



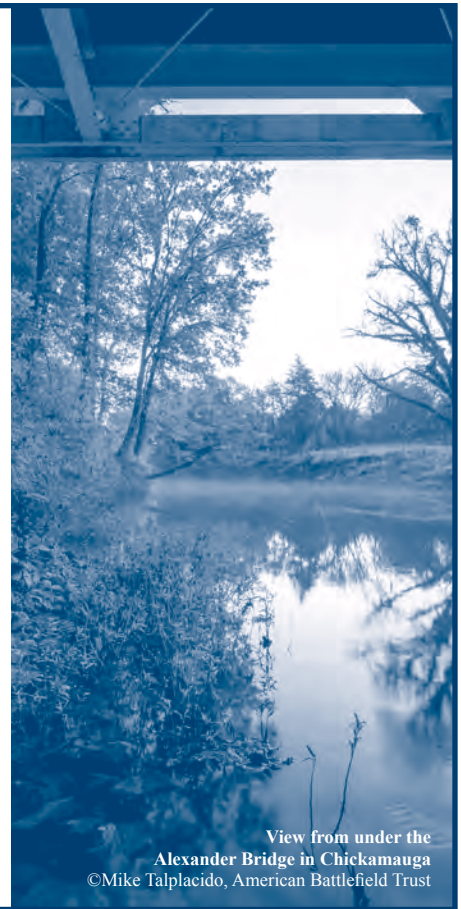
AMERICAN  
BATTLEFIELD  
TRUST ★ ★ ★

It's time to strike!

At The American Battlefield Trust, we recognize the importance of protecting and preserving *Western Theater* Civil War battlefields. **So do you!**

Today, we've coordinated a massive new campaign to save 343 additional acres spanning **five battlefields in four states** across the Western Theater.

Double Bonus – your gift will be **matched \$18-to-\$1** and you can receive a copy of *Battle Maps of the Civil War: The Western Theater*.



View from under the  
Alexander Bridge in Chickamauga  
©Mike Talplacido, American Battlefield Trust

Dear Patriotic Friend,

Every American knows names like Gettysburg, Antietam, and Bull Run, and the significance of these Eastern Theater battlefields ...

But **you** understand that it's impossible to tell the full story of the Civil War without knowing the importance of the *Western Theater* — including battlefields like Chickamauga, Bentonville, and Shiloh.

From 1862 to 1865, these were places where some of the fiercest fighting raged and thousands of soldiers lost their lives. And where some of the final battles of the Civil War were fought, including the very last Confederate victories.

As Civil War historian Steven A. Woodworth has noted: *“The Virginia front was by far the more prestigious theater ... Yet the war's outcome was decided not there but in the vast expanse that stretched west from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi and beyond. **Here, in the West, the truly decisive battles were fought.**”*

**Now, you and I are facing a decisive battle of our own.** And we, too, must fight on multiple fronts to hold and preserve crucial battlefield tracts spanning 343 acres at Chickamauga, Brice's Cross Roads, Wyse Fork, Bentonville, and Shiloh.

These are five battlefields in four states without which the full story of the Civil War cannot be told. And we cannot allow them to be destroyed or developed!

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AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

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**BATTLEFIELDS.ORG**

**Here's why I hope you will help today:** The transaction value for these hallowed acres is a staggering \$2.5 million. But we are fortunate to have government grants, donors, and other partners in multiple states who will, we project, provide more than \$2.3 million to this effort. Now, we need to raise *the final* \$140,732 to seal the deal and acquire these multiple key tracts. ***This means your gift will be multiplied by an impressive ratio of \$18-to-\$1!***

But we have critical deadlines. That's why if you can make your gift of \$54 or more in the next 40 days, I will make sure to send you your personal copy of ***Battle Maps of the Civil War: The Western Theater***. It's a dazzling collection of the Trust's full-color battle maps, with scholarly commentary on troop movements provided by our team of historians — an invaluable resource for students of history like you!

