



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

What makes 5.2 acres at Gettysburg worth **\$1.765 million**? It's the fierce development pressure in the area. What makes this land **priceless**? It's the blood that was shed and the history that was made there. And so, you and I face an urgent choice:

Save it now or lose it forever.

Thank you for
helping preserve
Gettysburg's
sacred ground.
Your generosity
truly matters!
- David

Dear Friend and Fellow Color Bearer,

I often think about those first shots that were fired outside Gettysburg on July 1, 1863.

No one knew they were witnessing the opening of the bloodiest battle of the Civil War. The soldiers certainly didn't. Like so many times before, they simply hoped to survive another day's fighting.

However, over the next three days, more than 51,000 Americans — out of a total of some 165,000 who fought there — became casualties. Their sacrifice forever transformed Gettysburg into *hallowed ground*.

Whenever I visit Gettysburg, I try to imagine what those soldiers saw as they approached the town that morning. Fields. Fences. Farms. Woodlots. Ridges. A quiet Pennsylvania hamlet that, within hours, would become one of the most famous battlefields in American history.

The Gettysburg landscape has changed over the last 163 years, of course. Roads have been widened and homes and businesses have been built. But thanks to generous friends like you, we've also been able to preserve more than 1,300 acres that help tell the story of what happened on these hallowed fields.

I'm writing today because I need your help, as a fellow Color Bearer, with a part of that story that is still unfinished.

Two Gettysburg properties — just over five acres altogether — have become available for purchase. Because they border land you've already helped preserve, protecting them would strengthen and expand the battlefield we've worked together to save. (Thank you!) What worries me most is that the tracts are zoned for residential and commercial development.

If we lose these acres to new offices, apartments, or other uses, an important piece of Gettysburg will be gone forever.

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The encouraging news is that the longtime owners wanted these properties preserved and gave the American Battlefield Trust the first opportunity to purchase them.

The challenge is cost. Together, the properties are valued at \$1.765 million. Fortunately, anticipated government preservation matching grants and support from a private foundation reduce what we must raise to just the final \$320,000 of the purchase price. That means every dollar you give today can be matched **\$5.50-to-\$1**.

But before I ask you to help, I'd like to show you exactly why these five acres matter.

As a battlefield enthusiast, you already know more about Gettysburg than most Americans. You also know we've spent decades patiently building relationships with landowners so that, when important properties become available, we have the opportunity to purchase them before developers do.

It takes a lot of patience, persistence, and determination. But it's necessary.

Because this is Gettysburg. This is the battlefield where 165,000 fought and thousands died, and where the Confederate loss dashed any hopes of a continued Confederate offensive.

No aerial photograph or modern-day walk across these preserved acres can fully convey the courage displayed here — or the terrible carnage that followed.

The first day of fighting alone, when major troop movements crossed these very tracts, would have ranked as the twelfth bloodiest battle of the entire Civil War. Yet by preserving these tracts, future generations can experience the very landscape where extraordinary duty, honor, valor, sacrifice, and humanity were put to the test.



This image of three Confederate prisoners was taken on Seminary Ridge, roughly 540 yards from one of the target tracts.
© Library of Congress

Historian Harry W. Pfanz, in his classic work *Gettysburg: The First Day*, reminds us that no one arriving outside Gettysburg could have imagined what was about to unfold.

The Union and Confederate armies converging on the small Pennsylvania town of Gettysburg, neither side intending to fight a major battle there. Confederate forces under General A.P. Hill encounter Union cavalry commanded by Brigadier General John Buford, whose men delay the Confederate advance west of town. Recognizing the strategic importance of the high ground south of Gettysburg, Buford makes the critical decision to hold his position until Union infantry can arrive. His cavalry's stubborn resistance buys precious time for Major General John Reynolds and the Union I Corps to reach the battlefield.

Union forces fight determined defensive actions along McPherson Ridge, Seminary Ridge, Oak Hill, and Oak Ridge against increasingly larger Confederate forces arriving from multiple directions.

