritage tourism efforts,” said Jim Campi, chief policy and communications officer for the Trust. “The signs are part of a longstanding partnership between the Trust and Civil War Trails. They enhance the visitor experience and enrich the good work the Civil War Trails program is doing statewide.”



*Governor Glenn Youngkin presented with an award commemorating his role in the creation of the Culpeper Battlefields State Park. American Battlefield Trust*

In early October, the Trust hosted a Brandy Station Battlefield tour for House and Senate Virginia Natural Resources Committee members. More than 40 Virginia leaders, county officials, and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation officials took the tour. Then, on October 28, Trust President David Duncan and Chairman Emeritus John L. Nau travelled to Richmond to present Gov. Glenn Youngkin with a plaque commemorating his central role in the movement to create the park during the last legislative session.

“Without the leadership of Governor Youngkin, the Trust’s longtime goal of seeing these critical battlefields integrated into the Commonwealth’s robust parkland management infrastructure would still be a

fervent hope, rather than an imminent reality toward which we can collaborate and contribute,” said Duncan. “As a preservationist, a Virginian and an American, I am thankful to him for taking up this cause.”

Meanwhile, master planning to establish the exact parameters and features of the battlefields state park has begun, with the opening planned for July 1, 2024, Chuck Laudner, president of the Friends of Culpeper Battlefields, told the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors in a recent presentation. The discussion also emphasized that although Civil War conflicts are a unifying element of the parklands, other rich narratives can also be drawn to the forefront, including stories of self-emancipation and centuries of Native American inhabitation.

“There’s no limit to the stories we can tell,” Laudner said.

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## **American Battlefield Trust, Preservation Community Disappointed By Vote To Permit Massive Data Centers Adjacent To Manassas Battlefield**

### **Prince William County Board of Supervisors voted 5-2 on a Comprehensive Plan Amendment after all-night marathon meeting, despite significant community opposition**

Jim Campi, Mary Koik, ABT

November 2, 2022

**(Manassas, Va.)** — The hearing started after dinner, but hundreds of local citizens waited patiently until after midnight — and

conservation and preservation organizations even longer, into the pre-dawn gloom — to speak out against a controversial proposal to allow large-scale data centers on a swath of land adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park. Despite significant public opposition and swirling procedural questions, the Board of Supervisors passed the measure 5-2, clearing the way for a major incompatible development on this hallowed ground.

David Duncan, president of the American Battlefield Trust, which had spent more than 18-months respectfully opposing the measure, offered the following statement:

“Thirty-five years ago, the modern battlefield preservation movement began, spurred by the massive suburban growth experienced across this region of Northern Virginia. Today, the threats are different — deep-pocketed corporations that demand huge data centers and distribution warehouses or sprawling solar farms, rather than subdivisions and strip malls — but the need to call for careful planning that balances modern development with respect for America’s past remains unchanged.



*Manassas Battlefield by Rob Shenk | Data center image courtesy of Tim Aubry / Greenpeace*

“While this is a sad day for those who care about our nation’s historic treasures, I am thankful for the hundreds of local residents who stood vigil through the wee hours to

ensure their voices were heard. I am honored to represent the thousands of Trust members who signed letters and spread the word of this threat and grateful for the outstanding organizations, including the Manassas Battlefield Trust, Journey Through Hallowed Ground, Piedmont Environmental Council, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Parks Conservation Association, Sierra Club, Coalition for Smarter Growth and Prince William Conservation Network, that stood alongside us.

“Although we are deeply disappointed that this proposal to allow development on the battlefield park’s doorstep has been approved, we are ready to work with the county to mitigate the impact of individual site plans as they are considered.”

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## **Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office Now Open Regular Hours**

Nov 16, 2022 Updated Nov 16, 2022

Historical Publication

### **Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office Now Open Regular Hours**

After a long hiatus, the Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office Museum is back open on Fridays and Saturdays and ready for you to explore the incredible life and legacy of Clara Barton. Located at 437 7th Street NW in Washington DC, the fully restored third floor of the museum will take you back in time to the 1860s, allowing you to walk in the footsteps of one of the world’s greatest humanitarians.



