



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

**“We fight, get beat,
rise, and fight again.”**

—General Nathanael Greene

Dear Friend and Fellow Preservationist,

Please let me apologize to you right up front: It has been far too long since I've written you about the crucial work we are doing together to save key parts of our nation's Revolutionary War battlefields.

But today, presented with an almost unprecedented opportunity to multiply the power of your generosity by a factor of \$44.40-to-\$1, I hope you will forgive me!

Right now, you and I can save several key parts of three distinct Revolutionary War battle sites, and if you give me just two minutes of your time, I'll tell you why I believe you will want to make these lands part of your personal preservation legacy.

One tract, at the momentum-turning Battle of Fort Ann in New York State, factored heavily into the northern Saratoga Campaign. Each of the other crucial tracts (at Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina, plus the first battlefield land ever preserved at Hobkirk's Hill in South Carolina) collectively tell a story of stubborn American resistance that is key to understanding the War's Southern Campaign ...

... a story best summed up by General Nathanael Greene's famous quote about American resilience and resolve:

“We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again.”

Now, before I go into the history that unfolded at all five battle tracts, I first must tell you about the fantastic matching opportunity before us today.

We can save 64 acres of priceless Revolutionary War battlegrounds — together having a total transaction value of \$2,115,500 — for only \$47,650. Yes, you read that correctly, we're saving over \$2 million of our country's history for less than \$50,000! In other words, any gift you give today will be multiplied by a whopping \$44.40-to-\$1!

Or to put it another way, thanks to a generous landowner and our preservation partners in New York, South Carolina, and the National Park Service, you and I need only to raise the final 2.3% of the total transaction!

Obviously, this is a preservation opportunity we simply cannot pass up!

Now, let's get into the history of these tracts, starting with the Battle of Fort Ann, fought on July 8, 1777, just one year and four days after we declared our independence, and when the future of our young nation was still very much in doubt.



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Dear Friend and Color Bearer,

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That summer, the British sought to slice our new country in two, using the Hudson River to cut New England off from the rest of the colonies. British General Burgoyne, later nicknamed “Gentleman Johnny,” began his campaign with a string of impressive victories.

It looked like Fort Ann would be the next post to fall to Burgoyne’s offensive. However, some of the Patriot soldiers who had fled from Fort Ticonderoga and Skenesborough chose to make a stand at Fort Ann and engage Burgoyne’s forces directly rather than continue their withdrawal.

Burgoyne sent a small force of about 200 troops under Colonel John Hill to observe and attack the Americans. After some preliminary probing actions, Captain James Gray and 300 Patriots surprised Hill’s men in their camp at the base of Battle Hill in upstate New York.

Legendary historian Richard Ketchum, in his award-winning book, *Saratoga: Turning Point of America’s Revolutionary War*, describes what happened next far better than I ever could: “The rebels [Americans], slanting through the trees, crossed Wood Creek, turned Hill’s left, and worked their way behind him; he couldn’t see them but could tell from their voices that he would soon be surrounded, so he ordered his men up the precipitous slope to their rear ...

“Up on the ridge the hard-pressed redcoats held out for two hours until their ammunition was exhausted and were on the verge of having to surrender when an Indian war whoop was heard, signaling the approach of reinforcements. The British answered with three cheers.

“The rebels could not know that the war whoops had been delivered not by Indians but by a lone British officer, Captain John Money of the 9th Regiment ... Luckily for the British, it worked.”

When the fight was over, each side claimed victory. However, historians agree that the battle at Fort Ann changed the momentum of the entire Saratoga Campaign. Afterwards, Burgoyne’s progress slowed to a sluggish crawl. His army lost strength almost every day until he was defeated and forced to surrender at Saratoga in October — the victory that convinced France to enter the war as an ally of the United States.

The 41-acre tract you and I have the opportunity to protect is adjacent to Battle Hill, a parcel of 160 acres once threatened by a granite and topsoil mine, which the Trust helped to save and has now been turned into a historical site by the town of Fort Ann.

These 41 additional acres will be used to provide an enhanced interpretive experience for all who visit, telling this chapter of our nation’s founding conflict, where citizen-soldiers bravely fought and died for American independence.

Now we turn our attention to the war’s Southern Campaign. Looking at your enclosed map, you will see a small tract — under an acre — at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, located near Greensboro, North Carolina.

On March 15, 1781, British General Lord Charles Cornwallis’s army of 2,300 men engaged the American Southern army under Nathanael Greene at Guilford Courthouse.

