



AMERICAN  
BATTLEFIELD  
TRUST ★ ★ ★

PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.

**We have watched these tracts of hallowed ground  
for more than 30 years...**

**We have waited for the day when we could finally *purchase and  
preserve them* — and prevent them from being destroyed ...**

**Now, the moment is here. We can save 128 acres from the  
1862 Maryland Campaign, including land just steps away from  
the iconic Dunker Church.**

**But first, we have to raise \$343,837  
so they don't slip through our fingers.**

Dear Friend and Fellow Preservationist,

If you ask young folks today when the bloodiest day in American history was, they may say September 11, 2001, when terrorists attacked us on our soil, killing 2,977 of our fellow citizens.

Some older folks may think it was D-Day, June 6, 1944, remembering the valor of our boys who stormed the beaches at Normandy and helped end World War II. On that day, Americans represented 2,500 out of 4,400 allied dead.

However, the true student of American history like you knows that the bloodiest single day in American history remains September 17, 1862, near a small western Maryland town called Sharpsburg.

Known as the Battle of Antietam, with 132,000 total Union and Confederate forces engaged, when the smoke cleared, more than 3,600 soldiers had been killed out of a staggering total of 22,700 casualties.

But Antietam wasn't just the bloodiest day in our history. It was also one of the most pivotal. President Abraham Lincoln desperately needed a Union victory to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation from a position of strength. In short, the aftermath of the Battle of Antietam has shaped our nation for the last 160 years!

Since the Trust's founding 35 years ago, we have trumpeted the battlefields of the 1862 Maryland Campaign as some of the most significant lands to protect and preserve anywhere in America. Thanks to dedicated preservationists like you, we have saved critical hallowed ground here through the years, including 464 acres saved at Antietam and 622 acres saved at the Shepherdstown Battlefield (which was fought soon after). Thank you!

But some important tracts have always remained just out of reach for decades ... **Until now ...**

For the last few weeks, we have been engaged in negotiations to purchase and preserve six acres at Antietam, and an additional 122 acres at Shepherdstown.

The total transaction value for all 128 acres is a whopping \$2.75 million. If we had to pay full price, I regret to tell you that we just could not do it, not without jeopardizing several other crucial projects on the horizon, and this land would be lost.

The “good” news is that we “only” need to raise \$343,837, not \$2.75 million. This is because we have secured multiple matching-grant sources, including federal and state grants, and a generous donor whose favorite battlefield is Antietam.

But even with all of that, we are going to have to dip into our strategic reserves to ensure we can close on these crucial properties because it will take time for us to receive the matching grants, and the landowners cannot wait. We may even have to go to a bank for a short-term loan to bridge the transaction until the federal and state grants are received!

**But when all is said and done, your gift will be multiplied \$8-to-\$1 when you give right now.**

And if you can give \$62 or more today (in honor of the 1862 Maryland Campaign), it will be my honor to send you a unique thank-you gift. I’m taking the liberty of reserving for you a Special Preservation Edition of *To Hazard All: A Guide to the Maryland Campaign, 1862*, written by historians Robert Orrison and Kevin Pawlak, and published as part of the great Emerging Civil War series.

This 192-page study will be a great complement to your library and includes maps and a guided tour to provide a deeper understanding of the overall campaign and the Civil War itself. It’s yours FREE for any gift of \$62 or more to this preservation effort.

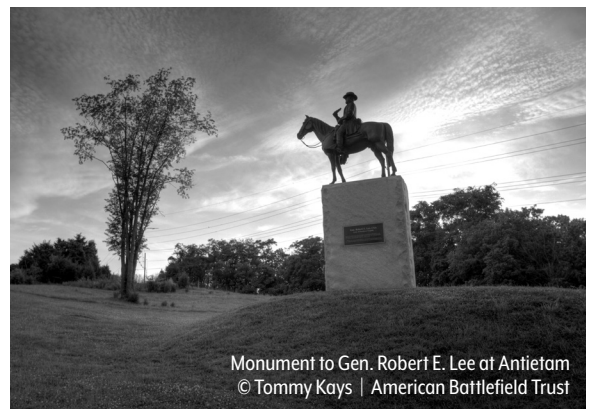
My greatest hope is that one day soon, you will take this book, along with the battle map I have enclosed for you, and make your own trip to these inspiring battlefields.

The Antietam National Battlefield, created in 1890, was one of the first Civil War battlefield parks in America, honoring the dead and giving future generations the opportunity to consider what took place on these lands, and to learn from our history ...

Originally, only a small fraction of this hallowed ground was preserved, and it has been a long and expensive process to protect the battlefield from modern intrusions.

Historic preservation is, in many ways, a waiting game. As a not-for-profit organization, we don’t have the budget to outbid the huge commercial developers and the big tech companies with their billions of dollars and “who cares” attitude.