The museum will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM with the final admission at 4:30 PM

(Other times are available by appointment—reservations are encouraged).

The former home and workspace of Clara Barton was fully restored in the early to mid-2000s. The National Museum of Civil War Medicine began to operate the museum in 2015.

Get a glimpse of 19th century boarding house life and the life of one of the most famous Civil War nurses. Walk through the space where the fates of over 23,000 missing or misidentified soldiers were discovered and learn how a teacher became the founder and first President of the American Red Cross.

Clara Barton Missing Soldier's Office  
Museum, 437 7th Street NW, Washington  
D.C. (202) 824-  
0613 [www.clarabartonmuseum.org](http://www.clarabartonmuseum.org)

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## **WANT TO LIVE ON A BATTLEFIELD? YOU CAN FOR \$550,000**

**Situated in Funkstown, Md., this home  
was in the path of the Confederate retreat  
from Gettysburg.**

By HISTORYNET STAFF 11/7/2022



*The "Keller Home" in Funkstown, Md. (Keller Williams Realty)*

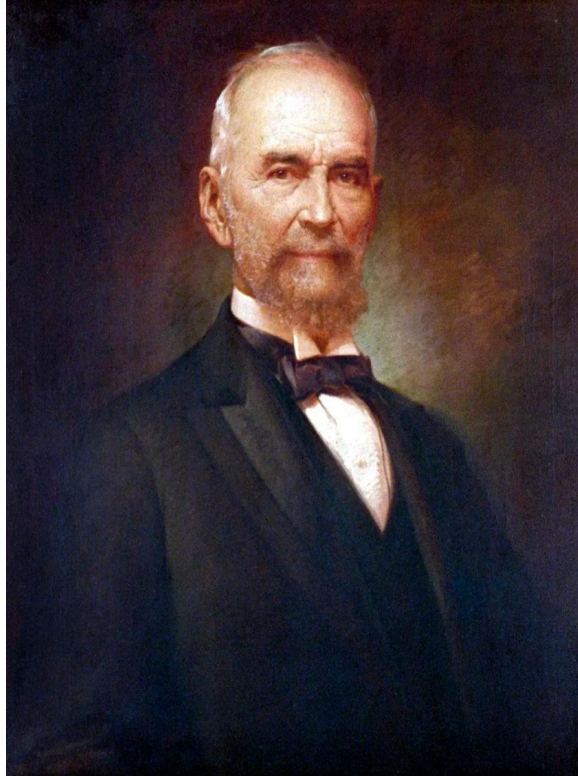
Funkstown, Md., is a small town nestled into a bend of Antietam Creek, just slightly southeast of Hagerstown. Although interstates and modern development are nearby, the downtown still retains the small feel it had when it hosted the July 10, 1863, Battle of Funkstown during the Confederate retreat from Gettysburg.

That mean little scrape initially pitted Brig. Gen. John Buford's troopers against J.E.B. Stuart's cavalymen, but things heated up and a brigade of Vermont infantry was fed into the fray, only to be met by Brig. Gen. George Anderson's Georgia Brigade. Major Henry McDaniel of the 11th Georgia Infantry fell wounded, and was brought to this house, known as the Keller Home during the war.



*Interior of "Keller Home" in Funkstown, Md. (Keller Williams Realty)*

When the fighting ended on July 10, the Confederate rear guard held. Major McDaniel was captured and hospitalized. He survived, however, and became a Governor of Georgia.



*Henry McDaniel (Courtesy of Georgia Capitol Museum, University of Georgia Libraries)*

You, too, can recuperate after a long day of work in this circa 1800 house with more than 2,700 square feet located at 32 E. Baltimore Street, and offered at \$550,000. The home sits on a corner lot, one of the largest parcels in Funkstown.

