



COUNCIL ON AMERICA'S MILITARY PAST - U.S.A.

PRESERVING, INTERPRETING AND SHARING OUR MILITARY HERITAGE

presents

The Persistent Preservationist January 2025

Editor's Note:

Happy 2025! This is Number 18 of the CAMP newsletter dedicated to preservation. I hope you have had a good fall and holiday season. I want to apologize for the delay in getting this issue out, as I was coming off of helping my father after a medical situation in November and got busy at work towards the end of the year, but things are much calmer now. Currently, the next deadline will be March 20 to allow me time to put together the April issue. If you have ideas or suggestions for content, please reach out to me via my email below.

I do want to thank the members who have reached out to me with some content suggestions; I will work to incorporate some of these suggestions in forthcoming issues. I also want to encourage members to send me suggestions for good books that we can feature here, as I believe new books on preservation are something that are worth highlighting in addition to those featured in the Journal.

I would ask that members consider submitting articles they feel the rest of the membership would be interested in dealing with historic preservation from across the country. If you want to contribute content, please email me at daniel.sauerwein@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for the opportunity to serve as editor. Have a wonderful winter and we will see you in April. — Daniel Sauerwein, Editor

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission Announces Pennsylvania Military Museum Modernization and Capital Project

Press Release from the Pennsylvania Military Museum

The Pennsylvania Military Museum will undergo a \$3.4 million Capital Projects Fund renovation to improve the space for visitors and collections. During the modernization project, the museum will temporarily be closed.

Boalsburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) today (Nov. 26) announced a major capital project at the Pennsylvania Military Museum to modernize the museum's infrastructure, ensuring the preservation of its invaluable collection and enhancing the visitor experience.

The project will include a complete renovation and upgrade of all doors, windows, and heating and ventilation systems; installation of advanced artifact preservation controls; and integration of a comprehensive geothermal energy system.

To facilitate these improvements, the museum will close to the public on Sunday, December 8, 2024, for approximately 14 months. During this period, the museum's archives and permanent collection will be safely relocated to secured storage off-site.

While the museum is closed, the theater will be available on a limited basis for interior programming. The museum grounds will continue to be fully accessible to the public, offering opportunities for outdoor activities, annually scheduled interpretive and school programs, and community events such as the Boalsburg Farmers Market.

The Pennsylvania Military Museum will provide progress updates during the closure on the [museum website](#) and on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Saratoga National Historic Park Gains 25 Acres from American Battlefield Trust

By Daniel Sauerwein, Editor



The Google Map from the Battlefield Trust's website shows the location of the preserved acreage now part of the Saratoga National Historic Park. Courtesy of <https://www.battlefields.org/preserve/celebrate-our-victories/american-battlefield-trust-transfers-hallowed-ground-saratoga-nps?ms=google-paid&ms=googlepaid>

working with the National Park Service for several years, transferred the land to the Park Service.

The land contained a number of American artillery emplacements related to the siege and attack on the Bemis Heights and American victory. The work is part of the American Battlefield Trust's efforts to preserve 2,500 acres of Revolutionary War battlefield ground by the conclusion of the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Revolution.



Leslie M. Morlock, Superintendent of Saratoga National Historical Park, and Kathy Robertson, Director of Project Management at the American Battlefield Trust, hold the ceremonial deed representing the transferred Saratoga battlefield land from the Trust stewardship into the custody of the National Park Service. Courtesy of American Battlefield Trust.

The effort started in 2018 and the transfer was a wonderful part of commemorating the anniversary of the battle. Great work by the American Battlefield Trust and it will be exciting to see how the Park will use this gift to further our understanding of the battle.

Check out and Support Civil War Digital Digest: An Amazing YouTube Channel that Connects Viewers to the Past

If you are looking for some great video content on the American Civil War that connects you to primary sources and material culture, I encourage you to like and subscribe to the YouTube channel Civil War Digital Digest (CWDD). I have followed this channel for years now as a living historian and also count myself among one of its “CWDD Coffee Grinders” who financially support the channel to help keep the content going because I believe in what William Eichler and his team are doing.

The videos feature diverse topics related to the common soldiers and their experiences, drawing upon the wealth of published and unpublished writings about their war experiences. It also presents the material culture of the time, including videos on uniforms and equipment, games, and cooking, often filming at historic sites, including Fort Wayne and the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library. In addition to living history demonstrations, artifacts and documents from museum collections are featured, allowing historic sites and museums to highlight the awesome preservation work they are doing as well.



Will Eichler and his team demonstrate building a small fortification at the Waterloo Historical Museum, based on an account from Chesley Mossman of the 59th Illinois Infantry. Full video is at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_DDYlADbDw&t=321s

I encourage fellow CAMP members to give CWDD a look and subscribe at <https://www.youtube.com/c/CivilWarDigitalDigest> and visit their Patreon if you are so inclined to support their amazing work at <https://www.patreon.com/civilwardigitaldigest>.

Until the next issue, visit a museum and check out a new book on history or preservation.

Founded in 1966 as the Council on Abandoned Military Posts, CAMP changed its name in 1981. It is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization whose members are interested in the identification, restoration, preservation, and memorialization of old military installations as well as their history and traditions. All persons sharing these interests are invited to join. CAMP publishes an academic journal (The Journal of America's Military Past) and a newsletter on recent developments in historic preservation (Headquarters Heliogram). Find out more at: www.campjump.org.