While the properties we are trying to preserve span four different years and four states, they are all connected by the ebb and flow of the War. And, by connecting the dots between these battles, I think you'll agree that each plays a crucial part in the story of the Civil War.

After Federal forces captured Forts Henry and Donelson in early 1862, most of Tennessee was open for active campaigning. Union troops moved southward, winning the **Battle of Shiloh** — a bloodbath that produced far more casualties than any American battle up to that time. The Union victory at Shiloh resulted in more than two years of thrusts and counterthrusts spanning from Perryville, Kentucky, to Vicksburg, Mississippi, to Chattanooga, Tennessee, which the Confederates were forced to evacuate in the summer of 1863.

The Federal army boldly moved into Georgia, but Confederates lashed back at the **Battle of Chickamauga**, winning a stunning victory and sending the Federals back to Chattanooga, which later that fall the Union controlled. This opened the way for the spring 1864 Atlanta Campaign. Meanwhile, stretched Union supply lines presented an opportunity for Confederate forces to score a victory at the **Battle of Brice's Cross Roads** in Mississippi. The Union captured Atlanta and then marched to the sea while Confederate forces moved northward toward Nashville, where they were soundly defeated.

The war's final year saw the Union army moving through the Carolinas while the ragged remnant of the Confederate army from Nashville moved eastward to contest the advance. In fighting at **Wyse Fork** and **Bentonville** — the latter being the largest battle ever fought in North Carolina — the futility of further Confederate efforts was evident, which led to the largest mass surrender of the war, at Bennett's Place in April 1865.

Luckily, many of the acres we're working to preserve at Shiloh, Chickamauga, Brice's Cross Roads, Wyse Fork, and Bentonville are astonishingly well-preserved — nearly untouched lands where you can all but smell the gunpowder and hear the valiant cries of the fighting men from both sides.

**But that doesn't mean they aren't also urgently threatened. Luck doesn't last forever.**

At **Chickamauga in Georgia**, the land that we seek to acquire is relatively small at four acres. But its significance is incalculable. This is part of the ground that saw the Confederate capture of Reed's Bridge, which opened the larger battle. It's also located close to a growing residential development, which means it forms a crucial buffer to protect the visitor experience from unsightly sprawl.



Part of the ground at Chickamauga we need to save is where the Confederate capture of Reed's Bridge took place.

At the Battle of Chickamauga, 125,000 men fought and more than 34,000 were killed, wounded, or went missing in the second-bloodiest battle of the entire Civil War. This is hallowed ground, indeed, and we must save it.

At **Brice's Cross Roads**, the American Battlefield Trust has worked for nearly two decades to purchase and protect land at this under-recognized battlefield. We've helped save more than 1,500 acres thanks to the generosity of members like you. But this remarkable tract, totaling 95 acres and bordering previously protected land, has remained just out of our reach until now. We must save it while we can!

This tract witnessed significant maneuvering and combat during the battle. Late in May 1864, Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest launched an expedition into Middle Tennessee, intending to wreak havoc along the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, a vital supply line for General William Sherman's Union armies as they moved toward Atlanta. Despite being outnumbered, Forrest and his troops outmaneuvered the Union men and forced them to retreat — inflicting casualties at a rate of five-to-one and taking control of the field.

**Wyse Fork** in North Carolina marks another battlefield where we have spent much time and treasure. Right now, we are conducting a crucial effort to acquire two separate and adjacent plots totaling 86 acres. But state plans for a new bypass of U.S. Highway 70 could plow through the core battlefield area and pave over history. Thankfully, we received two grants, including from generous local partners, leaving us only to raise a small balance to secure the properties. It's the kind of opportunity that won't come around again, and I want to sign on the dotted line just as soon as possible. We must act now to save as much as we can from being steamrolled!