The Confederates achieve a tactical victory on the first day by driving the Union army from its initial positions and capturing the town. However, they fail to seize Cemetery Hill while it remains lightly defended. This missed opportunity allows the Army of the Potomac to consolidate on a naturally strong defensive line that would become the focal point of the fighting on July 2 and 3.

Pfanz's account reminds us how quickly the town of Gettysburg changed that first day. Within hours, ordinary farmland, fields, and streets became the setting for extraordinary courage, sacrifice, and loss.

That's why I'd like you to take a moment to look at the two maps I've enclosed.



Two Gettysburg properties available to save today. An enlarged image is shown on the back of the map insert.

One is an aerial photograph showing the two properties we hope to save. The other traces the troop movements on the afternoon of July 1. Both properties lie between the Chambersburg Pike and Fairfield Road, **two of the most important corridors of the first day's fighting.** Together, they tell the remarkable story of the role these five acres played in the opening hours of the Battle of Gettysburg. They witnessed advancing troops, artillery fire, and retreating soldiers, all of which would forever change the lives of those who fought and lived there.

The larger tract is three acres. If you follow the troop movements on your map, you'll see just how many soldiers crossed this ground. Two guns from Battery A of the 2nd U.S. Artillery supporting Buford's troopers were positioned nearby during the morning's engagement. Later, infantry from both armies surged across these same acres as the battle intensified, and the Confederates eventually pushed Federal forces back to Cemetery Hill.

One of the most unusual episodes of the battle even unfolded within sight of the property when North Carolina troops formed a defensive square against a cavalry attack — a tactic dating back to Roman times but made famous during the Napoleonic Wars, rarely used during the Civil War.

By day's end, men under at least three generals' command had fought on this property.

The second tract is smaller — just over two acres — but no less important.

From this ground, soldiers looked toward McPherson's Woods, the Chambersburg Pike, Seminary Ridge, and later, Lee's Headquarters. As you can see on the enclosed map, it became a crossroads for troops moving into battle, withdrawing under fire, and regrouping as the fighting shifted across the landscape.

The famed Iron Brigade crossed here on its way to its storied fight along the banks of Willoughby's Run. Buford's cavalry passed over it. Chapman Biddle's brigade, including Pennsylvania and New York troops, retreated across it under relentless pressure from Confederate artillery. Confederate forces under Abner Perrin, James Lane, and Johnston Pettigrew advanced over this same ground in pursuit. Historians

believe this tract even served as a temporary burial ground for at least three Confederate soldiers before they were exhumed and reinterred eight years later.

These two tracts have long stood out to us as important pieces of Gettysburg's story. That's why we've waited patiently for the opportunity to preserve them.

Now, I couldn't be more thankful for the willing sellers who sat down with us instead of some real estate developer with no interest in preserving this land. And I'm thankful for history enthusiasts like **you** who are willing to mobilize when America's hallowed ground needs you most!



A Mathew Brady photograph looking east toward the Lutheran Seminary; the woods in the right distance are near the target tracts.
© Photo courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration

This is one of those times. This is irreplaceable history. This is Gettysburg. *Three days of fighting ... 51,112 casualties ... 163 years of contemplation and reconciliation, development and preservation ...* and now, the opportunity to add to that legacy.

I could list on my two hands the most important remaining unpreserved battlefield sites at Gettysburg, and these are surely two of them. The Trust has waited years to have this chance, and we won't go down without a fight. **We must save this land now or lose it forever.**

Only one thing now stands between these five historic acres and losing them forever: people like you. It's you and other preservationists who understand what's at stake and who are willing to act before it's too late. That's why I need your help today.

Please help us raise the final \$320,000 to secure these two critical tracts at Gettysburg and preserve the land and stories from the first day of fighting that defined this epic battle. Thank you in advance for sending your most generous gift today while every dollar can still be matched \$5.50-to-\$1.



'Til the battle is won,

David N. Duncan
President

P.S. You can mail your gift today, or you can visit **battlefields.org/dayone** to give online. If you choose to provide your support, please know how grateful I am, and how much everyone at the American Battlefield Trust appreciates you. Future generations, given the chance to stand on these properties and contemplate our history and legacy, will thank you, too. **Thank you for making your best gift now!**