



AMERICAN
BATTLEFIELD
TRUST ★ ★ ★

PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.

Four famous Civil War generals ...
Three new battlefields ...
Two months to raise just over \$200,000 ...
One incredible opportunity to save
311 acres of hallowed ground at a
\$13-to-\$1 match of your generosity!

Dear Fellow Preservationist,

As word comes to us here at the Trust nearly every week of new threats to hallowed ground, I need your help today to fight back and preserve our history.

Whether it be large arrays of solar panels blanketing the countryside for “utility-scale solar farms” ...

... which are powering an accelerating number of massive, monolithic, multi-story computer data centers ...

... which in turn are supporting the explosion of enormous “e-commerce” warehouse distribution centers (which often cover several acres) ...

... which are delivering next-day purchases to people who, fleeing the crowded cities to avoid the pandemic, have flocked to the new residential subdivisions that are being built to accommodate them ...

... unprotected battlefield land all across America has never been more threatened, it has never been more expensive, and the competition to buy it has never been more intense.

That’s why it is my honor today to send you the enclosed memo highlighting the amazing preservation accomplishments you helped secure last year, and to set the stage for even greater success this year, including the four tracts that I have mapped for you today.

I hope you will keep this report with your other important records, so that from time to time, you can reflect on the important work you are achieving in preserving our nation’s history and heritage.

By working together, last year we were able to ensure that more than 1,272 acres of American hallowed ground — from the Revolutionary War up through the Civil War — would never become housing subdivisions, data centers, or worse.

That hallowed ground will, thanks to you, remain hallowed forever, standing as a testament not only to the courage of those who fought there, but also as a testament to those like you who are willing to fight to preserve it.

And what a year it was, my friend ... 31 separate land transactions, or one every 11 days! Those 31 transactions had a total value of about \$33 million, but due to some amazing matching grants, landowner donations, and other miracles, we were able to multiply your generous support by a record-breaking \$22-to-\$1!

Most years, we are happy with a total \$4-to-\$1, or even \$5-to-\$1 ratio. In 2021, despite the pandemic, I can report that we had one of our best years in the history of the organization. I cannot thank you enough for your steadfast support, and your dedication to saving our nation's unprotected battlefields.

But as you know, the forces working against us never sleep, so we can only rest on our laurels for a moment, celebrate a great year, and then we must turn our attention back to the threats and opportunities we face all across America.

That's why I'm so eager to write to you today about the four battlefields featured on the map I have enclosed for you. Each of these battlefields features an important story in the life of a famous Civil War general:

- **U.S. Grant** (before he earned the nickname "Unconditional Surrender") at the Battle of Belmont, early in the War
- **John Hunt Morgan**, at the Battle of Buffington Island, one of only two Civil War battles fought in Ohio
- **William T. Sherman**, at the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou, where he was later forced to admit, "We had accomplished nothing"
- **J.E.B. Stuart**, at the Battle of Upperville, a prelude to the Battle of Gettysburg

At three of these sites — Belmont, Chickasaw Bayou, and Buffington Island — we can save the first acres we have ever preserved at these battlefields. Even after more than 30 years of dedicated preservation work, neither the Trust nor any of our predecessor organizations had ever been able to save any ground at these three places ... until now!

The four tracts highlighted in yellow on your battle maps add up to 311 acres — a great amount for this early in 2022 — and total \$2,694,207 in transaction value. That's nearly \$2.7 million in value, and you and I can save them all with a match of \$206,207.

Ordinarily, the number 13 is considered unlucky. But for us today, with a \$13-to-\$1 match of your generosity, that sounds pretty lucky to me!

And while the parcels at Belmont and Chickasaw Bayou are small by comparison, well, my friend, you have to start somewhere, don't you? As the proverb goes, "Mighty oaks from tiny acorns grow."

Every preserved battlefield started with a "first acre" somewhere, so by adding three "new" battlefields to our list, we will have saved hallowed ground at 150 battlefields in 25 states all across America ... totaling more than 54,000 acres!

Let's start with the **Battle of Belmont**. Ulysses S. Grant — who had been promoted to general only five months earlier — and his Union forces disembarked steamboats three miles north of Belmont, Missouri, in November 1861. They marched south to engage Confederate soldiers at Camp Johnson and inflicted heavy losses. Confederate reinforcements, bolstered by long-range cannons in nearby Columbus, counterattacked the Federals.

