

# What We Have Accomplished



The Gettysburg Foundation  
Preservation Efforts

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## Partners in Preservation

The Gettysburg Foundation is the nonprofit partner of the National Park Service at Gettysburg, working with the National Park Service to enhance preservation and understanding of the heritage and lasting significance of Gettysburg. The Foundation works with the National Park Service to preserve land, monuments and artifacts and to rehabilitate the land, returning the ground as closely as possible to its 1863 appearance.

Thanks to your support, you are helping the Foundation to work with the National Park Service to ensure the protection of this hallowed ground.

## Land Preservation

Gettysburg land preservation efforts ensure that the best artifact we have — the battlefield itself — will be preserved so future generations can experience Gettysburg’s lessons of honor, courage and sacrifice. The battlefield provides a tangible link to the actions of July 1863. Gettysburg land preservation is ongoing, building on a long history of people who are committed to making sure that no one ever forgets what happened in Gettysburg.

The Foundation works in partnership with the National Park Service to preserve land that was significant to the Battle of Gettysburg primarily land within the boundary of the Gettysburg National Military Park or within the Gettysburg Battlefield Historic District. Significance and priority are determined by the National Park Service’s Land Protection Plan. The Foundation has participated in land purchases, has accepted donations of land and easements and has partnered with other preservation groups to establish easements.

To date, the Gettysburg Foundation has preserved close to 700 acres of important Gettysburg land related to the Battle of Gettysburg, including:

- Home Sweet Home motel – last commercial site on fields of “Pickett’s Charge”
- First Shot Marker site
- Hoffman farm, East Cavalry Field
- 20th Maine Company B marker site
- Weikert farm, Taneytown Road
- Blocher farm, Barlow’s Knoll (modern intrusion removed)
- Shields house, Mummasburg Road (modern intrusion removed)
- Baltimore Pike residences (2) (modern intrusions removed)
- Shea farm easement (East Cavalry Field)
- Black Horse Tavern easement
- Kump property purchase
- Baltimore Pike corridor — several properties protected
- Big Round Top — 45 acres within the Historic District adjacent to Gettysburg National Military Park boundary
- Baltimore Pike property easement — 61 acres
- George Spangler Farm

## **Spotlight: Big Round Top**

On July 2, 1863, Union skirmishers would have been in this area below the base of Big Round Top. About 1,900 Union cavalry and artillery units lined up here before they attacked the right flank of the Confederate army on July 3, according to park historian John Heiser.

The preservation of this wetland area is important because it protects natural wildlife habitats and adds to battle interpretation. Streams, creeks and runs, often surrounded by wetlands, influenced the movement of troops. During the battle, waterways would have been crossed and recrossed by the armies, as the cooling waters relieved battle-weary and wounded soldiers from the July heat.

In April 2009, Wayne and Susan Hill donated 45 acres of wetlands containing wildlife habitat to the Gettysburg Foundation. The land sits near the eastern base of Big Round Top at the southern end of the battlefield, adjacent to the Gettysburg National Military Park and within the Battlefield Historic District.

“The Gettysburg Foundation is honored to receive this donation to ensure that another key piece of land associated with the Battle of Gettysburg and within the Battlefield Historic District will be preserved for future generations,” said Barbara J. Finrock, Vice Chair of the Board of the Gettysburg Foundation.

Wayne Hill is a former board member of the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg (now the Friends of Gettysburg) and the owner of Gettysburg Construction Company. As a developer and life-long resident of the Gettysburg area, he realizes both the historic and environmental value of the wetlands adjacent to Big Round Top and Gettysburg National Military Park. “I have a great affinity for the park and the Foundation,” said Hill, “so I’m happy we were able to make this donation. The land is a natural, beautiful spot, and now we’re sure it will stay that way.”

