



AMERICAN  
BATTLEFIELD  
TRUST ★ ★ ★

## Help Save 820 Acres at Five At-risk Virginia Battlefields Today — **And have your generosity multiplied \$30-to-\$1!**

Dear Patriotic Friend,

As a student of our nation's history, you probably know that nearly 30 percent of the major battles of the American Civil War were fought in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

But you may not know that, today, we are fighting— harder than we have ever had of right before— a new series of relentless, multi-front battles throughout Virginia for the state's remaining unprotected battlefield and.

From Petersburg & Richmond to Manassas, from the Tidewater to the Shenandoah Valley, thousands of acres of hallowed ground are threatened by rampant, widespread, unrestrained, and extremely well-funded development from utility-scale solar farms, data centers, warehouse distribution centers, and residential and other commercial development.

That's why I am writing you out today with a battle plan of fight back— our chance to save fully 820 acres of this hallowed ground— at five different battlefields— with anticipated matching funds that would multiply the value of any gift you make by a stunning \$30-to-\$1!

I apologize in advance for all the numbers, but I want you to have a full understanding of the opportunity we have before us today:

At Mine Run, we can save 702 acres; at Reams Station (where we are getting very close to substantially completing that battlefield), we can save another crucial 96 acres; at Boydton/Plank Road, we can save the very first 12 acres ever saved at that battlefield; same thing at Dinwiddie Court House, where we can preserve the first 8 acres ever saved here; and finally, although it is small, we can save another crucial 2-acre tract at The Breakthrough at Petersburg, where we have already saved 7 acres!

Add it all up ... that's fully 820 acres of threatened Virginia hallowed ground. This is remarkable because in all of 2022 — a very successful year — you and I saved 1,281 acres across America. If we can successfully close these five transactions, we will have already saved fully 64 percent of what we did last year!

Even better, with the various matching-grant sources, generous landowner donations (where a landowner heroically turned down an offer from a solar farm developer in favor of preservation!), I calculate that we can save this land at \$3.36 million in transaction value) ...

... for \$111,856! That's a \$30-to-\$1 match for your donation dollar, certainly the largest match ratio we have seen of in this year, and one of the top-terriblest matches we've ever had.



The Breakthrough at Petersburg and the capture of Richmond

If you could buy a new \$30,000 car for just \$1,000, you wouldn't think twice, right? If you heard that your local grocery store was selling \$150 worth of groceries for \$5, I'm sure you'd like me — you would already be in the car driving to the store!

Well, that's the opportunity we have today, only you're not buying cars or chicken: We're saving America's history and heritage, and you're doing it in a place where it has never been more threatened.

Loudoun County, Virginia, not far from where I am writing this letter to you in Washington, D.C., is the home of the Battle of Balls Bluff, a name of what was called John S. Mosby's Confederacy.

Today, however, it proudly boasts 62 massive, monolithic, power-hungry data centers, with more likely in the way. We are feeling tremendous development pressure on the battlefields at Manassas, Bristow Station, Brandy Station, and many others.

The well-funded big-tech companies and developers behind them are pursuing landowners — including many how ant to see their land reserved with use, often irresistible offers, making it difficult for us to compete.

I've said that before, and I'll say it again here: The American Battlefield Trust is not anti-development. We know that people need places to live, work, raise families, shop, and enjoy the American dream.

However, we are absolutely opposed to development on hallowed ground. Developers can move their projects to other sites; we cannot move where America's history happened, and once ground, hallowed by the blood of those who fought there, is paved over and built upon, it is gone forever, denied to all future generations.

Quickly, here is the situation of the ground at each of the five tracts we are working to save today:

### ★ THE 702 ACRES AT MINE RUN ★

Less than two years ago, a company offered the owners of this property a whopping \$6.8 million to put a huge solar farm here. I don't know if you've seen one of these, but imagine hillsides and farmlands completely blanketed in large solar panels.

The company didn't care that this tract bore witness to General George G. Meade's last and failed attempts to destroy General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Fortunately, the owners of the land did know, and they did care. They turned down the solar farm offer and decided to work with us to preserve the land instead. (My friend, this is a rare form of unselfish heroism, seldom seen these days. This landowner walked away from literally millions of dollars to see their land preserved, and we are so grateful to them. Please join me in thanking them for their commitment to battlefield preservation by signing our name and adding a personal message on the enclosed sheet.)



By the early winter of 1863, the Mine Run battlefield was the site of the final battle of the Meade's Army of the Potomac and Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

### ★ AN ADDITIONAL 96 ACRES AT REAMS STATION ★

Eight Federal Army units from five states fought on this tract during the battle, a major setback for the Union. Impressive earthworks from the battle remain on this land, which, as you can see from your battle map, is adjacent to hundreds of acres you and our fellow Trust members have already reserved.

