



AMERICAN
BATTLEFIELD
TRUST ★ ★ ★



Richmond, KY ©Don Smegowski, American Battlefield Trust

What do ***you*** do when the odds are against you?
Do you give up — or do you keep fighting?



Today, I hope you'll keep fighting to help us beat the odds
and protect four Civil War sites —

And if you hurry, your gift can be matched \$117-to-\$1!

Dear Patriotic Friend,

At the American Battlefield Trust, we know a thing or two about long odds.

Developers who have exponentially more money than we do are currently eyeing many of the very same battlefields we are working to preserve.

But that won't ever stop us, and I'll tell you why ...

The longer the odds, the more you need trusted allies fighting by your side. **And thankfully, I know I can put my trust in you.** I know you value America's battlefields more than developers do. And today, I am honored to be able to tell you that we are not alone.

You and I have allies in many *states, cities, counties, and local preservation groups* that — thanks to our behind-the-scenes work — are putting their money on the table to multiply yours. The more matching funds they provide to our cause, the farther your gift goes. And today I have a match opportunity that's truly remarkable — ***even historic.***

Five different allies who share our commitment to battlefield preservation are providing key matching funds to help us purchase and preserve four valued sites in Tennessee and Kentucky. These sites may be small, but they're all important, and they are all threatened. And thanks to this amazing match, and your generosity, we're in a perfect position to beat the odds and purchase not one, not two, but all four of them with ***an astonishing match of \$117-to-\$1.***

I know you may be thinking, "*David, if you have all this federal, state, and local money, why do you need mine?*" Actually, your support is the key to our success.

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

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BATTLEFIELDS.ORG

Your generous support over the years is exactly why there is matching grant funding today in states like Kentucky and Tennessee. These generous grant programs were established by state officials because of the Trust's stellar record — *all thanks to you!* — in raising the balance of funds when opportunities like these became available. You have proven to be a reliable ally, and state legislatures are stepping up to help reinforce our success. I can't thank you enough.



Confederate soldiers crossed this property during the Battle of Richmond under the command of General Patrick Cleburne.

Today, we have four new opportunities. **And once again, we must raise our share.** That's why I'm asking for your help. Right now, you can unlock an astounding \$13.75 million in potential federal, state, and local matching funds by helping me raise just \$118,000. **Please help me beat the odds — and save more of America's history — by contributing generously today!**

As you look at your maps, may I direct your attention to the one showing the Battle of Franklin?

On this hallowed ground, 28,000 Union soldiers under General John Schofield dug in and held on against Confederate General John Bell Hood and his 27,000 boys in gray.

During six hours of some of the most brutal combat of the entire war — the soldiers who wrote letters or left memoirs universally used the word “slaughter” — the armies were locked in a death struggle, often separated by no more than a few feet of earthworks.

It was certain death for a man on either side to raise his head above these works, so they furiously loaded, stretched their aching arms over the top, held their guns aloft, and fired blindly into the opposite side of the mound of earth. The bodies of the dead and wounded piled up like cordwood. The trenches literally ran red with blood.

The Battle of Franklin may not be as well known to the general public as Gettysburg, Shiloh, or Manassas, but I suggest to you that it is every bit as significant as they are, if not more so.

Although the Confederates held the field after the battle, I think most people would agree with Private Sam Watkins, who noted in his book *Company Aytch*:

“It is the blackest page in the history of the war. It was the bloodiest battle of modern times in any war. It was the finishing stroke to the independence of the Southern Confederacy. I was there. I saw it. My flesh trembles, and creeps, and crawls when I think of it today.”

Hood's army was crippled at Franklin. In that one unimaginable November afternoon, six of his generals were killed or captured (including arguably the South's best division commander, Patrick Cleburne), another six generals were wounded, and sixty-five other unit commanders of various ranks were cut down. Many of them, recognizing the long odds before them before the charge even began, dressed in their finest uniforms and wrote their final letters to loved ones.

All told, the Southern army lost 7,300 men that day, 1,800 of them killed outright. The well-entrenched Union forces, however, suffered 2,325 casualties with 189 of the boys in blue dying on the battlefield that day.

In fact, Bloody Franklin — as so many soldiers called it — witnessed a massive infantry charge — yes, even larger than “Pickett's Charge” at Gettysburg where 13,000 Confederates charged across a mile of open ground after an hours-long artillery bombardment against hastily prepared fieldworks.

At Franklin, 20,000 Confederates made a frontal assault across nearly two miles of open ground with almost no artillery support and against well-prepared earthworks!

If that's not the definition of “long odds,” then I don't know what is.

Is it any wonder that many who lived in the Nashville-Franklin area over the years simply wished to erase this horrific chapter of history from their memory by slowly but surely burying the battlefield under houses, pizza parlors, and other development?