Read Kent Masterson Brown's *Retreat From Gettysburg* in the shaded backyard with mature trees, or after the weather turns cold, in front of one of the home's four fireplaces. Pubs, antique shops, and Antietam Creek are a short walk from the house, while Antietam National Battlefield is a short drive, and Gettysburg and Monocacy aren't far.

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## **ANTIETAM AFTERMATH: HOW THE RAVAGES OF WAR DEVASTATED THE TOWN OF SHARPSBURG**

**An interview with historian Steven Cowie on his latest, "When Hell Came to Sharpsburg."**

By SARAH RICHARDSON HistorNet  
11/1/2022

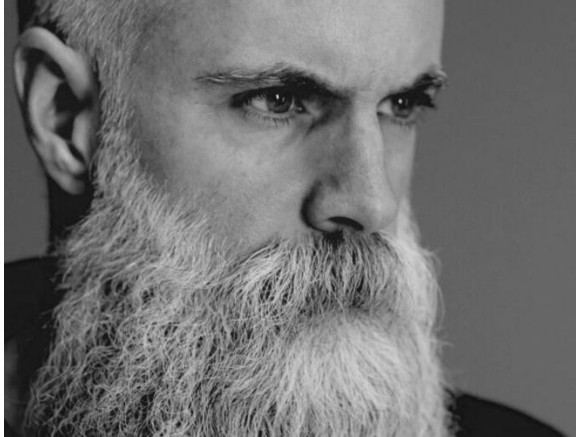


*Michigan Lieutenant John Clark's Antietam battlefield grave, a dead Confederate, and a destroyed fence provide evidence of war's fury in this September 19, 1862, photograph. (Library of Congress)*

Steve Cowie spent 15 years researching how the Battle of Antietam and the following military occupations affected the prosperous small town of Sharpsburg, Md. Captivated by the Civil War since childhood, Cowie used skills developed as a screenwriter to shape the myriad details he uncovered into an affecting narrative of the tornado of war that repeatedly touched down on the villagers' landscape. The battle's legacy is more than the thousands of casualties; the troop presence changed Sharpsburg in many ways and forever. By probing the war claims that Sharpsburg farmers submitted for property lost during the military occupation,

Cowie's *When Hell Came to Sharpsburg* (Savas Beatie, 2022) opened a window on the war's long-lasting consequences for Sharpsburg.

#### WHY DID YOU FOCUS ON SHARPSBURG?



*Steve Cowie*

When I began I really focused only on just the battle and the 1862 Maryland Campaign. After studying the battle and the region, that's when I really began to feel a pull toward the civilian aspect. Part of the reason I was able to find so much is that I had spent a number of years studying the genealogies of these people and the land records to determine who lived in Sharpsburg in 1862 and where. So I knew exactly who I was looking for when I arrived at the National Archives to examine war claims. I had to go through the 250 individual claims and analyze them on a claim-by-claim basis.

#### WHAT MADE SHARPSBURG UNIQUE?

Number one, it was the battle itself, the bloodiest day in American history as many historians have cited, and just the magnitude of that battle, the terror and the stress inflicted on the people, and the horrible aftermath with all the bodies and the dead horses. But what really made it unique, unlike Gettysburg and Monocacy, is that the

Army of the Potomac, McClellan's army, decided to stay in Sharpsburg after the battle. In those other campaigns, the armies fought and left, leaving their wounded and medical personnel behind. Most of the Army of the Potomac camped near Sharpsburg for six weeks. There's an abundance of evidence to show these 75,000 troops were poorly supplied, and as a result they had no choice except to live off the people, so to speak, and use their homes and farms as their supply depots. The river crossing known as Blackford's Ford, Shepherdstown Ford, or Boteler's Ford was the biggest portal between Confederate Virginia and Union Maryland between Harpers Ferry and Williamsport. Because of that ford, Confederate divisions actually bivouacked at Sharpsburg during the Gettysburg and the Monocacy campaigns. These Confederates attracted Federal forces to the area who ended up encamping near the ford as well. And all these poor farmers who were struggling to recover from Antietam were devastated by property losses in 1863 and 1864. So, though those campaigns do not relate to Antietam, they really did inflict setbacks on those struggling to recover. And that's another way I like to see Sharpsburg as being a different community in the war. It was hit by multiple campaigns.

