



AMERICAN
BATTLEFIELD
TRUST ★ ★ ★



Fleetwood Hill at Brandy Station
©Buddy Secor, American Battlefield Trust

Please give today to help save 104 pristine battlefield acres
at Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain —
and have your gift matched \$25-to-\$1!



I'll even thank you for your exceptional generosity with our
NEW limited-edition **Brandy Station Challenge Coin** —
custom-minted for best supporters like you!

Dear Patriotic Friend,

I'm sure you know this already, but as we have the chance today to save 104 priceless acres of hallowed ground at the Civil War battlefields of Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain, I'll say it anyway: Leadership matters.

I suspect you know the story at Cedar Mountain. As it appeared that Stonewall Jackson's troops were on the verge of defeat, the General rode into the thick of the fight, waving his sword — rusted into its scabbard from disuse — and turned the tide of the battle. Leadership matters.

Less than a year later and only about 15 miles away at Brandy Station, leaders like Union Generals Alfred Pleasonton, John Buford, and David M. Gregg charged and countercharged Confederate horsemen under Generals J.E.B. Stuart, Wade Hampton, and W.H.F. "Rooney" Lee in the largest cavalry battle ever fought on the North American continent ...

... every decision made over 14 hours of often brutal hand-to-hand combat had the potential to bring victory or defeat. Once more ... Leadership matters.

Fast-forward to the 21st century and the almost seven years that the American Battlefield Trust spent urging officials in the Commonwealth of Virginia to create a new Culpeper Battlefields State Park from the more than 1,700 acres you and your fellow members have saved over the years at Cedar Mountain and Brandy Station.

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I'm talking about literally thousands of hours of meetings, phone calls, emails, letters, personal visits, all to no avail ... until one of our chief legislative advocates shared the initiative with newly elected Governor of Virginia Glenn Youngkin. Within weeks of his inauguration, he declared that creating a new battlefield state park was going to be a priority for his administration, and he threw his support behind it.

Governor Youngkin not only endorsed the state park, he and leaders on both sides of the aisle in Virginia's legislature also worked to secure crucial funding in the state budget to help secure even more land at Brandy Station, setting the stage for even more preservation.

Again, my friend ... you see: Leadership matters.

As you know, I am always excited to write to you about new opportunities to save hallowed ground. But today, I am even more excited than normal because:

1. We have the chance to save absolutely key pieces of two major Civil War battlefields that, taken together, have a total transaction value of \$5,697,826;
2. Tapping the state funds requested by the governor and appropriated by the legislature to help save the land at Brandy Station, and applying for additional federal and state matching grants, we hope to cover fully \$5,244,382 million (92%!) of what we need through those sources;
3. The 97-acre tract at Brandy Station not only connects two major parts of the battlefield, it also protects — in my humble opinion — one of the most threatened tracts of battlefield land in the mid-Atlantic United States;
4. We also have a major donor who is willing to match all gifts made to this effort, up to \$225,000!

This means that if we can raise the final \$225,000 with all of the potential matching funds in place, your generosity today would be multiplied by an astounding **\$25-to-\$1!**

Before I get into the history and importance of these hallowed acres, may I ask you to do me a favor? Call me old fashioned, but when someone does something to help you, I think it is appropriate to say "thank you."

So, if you are so inclined, would you please do me the honor of signing the enclosed "Thank You" card to Governor Glenn Youngkin, to help me express our appreciation for his leadership in helping to establish the Culpeper Battlefields State Park?

We have already invited the Governor to attend our Grand Review event scheduled for this fall in Williamsburg, Virginia. If he can attend, I would like nothing better than to hand him your card along with, hopefully, thousands of other cards from dedicated battlefield preservationists from across America.

My friend, I mentioned that nearly \$5.7 million price tag a moment ago. I must tell you: There is simply no way we would have been able to afford this land, especially the connector piece shown in yellow on your Brandy Station battle map, without the governor's backing, and without the funds appropriated with bipartisan support in the Virginia legislature.



A pair of circa-1890 replica cannons at Cedar Mountain battlefield.

Without this leadership, those 97 acres, zoned for “light industrial use,” would be on their way to becoming just the latest gargantuan warehouse distribution center, which seem to be popping up all over rural Virginia.

Can you imagine — instead of the thunder of hooves of thousands of horses — the constant rumble of 18-wheelers rolling through the middle of the Brandy Station Battlefield, compromising the pristine views and intact historical landscape you and I have worked so hard — so hard! — over the years to preserve?

So please, join me in saying “thank you” to the governor and the preservation-minded legislators on both sides of the political aisle who support this landmark effort. Thank you.

Now, to the history: With the 1862 Peninsula Campaign coming to a close, Gen. Robert E. Lee sent 27,000 troops under Generals Stonewall Jackson and A.P. Hill to attack General John Pope’s new Federal Army of Virginia.

