The core purpose of the American Battlefield Trust is to preserve America’s hallowed battlegrounds and educate the public about what happened there and why it matters.
THERE HAVE BEEN PLENTY of momentous incidents in the history of this organization, times when I have been exceptionally proud to be its president and work alongside dedicated preservationists like you. An unusually large number of them, however, happened to occur in Fiscal Year 2019 (April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2019), making this annual report an ideal opportunity to celebrate such successes.

At the outset of the reporting period, we unveiled a new umbrella brand, the American Battlefield Trust, under which our preservation activities in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War can all thrive. The reception this announcement received was overwhelmingly enthusiastic among longtime members and supporters, but also served as an introduction to entirely new audiences who now stand ready to further our cause.

Together we achieved major milestones in preservation — crossing the threshold of 50,000 total acres protected — and closed the books on landmark projects in a variety of categories. Our education efforts earned prestigious national awards, continuing to advance our reach in providing outstanding resources for students of all ages. And via our events and other multimedia resources, we helped foster a love of history in countless thousands of people.

Amid all of these achievements, the Trust retained its 4 Star rating from the industry-leading nonprofit evaluation firm, Charity Navigator. This recognition honors our commitment to being outstanding stewards of our members’ gifts toward the cause, an unwavering source of inspiration for our staff and all-volunteer Board of Trustees. As always, we remain steadfastly committed to upholding your faith and your trust in our ability to fulfill your intentions of protecting America’s priceless heritage for future generations.

O. JAMES LIGHTHIZER
President
HAVING EXCEEDED 50,000 acres protected across the lifetime of the organization at the outset of this fiscal year, the Trust went on to complete several landmark projects during the remainder of the reporting period. All told, the saved lands totaled 1,873 acres through 37 transactions at 26 battlefields in 11 states. The full roster of properties protected between April 1, 2018, and March 31, 2019, is listed opposite. While each is worthy of celebration, a handful are particularly notable.

We finalized the protection of 18 acres on Seminary Ridge at Gettysburg — 11 acres acquired to the west of Seminary Ridge Road, coupled with the placement of a conservation easement on seven acres to the east, along Chambersburg Pike. This success materially advanced our work to protect the First Day’s battlefield and built upon our protection and restoration of Lee’s Headquarters in 2015.

Last October, the Trust was honored to play a role in the creation of Kentucky’s Camp Nelson National Historical Park, a Union supply depot, training ground and hospital that grew into a busy recruitment center for African American soldiers and an emancipation site for them and their families.

Revolutionary War activities were also strong, with the Trust and the Institute for Advanced Study completing the $4-million purchase of 14.9 acres associated with the 1777 Battle of Princeton. The land, adjacent to the current Princeton Battlefield State Park, will be transferred to the State of New Jersey, restored and interpreted. This was the culmination of a years-long campaign to find a win-win solution to a significant development threat on the Maxwell’s Field property, where George Washington personally led a charge against British regulars, turning the tide of battle. Additionally, we saved 49 acres at Yorktown, Va., that had been threatened with the development of a residential subdivision. This $5.64-million acquisition represented the second—most expensive land purchase in the organization’s history. Adding even-greater significance to the victory, that closing also pushed us past the threshold of 1,000 acres of Revolutionary War battlefield land protected.★

Cold Harbor Battlefield
Richmond National Battlefield Park
Mechanicsville, Va.
BUDDY SECOR
BETWEEN APRIL 1, 2018, AND MARCH 31, 2019 — our Fiscal Year 2019 — the American Battlefield Trust completed 37 individual transactions, protecting a total of 1,873 acres at 26 battlefields in 11 states. Although this land is valued at $34.5 million, thanks to a host of matching grants and other revenue sources, the Trust secured its preservation through a net outlay of only $11.5 million — a leverage factor of 3-to-1!★

1.9 acres at Brandy Station, Va.
105.8 acres at Brandywine, Pa.
36.3 acres at Brices Cross Roads, Miss.
294.5 acres at Camden, S.C.
380.1 acres at Camp Nelson, Ky.
13.2 acres at Cedar Creek, Va.
10.0 acres at Champion Hill, Miss.
4.3 acres at Chancellorsville, Va.
78.2 acres at Cold Harbor, Va.

