



FREEDOM ISN'T FREE. IT NEVER HAS BEEN.

**Our nation was fought for and won on the
battlefields of the Revolutionary War.**

**I can't think of a better way to honor our nation and our freedom
than by saving four Revolutionary War battlefields before the end of the
year — and having your gift matched **\$74-to-\$1!****

Dear Friend and Fellow Preservationist,

President Harry S. Truman famously said, *"The only thing new in the world is the history you do not know."*

I'm repeating his words today because our campaign to preserve our nation's Revolutionary War history — in honor of America's 250th — includes saving land at battlefields you may know and some you may not!

Chances are you know about the battles at Camden, South Carolina, and Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina, and maybe even Newtown, New York. But we're also working to save lesser-known, but no less important, battlefield acres at Logan's Fort, Kentucky — land consecrated by blood and honor before Kentucky was even a state.

Across these four important battlefields, we have the opportunity to save **326 acres** in all, and I'm sure I don't need to tell you how remarkable that is. Protecting Revolutionary War battlefield land gets harder with each passing year. But we have the good fortune to be able to save hallowed ground at four battlefields — just as long as we can raise the funds in time!

And it's more than land that's at stake. **It's America's legacy.** You so generously share in this work to preserve our history, so that another 50 years from now, during our nation's Tricentennial, a whole new generation can visit these battlefields, walk in the footsteps of the courageous soldiers, and feel the echoes of history.

I may not make it to America 300, but I fully expect my daughters, their husbands, and my grandchildren to be part of the celebration! And I'm doing my darndest now to help secure that legacy. I'm hoping ***you*** will, too.

Our opportunity right now is to save four tracts in four states totaling 326 acres with a value of more than **\$4.6 million**. Thanks to our partners and fellow preservationists, anticipated federal and state grants, and several member donations, **we only need to raise \$62,574 to secure these historic lands and honor America's 250th birthday**. You've been so generous in the past, and I hope you'll be willing to help in this special way.

Please make your gift to American Battlefield Trust now to secure 326 acres of Revolutionary War battlefield land. Do it for America's 250th, do it for our country and our legacy, and do it because it's a chance to have your impact multiplied by a historic \$74-to-\$1!

Back in 1776, American Patriots knew our fledgling nation was worth fighting for. Today, I hope you'll agree that the battlefields where they forged our independence are worth fighting for, too.

Let me tell you about these battlefield sites.

Saving Logan's Fort and honoring the fallen soldiers in Kentucky

Think back to Truman's wise words I quoted earlier and then to the spring of 1777. Here, on land claimed by Virginia but which would one day become Kentucky, are the archaeological remains of **Logan's Fort**, the focal point of the battle fought between colonists and 57 Shawnee warriors allied with the British. This is our first-ever opportunity to save and restore land, 63 acres in total, associated with this remarkable Revolutionary War site.



Illustration of Logan's Fort by Dale Watson

The initial attack occurred when three women and four male guards ventured outside the fort's walls to milk cows. One guard was killed and another wounded and feared dead, while the rest of the men and women made it back to the fort safely. The twelve remaining defenders managed to hold off the Shawnee warriors and eventually rescue the injured man. The Shawnee renewed their attack the next day, and, unable to take the fort, they killed all of the cattle and hogs nearby before they departed.

The Battle of Logan's Fort was critical to the formation of the post-revolutionary United States. Because Logan's Fort, Boonesborough, Fort Harrod, and other locations held out against the British-allied Native attacks, those settlements were not abandoned. This helped maintain what is present-day Kentucky, because if any of those forts had fallen, success against the British west of the Appalachians could not have been achieved.

These 63 acres at Logan's Fort also include the site of America's first military cemetery. I have no doubt that the land is home to fallen warriors. The Trust is working with archaeologists and students from the University of Kentucky to carry out an archaeological investigation on the site in the hopes of learning more about Revolutionary War-era forts and the lives of the people who lived there.

Now travel with me hundreds of miles north and east, to Newtown, New York

Here, in August 1779, the war took on a very different character. At Newtown, more than 3,000 American troops under General John Sullivan advanced against a much smaller force of Native warriors, Loyalists, and British regulars. The Patriots broke apart organized resistance to Sullivan's campaign and contributed further to the displacement of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois).

Today, we have an opportunity to save 33 acres immediately behind the log breastworks constructed by the defending forces.



