



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

*We hope you will support
our Saved Forever Campaign.
Please help us get across
the finish line.*

Dear Friend and Fellow Preservationist,

If I've learned anything over the years, it is *to never doubt how powerful the combination of generosity and perseverance can be*. Let me tell you why ...

More than 25 years ago, we at the American Battlefield Trust committed to saving the overlapping battlefields of Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor in Virginia.

The hallowed ground at Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor is crucial to understanding the Civil War — these are lands where Gen. Robert E. Lee launched the largest attack of the entire Civil War; where two years later, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant launched massive attacks over the same ground; and where, combined, thousands died and more than 25,000 were wounded or captured at these two battles.

Here's what renowned historians have told us about this land:

"Absolutely incomparable. No unpreserved battlefield property in North America resonates with higher historical value than this land."

— Robert K. Krick

"Even if you have to sell every other piece of battlefield land the Trust has ever saved in order to preserve this land, you should do it. It's that important!" — Ed Bearss

We knew it was our duty to save it. But candidly, back then it felt more like a dream than a plan. The land was fragmented and privately owned. Deep-pocketed developers were circling like sharks, driving prices sky high. The odds were not in our favor.



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The Battle of Gaines' Mill, fought on June 27, 1862, resulted in over 15,000 combined casualties during six brutal hours of combat. Marking General Robert E. Lee's first victory as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, it also featured the largest Confederate assault of the entire Civil War, with more than 30,000 men launched in a single, massive attack.



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Cold Harbor was the site of significant Union soldier loss in a short period of time, but was also the last major Confederate victory in the American Civil War.

Over the years, with your help, we achieved several significant victories in the quest to preserve the Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor battleground. From 2012 to 2020, we were able to preserve 655 acres — a great start.

Then something extraordinary happened. In 2020, almost one square mile of nearly pristine battlefield became a preservation opportunity. This land was where the 1862 Battle of Gaines' Mill and the 1864 Battle of Cold Harbor overlapped. For the Trust, to be able to preserve this land forever by conservation easement felt like the opportunity of a lifetime. The only problem? We didn't have the money.

But this wasn't just any piece of land ... And we knew just how crucial it was that we didn't let this opportunity pass us by ...

With our eyes on saving this one square mile of double battleground, we launched the Gaines' Mill-Cold Harbor Saved Forever Campaign. Over the past five years, you have demonstrated time and time again with your generosity just how important preserving this piece of our nation's history is to you.

I couldn't be more grateful for what you've done to save such a significant piece of America's history. It's something so significant that your kids ... and your kids' kids ... and many more after them will know that you saved this ground and honored the young men — fathers, sons, brothers, nephews, and cousins — who mustered all their courage to fight for their beliefs.

And today, I'm proud to say that our ***Gaines' Mill-Cold Harbor Saved Forever Campaign is in the home stretch.*** But we don't want to count our chickens before they're hatched.

To close the books on this significant tract and save this part of these truly historic battlefields forever, we need to raise the final \$184,295. And what's more, a generous Richmond-area partner will match up to \$50,000 to help save this irreplaceable land.

Will you join us in our final push toward victory?

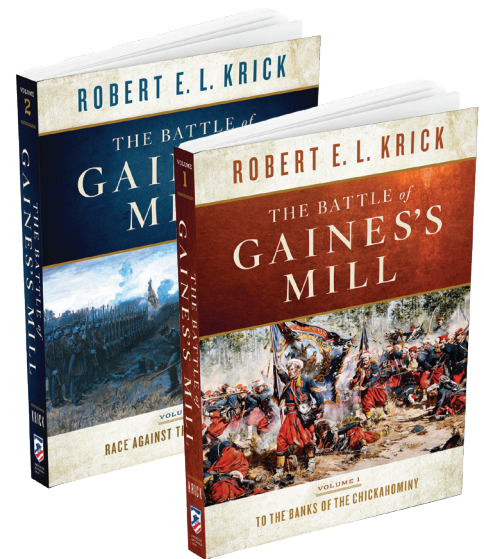
We've come so far, and now we're so close to finishing a campaign that has taken decades to complete. Please help us make the final payment on this remarkable battlefield tract.