But slowly, acre by acre, and under the leadership of tremendous local partners with whom we are partnering today, we have managed to reclaim and restore much of this important battlefield. The one-acre tract shown on your map is just the latest chance we have had to save another critical piece of the puzzle.

Speaking of Nashville and development, please note the photo for Fort Negley. Just two weeks after the Battle of Franklin, elements of these same armies would clash again in the Battle of Nashville.

Unfortunately, much like Atlanta, there is little of the Nashville battlefield that can still be preserved. That's why this opportunity is so inspiring: We have the chance to save two of the most highly threatened — and extraordinarily expensive — acres anywhere in America at this incredibly well-preserved Union fort in downtown Nashville, protecting this rare site from even more development.



The historic Fort Negley is located in downtown Nashville.

The good news is that a combination of anticipated federal, state, and local matching grants will help pay for about 99.7% of the purchase price, leaving us with just 0.3% left to raise! Talk about great partners — we cannot save this land without them!

Moving on to a small tract associated with the early-war Battle of Belmont, not many figures in American history have overcome longer odds in life than General Ulysses S. Grant.

Before the Civil War, Grant was living in hardscrabble poverty. He'd failed as a farmer. He sold his gold watch to pay his bills. For a time, he made money by selling firewood in the street.

I'm thinking of General Grant today because he commanded the Union troops at the Battle of Belmont in 1861, his first test as a Civil War battlefield commander, and an experience that would later lead him to say, *"It was only then that it occurred to me for the first time that the enemy was just as afraid of me as I was of them."*

You've often heard me refer to the battlefield tracts we preserve as being *"pieces of a puzzle."* Well today, at Belmont, we have the chance to save another critical piece. This battle was fought on the Missouri side, but troops were also positioned in Kentucky, where this tract is located, immediately adjacent to Fort Quinby, a Confederate-built earthwork (later named by the Union Army). It's also a stone's throw from one of our previous acquisitions! Right now, it's marred by some dilapidated buildings, but soon, with your help, they'll be torn down and the historic landscape will be restored!

Finally, let me tell you about the twenty-one acres at Richmond, Kentucky.

Actually, it could have become twenty-one acres of tract houses until our allies asked us to work out a preservation transaction to rescue the property.

It would have been a tragedy to build a housing subdivision here. This is the site where, on the morning of August 30, 1862, the Battle of Richmond opened with counterbattery artillery fire for about two hours as Confederate infantry moved into position to assault the flanks of the Federal defensive position centered around Mount Zion Church.

Veteran Confederate sharpshooters from Arkansas and dismounted cavalry from Texas marched unobserved through a ravine now known as Churchill's Draw and emerged into view of startled newly-recruited soldiers from Indiana and Ohio defending the center and right of the Federal line.

They crossed the very property we are now seeking to fully preserve and successfully pushed back the green Federals as other Confederates under the command of General Cleburne successfully assaulted the Federal left flank. Union troops retreated toward Richmond, leaving the area under Confederate control until their retreat from Kentucky after the Battle of Perryville in October.

Right now, my fingers are crossed — it appears we've beaten the odds and stopped potential development here. *But that could all change if we don't raise the funds to close this preservation deal ...*

The other “long odd” that we always face is, unfortunately ... a deadline. These properties are scheduled to go to closing at various times over the coming months, meaning that we need to raise our \$118,000 to secure \$13.75 million in matching funds soon.

Today, I ask you to consider being as generous as you possibly can and help the Trust raise our \$118,000 commitment. Please give the amount that you think is right for you to give, personally ... that's all anyone could ask.

I wish I had something I could give to you in exchange for your donation — a specially inscribed book, a commemorative lapel pin, some limited-edition artwork — but today, I simply don't have anything.

All I have to offer you is the satisfaction that I hope you feel from taking this heroic action, my own deep personal gratitude, and the thanks of a grateful nation.

I hope, for the sake of these four battlefields, and for the hallowed ground your generosity is helping to save all across America, that is enough.

Please let me hear back from you as soon as possible, and I thank you in advance, if not for your wonderful generosity, then at least for the gift of the valuable time you took to read my letter today.



Yours, against all odds, for victory and success,

David N. Duncan

David N. Duncan
President

P.S. Please help me seize this moment. There is no way we'd be able to save these 24 acres by ourselves. They're simply too expensive. But because of the matching funds from federal, state, and local governments and other partner groups, we only need to raise the remaining \$118,000 to generate an astonishing **\$117-to-\$1** factor — one of the largest matches we've ever had. That is, I submit, a pretty darn big bang for your buck.

Because our cause is noble, our time is limited, and our resources are stretched, I ask you to send your most generous possible contribution to help today. Thank you again, my friend.



The area at risk at Fort Negley is worth saving as it played an important role protecting the city in the Battle of Nashville.