## **Spotlight: Baltimore Pike**

On July 23, 2009, the Gettysburg Foundation accepted the donation of 61 scenic, historic acres from Gettysburg resident and long-time Foundation supporter David LeVan, whose family has a long history of philanthropic and preservation efforts in the Gettysburg area, one of the most notable being a donation to the Majestic Theater project.

The 61-acre open space conservation easement is within the boundary of the Gettysburg National Military Park along the Baltimore Pike and protects land adjacent to the Culp’s Hill/Spangler Spring area of the battlefield and the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center.

Dick Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, wrote in a letter: “I’m honored to acknowledge David and Jennifer LeVan in their partnership with the Gettysburg Foundation for their unique vision and commitment to preservation of the hallowed ground at Gettysburg. Granting this easement will forever protect these significant acres from being lost to our children and grandchildren as they grow to understand the importance of what happened here.”

## **Civil War Artifact Preservation**

Civil War preservation extends beyond land preservation. At Gettysburg, it includes Gettysburg National Military Park's extensive collection of Civil War artifacts. The temperature- and humidity-controlled collections storage area in the Museum and Visitor Center ensures that these artifacts will be preserved for future generations. These artifacts they help tell the story of the Civil War and the Battle of Gettysburg by offering rare, tangible links to the soldiers and civilians who struggled during one of the most tumultuous and significant times in our nation's history.

In addition to raising the funds for the new Museum and Visitor Center that allows for the entire collection's permanent preservation, the Gettysburg Foundation has also helped the National Park Service acquire and preserve several artifacts. These efforts include:

- Acquiring the Bachelder papers and tintype
- Providing archival shelving, textile treatments and preservation supplies (matching funds for a "Save America's Treasures" grant)
- Acquiring a Gettysburg broadside — reinternment of battlefield dead (?)
- Rare books replacement for Gettysburg National Military Park library
- Acquiring a Camp Letterman surgeon's box
- Acquiring William Waud's sketch books
- Facilitating the loan of a Confederate cavalry jacket

## **Cannon Carriage Preservation**

Cannons are an extremely important artifact resource for Gettysburg National Military Park. In 1996, the National Park Service initiated a part-time cannon-carriage rehabilitation that rehabilitated 12 cannon carriages a year.

However, thanks to your support, in 1999 the Gettysburg Foundation began paying rent for a cannon-carriage rehabilitation facility operated by the National Park Service, making it possible for 20 cannon carriages to be rehabilitated each year. To date, approximately 200 cannon carriages have been rehabilitated.

## **Battlefield Preservation**

The National Park Service and the Gettysburg Foundation are committed to returning the battlefield, as closely as possible, to its 1863 appearance. Gettysburg battlefield preservation and rehabilitation is vital if visitors are to have an understanding of what the soldiers experienced here during the battle. Thanks to your support, the Foundation has helped fund the following major battlefield rehabilitation projects:

- Burial of utility lines on Emmitsburg Road
- Burial of utility lines on Mummasburg Road
- Demolition of the National Tower

- Restoration of the Copse of Trees
- Restoration of historic fence lines in Codori-Trostle area, United States Avenue
- Restoration of historic lanes
- Purchase, replacement native trees and shrubs — Codori-Trostle area
- Tree-trimming in Soldiers' National Cemetery
- Tree-trimming in the Culp's Hill area
- Peach Orchard rehabilitation
- Beginnings of Cemetery Hill and Ziegler's Grove rehabilitation — removal of former visitor center facility
- Burial of utility lines and removal of modern intrusions at Devil's Den
- Historic woodlot and orchard replanting

### **Spotlight: Devil's Den**

The boulders of Gettysburg's Devil's Den and nearby Plum Run are significant "major battle action" areas of the Gettysburg battlefield. Benning's and Law's Confederate brigades advanced across the area while attacking the lines of the Union army on July 2, 1863.

In July 1863, Devil's Den at Gettysburg had fewer trees. Over the years, trees had grown where there were none during the battle. The new growth severely limited the interpretation of this key battlefield area, obscuring sight lines and making it impossible for visitors to envision the terrain as the soldiers saw it.

