



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

5 battlefield tracts. 4 crucial campaigns. 3 states.
And a \$50-to-\$1 match to protect them ALL!
Partner with us to save them.



Dear Patriotic Friend,

Very often, in battle, victory or defeat hinges on whether *reinforcements* arrive in time.

Without arms and ammunition, tactical support, and adequate forces to fight to the finish, neither the most brilliant general nor the bravest foot soldier or cavalryman can have much hope of winning.

It's true in battle. **And it's true in battlefield preservation.** At the American Battlefield Trust, we are proud to work with multiple nonprofit partners, including a number of local preservation groups, who do *yeoman's work* raising funds and standing up to defend our hallowed ground. They are unsung heroes of battlefield preservation!

We are their reinforcements, and together, we can win the preservation battle! Our friends call on us because we have the know-how. We are able to help secure agreements with landowners and obtain federal and state grants, and we have the track record, saving over 58,000 battlefield acres in 25 states to date!

But most importantly, we have supporters like you. Time and time again, you have come to the rescue with crucial funds to save sacred land from the bulldozer, the steamroller, the irresponsible developer, or the billion-dollar data center investor. **Thank you!**

Today, I write to you with especially great urgency. **But also, with a tremendous opportunity for you:**

Six of our most trusted partners have raised over \$2,900,000 to save five threatened battlefield tracts representing four crucial campaigns in three states.

Now, they have called on us *to supply the final reinforcements*, raising the last \$62,500 needed to see these campaigns through to victory. And today, I am calling on you!

When you make a gift to the American Battlefield Trust, the funds our partners have raised will match your generosity by **50-to-1**. In other words, **every \$10 you give will have the impact of \$500** to help save 278 acres of hallowed ground at battlefields like Shepherdstown, Bentonville, and Nashville from URGENT and active threats.

Will you join us as a partner in this critical campaign by giving now?

Your generous gift will provide the timely reinforcements we need, and go 50 times as far to save:

- 150 acres of battlefield at *Shepherdstown*, West Virginia, that have been threatened by residential development ...
- 56 acres of battlefield at *Goldsborough Bridge*, North Carolina, that are up for sale for industrial development ...
- 71 acres of battlefield at two tracts at *Bentonville*, North Carolina — the site of the largest battle ever fought on North Carolina soil, also repeatedly threatened by residential development ...
- Plus, an additional battlefield acre at *Shy's Hill* in Nashville, Tennessee — land that was targeted for the construction of a million-dollar McMansion!



Help save 150 acres at the Battle of Shepherdstown. Pictured, ruins of a bridge, across Potomac River at Shepherdstown. © Library of Congress

Our local partners have already done most of the leg work to save these properties. Thank goodness, they've also done most of the fundraising work ... but they aren't quite there, and deadlines are looming.

They're counting on us for the final reinforcements to get to the closing table and seal the deal. **And I am counting on you!**

What can happen in battle if reinforcements don't arrive when they're needed most? *Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston knew quite well ...*

This wily and capable Virginian had fought at Manassas (where his troops arrived to reinforce General Beauregard), in the Peninsula Campaign, at Vicksburg, and at Atlanta; and on the first day of battle at **Bentonville**, his war-battered troops did their darndest to stand up to Union Major General William T. Sherman's relentless march.

Their surprise attack gave Sherman's forces more than they expected. *But these were the waning days of the Civil War, and no reinforcements were coming.* Johnston's remnant of ragtag forces were outnumbered by more than four-to-one, their supply lines had been cut off, and they were even running out of bullets.

Johnston knew there was little more that he and his men could do. Reluctantly, he telegraphed Confederate General Robert E. Lee to report frankly:

"Sherman's course cannot be hindered by the small force I have. I can do no more than annoy him."

I often think of the brave men fighting on both sides of the war, and the valor they showed against all odds, when I think of the battles we face today to preserve and protect their service and honor.

Other times, I have shuddered as I have learned that the companies bidding on the same lands *that we were fighting to preserve* represent tech companies that are worth TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, with plans to build their massive data centers smack-dab in the middle of battlefields!



Gen. Robert E. Lee
© Library of Congress

Without our partners, and without you, my team and I would be able to do little more than annoy the developers who would so callously raze and grade our blood-stained battlefields into industrial zones, highways, houses, and data centers.

