



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

Three battlefield tracts. Three wars. Nearly seven acres.
The lots are small. Their value is immeasurable.

Here's the good news. We've raised most of the money.
We need to raise another \$62,000 to buy them all.

**WHEN YOU GIVE NOW,
YOUR GIFT CAN BE MATCHED \$45-TO-\$1!**

Dear Patriotic Friend,

I stood and faced north, looking out at hallowed battlefields near Eutaw Springs, South Carolina.

Here, our brave forefathers fought against the powerful British Army in one of the last battles of the Revolutionary War. It was a pivotal moment!

These lands are sacred. And some of these lands have been saved, thanks to generous supporters like you.

Then I turned around, faced south, and saw it glaring at me — *a painful eyesore*. It's a private lot, with a deteriorated non-historic dwelling and two shoddy sheds, that just don't belong here.

It's been bothering me for years. How could this have been allowed to happen? I desperately wanted to buy the lot, tear down those buildings, and *restore this battlefield land* to the authentic historic sight lines that existed in the 1770s and 1780s. But they weren't for sale.

However, our luck has changed. *These hallowed acres at Eutaw Springs are now for sale.* In fact, this is just one of three extraordinary properties — which include Fort Johnson in South Carolina and Fort Ticonderoga in New York — that span the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, and the Civil War, that have just come on the market. We must act urgently to purchase them before someone else does!

As a strong supporter of the American Battlefield Trust, you understand how our mission works — it's one tract at a time. Sometimes it's one acre at a time, like adding pieces to a puzzle. ***And just like a puzzle, you can't put it together if there's a piece missing!***



Eutaw Springs Battleground Park overlooks a deteriorating house that has become an eyesore near this hallowed battleground.

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

1156 15th Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005 | phone: 800-298-7878 | email: info@battlefields.org

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That's why my letter to you today is so extremely urgent. We need to raise \$62,000 quickly to protect and conserve these three critical parcels. **And since other generous partners have already given more than \$2,700,000 to this cause, your gift can be multiplied by an astonishing \$45-to-\$1 when you give now.** Please help!

You and I measure the true value of battlefield lands in lives lost, blood shed, and history shaped. That's because *we know our history!*

But there's another way of measuring the value of land, and that's in stone cold dollars and cents.

Two of the properties I need your help to purchase and protect today are relative bargains. The one I mentioned at Eutaw Springs, and another near Fort Ticonderoga in New York, certainly aren't chump change — but they are fairly affordable for a little over five acres in total, especially when you think about how important these lands are.

But the property at Fort Johnson is going to cost a pretty penny. That's because it's in one of the most expensive real estate markets in America today — *near Charleston, South Carolina.* And Charleston prices have more than doubled in the last 10 years. They're up almost 17% over the last year alone!

This lot overlooks both Charleston Harbor and Fort Sumter — making it a real estate developer's dream, which means we are competing with private development money.

This site has extraordinary significance in both the Revolutionary War and Civil War. Yet you can bet some billionaire would just love to build a McMansion here, put up a wall for privacy, and enjoy the water views.

Of course, I'm a free-market guy and I always have been. But this is a lesson for America: Our history is not for sale! We must act urgently to save it, with your help!

Your generous and urgently needed gift today will be matched by an amazing \$45-to-\$1 to help the American Battlefield Trust purchase and permanently protect these extremely important battlefield sites:

- ★ **Four acres at Eutaw Springs, South Carolina.** Thanks to members like you, the American Battlefield Trust has already saved more than 14 acres at Eutaw Springs Battlefield, including portions of the site of the last major Revolutionary War battle in the Carolinas. ***With this acquisition, we would increase our lands conserved at Eutaw Springs by nearly 30%!***

From 1779 to 1781, a bitter war raged across the Carolinas. In the spring of 1781, British General Lord Charles Cornwallis moved into Virginia, intent on destroying Patriot supply centers. American General Nathanael Greene took advantage of Cornwallis's absence and entered the



*The remaining powder magazine left at Fort Johnson.
The only remains of the fort that fired upon Fort Sumter.
Photograph © Matt Brant*

Carolinas with 2,200 regulars and militia. While this battle is remembered as a British victory, the American militia had turned in a creditable performance with British casualties outnumbering American ones, and Greene's army remained a force to be reckoned with. The battle demonstrated that the Americans would continue to contest British control of the Carolinas.