Rehabilitation work — non-historic vegetation removal in Gettysburg at the Devil's Den area — had exposed utility lines and the comfort station at the base of Big Round Top that were previously obscured. The overhead utility lines provided electricity to the Bushman and Slyder farms and to the Althoff and Trostle farms, north of Devil's Den.

The Gettysburg Foundation raised the funds to remove these modern intrusions at Devil's Den. The comfort station, and the intrusive utility lines that supply power to it, were removed in spring 2010. The Foundation has also assisted the park with burying the intrusive overhead utility lines in several areas in the southern part of the battlefield near the historic Althoff, Slyder and Trostle farms.

### **Spotlight: Cemetery Hill**

Cemetery Hill played an important role during the three-day Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863. The events that occurred along the western slopes of Cemetery Hill and the northern edge of Cemetery Ridge had a significant impact on the Battle of Gettysburg and, ultimately, the cost of the Civil War. But since 1863, fields became woods, the town expanded, and modern intrusions appeared, including nearby commercial development and the long-standing presence in Ziegler's Grove of the old National Park Service visitor and Cyclorama centers, no longer open to the public. These dramatic changes had hidden the site of important battle action under asphalt parking lots, concrete, brick and non-historic vegetation. Thus, it was nearly impossible to visualize the conditions encountered by more than 6,500 soldiers in July 1863.

One of the most important proposals in the Gettysburg National Military Park's General Management Plan (executed in 1999), included the building of a new visitor center and museum complex and the removal of the former visitor facilities located along Cemetery Hill and Ziegler's Grove.

The historic rehabilitation of Ziegler's Grove honors the sacrifices and valor of the Union and Confederate soldiers who fought and died on this land. It is also central in the Gettysburg Foundation's mission to educate Gettysburg's millions of visitors about the battle, the causes and consequences of the American Civil War and the lasting significance of this critical time in our nation's history. Rehabilitation of Ziegler's Grove involved the following key elements:

- Removal of the existing visitor center, Cyclorama building and associated parking lots
- Burial of intrusive overhead utility lines
- Installation of new pedestrian pathways with interpretive signage throughout the area
- Restoration of historic typography
- Restoration of historic landscaping, including orchards and woodlots
- Reconstruction of missing walls and fence lines
- Relocation of monuments moved from their original placement

### **Spotlight: George Spangler Farm**

The help of generous donors like you, the Gettysburg Foundation purchased the 80-acre George Spangler farm in April 2008. A historically significant farm within the boundaries of Gettysburg National Military Park, the Spangler farm served as a field hospital during and immediately after the Battle of Gettysburg, treating both Union and Confederate soldiers. It was here that one of the Confederacy's most important generals, Lewis Armistead, died on July 5, 1863 as a result of his wounds.

With the ongoing support of Friends of Gettysburg members and generous donors, the Foundation continues to rehabilitate the property and develop educational programming at this location. The rehabilitation of the George Spangler Farm involves the following key elements:

- Removal of modern outbuildings
- Restoration of the summer kitchen
- Restoration of historic bank barn
- Restoration of historic landscaping, including orchards and woodlots
- Burial of intrusive overhead utility lines

### **Monument Preservation**

At Gettysburg, a monument represents the honor, courage and sacrifice of the soldiers who fought here. Today, about 1,400 monuments are on the battlefield, representing one of the largest collections of outdoor sculpture in the world. Monument preservation is a key focus area of the Gettysburg Foundation in its partnership with the National Park Service. With your support, the Foundation has been able to help fund a power-washing program, the painting and cleaning of Soldiers' National Cemetery headstones and the preservation of various monuments, including:

- Pennsylvania Memorial
- New York State Memorial
- Eternal Light Peace Memorial
- Gen. Sedgwick equestrian monument
- Gen. Slocum equestrian monument
- 4th-12th New York monument
- Texas state monument — maintenance
- Pennsylvania state monuments