But, thanks to our partners and thanks to YOU, we are so much more. ***We are a force to be reckoned with.***

When you provide the resources and reinforcements that we need to fight, we can take on larger threats to our history and win. Even against the odds!

Today, we have the opportunity to help our partners preserve forever two tracts at Bentonville totaling 71 acres and helping us to better tell the story of a concluding chapter of the war.

Not far from Bentonville, we have another opportunity to preserve 56 acres of hallowed battlefield land at Goldsborough Bridge.

In December 1862, as Union General Ambrose Burnside prepared to attack Confederate forces in Fredericksburg, Union General John G. Foster made his way toward the important railroad intersection near Goldsborough, with plans to destroy the Wilmington & Weldon railroad bridge and cut off Confederate supply lines into the state of Virginia.

Though small bands of Confederate forces, including Thomas L. Clingman's North Carolina Infantry, who would later be on the winning side of one of the Union's most lopsided defeats at Cold Harbor, put up admirable resistance, Foster's men succeeded in their mission and destroyed the bridge.

Recently, I was handed a flyer for land in Goldsborough, North Carolina, reading that the parcel for sale was ***"perfect for light industrial"*** and ***"zoned for trucks."*** If we don't act now, the ground that bears witness to this important story of the Civil War could be lost forever.

At Shepherdstown, West Virginia, we have the chance to save forever a large, 150-acre parcel that played a key role in the Antietam Campaign earlier that year.

Following the carnage of the Battle of Antietam in September 1862, Federal forces attempted to pursue their Confederate counterparts into Virginia, but were stymied along the banks of the Potomac River when General A.P. Hill's division inflicted heavy casualties on the Union troops crossing the river. Hill, who had "saved the day" at Antietam and provided crucial leadership in other battles, described the engagement as:

"... the most terrible slaughter that this war has yet witnessed. The broad surface of the Potomac was blue with the floating bodies of our foe."

By saving this land in perpetuity, you and I ensure that the legacies of those soldiers will not be forgotten.



Help save 71 acres of battlefield at Bentonville, North Carolina — site of the largest battle ever fought on North Carolina soil, also recently threatened by residential development.
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Though it's easy to look back today, knowing the course the Civil War would take, and think that the men and boys fighting so bravely were heading towards an inevitable conclusion ... we must remember that history isn't written until the battle is won.

This is true, too, in our crucial work today — we must keep fighting together to save America's hallowed ground, acre by acre, even when the outcomes seem stacked against us.

The last tract I'd like to tell you about — just an acre of battlefield land at **Shy's Hill** — is located within the city of Nashville, and yet, we have the chance to save it today. Shy's Hill represents some of the last movements in the Battle of Nashville in December of 1864, when Federal troops finally broke the Confederate line on the left flank, and effectively ended the war in Tennessee ...



We have the opportunity to save one key acre at Shy's Hill in Nashville, TN.

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This parcel, though small, tells another important story of the war, and it gives crucial insight into the final stages of the conflict that defined America's first hundred years. Being driven off Shy's Hill, Confederate forces in Tennessee made their final retreat, and just a few months later, Lee would surrender at Appomattox, Virginia, and Johnston would surrender Confederate forces at Bennett Place, North Carolina, including what was left of his old Army of Tennessee.

Now, all these years later, our partners, in many cases, are on the front lines, waging a war to preserve this history for all future generations. They are boots on the ground, identifying opportunities and raising the funds to get these preservation campaigns off the ground!

But they urgently need reinforcements. They need partners they can rely on. They need the American Battlefield Trust. **And we need you!**

Please make a gift today to take advantage of this historic gift-multiplying opportunity. I don't know when we'll have another \$50-to-\$1 match, so if you've been waiting to make a gift with maximum impact, this may be it!



'Til the battle is won,

David N. Duncan

David N. Duncan
President

P.S. One battle does not a war make. One tract of land does not a battlefield make. But battlefield by battlefield, acre by acre, *we are putting the puzzle pieces together* so that the full story of our history, our American heritage, can be understood and shared. **More than our mission, this is our duty.** Today, you and I have the chance to save 278 hallowed acres, including dozens that were about to be plowed over. Our partners need us to send in the reinforcements. **PLEASE make a gift today, knowing every dollar you give can be matched \$50-to-\$1.** Time is of the essence, so if you're able to send your gift in the next five days, I hope you will. Thank you!