



AMERICAN  
BATTLEFIELD  
TRUST ★ ★ ★  
PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.

An incredible opportunity for a  
\$28-to-\$1 match to save 158 acres  
in the Gettysburg Campaign!

Dear Dedicated Preservationist,

In the time you and I have spent preserving our nation's hallowed ground, we've had our share of opportunities to leverage \$5-to-\$1, \$10-to-\$1, even the occasional \$20-to-\$1 match to save critical at-risk battlefield land. But today, we have an opportunity that's simply too important to ignore.

Today, we have the chance to secure — are you sitting down? — a **\$28-to-\$1** match to ensure the preservation of two key parcels of hallowed battlefield ground that figure prominently in the Gettysburg Campaign of 1863 — one of which you know and have seen and the other sits on a new-to-us battlefield.

Together, the parcels add up to nearly 158 acres, the equivalent of 119 football fields, if you can imagine that. And this is truly essential battlefield land, having a combined value of \$9.8 million.

Now, if we had to come up with nearly \$10 million to save this land on our own, we couldn't do it, and it would likely be developed (or further developed!) and lost forever ...

But here's the good news: Thanks to a great local partner organization, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (which has taken the lead on the preservation effort at the Second Battle of Winchester), a combination of expected federal and state government grants, a landowner donation, and large private gifts, 96.4% of the total has been raised. That means the Trust needs only to raise the final \$350,000 to help save this land.

In turn, my friend, that means any dollar you can commit today towards our goal is the equivalent of \$28 — all the way up to a total value of \$9.8 million.

You have already generously donated to American Battlefield Trust preservation efforts, and for that, I sincerely thank you.

And now, given the undeniable importance of the two Gettysburg Campaign tracts we're working to protect forever, I'm hoping you can help with a gift once again. If so,

perhaps you would consider even adding a little more — say \$28, or perhaps even \$280 if you're able to be that generous in recognition of this remarkable \$28-to-\$1 match opportunity.

If successful, you and I will be adding key missing pieces of two must-have battlefields to the hallowed ground we have worked together to faithfully protect — through a combination of determination, cultivation, and negotiation — for well over a decade along the roads leading to Gettysburg.

And I must tell you, I'm thrilled that we have the chance today to save these parcels in tandem, because it's not always that we get to save tracts that were part of the same campaign — especially a campaign as important as Gettysburg!

Let's take them in chronological order, starting in Northern Virginia ...

## **Ewell vs. Milroy: The Battle of Second Winchester**

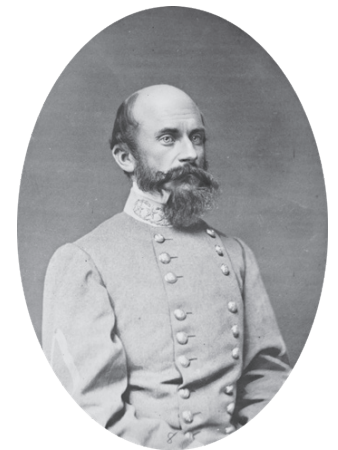
The first parcel, almost 154 acres, is a site at Winchester where three different battles raged, but you and I are focused today on the Battle of Second Winchester, June 13-15, 1863.

As you may recall, after the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, Confederate General Robert E. Lee ordered the Army of Northern Virginia's Second Corps, under the command of General Richard Ewell, to attack several thousand Federals, led by General Robert Milroy, occupying Winchester, Virginia — a key transportation hub for several roads and a branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad that ran along the east side of the property we and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF) have partnered to save.

Ewell, who succeeded General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson as commander of the Second Corps, was under pressure to perform well against Milroy and cement his standing as Jackson's replacement. Also, if Ewell could neutralize Milroy's force, it would bolster Lee's ambitious plan to take the war to the North for a second time.