18.1 acres at Gettysburg, Pa.
9.0 acres at Glendale, Va.
0.4 acres at Guilford Court House, N.C.
2.4 acres at Hanging Rock, S.C.
473.3 acres at Malvern Hill, Va.
33.9 acres at New Market Heights, Va.
125.7 acres at North Anna, Va.
14.9 acres at Princeton, N.J.
13.3 acres at Rappahannock Station, Va.
25.8 acres at Saratoga, N.Y.
130.9 acres at Second Deep Bottom, Va.
71 acres at Shiloh, Tenn.
18.0 acres at South Mountain, Md.
12.5 acres at Trevilian Station, Va.
6.3 acres at Wilson’s Creek, Mo.
48.8 acres at Yorktown, Va.
HE TRUST uses varied methods and media to share history with multiple audiences. Among its many programs are online video series that reach millions of online viewers, connecting people to battlefields, historians, period artifacts and compelling stories. Other programs target classrooms specifically, like the Traveling Trunk — which brings reproduction artifacts, books and music into the hands of students, exposing them to the “stuff” of the past — and a National Teacher Institute to provide free professional development to hundreds of educators.

In tribute to these innovative and effective programs, the Trust received the 2018 Friend of History Award from the Organization of American Historians, the largest professional society dedicated to the teaching and study of American history, during its April annual meeting. Previous recipients include Lonnie G. Bunch III, founding director of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African American History and Culture; Colin G. Campbell, chairman emeritus of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; and Dr. Libby O’Connell of History network, a former member of our Board of Trustees.

Meanwhile, one of the Trust’s most visible classroom-focused programs, the Field Trip Fund, crossed an impressive milestone, sending its 20,000th student on a life-changing educational adventure to a historic site. The program only continued to thrive, and by the end of the reporting period, it had sent nearly 28,000 young people from 37 states to approximately 100 different historic sites.

The August launch of the Trust’s Civil War Battle Maps application for iOS and Android puts 142 of our acclaimed maps in one convenient, portable format. The smartphone app will help heritage travelers explore 83 of the nation’s Civil War battlefields — from Gettysburg in Pennsylvania to Glorieta Pass in New Mexico — and understand the high-stakes fighting that transpired on them like never before. This project meets a longstanding desire of our members, made possible for the first time through 21st-century technology.★

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: From their base near Valley Forge, participants in our 2018 National Teacher Institute enjoyed tours of many Revolutionary sites, including Philadelphia’s Independence Hall; receptions and other special-access events — like our evening takeover of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown — make the Trust Annual Conference an exceptional gathering; during our spring Color Bearer Weekend in New Orleans, we explored sites ranging from the War of 1812 battlefield at Chalmette to the National World War II Museum; Medal of Honor recipient Melvin Morris contemplates the beach on Morris Island, outside Charleston, where Sgt. William Carney became the first African American to earn the Medal of Honor during the attack on Fort Wagner in July 1863; parents, grandparents and friends enjoy passing on their love of history to young people by attending our interactive Generations events.
FOR SOME PEOPLE, reading an outstanding book can open a window to the past and spark a love of history; for others, an outstanding teacher can do the same thing. That type of connection can be forged in myriad ways, and the Trust is committed to exploring how to inspire an abiding interest via a host of means, including heritage tourism and multimedia experiences.

As always, Trust member events brought together outstanding historians to lead exceptional and immersive tours, engaging discussions and opportunities for fellowship in some of the nation’s most historic destinations. During our Annual Conference in Newport News, Va., we explored three centuries of history on the Virginia Peninsula and rededicated our lifetime achievement award in honor of legendary guide and preservationist Ed Bearss. The October Grand Review and February Donor Weekend — both events geared toward Color Bearers — explored the unparalleled preservation and reclamation story of Franklin, Tenn., and the one-of-a-kind character of New Orleans, respectively.

For those unable to join our official events, or simply anyone planning a trip of their own, the Trust reinvigorated its collection of suggested itineraries. Rather than simply listing historic sites to visit, we now curate ideas for dining and lodging, plus activities geared toward the whole family — from romantic wineries to kid-friendly outdoor adventures.

Understanding that a key aspect of history education is drawing connections and demonstrating continuity to our modern lives, the Trust undertook a strategic partnership with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society to create the Brothers in Valor project. First created during the Civil War, our nation’s highest award for military valor remains an enduring symbol of the finest qualities embodied in Americans — service, courage and honor. For this video series and special edition of Hallowed Ground magazine, the Trust brought living recipients of the Medal of Honor from modern conflicts to walk Civil War battlefields where the Trust has saved land, following in the footsteps of a historical recipient who earned his distinction in similar circumstances. Further, the Trust worked with the Society to create an interactive database honoring each of the 1,522 Civil War-era recipients.
## Financial Highlights

### Revenues, Gains and Other Support

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**Total Income** $34,046,211

### Expenses

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**Total Expenses** $22,592,211