#### TALK ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM.

The estimate on the map by S.G. Elliott, a cartographer who visited Sharpsburg in 1864, is more than 5,800 soldiers were buried just in the area where the combat occurred and near the battlefield. WHO and the CDC studies well document that dead bodies don't cause disease outbreaks, but what happens if one of those bodies had

typhoid fever at the time of its death? You throw in all the dead horses and the thousands of tons of manure from the animals that were there after the battle that contained pathogens such as E. Coli and other dangerous bacteria. With all the human waste of 75,000 soldiers and the hundreds of livestock carcasses butchered by the army, it gives pause to think about how much waste and dangerous materials could be washed into the groundwater or transmitted to areas where food is served by the swarms of houseflies that were all over the battlefield for weeks.

#### WHAT DID YOU FIND IN THE RECORDS OF LOCAL DR. BIGGS?

His original daybooks provided a wealth of information. I was able to look at his house calls in early 1862 and track them through late 1863. Starting in late September after the battle, there is a spike in the calls, quadrupling by November 1862, and the number of patients also expanded. Those numbers return to normal about May of 1863. He logged the name of each person he saw, the day he saw them, and the medicine he dispensed.

#### WOOD WAS A CRITICAL RESOURCE FOR THE ARMIES. TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FENCING ON SHARPSBURG FARMS.

It was not uncommon for Sharpsburg farmers to have seven, eight, nine different fields that were all fenced at the time of the battle. Some contained wheat; some farms had one or two corn fields; some had potato patches, orchards, clover fields, all of them fenced to keep animals from devouring the crops. It was miles and miles of fencing on some of these farms, which could be 260 or 320 acres. So when you consider the

boundary fencing, any fencing that went along farm lanes, around barns, around gardens near the houses—it was a labyrinth of fencing that took years to construct and, according to the claims, all of it disappeared on many farms. This was extremely expensive and laborious to replace. The loss of all this fencing was devastating to Sharpsburg. There was one account, one resident talked about how disorienting it was to navigate home in the darkness, without all that fencing to aid in deciding where to turn and so forth. It was described by multiple witnesses as a bare commons, unrecognizable as this barren plain.

#### DESCRIBE THE IMPACT OF BURIALS ON THESE FARMS.

Dead bodies had been sitting out for two to three days before the Union burials occurred. And then the Confederate burials took place after that. With the difficult limestone land of Sharpsburg, and the rush to inter all these remains, most of these graves and burial trenches were very shallow. There were no coffins for the bodies in the mass graves, so it didn't take much for a hard rainfall or a foraging animal to expose the remains, and many of these remains were exposed a week after the battle. One visitor in 1865 to David Miller's farm was shocked to see skulls and femur bones lying about. A farmhand explained that Miller had lost so much fencing from the battle that he had only one spot on his farm that was still enclosed. All of his livestock had been slaughtered by the troops. He had been able to acquire new hogs and the only place to put them was in this enclosed field that contained burial trenches. The hogs uprooted the dead, and there are several accounts of visitors to the area being mortified at seeing foraging hogs walking around carrying a human limb in its



mouth. Really nightmarish stuff. It was the desecration of these bones that shocked a lot of people to complain, and eventually the state of Maryland decided to take action and pay proper respect to the Union dead by establishing the national cemetery. A lot of it had to do with these bones that were scattered everywhere. It was terrible.