Greene formed his roughly 4,400 men into three lines, a “defense in depth.” In concept, the first two lines would exhaust the enemy’s advance and inflict as many casualties as possible, allowing the third line to deliver a decisive blow.

Cornwallis’s troops first met a line held by North Carolina militia, then a second line held by Virginians, before meeting Greene’s third and most formidable line composed of Continental Regulars from Virginia and Maryland. A melee began as Continentals and the elite units of Cornwallis’s army fought fiercely. Lieutenant Colonel William Washington’s dragoons entered the fray and vicious hand-to-hand combat ensued. The two sides clashed in a whirlpool of battle.

Greene had seen enough. Wanting to preserve his remaining troops, he retired from the field. Cornwallis had won the day, but lost fully 28% of his men, handing him a Pyrrhic victory. In no position to pursue Greene, Cornwallis withdrew to Wilmington, North Carolina, to rest and refit before setting his sights on the richest of the Southern colonies: Virginia.

The targeted tract you and I can preserve lies squarely in the middle of the British advance, and a few hundred feet from where the British engaged the first American line. With this property in hand, the Park Service will be able to better tell the full story of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

The other tracts you and I can save — in collaboration with our friends at the South Carolina Battleground Trust and the Palmetto Conservation Foundation — total nearly 23 acres of the often-overlooked Battle of Hobkirk’s Hill, fought near Camden, South Carolina.

The British held a chain of outposts that ran from Augusta, Georgia, up through South Carolina, including a major depot at Camden. Greene arrived there on April 20, 1781, making camp on the crest of Hobkirk’s Hill, a mile and a half north of town. On the morning of April 25, a deserter from Greene’s army informed the British commander, Lieutenant Colonel Francis Rawdon, of Greene’s location and strength.

Rawdon launched his attack that same morning. The Americans put up stiff resistance, and while sustaining higher casualties. The British again won the day. Despite the victory, Rawdon concluded that the American army was too strong, and he abandoned Camden anyway. After this battle, Greene famously wrote to an acquaintance that “*We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again.*”

Much of the area has been lost to residential development over the years, which is why the tracts you and I have the opportunity to protect today will set a significant precedent — becoming the very first battlefield land to be preserved at Hobkirk’s Hill!

By refusing to give up ... by refusing to admit defeat ... by refusing to lose hope in ultimate victory ... battle after battle, Greene skillfully waged a war of exhaustion in late September 1781 that so weakened the British efforts in the Carolinas, they retreated to the coast, giving up outpost after outpost in the backcountry.

The lesson for us, as we fight to save our country's history, is clear:

**We cannot give up, no matter how strong the forces working against us are.
We cannot stop fighting, no matter how outnumbered or outgunned we may be.
And even if we are defeated from time to time, we must rise and fight again.**

Every one of these acres, North and South, are essential to telling the story of how a small, rag-tag group of civilians and soldiers managed to defeat the greatest military force in the world at that time, helping to create the nation you and I hold dear.

Again, my friend, we only need to raise a fraction of the value of these transactions, just \$47,650, or less than 3% of the total. Every \$1 you give today basically turns into \$44.40 of value to save 64 acres of our nation's history.

To recognize your generosity, if you can make a gift of just \$50 or more today to support our preservation and education mission, it will be my honor to send you our just-completed, exclusive American Battlefield Trust edition of *Battle Maps of the American Revolution*.

Battle Maps of the American Revolution provides a comprehensive review of the battlefields where our nation was forged in bravery and a never-say-die attitude. Its pages will take you from the clashes at Lexington and Concord, all the way through to the triumphant siege and surrender at Yorktown, where the British army was pinned into submission by land and sea.

While any gift you can donate today will help tremendously — and will be greatly, greatly appreciated — if you can send \$50 or more, I will rush your copy of *Battle Maps of the American Revolution* out to you as soon as possible, with my compliments.

Thank you in advance for all you do to help preserve irreplaceable battlefield land all across America, and I look forward to your response.

With warmest personal regards,



David N. Duncan
President

P.S. If you have Volumes 1 and 2 of our “Battle Maps” book series, featuring the Eastern and Western Theaters of the Civil War, you will definitely want Volume 3, *Battle Maps of the American Revolution*, yours with a gift of just \$50 or more. This book is not yet available anywhere else — only donors to this effort can get one of the first editions off the presses. Please let me hear back from you today, and thank you again for saving America's hallowed ground.

**We have an opportunity to save five tracts of land where a
small, rag-tag group of citizen-soldiers managed to weaken and
ultimately defeat the greatest military force in the world ...
to create this nation that we love.**