Pope moved to take the strategic rail junction at Gordonsville, Virginia. On August 9, Jackson’s force approached the Union position near an eminence called Cedar Mountain, seven miles south of the town of Culpeper. With August temperatures soaring, Confederate Gen. Charles Winder was struck by shell fragments and died a few hours later. With few subordinates aware of Jackson’s battle plan, this loss produced a dangerous leadership vacuum just as a powerful Federal attack began.

Pressed by the Union advance, the Confederate guns and their infantry support were forced back. With defeat in the air, Jackson rode into the center of the fighting and attempted to draw his sword that was rusted in its scabbard. Undaunted, Jackson waved a battle flag and his scabbard-encased sword over his head as he rallied his forces.

Reinvigorated by Jackson’s leadership, the Confederates launched a counterattack that drove back the Union wave. By 7:00 p.m., the Union line was in full retreat. After a mile and a half pursuit of the Federals, Jackson ordered a halt as night set in. The Federals largely surrendered the initiative to Lee and Jackson, resulting in the 1862 Northern Virginia Campaign as well as the 1862 Maryland Campaign.

Ten months later, after the major Eastern Theater battles of Second Manassas, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville (combined casualties of about 100,000 men), Union and Confederate forces eyed each other warily over the Rappahannock River in Culpeper.

On the morning of June 9, 1863, Union cavalry splashed across the river at Beverly’s Ford, catching their Confederate counterparts off guard and initiating the Battle of Brandy Station, the largest cavalry battle ever fought in North America.

While the battle raged across thousands of acres of the Virginia countryside, the key to the battlefield was Fleetwood Hill. This was the site of General J.E.B. Stuart’s headquarters. Thousands of troopers engaged in fierce combat at close quarters to claim this crucial strategic position.



Fleetwood Hill at Brandy Station was the center of a series of violent cavalry charges and countercharges during the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863.

©Bud Hall, American Battlefield Trust

The land we have a chance to save today is essential to any future preservation work to be done at Brandy Station. As you can clearly see, it would connect — forever — the land that you have helped preserve, from the western edge of Fleetwood Hill extending northward for nearly four miles!

I started this letter to you by saying “Leadership matters,” and today it matters more than ever. Today, will you be the leader we need to help secure this land at these two battlefields — as well as at endangered battlefields all across our nation — with your generous support?

For your gift of \$50 or more, it will be my honor to send you the latest in our series of collector’s Battlefield Challenge Coins, this one for Brandy Station. And remember, with the various grants we are applying for, and with a generous match of all gifts up to \$225,000 from a donor who loves this battlefield, the value of your gift is multiplied \$25-to-\$1!

That means a \$50 gift helps save \$1,250 worth of this land; \$100 is increased to \$2,500, and a \$1,000 gift helps save a whopping \$25,000 worth of hallowed ground! But we must move quickly.

The worst development pressures in more than a generation are pressing in on all sides of this land. Data centers, warehouse distribution centers, residential developments ... we are fighting all these things, pretty much all the time now.

This will be the only chance we will ever have to protect these 97 acres at Brandy Station, and the other 7 acres near Cedar Mountain, and I urgently need your help to close these transactions soon.

They didn’t have Challenge Coins in J.E.B. Stuart’s or John Buford’s time, but today they are cherished gifts, handed from one person to another, usually in a handshake of friendship. I can’t shake your hand through the mail, but I can do the next best thing, by sending you our limited-edition custom-minted Brandy Station Challenge Coin for your gift of \$50 or more today.

And please, to say thank you and to support our future battlefield preservation efforts in Virginia, would you sign your name to the small card addressed to Governor Glenn Youngkin, so that I may deliver your thanks and appreciation for his leadership? I would be grateful to you.

The purpose of the American Battlefield Trust is to inspire appreciation of America, its history, and its promise of liberty through an understanding of the wars fought on its soil, and of the sacrifices of earlier generations of Americans. Your generous gift today helps support every aspect of that crucial work.

You are a leader in this effort to save our nation’s history, and as well all know ... Leadership matters! Thank you again for all you are doing to save our country’s history. I can’t imagine how we would do this work without you.



‘Til the battle is won,

David N. Duncan

David N. Duncan
President

P.S. When land is zoned “light industrial” (as this connector piece at Brandy Station is zoned), that puts the property right in the crosshairs of big developers who want it for warehouse and data centers. It also raises the price dramatically — but we are fortunate that we believe we have fully 92% of what we need, and now must work hard over the next 60 days to raise the final \$225,000 we need to secure these tracts. Please give now, in the knowledge that your gift will be multiplied \$25-to-\$1. You can give by mail, or to put your donation into action faster (and ensure you receive one of our limited-edition Challenge Coins), you can donate online at battlefields.org/25to1match. Thank you!