*Union artillery shells badly damaged the 1768 Lutheran Church on the east side of Sharpsburg. (Library of Congress)*

**YOU LOOKED THROUGH MANY OF THE CLAIMS FOR LOST PROPERTY, AND FOUND STRICT LIMITATIONS ON WHAT COULD BE CLAIMED. TALK ABOUT THE LONGSTANDING IMPACT.**

With the devastation of the war and the postwar economy, along with the inflation and the minuscule war claims, or the rejected war claims, a lot of people either lost their homes to bankruptcy, or they had to sell them, just to start their lives over, like the Philip Pry family. Due to all these combined issues, a lot of residents got swept up in westward migration. They decided to start their lives over by migrating to Illinois, Kansas, especially California. A lot of prominent Sharpsburg-area farmers saw their children emigrate to California. Eventually the tourism that came in when a railroad depot was established, around the 1880s, brought a lot of veterans into the area

for the Antietam reunions. Over time Sharpsburg began to recover because of increased tourism to the area and also due to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, which employed a number of residents in the 1870s and 1880s.

**WHAT DID YOU FIND MOST SURPRISING AFTER ALL YOUR STUDY?**

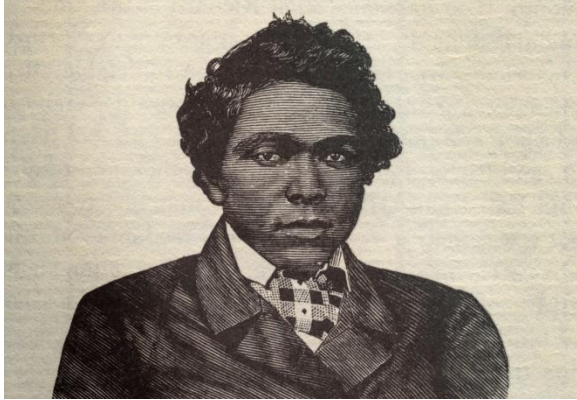
I didn't expect so many people in the five-mile radius of the battlefield to have suffered such devastating losses to their livestock, grains, and fencing, but as was told by a lot of evidence and the testimony of the claims, the Army of the Potomac moved toward the river once the Confederate army left Maryland on the night of September 18. Once the fencing disappeared near the camps along the river and all the available grains for the forage for the army animals, a lot of these soldiers started going east, more toward farms near the battlefield or even beyond that to property closer to Antietam Creek to load up wagons with food, fence rails, and animal forage and bring it back to their camps closer to the Potomac River. I didn't expect this amount of devastation over the six-week period. It was amazing in other words how much an army can consume just by being in camp. An all-devouring machine. I just don't think anyone—nor myself when I started this project—was able to envision not only the amount of property destroyed but the expanse on which it was destroyed.

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**HOW THIS ESCAPED SLAVE GOT HIS REVENGE ON THE CONFEDERACY**

## Abraham Galloway escaped to Canada but risked it all to return.

By RON SOODALTER, HistoryNet,  
10/31/2022



*Abraham Galloway wasn't known to settle, even as a slave in North Carolina. That determination buoyed him on his risky escape to Canada and freedom. It later carried him through the war and his relentless crusade for equality.*

In his 33 short years of life, Abraham Galloway impacted the course of American history more than men who lived to be twice his age—beginning with his bold escape from slavery. In the span of just a little more than a decade, he risked his life as a spy for the Union Army during the Civil War, helped raise regiments of Black men fighting for the freedom of their race, campaigned for the rights of women and Blacks, and served two terms as a Republican state senator of the state into which he was born into bondage.

Galloway was born to an enslaved woman and White father on February 8, 1837, in Smithville (now Southport), a small coastal town in Brunswick County, N.C. At 11, he was apprenticed to a brick mason, and eventually became skilled at the trade. Before Galloway's 20th birthday, his owner moved with him to Wilmington, N.C. At his earliest opportunity, the youth—along with

another slave, and under the eye of a sympathetic captain—secreted himself in the cargo hold of a schooner bound for Philadelphia. From here, the abolitionist Vigilance Committee conducted him via the Underground Railroad to Canada and freedom.

