

# COBBLESTONE<sup>®</sup>

Discover American History

## MANASSAS

### Tale of Two Civil War Battles

Settling In  
for the Long War

Blunders  
and Blame

Battling Brigades:  
Iron vs. Stonewall

# History's Mysteries REVEALED

The fighting at Brawner Farm in 1862 was so fierce that archaeologists are still uncovering artifacts more than 140 years later.

The Civil War may be long over, but there is still a battle going on — to preserve, and simultaneously continue to learn from, the historic sites connected to that conflict. Repeated **relic** hunting and plowing destroys archaeological sites, though, and for more than a century, amateur collectors hunted for souvenirs from the war. National Park Service historians at Manassas National Battlefield Park wondered if any **artifacts** from the two battles still could be discovered.

In the 1980s and 1990s, archaeologists did some studies of the battlefields. Dr. Paul Shackel from the University of Maryland noted in a 1998 report, "Portions of the battlefield where heavy fighting took place still contain high concentrations of battle-related material." And from 1987 to 1989 and in 1994, National Park Service archaeologist Dr. Stephen R. Potter directed a project

at Brawner Farm. His discoveries were very exciting.

Brawner Farm was where the earliest fighting of the Battle of Second Manassas had taken place on August 28, 1862. Some soldiers had left behind written accounts of their fighting experiences, but they offered conflicting stories. By combining modern archaeological methods with the study of these documents, recent **excavations** resulted in new interpretations of history.

A **relic** is something cherished for its age or historic interest.

**Artifacts** are objects produced by humans that hold historical interest.

**Excavations** are the uncovering or exposing of ground through digging.



Artillery shell fragments, also known as **shrapnel**, and a 1-inch iron canister shot (left) were found at Brawner Farm.

## Reader Alert!

Did you know it is illegal to hunt for artifacts at Manassas or any of America's national parks? Stiff penalties, such as heavy fines, confiscation of personal belongings, and even jail time, can result. Park personnel take their jobs of protecting our nation's historic sites very seriously — you should, too! Through the park service's efforts, we are able to stand in the same spots as generals such as Jackson and Pope did almost 150 years ago and imagine what they might have seen. So, please remember to respect our history. No artifact hunting allowed!

Percussion caps are thin metal caps containing gunpowder that explode when struck. A finial is an ornament on an object.

After Second Manassas, the Brawner house was torn down and replaced, but the foundations of the original house remained and were uncovered. Confederate bullets that had hit the house were found, some actually inside the foundation wall! And by studying the newly exposed foundations, archaeologists were surprised to discover that the original house was a two-story structure with four chimneys and four rooms on each floor. This was very different from one soldier's

account that stated it was "a neat log house." Archaeologists also uncovered a stone walkway and rubble from a destroyed outbuilding, which gave them new information about the layout of the entire farm.

The hard-packed ground surface on which the battle was fought was found buried under later land deposits. Many battle-related

artifacts, such as round ammunition balls, *percussion caps*, and a bullet that had been carved into a chess piece by a soldier in his spare time, were found.

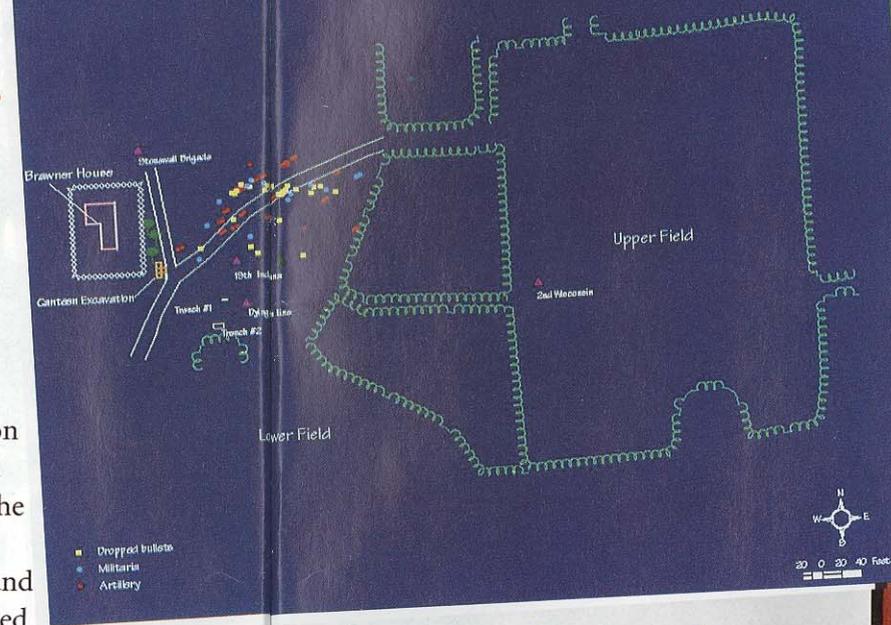
More information about the battle was revealed with the discovery of brass friction primers in the buried yard surface behind the house. Primers were used to fire cannon, and their presence indicated that artillery guns had been positioned nearby — one to the east and one to the north of the original house.

Studies done with metal detectors then revealed the location of the line of battle between the Union's 19th Indiana Regiment and the Confederates. The line was 100 feet long and 15 feet wide, and only 70 to 80 yards separated the two armies. Obviously, this was not a contest based on tactical maneuvers but rather a grim "holding of ground" that resulted in thousands of deaths on each side.

