



AMERICAN
BATTLEFIELD
TRUST ★ ★ ★

Perryville © Daniel Kirchner, American Battlefield Trust

SEVEN BATTLEFIELDS IN SIX STATES!

These battlefields were connected by war.

And now they can be joined by your generosity.

Will you help raise the final 10% needed to save them for all time?



Dear Friend and Fellow Preservationist,

When people ask me which battlefield matters most, I usually tell them that's like asking me to choose my favorite child.

Because, as you will appreciate, every battlefield is important and connected to the next.

And, as you well know, the Civil War was not fought in neat, separate battles unaffected by the rest. Instead, the Eastern, Western, and Trans-Mississippi Theaters were part of one vast, interwoven struggle. Victories in one region strengthened armies in another, while failures in another forced desperate gambles on other fronts.

Today, you and I have an unprecedented opportunity to protect a whopping 438 acres across seven battlefields in six states that span from the war's earliest engagements to the final years of the conflict. Some tracts are small — just 0.2 acres at Corinth — while others are expansive, like 273 acres at Resaca — **but all are important pieces of the fabric of our history.**

Let me quickly run through the history of some of these tracts for you:

When Confederates fought at **Richmond and Perryville** in 1862, they weren't just battling for Kentucky. They were attempting to bring the state into the Confederacy, while also opening access to Ohio and strengthening operations in Virginia. Had they been successful, the Eastern Theater might have looked very different indeed.

When **Resaca** erupted in May 1864, it was part of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's coordinated strategy to stretch Confederate armies thin from east to west. Union troops that shifted from the Eastern Theater substantially helped Gen. William T. Sherman "make Georgia howl" and capture Atlanta — a victory that many historians credit as a decisive boost behind Abraham Lincoln's reelection and the continuation of the war effort to its conclusion.

And far to the west in New Mexico, Confederate and Union troops clashed at **Glorieta Pass** because Confederates sought, amongst other things, to exploit mineral-rich Colorado and possibly

establish a Pacific port in Southern California. Success there would have tied down Union forces, while adding an entirely new element of shipping and supply, away from the careful cordon of the Union blockade in the East.

Though these battles, plus others like **Corinth, Newtonia, and Hoover's Gap**, unfolded across dramatically different landscapes, they were collectively part of one single war and are essential to understanding the full story of the conflict that changed America forever.

That's why I am reluctant to say that one battle — or even one theater — mattered more than another.

They all mattered. They all mattered to the trajectory of American history. They all matter today.

And like the battles themselves, these battlefields are connected to each other and to you and me today through our shared passion and desire to save them.

As you well know, we cannot do this work alone. The Trust relies on state and federal partners, local preservation friends, landowners willing to work with us, and generous, dedicated supporters like you.

To that point, **our partners have already committed more than \$3.4 million — over 90% of what's needed to protect each of these 438 acres forever. Now, we must raise the final \$374,900 to secure these hallowed grounds forever.**

That's why I need your help.

Every \$1 you donate today will be worth \$10 and help us secure sacred land at these important battlefields.

We're so close to saving so much irreplaceable history! Won't you help push us over the finish line and protect forever the history that took place on these seven battlefields?

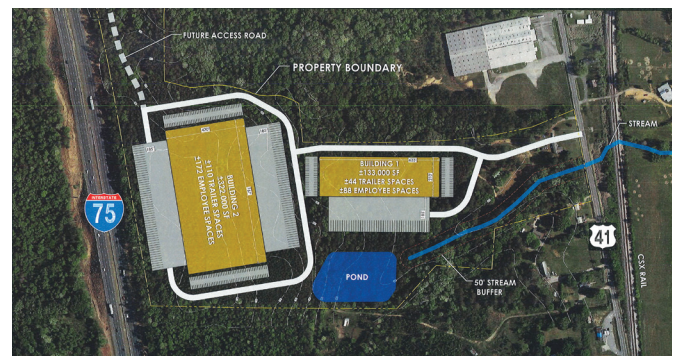
For at least one of the battlefields, if you and I don't save it now, I predict there will be irreversible consequences.