While both sides claimed victory, the Battle of Belmont unquestionably gave Grant the combat and large-unit command experience he would need later in the war. We have the chance to save just over one acre — our first acre! — with your support today.

The **Battle of Chickasaw Bayou** (also called the Battle of Walnut Hills) featured General William T. Sherman in the opening engagement of the Vicksburg Campaign. On December 26, 1862, Sherman disembarked his soldiers at Johnson's Plantation to oppose Confederate forces under the command of General John C. Pemberton, a Pennsylvanian who chose to fight for the South.

On the third day of fighting, knowing the Union army outnumbered Confederates two-to-one, Sherman launched repeated attempts to get around Confederate defenses. Though all proved futile, Sherman would not relent, ordering one last, bold attack on December 29 — a frontal assault on the enemy, repulsed with heavy casualties — before withdrawing his troops. Despite the lopsided numbers in his favor, Sherman suffered more than eight times as many losses as the Confederates. The resounding Confederate victory effectively thwarted the Union's first attempt to capture Vicksburg, but the Union's fortunes would change a little more than six months later.

The three acres we're trying to save at the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou in Mississippi — the first three of hopefully many — are shown on the battle maps I have enclosed.

The **Battle of Buffington Island** was one of only two Civil War battles in Ohio and the most significant battle fought north of the Ohio River. In July 1863, as the Confederacy was reeling from the dual losses of Vicksburg and Gettysburg, General John Hunt Morgan began his most ambitious raid of the war. He and his men made their way to Buffington Island, a ford, where he hoped to cross back over the river and get out of Ohio unscathed. It was not to be.

The decisive encounter between approximately 1,700 of General John Hunt Morgan's Confederate troops and 3,000 Union artillery, infantry, and cavalry accompanied by U.S. Navy gunboats ended in about 700 Confederates surrendering while others were captured, wounded, or killed. Morgan managed to escape, but eight days later surrendered.

The tract that we are working to preserve is the very ground on which Morgan and his men advanced! Today, the 117-acre tract is threatened by large-scale residential development that has absolutely no place near the battlefield or the adjacent state memorial park. If we can successfully acquire the tract, we will transfer it to our local partner, the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation, in what we hope will be the first in several land-saving actions on the battlefield.

And finally, the **Battle of Upperville**, Virginia — on the enclosed battle map, it's easy to spot our targeted 191-acre tract highlighted in yellow. These pristine acres remain today very much the way they were in 1863: broad, open terrain ideally suited for close-action cavalry fighting. Peering across the landscape, it's not hard to imagine the ferocious and bloody clash — soldiers shouting, horses whirling, guns blazing — that took place between General J.E.B. Stuart's Confederate and Union General Alfred Pleasonton's cavalry.

The 191 acres we're working to save provided the stage for the fighting that took place — stirrup to stirrup, saber to saber, and hand to hand — on the afternoon of June 21, 1863. We simply CANNOT let this opportunity to save this battlefield slip through our hands.

So, my friend, I hope you will rise to meet this urgent call. You and I can protect and preserve 311 acres at four battlefields — irreplaceable lands that breathed life into the legends of four great generals — land valued at \$2,694,207, and we can do it all for just \$206,207. That means every dollar you give to this campaign turns into \$13!

I would be so very grateful for any support you can spare today, just as I am so very grateful for all you have done to save America's Civil War and Revolutionary War history. I have said it before, and I will say it again: You are the hero of our preservation story. I am both proud and humbled to be in this noble work by your side.

Thank you for all you continue to do for our great cause!

'Til the battle is won,



David N. Duncan
President

P.S. Commercial interests in these hallowed grounds are unrelenting and increasingly cutthroat. We have the opportunity to save four tracts of sacred ground, on four separate battlefields — three of them new to the Trust — where four major Civil War generals shaped their character and reputations. And to top it off, any gift you are able to give today will have **13 times the preservation power** thanks to a combination of support from the landowners, our partners, and special friends. Please don't let these hallowed grounds be lost to developers. To make your donation online, go to battlefields.org/save311. Thank you, again.