



AMERICAN
BATTLEFIELD
TRUST ★ ★ ★

**We keep fighting.
We never give up.**

**HELP SAVE BATTLEFIELD
LAND AT BOTH ANTIETAM
AND GETTYSBURG!**

We're so close on Antietam, and this Gettysburg tract can't wait. I truly need your help to finish this. We can secure both properties with your help. Please stand with us again!

Dear Friend and Fellow Preservationist,

A few months ago, I sent a letter about our extraordinary opportunity to save battlefield land at Antietam. I'm writing today with an important update on our efforts ...

... and how close we are to raising the funding needed to acquire two incredibly important tracts that are part of what we know as *The Final Attack at the Battle of Antietam* ... this land was the site of a major turning point in the battle on the single costliest day in American history.

I'm glad to share that I have some good news — we are close to our goal for this critical campaign!

Fellow members and preservation patriots, like you, have gotten us nearly 80% of the way to reaching our goal, and to saving these remarkable properties for future generations. This is good — very good, indeed! And I am grateful, and hopeful, that we can raise the rest of the funds.

But now something unexpected (and exciting) has happened. With just a few weeks left to reach the total needed to save these pieces of land at the Antietam battlefield, we've been presented with another opportunity to preserve a small, yet significant property at Gettysburg — only about 40 miles away!

It's less than one acre, but we just couldn't pass on this opportunity. So now I'm writing to ask you to help us achieve these three historic land deals.

To save this property at Gettysburg and secure the remaining funds needed for the land at Antietam, we need to raise a total of **\$349,938**. The total value of these properties is a whopping \$1.392 million, but thanks to funds already provided by our friends and partners at the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, along with other expected federal grants and the generosity of our membership, your gift today will be matched **\$3.95-to-\$1!**

For so many of us, Antietam and Gettysburg represent some of the most important sacred grounds in America, and there are few preservation efforts that could ring with more significance or urgency. But before I get ahead of myself, we need to save the land, and to do that, we must raise the funds.

Can I count on you to contribute to this crucial campaign to close out our Antietam effort while also saving irreplaceable land at Gettysburg, two of the most iconic battlefields in American history? Your gift will make three times — almost four times! — the impact at these incredible tracts. Now, let me tell you a bit more about both of them.

I'll begin with our ongoing effort at Antietam.

You may remember my recent letter to you about this campaign. Two properties at Antietam were about to go on the market. For a short time, anyone could have bought them and done anything with them. Sold, to the highest bidder!

But at the last minute, we were able to speak privately with the landowners and negotiate a purchase contract of our own. *If we hadn't, the outcome for these historic acres would have been very different ...*

History can change at the last minute, too — like it did on September 17, 1862, when the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia invaded the North and launched an offensive near Sharpsburg, Maryland.

At the time, no one knew if the Confederates' greatly outnumbered forces, led by Gen. Robert E. Lee, could match up with the Union troops under the command of Gen. George McClellan.

Lee risked it all in the battle that would become the costliest day in American history. With their backs to the swollen Potomac River, his men fought with enormous valor. But by late afternoon, they had reached a breaking point. Union troops pushed across Burnside Bridge and advanced in strong force toward Lee's only route of retreat.

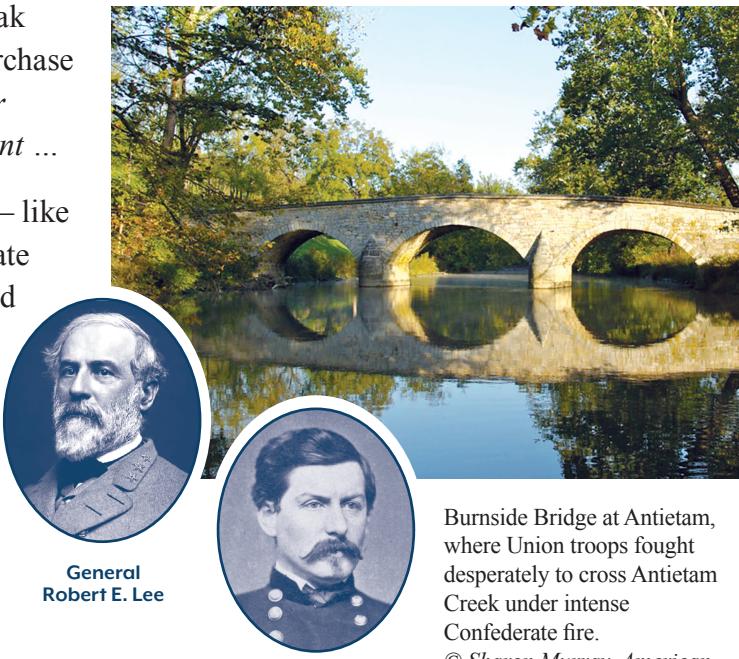
That's when, *just in the nick of time*, Gen. A.P. Hill arrived with the reinforcements that would prevent potential destruction of Lee's army.