Just last year, at Resaca, the land we are seeking to save was nearly rezoned for industrial development, including warehouse and distribution facilities along the busy I-75 corridor between Atlanta and Chattanooga. Fortunately, local residents pushed back and the rezoning failed.



Corinth — where crucial rail lines made this Mississippi crossroads a strategic prize of the Civil War.

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The Resaca tracts were threatened with the proposed warehouse development shown above.

© American Battlefield Trust

But, my friend, if we cannot raise funds to acquire the land, the developers will be back, mark my words. And once a large parcel like this is lost, others nearby become exponentially more expensive and harder to save.

Losing a tract like this one doesn't just reduce the potential size of a preserved battlefield, it ruins our ability to interpret the full story and understand how events unfolded.

But today, you and I have the chance to turn the tide the right way for 438 acres, spanning seven battlefields, including:

- At **Hoover's Gap**, you and I have our first-ever opportunity to save land where the Tullahoma Campaign occurred.
- At **Perryville**, you can help add crucial acres to this amazing preservation success story, bringing us one step closer to declaring this battlefield "fully preserved!" What an accomplishment!
- At **Glorieta Pass**, you have the chance to save more land there in one fell swoop than we and our partners have saved there before. This preserves a chapter of the war that few Americans even realize unfolded in New Mexico.
- At **Corinth** and **Newtonia**, you can save two tracts that add crucial details to the story of these battles.



Glorieta Pass — the "Gettysburg of the West," where Union forces halted Confederate ambitions in the Southwest.
© Rob Shenk, American Battlefield Trust

Every acre matters because every acre is connected to something bigger.

As you know, the Trust's mission has always been about connecting the stories that unfolded on our nation's battlefields into a full narrative so Americans of all ages will better understand what happened there, and why it still matters today.

We transform places into parks where families walk, students learn, and future historians become inspired. We connect past to present by ensuring America's unparalleled outdoor classrooms will be available for all future generations, all across the country.

And we connect members like you with opportunities to do something permanent and remarkable — to add to this legacy of preservation. Just think — when someone stands on a preserved battlefield years from now, perhaps at Perryville or at Corinth, or even at Glorieta Pass, they will be standing on ground you helped to save. **They may never know your name or the extent of your generosity, but they will experience the land and the history that you helped protect. And I know that, like me, they will be grateful to you.**

I truly believe the battles that are lesser-known today, like many in the Western and Trans-Mississippi Theaters, will become better known because of the work you and I are doing together — protecting them, interpreting them, and telling their stories in ways that reveal how each one shaped the next, and how each, in its own way, got us to where we are today.

Can I count on you to make your best gift today, while every dollar will be matched at more than ~~\$10-to-\$1~~? We cannot ensure these properties are protected until the full amount is secured.

Please join me in making sure the dominoes fall in the right direction — toward preservation, toward education, toward inspiring all current and future generations to an appreciation of our shared past ... and away from development and destruction.

Please help ensure that none of these sacred historic places are erased from the story they helped shape.



With warmest regards,

David N. Duncan

David N. Duncan
President

P.S. Eastern, Western, Trans-Mississippi — as you know, each theater of the war and the battles fought there helped shape the next, and each one carries stories of courage and sacrifice. And ultimately, each one deserves to be saved before it's too late. We already secured 90% of the money we need in hand to save these 438 acres, so please help us raise the last 10% and have your gift matched \$10-to-\$1. **You can mail your donation in the enclosed envelope, or you can make a gift on our website at battlefields.org/seven. And if you weren't aware, you can also direct a gift from your donor-advised fund if you have one, or make a distribution from your IRA.** *Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.*

P.P.S. *And if you and I can successfully save these 438 acres, that will put us right at 62,000 total acres saved at 165 battlefields in 25 states across America! I started saving battlefields 26 years ago, and I can tell you that we never dreamed we would ever be able to save this much hallowed ground. But with your help, dedication, and generosity, we have done it — and our next goal is 64,000 acres, which is actually one hundred square miles! I hope you will consider helping to save more hallowed ground across America today, and thank you again.*