



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

The **same groves** of trees that sheltered troops as the fighting raged near Seminary Ridge on the first day of Gettysburg.

The **same lowland mud** that coated the shoes of the soldiers — and the **same brown earth** where at least three Confederates were buried.

THIS IS THE HALLOWED GROUND WE SEEK TO SAVE NOW — BEFORE IT IS DEVELOPED.

Dear Fellow Preservationist and Patriot,

It was the scene of the **last** big attack on the **first** day of Gettysburg.

An 11-acre battlefield parcel right there by Seminary Ridge, and mere steps from sites like Reynolds Woods, Willoughby's Run, Lee's Headquarters, and the Seminary. ***It's right in the heart of the action!***

Just look at the detailed map I'm enclosing for you today and survey this extraordinary property for yourself. It's everything you dream of when you think of battlefield acres to save.

Yet this remarkable tract currently has **NO** protections of any kind. **None at all.** *Anyone* could snatch it up now and build several single-family homes.

But that won't happen if we get it first. For the last few months, we've been working furiously to reach a deal with the family that has owned the land for generations. At last, they've signed!

All that's left is raising the money. The total cost is \$515,000, but we hope to receive government and nonprofit grants totaling \$200,000, which means we have \$315,000 to go. *But we **must** raise it quickly.*

Will you please make your gift now to save this national treasure?

Your gift will be matched \$1.63-to-\$1 when you do.

**During this season of gratitude,
I'd be truly thankful for any help you could give.**

I don't believe that when it comes to war, there are "important battles" and "unimportant battles." If someone's son or grandson fought, bled, or died, fighting valiantly in blue or gray, then you'd better believe it was important, and the land where it unfolded is hallowed.

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But I also believe — and no one can deny — that Gettysburg holds a unique place in American history. *Those three days of fighting changed the course of the war, which means they changed the course of our nation's history.* We all walk in the shadows of the brave men who served there.

Thanks to generous patriots like you, we've preserved more than 1,277 acres at Gettysburg, and we're not done yet.

Saving these 11 acres now will add another piece to the contiguous area that we've preserved together and can one day ~~en~~ and the borders of National Park Service land.

It will also protect the land from growing development threats. Gettysburg was a quiet and mostly rural area at the time of the battle and even a century later when President Eisenhower retired here in the 1960s, but it's not so quiet and rural now. Land prices are rising in Gettysburg, and commercial and residential development continues to encroach on the remaining unprotected battlefield land.

We must continue to act urgently to save what we can, and I'm counting on you!

As you know, Gettysburg was not only the costliest battle of the Civil War but also the bloodiest battle ever fought on American soil ...

But here's something not everyone knows — if the battle had ended as the sun set on July 1, 1863, the first day alone would now be remembered as *the 12th bloodiest battle of the Civil War*. That's how intense the first day of fighting was.

The violent combat at McPherson's Ridge, Oak Hill, Oak Ridge, Seminary Ridge, and Barlow's Knoll produced more than 16,000 Americans killed, wounded, captured, or missing — far more casualties than the battles of First Manassas and Franklin combined.

First-hand battle accounts describe the carnage in gruesome detail and record the staggering and heartbreaking scale of human loss. The 13th North Carolina alone lost 83% of its men at Gettysburg.

One captain from the 2nd Wisconsin who fought with the Iron Brigade at Seminary Ridge later wrote:

“As if every lanyard was pulled by the same hand, this line of artillery opened, and Seminary Ridge blazed with a solid sheet of flame, and the missiles of death that swept its western slopes no human beings could endure.”

You might think that such a site, one so consecrated by blood and valor, would have been preserved years ago.

But it wasn't. While preservation campaigns (including our efforts!) eventually took hold in one direction, and commercial development steamrolled on in another, this 11-acre plot stayed nearly the same for more than a century and a half. It's in nearly pristine condition!

Believe me, that's quite exceptional, especially in Gettysburg. So often, as you know, we have to



Seminary Ridge saw fierce fighting during the Battle of Gettysburg.
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demolish modern buildings and structures that were built after the Civil War ended, so that we can restore the land to its wartime appearance.

But not here. By some miracle, this property has been left alone.

And it's not some peripheral parcel, either. It's a two-minute walk from the Lutheran Seminary. It's a three-minute walk to the famed spot where the Three Confederate Prisoners were photographed in one of the most iconic images of the Civil War.

It's about 1,200 feet from the monument that marks the place where Gen. John F. Reynolds lost his life, and barely 1,600 feet from Lee's Headquarters. ***That's how central this tract is to the battlefield and the first day of fighting!***

But it's more than geography that makes this such a special opportunity. *It's the history to which it is witness.* To stand on this property during the heat of battle on the afternoon of July 1, 1863, you would have been surrounded by gunfire, while your eyes would have stung from smoke.