In the four years prior to the Civil War, Galloway—not content to remain at liberty in Ontario (then known as “Canada West”)—traveled back across the border, establishing strong relationships with noted abolitionists. At great personal risk, he ranged from Ohio to New England giving fiery speeches.

In January 1861—just three months before the firing on Fort Sumter—the 23-year-old Galloway sailed to Haiti, along with several other militants, including Francis Merriam, a survivor of John Brown's abortive raid on the Harpers Ferry arsenal. The group's agenda was to recruit volunteers for a John Brown-style military invasion of the Southern states, with Haiti as their base of operations. The opening salvos of the war put an abrupt end to their efforts, though, and he sailed back to the United States, resolved to aid in the Union effort.

Galloway then put his life and liberty at risk again by volunteering to return to the slave South—as a spy for the Union Army. For the next two-and-a-half years, he reported directly to Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, and traveled surreptitiously through North Carolina, Louisiana, and Mississippi, disappearing within Black communities while gathering intelligence. All the while, he had to evade Rebel troops, slave catchers, and White civilians.

After employing Galloway as an agent during his seizure of New Orleans, Butler

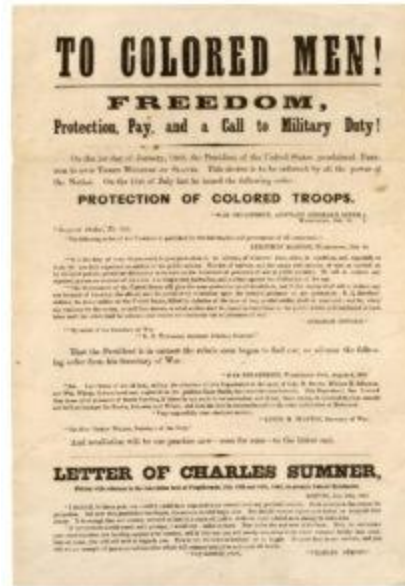
sent him to Vicksburg along with six companies of the 4th Wisconsin, to assess the city's defenses. It led to his capture.

No details are known of his apprehension, or of how he regained his freedom. Certainly, if the Confederates had recognized him as a spy, they would have peremptorily hanged him, so he might well have escaped.

Galloway, much debilitated from his ordeal, made his way to Union-occupied New Bern, N.C., where a former slave helped restore his health.

His career in espionage at an end, Galloway divided his time between creating entire regiments by recruiting African Americans from New Bern's large Black population into the Union Army, and actively advocating for abolition. In late 1863, he traveled 75 miles outside Union lines to Rebel-held Wilmington, N.C., from which he managed to spirit his mother to New Bern and freedom. And, in the words of biographer David S. Cecelski, he also "developed a genius for politics. Among North Carolina's freed people, he became a grassroots organizer, a coalition builder, and an inspiring orator."

At this time, he met and married 18- or 19-year old Martha Ann Dixon, the daughter of slaves, and according to an observer, "a priceless gem among the sands of poor Beaufort." Martha Ann shared her new husband's burning passion for abolition and Black suffrage and composed several fiery missives for the *Anglo-African* newspaper.



*After President Lincoln's January 1863 Emancipation Proclamation, the U.S. Army aggressively recruited former slaves and free Blacks to military service with posters. (National Archives)*

A powerful speaker, Galloway drew large crowds, whom he impressed with his eloquence and fervor. Commented one observer who attended one of Galloway's orations at New Bern's Andrew Chapel, "He handled secessionists and...Copperheads without gloves, and his speech was received with roars of laughter and great applause."

By the spring of 1864, the war still had another year to run. On April 29, Galloway led a delegation of Black Southerners—some of them former slaves—to the nation's capital, and into a meeting with President Abraham Lincoln. By now, there were tens of thousands of African Americans in blue uniforms, and Galloway's priorities had grown from simply promoting Black enlistments into the Union Army. Looking to a postwar future, he broadened his scope to include unilateral Black suffrage, as well as social and political equality. To his thinking, America's Blacks should, and

eventually would, vote and hold public office.