On this ground the Confederate Army of Tennessee, a mere ghost of its former self following heavy losses, attacked across the field, driving the Union skirmishers back to their main line of defense along Wyse Fork. Their victory in taking the ground was short-lived, and in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, the men at Wyse Fork are a true expression of valor and courage.

In **Bentonville**, two tracts together combine the largest prize in our current Western Theater campaign — more than 159 acres. Both tracts have important historical significance. We've been closely watching this part of the battlefield for years!



In Bentonville, we have the incredible opportunity to save 158 acres of important historical significance.



The 95 acres previously unprotected at Brice's Cross Roads have finally become available.

The smaller tract, at 15 acres, includes the land where the 100th Indiana, together with the 46th Ohio, drove the Confederates northward, clearing the crossroads near the Flowers House. (You'll see the details on the enclosed map.) The larger tract comprises 144 acres where Confederate cavalry emerged from the woods behind a skirmish line and nearly captured three Union generals. Such was the surprise of their attack that the pack mules of the 100th Indiana bolted, and one onlooker from 97th Indiana later wrote, "**The air for a while seemed to be as full of frying pans, coffee pots, tin plates and cups as bullets.**"

And finally, the Battle of **Shiloh**. Here, Union forces, under the leadership of General Ulysses S. Grant, rallied to win the second day after losing the first day. Also known as the Battle of Pittsburg Landing, the actions of Grant and his men made this battlefield among the most famous of the Western Theater. The carnage was unprecedented, and the human toll of the battle marked the greatest of any war on the American continent up to that date. And now, we have the opportunity to secure a small but strategic two-acre tract that will expand our holdings to the east, near the heart of some of the fiercest fighting!

The Battle of Shiloh reminds us that vigilance is imperative. As the sun set on April 6, 1862, General Pierre G. T. Beauregard, who had just ascended to the Confederate command following the battlefield death of General Albert Sidney Johnson, believed his army victorious. He did not know that Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio had just arrived with reinforcements for General Grant. As Grant's army attacked the next morning at 06:00, the Confederates were suddenly outnumbered. Soon, Beauregard and his men were forced to retreat toward Corinth.

It is not only in battle that we must remain vigilant. ***It is also in battlefield preservation.***

As you can see, it can take years of work, and sometimes years of waiting, for key tracts to come onto the market. When they do, we often find ourselves competing with developers. If we can't come up with the funds at these critical moments, we risk losing out. And that often means that part of our nation's hallowed ground is lost forever.

But I believe we may now be able to secure every single one of these hugely important Western Theater acres. If we can raise the remaining funds in the next 40 days, we can ensure they are *never bulldozed, never paved over, never desecrated!*

**That's why I urge you to respond now, while your generosity can be multiplied by an \$18-to-\$1 ratio. And it's why, to thank you for your timely and generous response to help save these acres, as well as other threatened land nationwide, I'm offering you a very special gift:**

*Battle Maps of the Civil War: The Western Theater* is the second volume in our critically acclaimed *Battle Maps* series. (Nearly 90% of reviewers on Amazon gave it 5 Stars!) You'll follow the major action of the "War in the West" as it unfolded, tracing your finger over some of the very places you have helped to preserve!

For someone like *you*, who clearly recognizes the vital importance of the Western Theater in this nation's history, it's even more of a treasure!

**But you don't have to buy it on Amazon ... with your gift of \$54 or more today, I will make sure you receive a copy as my gift to you.** More than just a memento, it's a resource reference you'll turn to again and again. I look forward to hearing from you soon and sending you your personal copy!



'Til the battle is won,

*David N. Duncan*

David N. Duncan  
President

P.S. The process of putting these 343 acres spanning five battlefields in four states has taken years of planning and negotiation. Now it all comes together in one of the largest single Western Theater campaigns we've ever waged. **The next 40 days are critical, so I'm urging you to respond just as quickly and generously as you can.** Please mail your gift at once, or go online to [battlefields.org/save343](http://battlefields.org/save343). Thank you!