In the confusion of battle, Union soldiers dropped many unfired bullets, an iron cartridge box buckle, a brass *finial* off a cartridge box, a canteen stopper loop, and other items. Scattered among all these were fragments of Confederate artillery shells, making it clear that there was a fixed battle position.

Archaeologists also exposed a shallow pit dug by soldiers in the southeast corner of the Brawner yard near the road. Judging by the bones left behind, archaeologists determined that a fire built in the pit had

All Battle Related Metal at Brawner Farm



A computer-generated map of Brawner Farm helps tell the story. Noted are the distribution of dropped or unfired bullets, artillery shell fragments, and other battle items, which together define the location of the first firing line of the 19th Indiana Regiment during the Battle of Brawner Farm at Second Manassas.

been used to cook parts of a cow, a pig, and a horse. (Coincidentally, John Brawner later reported that he had lost a cow, several pigs, and a horse during the battle.)

Unfortunately, information about what individual nameless soldiers were doing during battles often does not make it into the history books. But it is exciting to think that there are still ways to unravel the mysteries of the past. Despite damage and loss, modern archaeology can contribute new information about battlefields, changes in historic landscapes, and the people who lived there.

Lois Miner Huey is a historical archaeologist for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. She conducts excavations at battlefields, historic houses, and forts all over the state.



National Park Service regional archaeologist Dr. Stephen R. Potter records two newly recovered artifacts — an artillery shell fragment, or shrapnel, and the brass throat to an Enfield bayonet scabbard — lying in the grass to the left of the toe of his boot. The detail shows the artifacts up close.



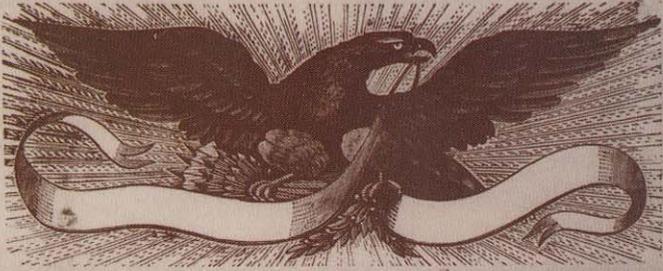
Great care was taken to excavate the shallow roasting pit dug by Confederate soldiers. Shown are a crushed Confederate canteen and bones from a cow and a horse.





CITY OF GRANT COUNTY, WISCONSIN

# AROUSE!



## VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

**The subscriber, authorised by a Recruiting Commission from His Excellency, Governor Salomon, hereby gives notice to all able bodied men in Grant County, over 18 and under 45 years of age, that he will receive the names of Volunteers under the late call of the President, and that he wishes to fill up a Company for the 25th Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers, by the 15th of August, 1862. The time set for going into camp at La Crosse City.**

**All enlistments will be for three years, or during the War. The pay will be same as heretofore, except that on going into the regiment, volunteers will receive one month's pay in advance and a fourth part of the one hundred dollar bounty, equal in all to \$28 00, besides the State allowance to families of soldiers, the latter now assumed by the Governor upon the faith of the State. These payments are clear of all expenses for clothing and rations. A recruiting roll will be found at the Herald Office, in Lancaster: also, at**

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## People of Grant County!

**A full year of war and experiment with the rebels is gone. In that time the mildest means have been applied and failed. Fair treatment has made them bolder. They are now less scrupulous than ever of the means used in destroying the best government on earth. They are treacherous and savage in their warfare to a degree unknown. The practice of swearing them not to take up arms is followed by violations of their oaths, and has been almost invariably repaid with intensified hatred and the murder of those who treat them kindly. They reject all offers of compromise and listen to nothing short of the lion's share; every approach to mercy on our part produces a fresh crop of insults on theirs. Whilst our soldiers have all along protected rebel property from rebel assault, and understood to them full measures of sympathy, such fair dealing has only been met with guerilla malediction and murder.**

**Our government, failing in such attempt to win the traitors to loyalty by the mildest warfare ever practiced, has at last designed a new order of treatment. War is the wisest extremity and retaliation the wisest when the physical powers the country can muster. This is right and by such a course the permanent obstacles to cooling are removed. Men are now called upon to fight the rebels and submit upon their property—not to swear them to loyalty and protect their property. They must be served as enemies, not as friends.**

**The intended practice now is, to arm all the loyal, willing persons, excepting none. And if men volunteer not in sufficient numbers, they will be drafted and taken by force, which must also be approved. The country cannot much longer endure this war; the substances are being exhausted at a fearful rate, and so long engaged on the war must end as soon as possible; to end the war there must be order.**

### A WILLING RALLY OF ALL, OR A RECOURSE TO DRAFTING---THAT SOON!

**Such being the shape of things, such the proper course of government, any further recurrence to the past, and how or by what cause the war originated, are inadvisable; hesitation in treason, and to evade or hinder a general resort to arms is a crime. It is sufficient that the national existence is in danger, the property disappearing and the honor of every patriot falling away.**

**The alternative is at hand for choosing between Volunteering and submission to draft, between serving our country by choice or compulsion, between good pay and peaceful subsistence, or small pay and arduous duty, between serving under our own chosen officers or those imposed over us thus should we so well, between the honorable part of honorable citizens of a glorious country, or mere human machines, with little of the honors, much of the machine. THE DRAFT OF MILITIA WILL RECEIVE THE FULL MONTHLY AND NO BOUNTY NOR PENSION.**

Such are the considerations that have led the subscriber to break in easy business for a harder one, and which, he thinks, should cause a rise of the country as one man to obey the call of God and Government.