Instead, we have to prioritize, hold our cards close to our vest, and wait patiently until the time is right — *when a landowner decides to sell (or just before they do!), and when we can pull the resources together quickly enough to act.*



Monument to Gen. Robert E. Lee at Antietam  
© Tommy Kays | American Battlefield Trust

An opportunity like this may never come again. **I truly hope I can count on your generosity once again.**

Opportunity was clearly on General Robert E. Lee's mind in September 1862. He wanted to move the focus of the fighting northward, away from war-ravaged Virginia.

Lee and Confederate president Jefferson Davis held high hopes about what a victory on Northern soil could mean for the Confederacy. *The capture of major northern cities like Baltimore or even Washington, D.C. ... the opportunity to influence the 1862 mid-term elections ... possible recognition by European powers.*

In the end, of course, none of that was to be. And even though the battle was not the crushing, decisive Union victory President Lincoln craved, it was enough to allow him to forecast the Emancipation Proclamation, which changed the aims of the war from strictly preserving the Union to including the eradication of slavery.

In short, what happened at Antietam and in Shepherdstown dramatically shaped the course of American history. For this reason, these two tracts are top priority acquisitions for our organization:

### Six Acres at Antietam

Visit this tract today, just steps from the iconic, whitewashed Dunker Church, and you'll see a 1970s brick house, a garage and a barn, and a modern tree line that obscures the original sight lines of the battlefield.

But in 1862, the scene here was different. This land was right at the edge of what was known as the Reel Farm, and just a few rods south of what would later be called "The West Woods."

Here, the division under the command of Southern General Lafayette McLaws arrived about 9:00 a.m. on their way to counterattack the Union advance into the West Woods. Repulsed, they fell back and regrouped again, soon to be followed by General George T. Anderson's Georgia brigade, and later General John Walker's division which deployed and attacked across this same terrain.

***Just as this ridge was of strategic importance during the Battle of Antietam, it is now of strategic importance to us!*** It is located adjacent to a larger tract which members like you have helped to acquire and preserve, and is contiguous to the large, historic Reel Farm which we have owned for many years.

If we can acquire and protect this six-acre parcel now, with your support, we can unify a significant portion of the battlefield and begin removing non-historic features such as modern structures and utility poles.

We can even restore sight lines to the way they were in September 1862! Together, we will be able to undo years of neglect.



## 122 Acres at Shepherdstown

Where could the retreating Confederate troops go, after the bloodletting at Antietam? They had little choice but to re-cross the Potomac River back into Virginia, at Shepherdstown.

On September 19, a detachment of the Union 5th Corps pushed across the river at Boteler's Ford, near Shepherdstown, and attacked the Confederate rearguard commanded by Gen. William Pendleton, capturing four guns. Early the next day, more Union troops pushed across the river to establish a bridgehead.

A concerned Robert E. Lee dispatched Gen. A.P.'s division to counterattack, which they did, across the very land we are working to save today. While sustaining only a fraction of the casualties at Antietam days before, this battle discouraged any additional Federal pursuit of Lee's army. After more than a month of no substantial pursuit of the Confederates, an exasperated Lincoln relieved Gen. George McClellan of command.

Today, the town of Shepherdstown includes a resort hotel overlooking the river, and a university. There's a small downtown with bars and restaurants, and surrounding housing developments.

But, almost miraculously, you'll still find 122 mostly intact acres of what was then Osbourn Farm, the scene of much of the worst fighting. It's been well preserved, but unfortunately, it's now ***under urgent threat*** — including the possibility that it could be subdivided into as many as 30 new homes on five-acre lots.

In recent months we have been desperately trying to pull together the resources to purchase and preserve these two parcels at Antietam and Shepherdstown.

Will you please help? Any gift you can give would be a huge help, and the impact of your generosity would be multiplied ***\$8-to-\$1!***

*How do we honor the brave men who fought and died during the bloodiest day in American history? How do we inspire future generations to care about our country's amazing history?*

We do all of that with every acre of hallowed ground we save.

At Antietam and Shepherdstown, the course of American history changed forever. We have waited decades to acquire the acres I'm writing to you about today, and I ask you to please help now to ensure they are not developed, destroyed, and lost forever. Thank you!



Yours, 'til the battle is won,

*David N. Duncan*

David N. Duncan  
President

P.S. How can I thank you for your commitment to our mission? Please let me send you our Special Preservation Edition of the book, *To Hazard All: A Guide to the Maryland Campaign, 1862*. I'll send it to you with my gratitude in thanks for your urgent donation of \$62 or more. And remember, your gift will be multiplied in impact by ***\$8-to-\$1!*** To make your donation online, please go to [battlefields.org/save128](http://battlefields.org/save128). Thank you for all you are doing to save our history!