



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

“In all my war experience, I never passed through just such a bombardment. It seemed that every battery in the Federal army was pouring bombshells and solid shot into the side of that mountain.”

That’s how Private Henry M. Woodson, 34th Mississippi, recalled his battle experience near Lookout Mountain in November 1863. Through the years, this hallowed site was desecrated by a cheap motel. But today, **you** can help conserve the land, demolish the motel, and return the site to its wartime appearance.

**LET’S FIGHT RELENTLESSLY TO SAVE THIS LAND!
WHEN YOU GIVE NOW, YOUR GENEROSITY CAN BE
MATCHED \$10.66-TO-\$1!**

Dear Patriotic Friend,

While it’s hard to imagine building a tourist motel on an important Civil War battle site and naming it **“Lookout Mountain Tourist Lodge,”** this type of intrusion was not unusual years ago.

For decades, families spent the night here, just off the Cummings Highway in Tennessee. *Today, it is abandoned, graffiti-strewn, and falling apart.*

But if you *gaze down the hill from Lookout Mountain today*, you can still get a sense of what it was like in November 1863, as Gen. John White Geary’s White Star Division swept up from the south, forcing the Confederates to abandon their picket line along Lookout Creek and leading to the fall of Chattanooga.

My friend, one of two things will happen to this site in the coming weeks and months. *Either someone else will buy the land, and perhaps build a new motel or other commercial enterprise ...*

Or **WE** will buy the land, tear down the remains of the old motel once and for all, and begin the process of conserving and permanently protecting this site forever!



Lookout Mountain Tourist Lodge

Now you know why I am writing to you with such urgency. We need to raise \$149,144 to purchase this property on Lookout Mountain as well as three tracts at two other critically important battlefield sites — Mill Springs in Kentucky and Fort DeRussy in Louisiana — totaling 170 acres. And we need to do it now.

The total value of these transactions is \$1,590,288. But if we can raise \$149,144, we can get the deal done and YOU can leverage your generosity with a match of \$10.66-to-\$1!

Please donate to support this critical cause today. With just one gift, you can help preserve three sites, in three states, from three years of the Civil War!

To thank you in advance for your continued generous support, I'm including a detailed map of the battlefield sites I need your help to protect and defend.

With your strong support, the American Battlefield Trust has now saved more than 55,000 acres of battlefield land in 24 states.

We're not only protecting pristine battlefield land whenever and wherever we can. We're also striving to restore what was once lost to development, like that tourist motel that was built decades ago *on Lookout Mountain ...*

Lookout Mountain would appear impregnable to most any military commander. Its slopes were steep, and Confederate soldiers were strongly posted.

But in November of 1863, recognizing the critical role that Chattanooga played as a railroad hub for the Confederates, General Grant determined *the time for an attack had come*.

With Gen. Geary's division of the 12th Corps in the lead, Gen. Joseph Hooker crossed the creek and formed a line of battle on the very slope of Lookout Mountain.

Rather than attack the mountain head-on, Hooker planned to move his troops across Lookout Creek and advance below the crest of the mountain. There, Hooker's men engaged in fierce fighting by Confederate brigades led by Generals Edward Walthall and John C. Moore.

For the better part of a day, the battle was relentless. Col. George Cobham's Pennsylvanians delivered a withering flanking fire from the upper portion of the slope. Gen. Moore's brigade made a counterattack around 1:00 p.m., only to be stymied by crossfire.

By the time the smoke had cleared on Lookout Mountain and the battle for Chattanooga was over, an estimated 13,824 brave men were killed, wounded, or captured, with bodies strewn down Lookout Mountain and blood staining the waters of Wauhatchie Creek.

Here's more of what Priv. Woodson would later write about his experiences:

“The shells burst, knocking off thousands of pieces of rock and scattering them hither and thither. The whole face of the mountain was lurid with bursting shells and seemed to belch smoke from every crevice, while the mountain itself seemed to howl and shriek as if a million demons had been aroused in its caverns.”

I have to tell you — I felt like howling when I saw the ruins of the old Lookout Mountain Tourist Lodge that was built here. What an eyesore!

It's the same way I feel when I see highways and toll roads ripping battlefield sites in two, and massive high-tech data centers being built on land where freedom was won and a nation was created and defined.

In fact, I sometimes wonder what heroes like Gen. Geary — *who had lost his beloved son in the nearby Battle of Wauhatchie only about a month before Lookout Mountain* — would think if he were alive today to witness that so many of the places where they fought so bravely are being developed, desecrated, and destroyed.