Newtown Battlefield State Park
© Brandon L. Hull, American Battlefield Trust

The preservation map I've enclosed tells the story almost instantly: these acres form a conspicuous gap — a “doughnut hole” — in the midst of land that has already been protected.

I must tell you that we are not the only ones interested in this land. If we don't save these acres, developers are waiting to snatch them up for residential development, which would destroy both the historic ground and the viewshed forever. *Visit and see for yourself why we cannot let that happen!*

Then, in 1780, the struggle for independence shifted dramatically to the South

After capturing Charleston, British forces established garrisons across South Carolina to strengthen their control of the backcountry.

They set up an important base at **Camden, South Carolina**. American General Horatio Gates marched south, hoping to break the Redcoats' hold on the region.

When British General Lord Charles Cornwallis learned that Gates was approaching, he hurried from Charleston to meet him.



Camden, South Carolina
© Brian Keeley, American Battlefield Trust

Before dawn on August 16, the two armies collided north of Camden. The battle quickly became a disaster for the Continentals as inexperienced North Carolina and Virginia militia gave way before the British onslaught, despite the more seasoned Maryland and Delaware Continentals making a determined stand. Cornwallis scored a crushing victory, and, for a moment, British control of the South seemed stronger than ever.

Today, Camden is one of our great preservation success stories. If we are able to raise the funds to save this Camden tract, nearly 1,000 acres will have been protected here — approximately half by the American Battlefield Trust and our partners.

But nearly 250 years later, the acres that remain are getting harder and harder to save. And with development rapidly transforming this part of South Carolina, we have an important opportunity to save another 228 acres now before it's too late.

The end in sight

The Battle of Camden proved to be a low point. Victories at Kings Mountain and Cowpens reinvigorated the war effort in the South, along with a new commander, Nathanael Greene, who arrived in the South and waged a brilliant campaign of exhaustion that stretched Cornwallis' resources to their limit. Then, on March 15, 1781, Greene and Cornwallis clashed in a bloody affair at **Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina**. The one acre we hope to save here bears witness to this important battle.

Outside of Greensboro, Greene positioned about 4,500 men in three lines, utilizing a “defense in depth” tactic that had proven successful in the Battle of Cowpens a few months before. Cornwallis's men first faced North Carolina and then Virginia militiamen consecutively. North Carolinians withdrew over the ground, followed closely by the British 71st Regiment of Foot as they moved to assault the Virginians. After

pressing through the militia, the British then engaged in a fierce fight against the Virginia and Maryland Continentals before Greene wisely disengaged and withdrew.

Ultimately, the British held the field — but victory came at a terrible price. Cornwallis lost roughly a quarter of his army. Battered and desperately short of supplies, Cornwallis withdrew to Wilmington and soon after headed north into Virginia.

Seven months after winning the battle at Guilford Courthouse with substantial losses, Cornwallis surrendered his army to General George Washington at Yorktown.



Guilford Courthouse
© Melissa A. Winn, American Battlefield Trust

Think about that for a moment: From Camden to Guilford Courthouse to Yorktown, these landscapes preserve the story of how a seemingly triumphant British army was slowly worn down — and how the fight for American independence was finally won.

There it is. The story of four battlefields, four states, one nation, and one legacy.

The least we can do is act as the best possible stewards of these incredible historic places so our legacy can be passed on to future generations.

With your help, we've already saved 1,965 acres of Revolutionary War battlefield. Now, with the land we hope to save in this campaign, we'll be at nearly 2,300 acres — a more than 10% increase!

As Truman reminded us, we still have a lot to learn about our history. We still have so much to discover through preservation, restoration, scholarship, and archaeology. *But we cannot do that at the sites of our nation's battles if we allow these hallowed grounds to be plowed under or paved over.*

That is why I hope you'll agree that helping save these battlefield acres is a wonderful and timely gift that you can give to America in honor of her 250th birthday. Please help us raise \$62,574 to secure these 326 acres today. **Thanks for helping to secure our nation's legacy!**



With gratitude,

David N. Duncan

David N. Duncan
President

P.S. The labels are yours to keep and enjoy. Put the first one on your reply envelope as you send back your gift, so I'll know it came from you. **Or, if you prefer to give online, please visit battlefields.org/liberty.** Your gift will be matched by a huge factor of ***\$74-to-\$1***, but it's critical we hear from you soon to ensure we can save these 326 battlefield acres in time. Thanks again for your generosity!