Situated between the critical battle arteries of the Chambersburg Pike and Fairfield Road, and bordering land preserved by the National Park Service and by the American Battlefield Trust, this tract hosted Union and Confederate movements and fighting on the battle's first day, was used as a reserve position on the next day, and later served as or was right next to a temporary cemetery for Confederate soldiers killed nearby.

The initial deployments of the Union cavalry and horse artillery moved on part of the tract, while the Iron Brigade crossed it en route to its famous fights near Willoughby's Run and the Railroad Cut. Commander Chapman Biddle's brigades of Pennsylvania troops crossed over it again and again as they tried to move out of the path of incoming projectiles, some of which doubtless fell upon the tract.

Biddle's brigade also retreated through this swale, followed by Generals James Pettigrew's and James H. Lane's North Carolina troops, and by Colonel Abner M. Perrin's men from South Carolina.

I asked our Chief Historian and an expert on the Battle of Gettysburg, Garry Adelman, to share his thoughts on the events that happened here, and he particularly wanted to single out **Perrin and his men:**

*"The desperate fighting along the banks of Willoughby's Run, in Reynolds' Woods, and at the Railroad Cut have long dominated the battle history of the Union First Corps at Gettysburg. **But even after all of this, the men in blue had more fight left in them.**"*

"Having slowed the advance of at least seven Confederate brigades, the First Corps assembled a strong infantry and artillery line on Seminary Ridge and Oak Ridge, just as fresh forces under Confederate General Dorsey Pender moved to the attack.

"It was a daunting prospect: although the Union forces were nearly fought out, Seminary Ridge glistened with bayonets and bristled with artillery. And Col. Abner Perrin's South Carolinians, supported on the left and right by North Carolinians and Georgians, were supposed to advance up the slope to drive them off.

*"Days later, they must have seen the comparison to a larger affair we now call Pickett's Charge. **But unlike the famous attack on July 3, Perrin's attack succeeded.** Moving across the land we hope to preserve, the men encountered a murderous fire — some saying it was the most destructive defense they ever saw.*

“But Perrin’s men were fresh, reinforced, and their opponents were ready to break. Perrin swept across the Seminary grounds at the cost of nearly one third of his men and began the right side of a pincer movement that complemented another coming from the left. The South Carolina men raced to the town square, claiming to be the first Confederates to reach it during the battle.”

Contemporary accounts confirm Garry’s assessment of Perrin’s achievements. Observing Perrin’s advance, the commander of the Union 1st Corps artillery brigade, Colonel Charles Wainwright, recorded in his journal:

“Never have I seen such a charge. Not a man seemed to falter. Lee may well be proud of his infantry; I wish ours was equal to it.”

I hope you and I are equal to the task that’s now before us. *For if I have learned anything in my decades of preservation work, it is that we can take nothing for granted until the battle is won.*

Remember the spirit in which the Battle of Gettysburg began. After a year of defensive victories in Virginia, General Robert E. Lee’s objective was to win a battle north of the Mason-Dixon line in the hopes of forcing a negotiated end to the fighting. The first day of battle reflected those high hopes, and at the end of the day, the outcome was still uncertain. As Lee would express, **“I thought my men were invincible.”**

But you know what happened next. The victory Lee hoped for was not to be. Although the bitterly divisive war raged on for another two years, and thousands more would lose their lives, the twin loss at Gettysburg and faraway Vicksburg diminished substantially the hopes of the Confederate States of America becoming an independent nation.

Today, I have high hopes we can raise the \$315,000 we need to get this deal done. We can save this critical 11 acres, so central to the action on the first day of fighting at Gettysburg, and preserve it forever! But only if we have your help.

Please give what you can today to help save this hallowed land. Perhaps the next time *you* visit Gettysburg, you can point out these acres to your friends or family and tell them you helped preserve them forever!



‘Til the battle is won,

David N. Duncan

David N. Duncan
President



The monuments of the Gettysburg Battlefield commemorate the Battle of Gettysburg, which took place on July 1-3, 1863.

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P.S. You can study the historical map I’m enclosing. You can read up on history and do your own research. I’m quite convinced you will agree raising \$315,000 is an exceptional opportunity to save battlefield acres that are central to the first day of fighting at Gettysburg. Especially when you remember that your gift will be matched by a factor of \$1.63-to-\$1. **Thank you for making your best gift now. I hope the season ahead will be a joyful one for you!**