I'm pretty sure they'd agree with you and me. It's absolutely critical that we act now to save what's left — while we still can!

And not only Lookout Mountain. We also need your help to acquire and preserve two other important battlefield sites, including:

**A combined 147 acres in Mill Springs, Kentucky, site of
*the first significant Union victory in the Western Theater of the Civil War.***

President Abraham Lincoln recognized how crucial it was to keep Kentucky in the Union. But in late 1861, a Confederate force of around 6,000 men under Gen. Felix Zollicoffer encamped for the winter near Mill Springs. When they learned that a Union force under Gen. George H. Thomas had also gathered nearby, the Confederate area commander Gen. George B. Crittenden ordered Zollicoffer to give them battle.

Zollicoffer's men attacked on January 19, 1862, in the early morning mist and rain, and initially gained success. The fighting raged for over an hour until Thomas ordered the Union line to advance, overwhelming the Confederates.

The Federal victory at Mill Springs not only helped to bolster Northern morale but also helped to keep Kentucky, initially a neutral state, firmly in Union control where it would remain for the balance of the war.

*We now have the opportunity to purchase two parcels of 83 and 64 acres before they are lost to history forever. **We can't miss this chance!***

**22 acres near Fort DeRussy, site of the first battle of the
*Red River Campaign for control of Louisiana.***

The Confederates had built Fort DeRussy in 1862 to defend the lower Red River and the cities of Alexandria and Shreveport. It was partly plated with iron, and was believed to be impregnable to Union attack!

But on March 14, 1864, Union troops under the command of Gen. Joseph A. Mower began their assault. Union Gen. Mower's infantry dispersed an enemy brigade, after which Confederate Gen. E. Kirby Smith set his men in motion up the road to Fort DeRussy.

Around 6:30 p.m., Smith ordered a charge on the fort and about 20 minutes later, Mower's men scaled the parapet, forcing the garrison to surrender.

*In the end, none of the Union forces deployed ever reached Shreveport. **But there were 317 men killed, wounded, or captured that day.** Do we honor these brave men by preserving this historic place? Or do we let development and commercial interests mar these hallowed grounds?*

I think of the men who fought and died in places like Lookout Mountain, Mill Springs, and Fort DeRussy.

I think of the young men of today, our brothers, sons, and even grandsons, who are close to the ages of those who fought so bravely in the Civil War and Revolutionary War.

What if it were their lives that had been lost? What if it were their memories, their legacies, being bulldozed and buried away?

The lands I have written to you about today have a real market transaction value of \$1,590,288, and the deals must close soon. And to tell you the truth, as a not-for-profit organization, that's much more than we could ever hope to raise so quickly!

Fortunately, we don't have to. Thanks to grants and even a donation from a landowner who wants the property to end up in responsible hands, we only need to raise \$149,144 now. **Your gift will literally be multiplied in impact by an effective factor of \$10.66-to-\$1!**

And here's more good news. Each of the sites I'm asking for your help to buy and preserve today is adjacent to land we've already protected. With your continued help, we can build connected and contiguous stretches of land where no one can ever develop or desecrate again!

Please donate as much as you can today. Enough damage has been done. Enough lands have been lost. Enough cheap motels and gas stations have been built on hallowed ground. ***Enough is enough!***

Brave soldiers from both sides fought relentlessly in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. Today, private developers are being just as relentless in their assault on our history, turning battlefields into housing complexes and data centers.

We, too, must be relentless. We have to fight with everything we've got. Especially knowing we might never get a chance like this — to save three key battlefield sites, from three years, in three states — again.

I'm so grateful that you're fighting right alongside me to preserve and protect America's battlefield history. Thank you for all you continue to do for our great cause!



'Til the battle is won,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David N. Duncan".

David N. Duncan
President

P.S. Have you ever seen smoke pouring from the crevices of a mountain, or heard the very stones seem to howl and shriek? That's what Henry Woodson experienced as the battle for Lookout Mountain was raging. I dream of tearing down the eyesore motel so you and I can stand at the point and experience history stretching out before us in the valley below. Please, don't let these hallowed grounds be scarred and sullied by irresponsible developers again. To make your donation online, go to battlefields.org/save3. Thank you!

P.P.S. "*by relentless pursuit...*" It's a phrase from Gen. Grant describing the enduring forces during the Civil War. For me, it accurately describes our work together to save forever our American battlefields. The enclosed magnet is a gift for you to keep as a daily reminder. Thank you so much for your generous and *relentless* support.