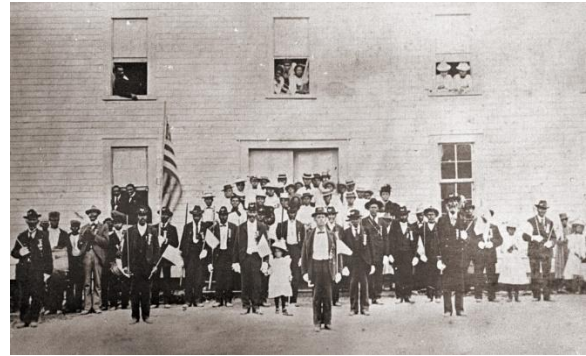
Although Lincoln had met with Northern Black luminaries, including Frederick Douglass, during the course of the war, according to biographer Cecelski, “[T]his seems to have been his first meeting with African American leaders from the South.” The delegation presented Lincoln with a petition, urging the President, in part, “to finish the noble work you have begun, and grant unto your petitioners that greatest of privileges...to exercise the right of suffrage, which will greatly extend our sphere of usefulness, redound to your honor, and cause posterity, to the latest generation, to acknowledge their deep sense of gratitude.” The first signature on the petition was that of Abraham Galloway.

Lincoln listened respectfully to their comments, and—according to the *Anglo-African*—gave them “assurances of his sympathy and cooperation.” The delegation then walked to the Capitol, where they distributed copies of the petition to the congressmen.

Immediately after his visit to the White House, Galloway led members of his delegation on a tour of the Northern states, during which he took every opportunity to speak on behalf of Black suffrage.

On his return to New Bern, Galloway was selected to represent North Carolina as a delegate to the National Convention of Colored Men of the United States, in Syracuse, N.Y., from which was born the National Equal Rights League. It was a powerful assemblage, and Galloway stood out as a major luminary. The Convention elected Frederick Douglass its president, and Galloway among its vice presidents. On

taking office, Douglass asked Galloway to serve on the executive board.



*Veterans of the 35th United States Colored Troops Regiment pose with family members during a 1905 reunion in Plymouth, N.C. The 35th formed in nearby New Bern, N.C., on June 30, 1863. (North Carolina State Archives)*

Returning to New Bern only briefly, he spent considerable time in New York City and Boston, fundraising and addressing political functions. “He seemed to appear everywhere,” Cecelski writes, “and at any time, always active and on the run.” Then, in mid-December 1864, Abraham’s and Martha Ann’s first son, John, was born. The John Brown League, of which Galloway had become president, presented the couple with a finely engraved Bible—the first family Bible either family had owned.

Two years after the war ended, Galloway was named a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in Raleigh. The following year, Abraham Galloway—former escaped slave and self-made activist for his people—became North Carolina’s first Black elector. He was twice elected to the state Senate—in 1868 and again in 1870.

Abraham Galloway died unexpectedly on September 1, 1870, just six months after the birth of a second son, Abraham Jr., and shortly following his reelection to the state Senate. Despite constant threats on his life,



there was no indication of foul play; Martha Ann later revealed that he had long suffered from both rheumatism and what she referred to as “heart troubles.” More than 6,000 people attended his funeral.

Ultimately, in advocating for Black suffrage and social equality, Abraham Galloway was a civil rights leader at a time when the concept of civil rights had not yet been fully formed. Had he lived longer, history might well have ranked him alongside [Frederick Douglass](#) as one of the most influential Black men of his time. As it was, his brief political career aside, Galloway’s contribution to the Union war effort alone was extraordinary, motivated by a driving commitment to the emancipation of his people. Perhaps his self-defined mission was best defined by biographer Cecelski:

“Galloway’s war had little to do with that of Grant or Lee, Vicksburg or Cold Harbor. It had nothing to do with states’ rights or preserving the Union. Galloway’s Civil War was a slave insurgency, a war of liberation that was the culmination of generations of perseverance and faith. It was, ultimately, the slaves’ Civil War.”