### Total Assets and Liabilities

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**Total Assets** $147,225,248

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### American Battlefield Trust Expenses

- **84.6%** Programs
- **11.4%** Fundraising
- **4.0%** Administrative

*Reflects the value of permanently protected battlefield land owned by the Trust.*
AMID ITS WORK to protect our nation’s hallowed ground and educate the public about the significance of these landscapes, the American Battlefield Trust remains unwaveringly committed to upholding the very highest standards of fiscal responsibility and prudent management of the donations entrusted to us by supporters. In recognition of our outstanding work in this regard, during Fiscal Year 2019, the Trust received its ninth-consecutive four-star rating from nonprofit watchdog group Charity Navigator. This achievement puts us in the top 2 percent of the more than 9,000 groups evaluated.

But this was not the only accolade acknowledging the accountability and integrity of the Trust. We were also recognized by GuideStar as an organization that seeks to meet the highest standards of public accountability and program effectiveness, earning the Platinum GuideStar Nonprofit Seal of Transparency. The Trust is further accredited by the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance, meeting its 20 standards on governance and oversight, measuring effectiveness, finances and fundraising.

MEMBER TESTIMONIALS
GreatNonprofits.com

“I soon learned that the American Battlefield Trust is a ‘lean and mean’ organization (very low ratio of overhead to actual program outlays), that its staff are absolutely passionate about what they do, and I thought battlefield preservation offered a ‘three-for-one’ benefit from my contributions: respect for the fallen dead; preservation of key American history; and conservation of open spaces for future public recreation…”

— Marc Nicholson, Color Bearer

Malvern Hill Battlefield
Richmond National Battlefield Park
Henrico County, Va.
JAMIE BETTS PHOTO
PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS and DONORS

PRIVATE AND NONPROFIT PARTNERS

Agricultural Stewardship Association; Brandy Station Foundation; Brandywine Conservancy; Brice’s Crossroads National Battlefield Commission; Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation; Central Virginia Battlefields Trust; Fauquier & Loudoun Garden Club; Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield; Friends of Shiloh National Military Park; Germanna Foundation; Gettysburg Foundation; HTR Foundation; The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership; Kawayba Valley Land Trust; Land Conservancy of Adams County; Land Trust of Virginia; Mars Foundation; Mount Cuba; Museum of Culpeper History; National Park Foundation; National Parks Conservation Association; Natural Lands Trust, Inc.; Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority; Ozark Regional Land Trust; Petersburg Battlefields Foundation; Piedmont Environmental Council; Preservation Virginia; Pritzker Military Foundation; Richmond Battlefields Association; Save Historic Antietam Foundation; Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation; South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust; Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association; Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation; Virginia Association for Parks; Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund; Virginia Outdoors Foundation; Volgenau Foundation; and Wilson’s Creek Battlefield Foundation

GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERS

Adams County, Pennsylvania; Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; American Battlefield Protection Program, National Park Service; Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site (N.C.); Culpeper Tourism (Va.); East Bradford Township (Pa.); Fauquier County (Va.); Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund; Lancaster County (S.C.); Mercer County (N.J.); Mississippi Department of Archives and History; National Park Service; North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund; North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; South Carolina Conservation Bank; State of New Jersey; State of New York; State of New York Parks and Recreation; Tennessee Civil War

The above organizations and institutions were active partners in the tangible protection of battlefield properties in FY2019. The Trust is also deeply grateful to the countless preservation and conservation groups, museums, historical societies, governmental bodies, educational institutions and other organizations that share in our work of deepening public understanding of the role America’s battlefields played in shaping our nation’s history and advocating for the protection of these tangible links to our past and living memorials to our fallen ancestors.
DONOR RECOGNITION SOCIETIES

THE TRUST is deeply indebted to each individual who chooses to support our work and maintains several donor recognition societies that recognize them. The Color Bearer Society consists of those who make an annual membership contribution of $1,000 or more. The Honor Guard legacy giving society recognizes those who have made the American Battlefield Trust a beneficiary of their estate plans. The Steadfast honors those individuals who have made more than 100 individual gifts over the course of their membership.

The significant growth we have experienced in these categories has rendered these lists so long that they have driven up our printing costs significantly. Thus, we have made the decision to include those lists only in the digital version of this report, which can be viewed at www.battlefields.org/AnnualReport2019

CORPORATE DONORS

21st Century Fox; Amazon Smile; Cabot Oil and Gas Corp.; Entergy; Expedia, Incorporated; Goldman Sachs; Google*; History Channel; Intel Corporation; Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies

*The Trust is a recipient of a Google Grants award. For more information see www.battlefields.org.