Ewell's three divisions totaling 22,000 men converged on Winchester's garrison, held by about 7,000 Union troops. Milroy's superiors urged him to abandon his position in the face of such overwhelming odds, but Milroy was confident he could hold off the enemy for at least five days, until reinforcements arrived. He was mistaken.

After part of the town's fortifications fell, Milroy attempted to retreat, but Confederate General Edward “Allegheny” Johnson's division marched before daylight along the Shenandoah Valley Turnpike — part of which also aligns with the property — to cut off



General Richard Ewell  
*Library of Congress, Prints and  
Photographs Division*



General Robert Milroy  
Library of Congress, Prints and  
Photographs Division

Milroy's retreat. Blocked, Milroy then attempted to break out by attacking Confederates positioned to the east.

The southern portion of Milroy's force attacked across the target tract shown on your map, only to be repulsed by the Confederates. One Union soldier described the intensity of the battle: *"A long line of fire streamed from thousands of rifles, interrupted now and then by the blaze of the battery."* Another Federal lamented, *"It would have been folly for us to stand there to be butchered up without any mercy."*

Ewell won the day decisively. Milroy's army suffered more than 4,400 casualties with about 2,500 of his men surrendering. The defeat destroyed Milroy's army as a fighting force for the remainder of the war, and the Shenandoah Valley was cleared for Lee's northward march (and we know where that led!).

## **A Last-Minute Request to Help a Friend ... and a Successful Preservation Win!**

I'm very glad to tell you that just a few weeks ago, all the land shown in yellow on that map was purchased, and it couldn't have happened without a "last-money in" \$80,000 contribution from the Trust. Our friends at the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, after working long and hard to safeguard this historic land, urgently needed our last-minute financial assistance to close on the property and keep it from ever being developed. A massive, monolithic, windowless, warehouse-like data center, filled with rows and rows of computer servers, had already been built nearby, setting a dangerous precedent for more development.

Did we really want the Second Battle of Winchester — once covered with ranks of soldiers, standing shoulder to shoulder — to possibly be covered by advancing rows of whirring and blinking computers? Or row upon row of modern houses? I sure didn't!

So, what do you do when a friend turns to you and asks for help? Well, if you're like me, you do everything in your power to come to their aid!

To ensure that this massive preservation effort succeeded, the Trust took \$80,000 from our unrestricted reserves to help SVBF purchase the property and ensure its protection forever. I hope you'll agree, it was absolutely essential for us to act as we did, in good faith, for a friend. But now ...

It's crucial that we replenish our war chest as soon as possible, because the Trust has several other critically important preservation projects in the pipeline. Quite frankly, having that \$80,000 back in our reserves could be the difference between seeing those projects succeed or fail, including the second parcel I mentioned at Gettysburg.

## A Once-in-a-Generation Opportunity at Gettysburg

Our next tract is a four-acre, exceptional piece of historic land, which figured prominently on the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg. This property is known to generations of Gettysburg visitors as the site of the Battlefield Military Museum.

The tract is located on the slopes of East Cemetery Hill, abutting the Baltimore Pike and sitting just below the crest of the Union artillery position on Stevens Knoll, near a structure labeled “McKnight” on your map. Today, the four acres contain the large, 1960’s-era Battlefield Military Museum. The family that has owned this property for many years has given the Trust a once-in-a-generation opportunity to purchase the property for preservation and eventual restoration.

I’m sure that James and Margaret Ann McKnight — who in 1860 purchased their house along with a barn and five acres of land around it, including the parcel to the east called McKnight’s Hill, or Stevens Knoll — could never have imagined that, just three years later, the largest battle ever fought in North America would sweep over their farm.



Scene on Culp’s Hill from a sketch made July 4, 1863, by Edwin Forbes. Library of Congress



The War Museum as seen from up the slope of East Cemetery Hill.

