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FIVE WESTERN THEATER BATTLEFIELD TRACTS. **161 acres. A \$54-to-\$1 match.**

And an opportunity to bring more battlefields to life!

**Have your gift matched now,
and get our special 'thank you' gift!**

Dear Patriotic Friend and Fellow Preservationist,

If you've ever played with dominoes, you know that as *one falls, it causes the next one to fall, and the next one, and so on.*

It's much the same in *war*. The consequences of one battle shape the trajectory of all that happens afterwards: Casualties, battle strategies, troop movements, supply lines, and momentum shifts that occur on one battlefield can affect the next decision, the next movement, and ultimately the outcome of the war.

And the same is true of *battlefield preservation*. When we *lose* one battlefield to development, and then another, it becomes much harder to save what's left. *The land prices rise, and the history is fragmented.* But the reverse is true as well — when we *save* one battlefield and then another and another, with your help, we're able to tell America's story and inspire more landowners to work with us!

I'm thinking of dominoes today because the five tracts of Western Theater battlefield land I'm writing to you about are **all** connected and — like dominoes — they **all** had an impact on what came after them, and the outcome of the war.

*From **Fort Heiman and Fort Henry** on the Kentucky/Tennessee border ... to **Brown's Ferry/Chattanooga and Spring Hill** in Tennessee ... to **Bentonville** in North Carolina ... each of the battlefields we can save today bore witness to the events that eventually propelled the war to its close.*

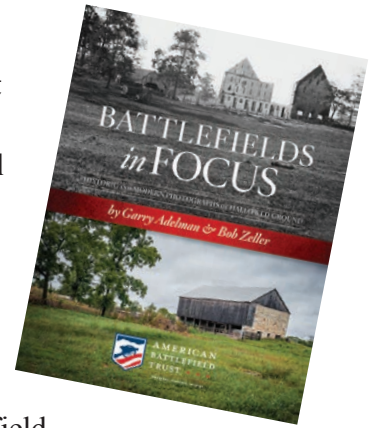
But before I get ahead of myself, let me tell you about the incredible opportunity we have to save 161 acres across five tracts of battlefield land at each of these consequential Western Theater battles — Fort Heiman and Fort Henry, Brown's Ferry/Chattanooga, Spring Hill, and Bentonville.

The total land value is a staggering \$3.8 million!! Fortunately, we expect to obtain state and federal preservation grants along with a donation from one of the landowners, meaning that we can save all of this critical history for just \$70,000. But only if we can secure the funding in the next 60 days to close the deals. That's where *you* come in.

Please help us with your best gift today to the American Battlefield Trust, and your gift will be multiplied by a factor of 54 to save crucial, irreplaceable hallowed ground.

I couldn't be happier to begin a new year with such an incredible opportunity to leverage your generosity, and **as a special thank you for all that you do** to preserve our history, I want to extend another offer to you that will make this deal even better. **If you can give \$50 or more, I'll send you a special gift — a brand-new battlefield photo book!**

This wonderful volume is called *Battlefields in Focus*, and it's just been published by our own Chief Historian, Garry Adelman, along with his collaborator Bob Zeller, the president of the Center for Civil War Photography. It's a brand NEW 114-page book that provides a stunning showcase of historic and modern battlefield photography and maps, illustrating the benefits of battlefield preservation, and the natural beauty that is saved along with it. *I guarantee you'll see photos you've never seen before, and appreciate the work we're doing together in a whole new way.*



This book is an indispensable addition to your battlefield library, and I'd like to send it to you as a special gift, in gratitude for your generosity. You'll even find photos of the battlefields at **Chattanooga** and **Bentonville** where we're working hard to save land today.



And now a few more details on the tracts we can save:

A small but extremely valuable waterfront tract at **Fort Heiman**, Kentucky (associated with **Fort Henry**, Tennessee too) in an area now threatened by high density residential development.

31 acres at **Brown's Ferry / Chattanooga**. The intact Civil War-era earthworks on an adjacent tract saved by the Trust *continue into this property*, thus connecting our preservation work.

12 acres at **Spring Hill, Tennessee**, a tract adjacent to land you have previously helped to preserve... *It's right in the core of the battlefield!*

And two separate tracts at Bentonville, North Carolina, totaling 118 acres. Both of these tracts were central to the action in this major battle.

Each of these battles is fascinating in its own right, but I want to take an opportunity to look more closely at the way *the dominoes fell*. We can see that every one of these battles was critical to the outcome of the war.

Travel back in time with me for a moment to 1862. Union forces are resurgent. They are moving on several fronts in the west, with one of their most important priorities being the capture of Fort Donelson located near the border of Kentucky and Tennessee.

