



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

Restoration (n): the act of returning something to a former owner, place, or condition.

Dear Friend and Fellow Preservationist,

Picture this ...

An open field where battle lines of thousands of American soldiers are marching shoulder to shoulder, bravely approaching the opposing line, regimental flags flapping in the breeze, the smell of gunpowder and smoke in the air ...

But instead of this scene, you see ... a rundown motel with weeds popping up through the parking lot ... a putt-putt golf course that's long past its best days ... a collection of rusted-out aluminum farm sheds and an old abandoned mobile home.

I suspect you would have the same reaction I have: ***These unsightly and often hazardous structures are ruining the battlefield landscape and marring the historic value of this hallowed ground. Why won't someone get rid of these?***

I must confess. That *someone* is us!

To fully preserve American battlefields, it's not only our responsibility ... it's our duty to restore this hallowed ground so that it can be fully incorporated into the story of the battles and honor those that fought and died there!

It's not enough to buy the land and declare "Victory! ... Battlefield saved!" That's only half the battle. In many instances, we are required to restore the land before we can transfer it to our government or nonprofit partners.

These six battlefield tracts have been saved from the bulldozers, the commercial developers, the billion-dollar tech companies — thanks to your generous support.

Now, I'm asking for your help to finish the job and restore them to their wartime appearance. The work required is varied. Each one will cost tens of thousands of dollars. But this is the moment when we must back up our earlier wins with our enduring commitment to preservation.

What's it going to take? I'm not going to sugar-coat it. It's going to take a whole lot of hard work! And a lot of money. The work is not cheap and getting more expensive every day, it seems. We need to raise \$287,000 to restore land at Gettysburg, Cold Harbor, Slaughter Pen Farm, Lookout Mountain, and New Market Heights.

And unlike so many of the purchase opportunities, there are no federal or state matching funds to lighten our load. We have to raise every penny of the \$287,000. I'm hoping I can count on your help.

Here's what's at stake.

There are two projects at **Gettysburg**. The first is to tear down the former MacDuffer's Adventure Mini Golf Park. As you enter Gettysburg from the south, you see a 1980s roadside attraction that needs attention. The concrete, water pumps, and underground pipes need to be removed and replaced with grass and native trees. You should be able to look across the landscape and imagine General Pickett's Charge or the crowds gathering for Lincoln's historic address. Not a mini putt-putt course no longer in use.



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MacDuffer's Adventure Mini Golf in Gettysburg ready for removal.

The second project at Gettysburg is a labor of love. The Trust owns the historic James Thompson House, right across the road from General Lee's Headquarters on the south side at the crest of Seminary Ridge. The paint is chipping off and some of the historic shutters are cracking. Just like the upkeep and maintenance you have to do on your own home, the James Thompson House needs some long overdue repairs and repainting. The work needs to be done in keeping with its history, which adds to the expense.

The work required at **Cold Harbor, Lookout Mountain, and New Market Heights** includes demolishing non-historic structures, removing trash and debris, and restoring the sites for incorporation into the battlefield landscape. The project at New Market Heights is especially urgent. We have to remove the late 1970s house by the end of October to meet our obligation with a government grant.

Trust me when I say that each of these projects is an eyesore on the current battlefields, and we need to get them restored, right away!

We recently paid off the loan for **Slaughter Pen Farm** — thanks to so many generous and good folks like you. Now we can complete the restoration of this hallowed ground. We're so lucky that a relative of a former property owner, who farms the property, believes in our mission and wants to do the right thing. He has offered to pay for the demolition of the post-war farmhouse, which means a savings of tens of thousands of dollars to us. Once that is done, we will need to remove electric poles and some anachronistic fencing as well as landscape the area.

When the house is removed and the area is restored, this tract at Slaughter Pen Farm will open up as the start of a trailhead with interpretive signs.

It will be a key location for visitors to experience and explore this battlefield, so ***I'm making this a top priority, and I hope you'll help.***

I'll be the first to admit — this work isn't glamorous. It's roll-up-your-sleeves hard work and it takes time and resources. **But it's absolutely essential to create authentic battlefield experiences.** We can't just acquire lands that have been compromised and corrupted by decades of neglect and development and just leave them as they are. ***We have to restore hallowed ground.*** And that takes a powerful commitment both to history, and also to posterity.

You truly are the heart and soul of the American Battlefield Trust, and I want you to know that through your gift today, you are doing something good for your country that will endure. Please help me raise \$287,000 in the next 30 days so we can finish what we've started. **Thank you so much for being our partner!**



'Til the battle is won,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David N. Duncan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David N. Duncan
President



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This area needs to be cleared of structures and debris to restore the site for incorporation into the Cold Harbor battlefield landscape.



©American Battlefield Trust

Once this farmhouse is demolished, work will begin to restore the land as the start of a trailhead where visitors can experience the hallowed ground of Slaughter Pen Farm.

P.S. Please help see these campaigns to ultimate victory by sending your best gift now. Or, if you would prefer to give online, please go to battlefields.org/restore2023 to make your contribution. The sooner we can raise the needed dollars, with your help, the sooner we can get started on ***"the unfinished work"*** that is so critical to our nation's legacy.

*Thank you for your dedication
and for your generosity!*