

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Civil War Battlefield Preservation

By **Bob Zeller**, The Center for Civil War Photography

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Smith, Timothy B.	<i>Altogether Fitting and Proper: Civil War Battlefield in History, Preservation and Policy, 1861-2015</i> . Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2017.

Books and Articles

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Blight, David W.	<i>Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory</i> . Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001.
Horwitz, Tony	<i>Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War</i> . New York: Pantheon Books, 1998.
Kennedy, Frances H.	<i>The Civil War Battlefield Guide</i> . New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1998.
Smith, Timothy B.	<i>The Golden Age of Battlefield Preservation: The Decade of the 1890s and the Establishment of America's First Five Military Parks</i> . Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2008.
The Civil War Trust	<i>Civil War 150: An Essential To-do List for the 150th Anniversary</i> . Guilford, CT: Lyons Press, 2011.

Zeller, Bob	<i>Fighting the Second Civil War: A History of Battlefield Preservation and the Emergence of the Civil War Trust.</i> Washington, D.C.: Knox Press, 2017.
Zenzen, Joan	<i>Battling for Manassas: The Fifty-Year Preservation Struggle at Manassas National Battlefield Park.</i> University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997. The book is available free online at: https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/mana/adhit.htm .

Organizations

Organization Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
The American Battlefield Trust	The American Battlefield Trust is a non-profit organization, the Trust is dedicated to preserving America's endangered battlefields of the Civil War, Revolutionary War and War of 1812. The Trust also promotes educational programs to inform the public of the history of those conflicts. Its website is: https://www.battlefields.org/
The National Park Service	The National Park Service is the federal agency tasked with overseeing and protecting more than 400 landmarks across the United States of America. Their website is: http://www.nps.gov/index.htm/
Central Virginia Battlefields Trust	The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the land associated with four major battles: Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania. Its website is: http://www.cvbt.org/index.html/
Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation	The Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving historic battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley. Its website is: http://www.shenandoahatwar.org/

Georgia Battlefields Association	The Georgia Battlefields Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving historic battlefields in the State of Georgia. Their website is: http://www.georgiabattlefields.org/
Franklin’s Charge	Franklin’s Charge is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Civil War battlefields in Williamson County, Tennessee. Its website is: http://www.franklinscharge.com/
Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield	Friends of the Wilderness Battlefield is a non-profit organization that assists the National Park Service in preserving the Wilderness Battlefield. Its website is: http://www.fowb.org/
Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area	The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area is a non-profit partner of the National Park Service that focuses on educating the public. Their website is: http://www.tncivilwar.org/
Richmond Battlefields Association	The Richmond Battlefields Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Civil War battlefields in the Richmond area. Their website is: http://www.saverichmondbattlefields.org/
The Gettysburg Foundation	The Gettysburg Foundation is a non-profit organization partner of the National Park Service that focuses on preserving the Gettysburg Battlefield and educating the public about the battle. Its website is: http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org/
The Save Historic Antietam Foundation	The Save Historic Antietam Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of historic sites in the Antietam Valley. Its website is: http://shaf.org/

Web Resources

URL	Name and description
https://www.battlefields.org/about/how-we-work	This is the American Battlefield Trust’s web page describing their preservation methods.
https://www.battlefields.org/learn	This is the American Battlefield Trust’s main history page.

https://www.battlefields.org/learn/videos/battlefield-preservation	This video presents a battlefield preservation discussion between two of the movement's founders.
https://www.battlefields.org/learn/videos/monuments-civil-war	This video discusses Civil War monuments and is produced by the American Battlefield Trust.
https://www.battlefields.org/learn/videos/battlefields-civil-war	This is a video about battlefields produced by the American Battlefield Trust.
http://www.nps.gov/abpp/battles/tvii.htm	This is the report of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC).

Other Sources

Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
<i>The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields</i> . 1993, revised 1997.	The report of the commission is available on line at: https://www.nps.gov/abpp/battles/tvii.htm

Scholars

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Topic Précis

Almost as soon as the fighting began, soldiers in the Civil War began memorializing their fallen comrades and marking the land where they fought. Six weeks after the First Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861, the war's first land battle, Confederate soldiers in Colonel Francis Stebbins Bartow's brigade erected a large marble obelisk where he fell mortally wounded. In August 1863, just weeks after the battle of Gettysburg, the first efforts to preserve that battlefield began when local attorney David McConaughy began purchasing acres of battlefield land that included the heights of East Cemetery Hill and Little Round Top. This land comprised the beginning of the first battlefield park, even if privately

owned. By the 1890s, the era of battlefield memorialization was in full swing and the war's veterans were erecting monuments and memorial stones at Gettysburg, Antietam and other battlefields. During that decade, the United States government established five Civil War battlefield parks, putting them under the jurisdiction of the War Department. Other parks and monuments were established in the early 20th century. Although the government has gradually added land to existing parks and established new parks as well, many Civil War battlefields remained privately owned and wholly unprotected. Urban battlefields, such as the field in front of Marye's Heights at Fredericksburg and the battlefield at Franklin, Tenn., were all but obliterated by the early to mid-20th century, covered by development. Other battlefields, large and small, famous and not-so-famous, also faced development threats, particularly those near bigger cities. In the 1970s and 1980s, the spread of suburban development began to threaten and consume battlefields around cities in the mid-Atlantic region rich with Civil War history, such as Washington, D.C., Richmond, Fredericksburg and Petersburg, Va., Atlanta, Ga., and other locations. The desecration of Chantilly battlefield and incipient threats to other battlefields triggered the modern, organized Civil War battlefield preservation movement. The first organization dedicated to battlefield preservation was the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS), which acquired its first property in 1988. In 1991, another new Civil War battlefield preservation organization, the original Civil War Trust, was created. At the same time the Civil War Trust (CWT) was created, the federal government created the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, which did a comprehensive study of the country's Civil War battlefields and their state of preservation. The study, completed in 1993, continues to serve as the primary guide for making battlefield acquisitions. In 1999 the APCWS and CWT joined to create the Civil War Preservation Trust. In 2011 the name was changed back to the Civil War Trust. The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), which is part of the National Park Service, was created in 1991. In 1997, when the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, Tenn., bought a single-family home and lot at 109 Cleburne Street in Franklin, it began a new phase in battlefield preservation – reclaiming developed land, removing modern structures and returning the land to the way it looked during the Civil War. At Gettysburg in 2014, the Trust bought a prime 4.14-acre parcel on Seminary Ridge that included the stone house that served as General Robert E. Lee's headquarters, a motel and a restaurant. It razed the non-wartime structures and returned the acreage to its 1863 appearance. At Antietam, the Trust removed a post-war house and barn in the heart of the battlefield next to the Bloody Cornfield. In 2014, the Trust expanded its preservation mission to include battlefields of the American Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. In 2018, in recognition of the broader mission, the organization was renamed the American Battlefield Trust. The history of battlefield development is rife with preservation battles—victories and losses alike—at most major battlefields. But the greatest progress in battlefield preservation was not won in the courts. It was achieved by private citizens alarmed by rampant battlefield development. They saw a need to preserve these historic sites and gathered together in 1987 to form the grass roots APCWS to save battlefields by buying them. In the next 30 years, the movement grew beyond the founders' greatest expectation as the APCWS became the Civil War Trust and now the American Battlefield Trust. In 2018, the Trust announced that it had exceeded the benchmark total of more than 50,000 battlefield acres preserved at more than 130 different battlefields in 26 states, with

more in the works and many more planned for the future.