Tens of thousands of Union troops marched right in front of, paused on, passed over, or fought on McKnight’s property and the four-acre tract the Trust is now working hard to save. Here’s how events unfolded that fateful day, July 2nd, 1863:

As Union troops met with disaster north and west of Gettysburg on the first day, other Federals fell back to and fortified Cemetery Hill. Union General Winfield Scott Hancock ordered Captain Greenleaf Stevens’ 5th Maine Battery to occupy McKnight’s Hill.

Shouting “Fifth Battery, forward,” Stevens led his troops to James McKnight’s house, and moved around his stone walls to get into position atop the hill.

In case the unsupported battery met with disaster, Stevens’ men created gaps in the stone walls to facilitate an easier escape. But support came quickly.

Remnants of the Iron Brigade — comprised of men from Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin — took position on Stevens’ right on Culp’s Hill, and the 33rd Massachusetts Infantry was positioned along one of McKnight’s stone walls, its right half on the very tract we want to preserve and restore.



Early on the evening of July 2nd, Confederate troops under General Jubal Early made a ferocious assault on East Cemetery Hill. They successfully broke the center of the Union position and captured nine cannons. However, both the 33rd Massachusetts and Stevens' Battery held. Their stalwart defense bought critical time for Union reinforcements to arrive and push the now-outmatched Southerners back.

The National Park Service has restored the historic wood line around Stevens Knoll, making this four-acre parcel we want to save even more visible and important.

Here's what concerns me: Several years ago, a Comfort Suites hotel was built on the Baltimore Pike opposite this property. I fear that if we fail to act now, another name-brand hotel or other commercial structure could be built there. Or maybe a residential developer would scoop up the property and attempt to have it re-zoned for an apartment building or townhouses.

This would be a devastating blow to our years-long preservation efforts along the Baltimore Pike. Take a look at the 2009 and 2021 "then and now" maps I've enclosed to see our work along the Baltimore Pike. Together we've completed nine transactions, totaling more than \$3.1 million, permanently protecting almost 40 acres! Each acre we preserve along the Pike prevents developers from gaining a foothold to mar this hallowed landscape.

**Our vision is to buy this pivotal piece of battlefield ground and restore it to its near-original condition such that, if General George Meade's troops were to somehow march up to the site again, they would know exactly where they were.** I admit, the thought gives me a chill.

After all, what better way could there be to teach future generations about the events that transpired on this hallowed ground than to walk in the very footsteps of those soldiers and see things the same as they would have? I can't think of a single one!

## **Our Chance to Forever Protect Two Gettysburg Campaign Sites**

Over the course of my 20-plus years saving battlefields, dealing with the many challenges that are part of this honorable work, I've learned to count on the help of friends. That's why, when the SVBF urgently asked for our help — our \$80,000 — to help save forever the Second Winchester battlefield, we answered with a resounding "Yes!"

Now, I am turning to you, as a valued friend, to ask you to be part of our effort to safeguard not only that tract but also the land on East Cemetery Hill — two pivotal Gettysburg Campaign sites — before they fall prey to development, destroying historic grounds where brave men fought and died.

Will you help secure 158 acres of hallowed land by taking advantage of the incredible \$28-to-\$1 match before us? And would you please consider adding something extra to your gift to better ensure we reach our \$350,000 goal as soon as possible?

Thank you as always, my friend, for your generosity and commitment to the cause of battlefield preservation at Second Winchester, Gettysburg, and battlefields throughout our great nation.

I look forward to fighting alongside you in our important mission to protect all our nation's hallowed ground for all time.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Duncan  
President

P.S. The Trust's diligent work to save almost 40 acres of hallowed ground along the Baltimore Pike in Gettysburg has taken well over a decade. We now have the opportunity to add two more important pieces to the overall preservation of the Gettysburg Campaign. And we can do it by taking advantage of an almost unheard of \$28-to-\$1 match! You are the final piece of the puzzle for both these historic battlefields. And as the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation turned to me for help, today I am turning to you. Please let me hear back from you as soon as possible, and thank you for all you are doing for this great cause.