*But to capture Fort Donelson, they must first seize **Fort Heiman**, and then **Fort Henry**. One domino falls, and then another, eventually leading to the fall of the first Confederate state capital, Nashville.*

*General Grant is emboldened by these victories. He moves further into Tennessee, leading to victory at Shiloh and the capture of Corinth. The Confederates then move into Kentucky, where the Battle of Perryville takes place. This leads to Stones River, then the Tullahoma Campaign, and then beyond **Chattanooga** to the Battle of Chickamauga in Georgia.*

*Union troops move back toward Chattanooga. That's where the "Cracker Line" is created to feed the troops via **Brown's Ferry**, and will then sustain them for the fighting at Orchard Knob, the Battle Above the Clouds on Lookout Mountain, and Missionary Ridge.*

You know what happens next: the Confederates retreat into Georgia, while Sherman's armies head toward Atlanta, to the sea, and then northward.

*But while this is taking place, something truly remarkable happens. Confederate troops marching toward Nashville stop at **Spring Hill**, but fail to detect as many as 20,000 Union soldiers under Gen. John Schofield who simply march by the Confederate campfires!*

*These troops would fight at Franklin, and then at Nashville, with some of the same Confederate soldiers who battled there traveling by rail to North Carolina, where they would be part of the last major battle of the Western Theater, **Bentonville**, leading to the largest surrender of the Civil War at Bennett Place.*

And another truly remarkable connection between these battlefields? Our researchers were able to find Confederate units from Texas and Tennessee, which fought at Fort Donelson, Chattanooga, Spring Hill, and Bentonville. These men left their boot marks — and lost many of their fellow soldiers — on the very same lands we are now fighting to save across the Western Theater.

Now, you know that I believe the best way to experience our history, and to honor the men who fought, bled, and died on our nation's battlefields, is to stand on the hallowed ground we have helped preserve.

But I also know there are history fans who aren't able to travel as much as they'd like. There are school groups with limited budgets and families who are simply too far away from these hallowed acres to walk them. And there are Civil War buffs around the world who want to experience our history but can't!



Help save land associated with Union General Ulysses S. Grant, who fought a series of battles to end the siege of Chattanooga.
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Protect two tracts central to the Battle of Bentonville, the last large-scale battle of the Civil War. © Michael Rosst, American Battlefield Trust

That's why I'm thrilled to share that as part of this preservation effort, we will also be creating two more animated map videos—one for Bentonville and another for Chattanooga.

I sincerely hope that you've had the chance to view one of the Trust's animated maps, but if not, let me tell you a bit more about these fantastic tools for sharing battlefield history. These videos use a combination of state-of-the-art video animation, meticulously created maps, and informative historical narrative to walk viewers through major battles like Antietam, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, and more. Our animated maps have long been some of the most popular history content on our channels, and have helped to bring history to life for millions of individuals all around the world.

Even if you've traveled to these battlefields in person as I have, you're sure to learn more through these fascinating new features, which we're hoping to create by the end of the year, bringing the history of Bentonville and Chattanooga to countless students of history.

As we head into a new calendar year, I am so grateful to work alongside you to protect our history and hallowed ground. Together with our staff and volunteers, and the partners who provide the grant funding to match your gifts, we can accomplish tremendous feats for battlefield preservation and history education in America.

But without donors and members like you, we wouldn't be here. Without your passion and determination, there would be no American Battlefield Trust. **It's as simple as that.** It's your support that helps to save battlefields from being turned into strip malls, parking lots and warehouses, high-density housing developments, and the hulking monoliths we've all come to recognize as data centers — and we truly couldn't do it without you!

Earlier, I used the example of dominoes to illustrate the role these battles played in our history. But if you've ever stacked dominoes, you know that things don't always go as planned.

Over the years, preservation organizations have lost out on opportunities to save important battlefield land — they were priced out of the market, simply couldn't raise the funds in time, or local zoning boards ruled against preservation. And once these hallowed acres are developed and paved over, we face losing this history forever.

But not for these five tracts in the Western Theater. **Not if you help now.** PLEASE make your best gift to American Battlefield Trust today. If you're able to give \$50 or more, I'd love to thank you with the new photobook that Garry and Bob have put together. I'm quite sure you'll love it!



'Til the battle is won,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David N. Duncan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David N. Duncan
President

P.S. You and I can look back today and see the connections between our nation's battlefields and the events that unfolded on them. We can line them up like dominoes on the coffee table. *But that's not how it was to the brave men who were fighting.* They were farmers, tradesmen, and craftsmen, some as young as 15 or 16. *They were answering the call to serve, for country and family and honor, and fighting with all they had to give.* Today, it is we who are giving what we can so that their service and sacrifice are not lost forever. Thank you for making your gift today!