But there have been dangerous development pressures in recent years — including yet another solar farm — which have threatened the integrity of this battlefield. Thank goodness another responsible landowner wants to see this key parcel preserved, and has offered a significant donation, leaving us a much more manageable amount left to raise to secure this part of the battlefield forever. (Your gift can make it happen!)

### ★ THE FIRST 12A CRES AT BOYDTON PLANK ROAD ★

Last year, a “FOR SALE” sign popped up on this property. Upon investigation, we discovered plans to subdivide it into lots for new homes! We couldn’t let that happen, because this land saw significant battle action on October 27th and 28th, 1864. Early in the afternoon of the 27th, the Union vanguard arrived at the intersection of the White Oak and Boydton Plank Roads and established a curved line extending across the open field on both sides of the road. Confederate troops mounted an attack from the north and displace the Federals from the vital Boydton Plank Road.

While you and I have saved many important acres at nearby White Oak Road, this will be the first time anyone has ever been able to save the Boydton Plank Road battlefield. This is our one chance to secure it and prevent it from being destroyed by new construction.

### ★ ALSO, THE FIRST 8A CRES EVER SAVED AT DINWIDDIE COURTHOUSE ★

In the closing hours of the Civil War, this obscure site became the focus of intense fighting between 5,000 Federals under General Phil Sheridan and 10,000 Confederates under George Pickett. While technically a Confederate victory, it set the stage for further fighting, and more than 1,100 of those combatants became casualties (including my great-great grandfather, who was captured here).

I know eight acres may not seem like much, but we are able to purchase this land at a very reasonable price (before the developers start sniffing around), and the preservation of every battlefield has to start somewhere. This is an excellent “first” transaction here.

### ★ FINALLY, ANOTHER 2A CRES AT THE BREAKTHROUGH ★

Small in size, enormous in importance, this tract actually saw three battles — first in the fall of 1864 at the Battle of Peebles’ Farm and twice in March and April of 1865 at the Battles of Jones Farm, and again during the Breakthrough, which led directly to the fall of Petersburg and Richmond.

These two acres are contiguous to preserved trust lands which are themselves adjacent to other lands managed by the National Park Service and Pamplin Historical Park. The opportunity before us today is not only to preserve them, but also to begin the process of removing modern structures, including a 1970s welling and several outbuildings, restoring the land to the way it looked here the soldiers were there.



This site is one of the best Confederate lines established in Petersburg during the Breakthrough.

I had a recent conversation with a veteran battlefield-tromper who told me he recently just visited The Breakthrough for the first time ever, saying, “It took me a real long way” to see the preservation and restoration work we have done on that hallowed ground. Today, we can save this land and leave even more visitors encountering this amazing history, breathless.



Where you find yourself at hallowed ground like this, we see our nation's history to be cherished and earned from. We close our eyes, and we hear the cries of young men called to duty, feel the ribcage-rattling boom of cannons, and smell the powder smoke in the air.

But when developers look at these very same lands, they see something entirely different. They see money... they see "unused" land on tax map. They see raw, open land that is being "wasted." They look at people like us — and landowners who want to see their family property preserved — as dinosaurs, relics from a different age who are opposing their way of "progress."

Well, I'm happy to be considered a relic, a thorn in the side of any developer who wants to destroy a battlefield, and I'm guessing that you're standing right there beside me.

If we can beat the developers and lose these five transactions on Virginia battlefields totaling 20 acres — and with a astonishing \$30-to-\$1 match — it will be a clear demonstration of "those people" not only of our shared commitment, but of our will to keep fighting, no matter what, and our determination to win against all odds.

Please know how grateful I am to you, for all you have done, and for all you are doing to save our nation's hallowed ground, at these five sites, as well as all across America. Future generations who will never know our names will still think well of us for the legacy of battlefield preservation we are leaving to them.

And if you ask me, inspiring current and future generations to appreciate our country, its history, and the sacrifices that were made by previous generations on these hallowed fields is one of the most important things we will ever do. I don't need a data center to tell me that.

Thank you again, and please let me hear from you as soon as possible.



With warmest personal regards,

*David N. Duncan*

David N. Duncan  
President

P.S. Remember, last year, the American Battlefield Trust protected 1,281 acres because of your generosity and commitment! The 820 acres in these transactions would get us to 4% of last year's total acres saved — and it's only April! Please keep our march going forward with your most generous gift now to seize the opportunity of a \$30-to-\$1 match! And please write a short note of thanks to the landowners of the property at Mine Run, who chose to save Civil War history and allowed ground instead of selling to a solar farm. Saying thank you is the right thing to do. I'll forward your note of thanks along with ours to these wonderful, patriotic owners.

*Let's keep fighting! Please make your best gift now to secure a \$30-to-\$1 match!*

*Thank you!*



Reams Station was the site of fighting in June and August 1864.