I also have some more exciting news. Robert E. L. Krick has just published the second volume of his two-part masterpiece, entitled *The Battle of Gaines's Mill: Race Against the Setting Sun*, which chronicles the climax of the battle. Bobby spent a long career walking, studying, and fighting to defend this battlefield. He is a gifted storyteller and the leading expert on the Battle of Gaines' Mill. Together, these two volumes — each about 500 pages in length — will be the definitive, generational account of the battle.

As a special thank you for your commitment to this campaign, if you're able to make a gift of \$100 or more, it will be my pleasure to send you *The Battle of Gaines's Mill: Race Against the Setting Sun*.

If you'd like to receive both Volume 1 and Volume 2 as a set, I would be happy to send them to you as a special thank you for a gift of \$200 or more today. Simply indicate on the response form that you would like to receive both Volume 1 and Volume 2.

You do not want to miss this limited opportunity to get the second half of the definitive history of one of the most important battles of the Civil War!



You have done so much to drive the success of the Gaines' Mill-Cold Harbor Saved Forever Campaign, the least I can do is to express my gratitude with a gift that's truly worthy of the support you've shown. Bobby Krick's *The Battle of Gaines's Mill* is the generational account of this battle, and I'm sure it will be the perfect addition to your library.

My friend, we've come so far to preserve a double battlefield tract that's of the utmost importance.

During the Battle of Gaines' Mill on June 27, 1862, Confederate infantry and artillery deployed through these lands along Cold Harbor Road, eventually pushing southward to attack the Union Fifth Corps.

Two years later, on June 1, 1864, the same tract was in the path of the Union Sixth Corps' opening assault during the Battle of Cold Harbor. The main Confederate line stood just about 500 yards to the west of this property, and later, the main Union line stood immediately behind it during the trench warfare that characterized Cold Harbor.



Scene of the Battle of Cold Harbor, where in June 1864, nearly 7,000 Union soldiers fell in under an hour during one of the war's bloodiest assaults. *Battle of Cold Harbor* © Library of Congress

Take a look at the maps I've included and you'll see the large "preservation in progress" area in green. When we make the final payment of \$184,295 — with your help — this entire area will be shaded blue and it

will be saved forever. And this supremely significant part of our Saved Forever Campaign will be complete!

Just imagine for a moment what the battlefield would look like if, instead of open hallowed ground that looks today almost exactly the same as the soldiers saw it, you saw a sprawling modern housing subdivision with winding asphalt streets or rows and rows of solar panels. And then consider for a moment how the map would look without these preservation successes that you made happen!

Because you are such a dedicated and generous preservationist, we've made tremendous strides at Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor, and now, we must keep this momentum going and continue the fight for some of the most hallowed ground in the country!

And while we work to close this campaign, I'll candidly admit this will not be the last time I'll be writing to you about our work at Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor. We have much more to do there, and we will tackle it one day and one opportunity at a time.

My goal is to keep putting the puzzle together, piece by piece, at Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor, and to keep beating back the developers and data center builders with signs that say, "Not for sale — ever!"

I truly believe that you and I have a duty to honor our past, honor those who fought and died there, and honor the lands where blood was shed, lives were lost, and history was made.

Please consider making your gift today as we make the final strides toward seeing our dream of the Gaines' Mill-Cold Harbor Saved Forever Campaign finally come to fruition. After five long years, let's finish strong and take a victory lap together.



With warmest regards and deepest gratitude,

David N. Duncan

David N. Duncan
President



Gaines' Mill — a hard-fought Civil War battle remembered for its staggering losses and fierce combat.

P.S. We're in the home stretch of our Gaines' Mill-Cold Harbor Saved Forever Campaign. We just need this final push to get us over the finish line to save forever nearly one square mile of pristine battlefield land on these overlapping battlefields. Our dream that began 25 years ago is coming to fruition. I hope you'll be part of this final victory lap. And remember, if you give \$100 or more right away, I will send you Volume 2 of Bobby Krick's book, *The Battle of Gaines's Mill*. If you send \$200 or more, I can send you the set that includes Volume 1 and Volume 2. Please indicate on the response form if you would like the set. **Please mail your donation in the enclosed return envelope or visit battlefields.org/GMCH2025 today.** Thank you!