Eutaw Springs, South Carolina. © Andrew Keeley

- ★ **Nearly two acres at Fort Johnson, South Carolina.** In September of 1775, the Council of Safety ordered William Moultrie, commander of the 2nd South Carolina Regiment, to seize Fort Johnson. Moultrie assigned Colonel Isaac Motte to command three 50-man companies led by Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Barnard Elliott, and Francis Marion to attack the fort. Motte took possession of the fort with little resistance. This capture of Fort Johnson was the first time that the new South Carolina flag was raised over a property previously controlled by the Crown.

On April 12, 1861, at 4:30 a.m., a flaming mortar shot arced into the air and exploded over Fort Sumter. ***That shot was fired from Fort Johnson.*** The attack on Fort Sumter marked the official beginning of the American Civil War — a war that lasted four years, cost the lives of more than 620,000 Americans, and freed 3.9 million enslaved people from bondage. How can we allow lands that have left such an indelible mark on the history of America, and the world, to be developed for private use? The cost to purchase here is high, but the price of losing our history would be far higher! Don't you agree?

- ★ **One acre at Fort Ticonderoga, New York.** This property is associated with Fort Ticonderoga during the French & Indian War, and in the Revolutionary War — the scene of an American victory in 1775, and a British victory in 1777. The 1775 victory included military leadership by two of the most famous military figures from the era: Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold, at that time still loyal to the American cause.

Our review of the historical records has revealed a number of potential archaeological sites related to the Battle of Carillon that lie outside of Fort Ticonderoga proper, including fortified camps and a temporary hospital site from the night before the Battle of Carillon. There is also burial potential near these locations. ***We have an extraordinary opportunity to tear down modern buildings and restore this key puzzle piece to battlefield conditions!***

When we do our duty to protect and preserve our battlefields at the right time, we make an investment in future generations, we honor our fallen heroes, and we allow our history to live on.

But when we permit private development to encroach on battlefields over decades and even centuries, the market value of those hallowed acres escalates dramatically. And if this continues, *by the time we reach the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, it might literally be impossible for us to buy these parcels!*

That's why we simply must act now. And it's why I'm so grateful for allies like you! So far, contributions by private landowners, a grant we've received, some state money, a gift from a major donor, and another donation from a historical association have brought us *within cannonball range* of sealing this deal.

More than \$2,700,000 for this transaction is already on the table. And all that's left is for us to step forward with the final \$62,000. I'd be personally grateful for any help you could give to help us reach the finish line.

I'm sure that, like me, you've stood on battlefields like these and felt the thrum and throttle of history all around you. While no one loves history books more than me, there are some things you can only experience on the battlefield.

*There are places we've protected and preserved, **with your help**, where I feel transported to the time of the battle — if I close my eyes, I can see the smoke and hear the musket shot, rifle fire, and cannonballs blasting!*

But sadly, this connection to the events of our nation's past all but disappears when you turn around to see a glaring anachronism that just shouldn't be there.

Sometimes it's a powerline that's scarring the landscape. Sometimes it's a modern house. Sometimes it's a billboard or a motel. More and more, it's a massive data center, built by tech company billionaires!

We are in a race against time to conserve what we can before it is lost forever. And the three parcels I'm writing to you about today are absolutely critical "missing links," as important as any I will write to you about this year.

Besides, opportunities to have your gift matched \$45-to-\$1 don't come along every day.

No battle is over until the final shot is fired. I know others, including private developers, want the same lands that we are trying to conserve for their own uses, but I refuse to surrender!

Can I count on you to please make your most generous gift today? You'll be making a tremendous impact, thanks to the multiplier, and you'll be doing the noble work of restoring the integrity of these hallowed battlefield lands for future generations.



Yours, 'til the battle is won,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David N. Duncan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David N. Duncan
President

P.S. I am thrilled that so many partners, and private landowners, have contributed so generously to put us in position to purchase and preserve these three key parcels. They are missing pieces in the puzzle. But so is the last \$62,000. Without these remaining funds, we run the risk that a deal could fall short and a critical preservation opportunity could be lost. **Please make your gift now while your generosity can be matched by a historic \$45-to-\$1.** To make your donation online, go to battlefields.org/45to1match. Thank you!