



# Finding History: A Curatorial Analysis

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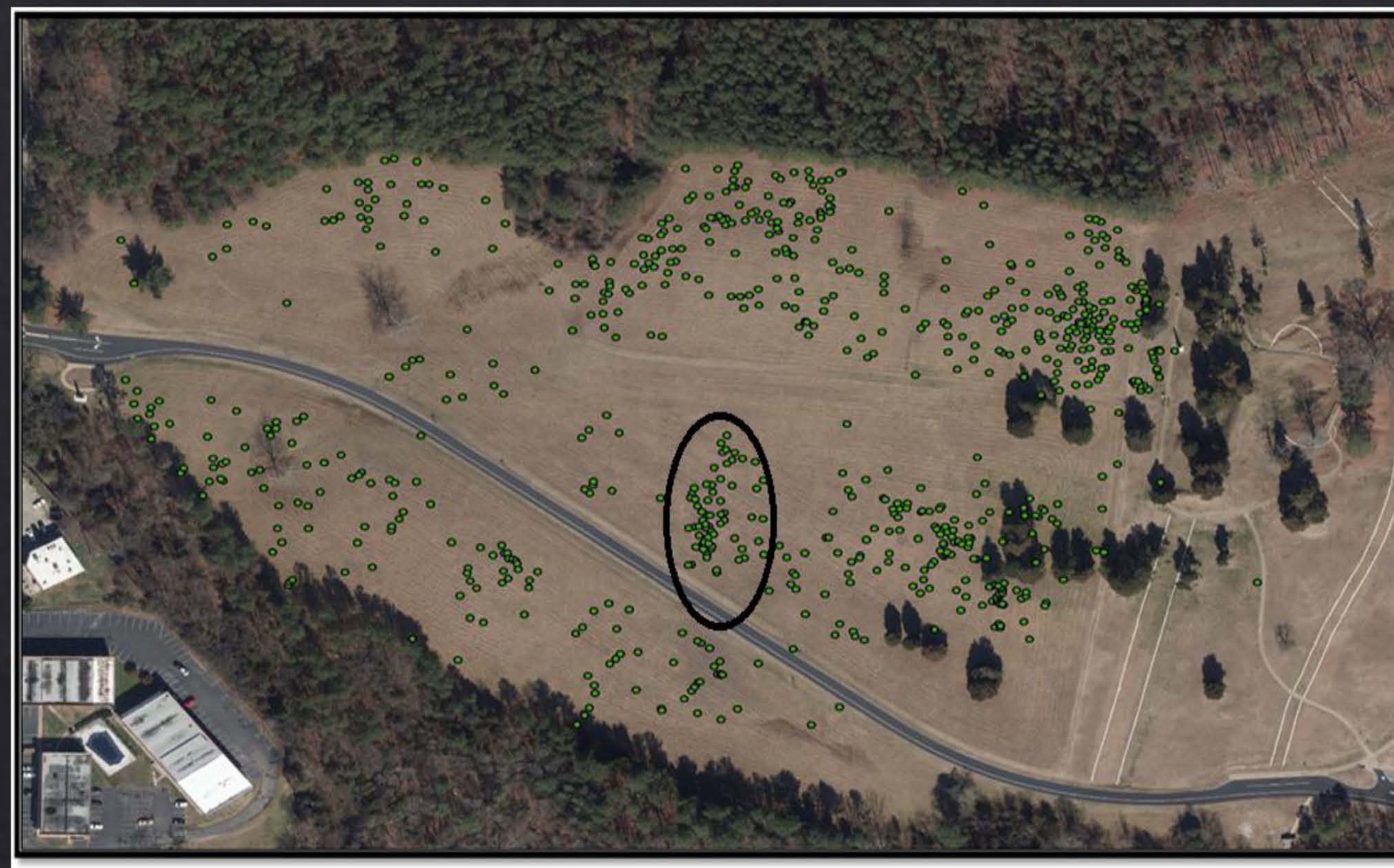
On March 16, 2015, six students began an excavation project at Petersburg Battlefield in Petersburg, VA. from the Battle of the Crater. Over 750 artifacts were recovered during the four day dig. The artifacts were cleaned, sorted and are presently stored in the archives of the Camden-Carroll Library. These artifacts have been analyzed to determine their significance and recorded in a database.

## What was found



Bullets called minie balls were discovered in overwhelming numbers, providing hot spots where the battle where the battle raged near the Crater. Though the manufacturer is impossible to determine on most bullets, the caliber was found by weight using the Sivilich Formula. Also recovered was Spencer rounds, artillery fragments, and unknown special rounds.

## What it means



Select spots throughout the battlefield held significance to the battle in that it provided information on where the Confederate and Union lines met. The ridge circled on the map held an abundance of minie balls meaning it may have been where the confederate line started weakening.

## Why it's important



The Battle of the Crater was one of the last confederate victories. Shortly after, Richmond fell. One important detail of the battle has been hidden and almost erased from history, the involvement of the United States Colored Troops. Some artifacts demonstrate the racial hatred toward those troops and confirm their heroic presence upon the battlefield.