Hollywood couldn't have scripted it with more drama — Hill's 3,500-man Light Division had just trudged 17 grueling miles nonstop, arriving just in time and just where it was needed, giving Lee's troops a chance to stave off disaster.

Though many consider this fight a tactical draw, the Confederate efforts to invade Union territory were stymied, and this proved enough for President Lincoln to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, *changing our nation forever*.

By giving today, you will permanently protect this remarkable history — not only at Antietam, but also at Gettysburg.

Let me tell you more ...



General
Robert E. Lee

General
George McClellan

Burnside Bridge at Antietam, where Union troops fought desperately to cross Antietam Creek under intense Confederate fire.

© Sharon Murray, American Battlefield Trust

... starting with the Baltimore Pike. Maybe you've driven it. It runs directly through the Gettysburg battlefield.

I've driven on the Baltimore Pike hundreds of times, and I've seen it transform over the years thanks to our work, and thanks to your generosity.

We've focused so many of our efforts on the Baltimore Pike because it was central to battlefield movements, it was the best available road for the Union army's use for much of the battle, and it has been under development threat for more than a century.

It's central to the fighting at Culp's Hill and other significant engagements. Driving it is like going back in time, passing the farms and fields where history unfolded. *Or it should be ...*

But back when we started our work here, you would never have known it was the site of such important history. Over the years following the war, modern development prevented the ability to access and interpret this important area of the battlefield.

Thankfully, with your help we've slowly but surely secured one piece of land at a time, piece by piece, on both sides of the Pike. And today we're proud of what we have accomplished.

Together, thanks to you and our local partners, we have literally *transformed the visitor experience at Gettysburg*, bringing stretches of this thoroughfare closer to the way it would have looked at the time of the battle.

To get a sense of the importance of the remarkable land we have the chance to save today, let's travel together to July 1863. Located at the base of East Cemetery Hill, this property witnessed tens of thousands of Union troops who marched directly to and from Gettysburg throughout the battle. New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland soldiers crossed this ground while protecting the Pike and reinforcing Culp's Hill.

This land is consecrated with honor. But despite the fact that men fought, died, and were buried here, this parcel is currently ***100% unprotected.***

Like the lands we've previously saved together in this area, this one could have been sold to anyone with dreams of building a large house with "battlefield views."

Thank goodness we got to it first.

Your generous donation today will bring us closer to raising the funds we need to see it preserved, honoring the men who fought and died here and adding to the impressive legacy of preservation you've already made possible.

I still *get excited* thinking about the thousands of acres we've saved together, and how we've helped ensure that families will be taking their children and grandchildren to these places to teach them about history generations from now ...



The 150th New York moved from the target tract on the Baltimore Pike to these works of earth and stone, seen on Culp's Hill two weeks after the Battle of Gettysburg.
© Library of Congress

I still feel a *sense of pride* driving on Baltimore Pike and seeing the long stretches where we've preserved the land, torn down modern buildings, and turned a historic road into a living museum ...

And I still feel my *blood boil* when I learn some residential developer or data center company is ready to bulldoze or steamroll sacred ground without even giving a second thought about what their commercial venture will steal from posterity.

That's why we don't give up the fight. **Ever.** There are more properties in Antietam we have our eye on, and more in Gettysburg, too. (We're talking to some property owners even as I write to you now.)

I can't promise we'll save them all, but I promise we'll give it everything we've got!

We have the team in place, including dedicated members, like you, who care deeply about history. We have the contacts, expertise, and a trusted reputation. We also have federal and state granting partners who help create leverage on your generosity.

And what we need now are the funds. **Urgently.** Like I said, the generosity of our members has taken us nearly 80% of the way to saving the acres at Antietam, but this unexpected opportunity to preserve another tract at Gettysburg has brought the new need to \$349,938. Anything you could give would be a huge help.

And just one final note. I've mentioned my own travels, including my many trips up and down Baltimore Pike. I truly hope you'll take trips of your own this year and visit some of the battlefields you've helped to save.

After all, there's no better way to experience your impact, and the living legacy you've helped to secure!



'Til the battle is won,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David N. Duncan".

David N. Duncan
President

P.S. Please review the maps I'm enclosing for your collection. That's one more way to experience your impact (with a "bird's eye view"). Whether on the road, on a map, on foot, or at our website, there's so much to learn and celebrate about our nation's history.

For much of America's 250 years, we didn't always do a great job preserving our battlefields — but now, thanks to preservation partners like **you**, we're racing to make up for lost time in places like Antietam and Gettysburg, and on other sacred battlefields where history is at risk. Thanks for making your gift today, while every dollar can be matched by **three-to-one!**

*WE KEEP FIGHTING!
WE NEVER GIVE UP!*